

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

State of Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources

SCS-FM/COC-00070N

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CERTIFIED	EXPIRATION
31 December 2013	30 December 2018

DATE OF FIELD AUDIT
15-18 August 2016
DATE OF LAST UPDATE
21 November 2016

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Foreword

Cycle in annual surveillance audits			
<input type="checkbox"/> 1 st annual audit	<input type="checkbox"/> 2 nd annual audit	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 3 rd annual audit	<input type="checkbox"/> 4 th annual audit
Name of Forest Management Enterprise (FME) and abbreviation used in this report:			
State of Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR)			

All certificates issued by SCS under the aegis of the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) require annual audits to ascertain ongoing conformance with the requirements and standards of certification. A public summary of the initial evaluation is available on the FSC Certificate Database <http://info.fsc.org/>.

Pursuant to FSC and SCS guidelines, annual / surveillance audits are not intended to comprehensively examine the full scope of the certified forest operations, as the cost of a full-scope audit would be prohibitive and it is not mandated by FSC audit protocols. Rather, annual audits are comprised of three main components:

- A focused assessment of the status of any outstanding conditions or Corrective Action Requests (CARs; see discussion in section 4.0 for those CARs and their disposition as a result of this annual audit);
- Follow-up inquiry into any issues that may have arisen since the award of certification or prior to this audit; and
- As necessary given the breadth of coverage associated with the first two components, an additional focus on selected topics or issues, the selection of which is not known to the certificate holder prior to the audit.

Organization of the Report

This report of the results of our evaluation is divided into two sections. Section A provides the public summary and background information that is required by the Forest Stewardship Council. This section is made available to the general public and is intended to provide an overview of the evaluation process, the management programs and policies applied to the forest, and the results of the evaluation. Section A will be posted on the FSC Certificate Database (<http://info.fsc.org/>) no less than 90 days after completion of the on-site audit. Section B contains more detailed results and information for the use by the FME.

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SECTION A – PUBLIC SUMMARY

1. General Information

1.1 Annual Audit Team

Auditor Name:	Robert J. Hrubes	Auditor Role:	Lead Auditor, FSC; Team Auditor SFI
Qualifications:	<p>Dr. Hrubes is a California registered professional forester (#2228) and forest economist with over 40 years of professional experience in both private and public forest management issues. He is presently Executive Vice-President of SCS Global Services. Preceding his serving as team leader for the Shasta and Red River Forests re-certification evaluation, Dr. Hrubes has extensive prior experience and involvement in the SCS Forest Conservation Program, duly accredited by the Forest Stewardship Council. Early on in the program’s history, Hrubes worked in collaboration with other SCS personnel to develop the programmatic protocol that guides all SCS Forest Conservation Program evaluations. Dr. Hrubes has previously led numerous audits under the SCS Forest Conservation Program of North American public forest, industrial forest ownerships and non-industrial forests, as well as operations in Scandinavia, Chile, Brazil, Japan, Malaysia, Papua New Guinea, Australia and New Zealand. Dr. Hrubes holds graduate degrees in forest economics (Ph.D.), economics (M.A.) and resource systems management (M.S.) from the University of California-Berkeley and the University of Michigan. His professional forestry degree (B.S.F. with double major in Outdoor Recreation) was awarded from Iowa State University. He was employed for 14 years, in a variety of positions ranging from research forester to operations research analyst to planning team leader, by the USDA Forest Service. Upon leaving federal service, he entered private consulting from 1988 to 2000. He has been a member of the Executive Team at SCS since February, 2000.</p>		
Auditor Name:	Norman Boatwright	Auditor Role:	Team Auditor, FSC; Lead Auditor, SFI
Qualifications:	<p>Norman Boatwright is the president of Boatwright Consulting Services, LLC located in Florence, South Carolina. BCS handles typical forestry consulting, SFI, ATF and FSC Audits, Phase I Environmental Site Assessments, Forest Soil Mapping, Wetland Delineation, and other Biological Services. Norman has over twenty-nine years’ experience in intensive forest management, eighteen years’ experience in environmental services and ten years’ experience in forest certification auditing. He has conducted Phase I Assessments on over three hundred and fifty projects covering 3,000,000 acres, Endangered Species Assessments on timberland across the South, and managed soil mapping projects on over 1.3 million acres. From 1985-1991, he was Division Manager at Canal Forest Resources, Inc. and was responsible for all forest management activities on about 90,000 acres of timberland in eastern South Carolina. Duties included budgeting and implementing land and timber sales, site preparation, planting, best management practices, road construction, etc. From 1991-1999, he was manager of Canal Environmental Services which offered the following services: Phase I Environmental Site Assessments, Wetland Delineation and Permitting and Endangered Species Surveys. From 1999-2012 he was the Environmental Services Manager, Milliken Forestry Company. Norman has extensive experience auditing SFI, procurement and land management organizations and</p>		

	American Tree Farm Group Certification Programs. He is also a Lead Auditor for Chain of Custody Audits under SFI, PEFC, and FSC		
Auditor Name:	Beth Jacqmain	Auditor Role:	Team Auditor, FSC/SFI
Qualifications:	Beth Jacqmain is a Certification Forester with SCS Global Services. Jacqmain has MS Forest Biology from Auburn University and a BS Forest Management from Michigan State University. Jacqmain is Society of American Foresters (SAF) Certified Forester (#1467) with 20+ years' experience in the forestry field including private corporate, private consulting, and public land management. Jacqmain is a qualified ANSI RAB accredited ISO 14001 EMS Lead Auditor and is a SCS qualified FSC Lead Auditor for Forest Management/Chain of Custody. Jacqmain has audited and led FSC certification and precertification evaluations, harvest and logging operations evaluations, and has participated in joint SFI and American Tree Farm certifications. Jacqmain is a 9 year member of the Forest Guild and 20 year adjunct-Faculty with Itasca Community College, Natural Resources Department. Jacqmain's experience is in forest management and ecology; the use of silviculture towards meeting strategic and tactical goals; forest timber quality improvement, conifer thinning operations, pine restoration, and fire ecology in conifer dominated systems.		

1.2 Total Time Spent on Evaluation

A. Number of days spent on-site assessing the applicant:	4
B. Number of auditors participating in on-site evaluation:	3
C. Additional days spent on preparation, stakeholder consultation, and post-site follow-up including report writing:	6
D. Total number of person days used in evaluation:	18

1.3 Standards Employed

1.3.1. Applicable FSC-Accredited Standards

Title	Version	Date of Finalization
FSC-US Forest Management Standard	1.0	8 July 2010
All standards employed are available on the websites of FSC International (www.fsc.org), the FSC-US (www.fscus.org) or the SCS Standards page (www.scsglobalservices.com/certification-standards-and-program-documents). Standards are also available, upon request, from SCS Global Services (www.SCSGlobalServices.com).		

2 Annual Audit Dates and Activities

2.1 Annual Audit Itinerary and Activities

Date: 15 August 2016, Monday	
FMU / Location / sites visited	Activities / notes
8:00 AM – 10:00 AM DNR Trout Lake Forestry Headquarters	<u>Opening Meeting:</u> Introductions, client update, review audit scope & audit plan, updates re FSC and SCS standards and protocols, review of open CARs/OBS, final site selection
NHAL Field Sites (entire audit team)	Northern Highland State Forest (NHSF) Timber sales and

	herbicide application sites.
12:00-4:30 PM NHAL Field Sites	Auditors split into 3 teams with various DNR administrative and field staff: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hrubes, North Route • Jacqmain, Central Route • Boatwright, South Route
Hrubes Itinerary: North Route (Detailed site descriptions following this table)	Northern Highland State Forest Sites and other State Lands in Vilas County
Jacqmain Itinerary: Central Route, (Detailed site descriptions following this table)	Northern Highland State Forest sites with DNR field staff attending.
Boatwright Itinerary: Southern Route (Detailed site descriptions following this table)	Northern Highland State Forest and American Legion State Forest sites with DNR field staff attending.
Date: 16 August 2016, Tuesday	
FMU / Location / sites visited	Activities / notes
Hrubes Itinerary: North Route	Sites in Florence, Marinette, and Oconto Counties.
Jacqmain Itinerary: Central Route	Sites in Langlade, Lincoln, and Oconto Counties
Boatwright Itinerary: Southern Route	Sites in Waupaca, Shawano, and Outagamie Counties
Date: 17 August 16, Wednesday	
FMU / Location / sites visited	Activities / notes
Hrubes Itinerary: North Route	Sites in Florence, Marinette, and Oconto Counties
Jacqmain Itinerary: Central Route	Sites in Langlade, Lincoln, and Oconto Counties
Boatwright Itinerary: Southern Route	Sites in Waupaca, Shawano, and Outagamie Counties
Date: 18 August 16, Thursday	
FMU / Location / sites visited	Activities / notes
8:00 AM – 11:15 AM	
Hrubes Itinerary: North Route	Sites in Florence, Marinette, and Oconto Counties.
Jacqmain Itinerary: Central Route	Sites in Langlade, Lincoln, and Oconto Counties.
Boatwright Itinerary: Southern Route	Sites in Waupaca, Shawano, and Outagamie Counties
11:30 AM – 2:30 PM	Auditor meeting for deliberations.
2:30 PM - 4:00 PM	Closing meeting.

Date: Monday, 15 August 2016	
FMU / Location / sites visited	Activities / notes
All Auditors, Itinerary, Day 1	NHAL Field Sites
Site 1: Northern Highland State Forest Tract 6476-38-14, Timber Sale 1085H, Trout Lake Sale	Two stands were visited in this 62 acre sale. A mixture of treatments were implemented including aspen regen cut, oak release cut, jack and scotch pine removal with a red and white pine thin, white pine regen cut and a aspen, birch removal and oak thin. No issues were identified. Discussions included: DNR’s efforts to address the spread of invasive exotic plant species.
Site 2: Northern Highland State Forest Tract 6476-32-	A 106 acre sale with Norway spruce harvest/removal followed by restoration planting to jack pine as well as allowing for natural aspen

14, Timber Sale 1080H, Airport Road Sale	regen. No issues.
Site 3: Northern Highland State Forest NESW-S8-T42N-R7E	34 acre chemical site prep using 2 qts Accord and 1 oz Oust/acre. Discussions included site preparation, spray records including maps.
12:00-4:30 PM NHAL Field Sites	Auditors split into 3 teams with various WDNR administrative and field staff: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hrubes, North Route • Jacqmain, Central Route • Boatwright, South Route
Hrubes Itinerary Day 1: North Route	Northern Highland State Forest Sites and other State Lands in Vilas County
Stop 1: Star Lake West Timber Sale #1121H, Tract #6476-30-15	An active timber sale. Interviewed the sale purchaser. Mechanized logging—harvester and forwarder (operated by son). Field operations were being conducted competently with little in the way of residual stand damage or avoidable soil disturbance. Both machines were well maintained. Son has been working in the woods with his father for several years (summers and school vacations). No hard hats in the machine cabs or near the harvest site.
Stop 2: Timber Sale #1102H, Tract #6476-30-15	The portion of the sale visited during the audit has been completed. The mark was designed to retain most red pine, white pine and spruce while removing aspen, white birch, maple, jack pine and balsam fir. The retention mark effectively implemented the stated objective of the operation. Residual stand damage well within reasonable limits. Overall, a competent operation.
Stop 3: Timber Sale #1074H, Tract #6496-14-15	A completed timber sale—primarily, an aspen regeneration harvest with removal of some white pine, red pine and mixed hardwood pulpwood. No issues observed.
Jacqmain Itinerary Day 1: Central Route	Northern Highland State Forest sites
Site 1: Northern Highland State Forest Tract 6476-2-14, Timber Sale 1076H	Two stands were visited in this stop. 1) The first stand was a 58 acre thinning in an even-aged, northern hardwood stand using a combination of crop tree release, thinning, and canopy gap creation. Pioneer hardwood, non-desirable conifers and orange marked trees were designated for cut. Gaps were created in 38 pre-determined locations averaging 50 feet in diameter. Within gaps all stems >2" diameter were cut. Gap placement were located where there was existing regeneration of desired species; to encourage regeneration of desired species such as yellow birch and hemlock; patches with significant die-back; and spots of poor stem quality. Abundant regeneration of more shade tolerant species was present throughout and harvests were designed to maintain species and structural diversity in the stand. A second stand, a 12 acre section, set up but not yet cut was along a pond area where a 15 foot buffer strip was established. A coppice method will be used with retention of desired species to promote structural and species diversity.

	<p>Discussions and forms at this stop included the management candidate lists, pre-site assessments timber sale notice and cutting reports (2460-01), timber sale administration, Natural Heritage Inventory (NHI) databases, and procedures for areas and species of special concern. Foresters and conservation biologist described RTE collaboration process to identify and form plan adjustments for potential features.</p>
<p>Site 2: Northern Highland State Forest Tract 6476-17-15, Timber Sale #1109H</p>	<p>A 2nd thinning, 36 year old red pine, 33 acres that had been set up, the harvest was initiated, and changes in site conditions necessitated harvest stoppage after one week. Concerns with rutting following a heavy rain led to a call by the forester after mutual decision with the logger to stop harvest in this 2 year permit that is held with a 15% bond. Harvest objective an improvement thinning of marked trees and to cut all merchantable aspen, maple, balsam fir, and paper birch within 15 feet of residual pine. Extensive porcupine damage also determined some stem selection. No damage was observed to residual stems in areas that were harvested prior to stoppage.</p> <p>Discussions at this site included timber sale prospectus, pre-harvest meetings, timber sale administration, Wisconsin BMPs for Water Quality, whole tree utilization and biomass harvesting, tree length skidding, habitat typing, red pine rotations, and red pine forest products markets.</p>
<p>Site 3: Northern Highland State Forest Tract 6476-25-15, Timber Sale 1117H</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) A 40 acre aspen/balsam fir regeneration cut prepared, sold, and not yet harvested. The NW portion of the sale runs along the Turtle River. The Riparian Area buffer was set by the forester using red paint and followed a high ridge that exceeded BMP requirements for Water Quality. 2) A 180 acre northern hardwood improvement thinning cutting pioneer species, undesired conifers, and forester marked trees. This sale was also set up but not yet cut. BA retention requirements, no equipment zones for the Turtle River were included in the Timber Sale Notice and Cutting Report (2460-01a). Additionally, wetlands protection measures; frozen/dry ground requirements for crossing wetlands; and slash deposition requirements were included. <p>Discussions focused on BMPs for water quality. The site also had a historical/archaeological occurrence in the site assessment (old logging camp). The forester described the review process for this.</p>
<p>Site 4: Northern Highland State Forest Tract 6476-03-15, Timber Sale 1099H</p>	<p>A 28 acre red pine cutting only marked trees using a heavy low thinning, to improve the overall health and vigor of the stand. Additionally, the goal is to improve overall oak regeneration, which was already present. This sale included aesthetic diversity retention along a road visual corridor. Discussion of stocking charts, rotation ages, red pine pocket decline, collaboration with insect and disease specialists.</p>

Site 5: Northern Highland State Forest Planting Site NESE-S4-T42N-R6E	A 35 acre failed aspen regeneration site. Post-harvest stocking surveys measured poor stocking of aspen, per stocking charts. Aspen is not lacking in the surrounding landscape and given the site conditions and habitat type are suitable it was decided to shift the site to red pine. The site was sprayed, scarified and planted with 2-0, bare root red pine seedlings. The herbicide prescription and planting maps were provided. Also provided were copies of the tree planting and mechanical scarification/herbicide application contract.
Boatwright Itinerary Day 1: Southern Route	Northern Highland State Forest and American Legion State Forest sites
Tree Planting Site – North Creek Springs PJ Site (SESW-Sec 25-T42N-R6E)	A 30 acre jack pine planting. Area was site prepped using herbicide and ripped. Review of stocking tally sheets indicate initial stocking was 1075 trees/acre and first year survival was 925 trees/acre.
Sold Timber Sale #1090H, Tract #6476-44-14 – Gresham Red Pine Sale (SWSW-Sec 16-T41N-R6E)	Active sale, 156 acre, including several different types of red pine thinning. Interviewed logger who is FISTA trained, wore PPE and had a spill kit on the processor. Good stocking with little damage to residuals. Observed a vernal pool in the harvest area that wasn't impacted and a large painted buffer along the Trout River.
Sold Timber Sale #1106A, Tract #4475-13-15 – Minocqua Thoroughfare Sale (Sec 17,18-T39N-R7E)	A 143 acre sale consisting predominately of a red/white pine thin. Objective was to create an Old Forest on an Extended Rotation. Good logging job with good stocking and little damage to residuals. Buffer along a major highway.
Clear Lake Campground Visit – Campground Site on NHAL SF – (SW ¼-Sec 17-T39R-R7E)	Nice campground along the 1,000 acre Clear Lake with 102 primitive sites with toilets and showers. Tables and fire pit at beach.
Sold Timber Sale #1115A, Tract #4475-23-15– Bear Road Oak Sale (E ½-Sec 11-T38N-R7E)	Partially complete 95 acre sale. Mainly white/red pine thin and intermediate cut. Nice buffer along highway. Observed a red painted no cut line around a vernal pool.
Date: Tuesday, 16 August 2016	
FMU/Location/Sites Visited	Activities/Notes
Hrubes Itinerary Day 2: North Route	Sites in Florence, Marinette, and Oconto Counties
Site 1: Completed timber sale in Spread Eagle Barrens SNA	This site was a completed aspen clearcut; focus on maintaining forest cover and maintaining mature forest remnants where present. No issues or concerns arose during the walk-through of the harvest area. Visually, the site looks good.
Site 2: Active timber sale #12, Tract #1975-1-15, Spread Eagle Barrens SNA	A large, active timber harvesting operation. Mechanized operation— harvester and forwarder. Another father and son operation. Interviewed. Spill kits found to be present in the machines' cabs; 1 st aid kit said to be in pick-up. Harvester has auto-pump mechanism for limiting release of hydraulic fluid in the event of a line break. Marking of harvest boundaries and leave trees were clear and effective and augmented by smartphone-app GPS mapping software used by both the foresters and the equipment operators. Effective operation driven in part by oak wilt. Overall, a well-executed harvesting operation was observed; no evidence of non-conformities

<p>Site 3: Completed Timber Sale #58, Tract #1976-2-14 – North Power Dam Sale, Pine-Popple Wild River Property</p>	<p>A completed timber sale. Within the timber sale units are multiple harvest units with different cutting prescriptions. The sale was sold twice, the second being a direct sale after default by the first buyer. Final buyer based in the UP of MI. Unable to interview loggers as the operation was completed some time ago. Visual corridor considerations were part of the design of the harvest. Some clearcuts with retention and some selection areas within the sale boundaries. Overall, the operation looks to have been laid out and executed in an effective manner; no issues observed. Additionally, a discussion of the status of the Interim Forest Management Plan was held, both for Pine-Popple but Department-wide, as well. The Pine-Popple Master Plan that has not been formally replaced by a newer plan, was issued in 1981; the Interim Plan was issued in 2012.</p>
<p>Site 4: Established Timber Sale “YMCA”, Tract #1976-02-15</p>	<p>Aspen regeneration harvest; no issues observed. Positive note of retention of standing dead trees as well as red and white pine green trees.</p>
<p>Site 5: Sold Timber Sale #62, Tract #1976-04-14 (“LaSalle North”)</p>	<p>First block: Single tree selection harvest of northern hardwoods, primarily sugar maple and basswood. Not yet operated. Second block: 49 acre aspen clear cut (already completed). A discussion was held about view shed considerations near a designated wild river. Overall, no issues of concern relative to the certification standard were observed.</p>
<p>Jacqmain Itinerary Day 2: Central Route</p>	<p>Sites in Langlade, Lincoln, and Oconto Counties led.</p>
<p>Site 1: Willow Flowage Scenic Waters Area Tract 4403-004-14, Timber Sale 4</p>	<p>The goals for the over 21,000 acre area are to establish and maintain a forest community of diverse forest types and age classes for the sustainable production of a variety of forest products. This stop evaluated a 37 acre aspen regeneration harvest cutting all aspen, birch, maple, balsam fir (>1” diameter), and marked trees in the stand completed in 2014. Scattered spruce were retained for wildlife and seed trees. Small pockets of red pine were thinned but retained to improve tree health and vigor. Residual trees were also considered as part of the visual management in a high use recreation area.</p> <p>Discussions included Annual Allowable Cut goals; and Natural Heritage Inventory for RTE with forestry field staff, Wildlife Biologist, Natural Heritage Field Operations Manager, and the NHAL Supervisor.</p>
<p>Site 2: Willow Flowage Scenic Waters Area Tract 4403-02-14, Timber Sale 2W</p>	<p>A 151 acre aspen regeneration harvest and pine thinning treatment area. The aspen portions harvested mature overstory to regenerate and maintain aspen. Scattered spruce, red and white pine trees were retained for stand tree composition diversity, wildlife use, and future snags. An improvement thin for the 90 year old red pine removing the “worst-first” to reduce stocking and improve tree health and vigor. The stand history was reviewed.</p> <p>NHI for this site identified occurrences in the area (avian, mammalian, and amphibian). Plan was adapted to minimize impacts to amphibians by placing a seasonal restriction on the site. An avian</p>

	<p>aerial survey for the identified species was conducted and none were found during sale establishment. Sale was determined to not impact the Tomahawk River or wetlands or the identified species on the NHI list. Portions of the sale were along small wetland kegs and along the sale boundary. Protective measures for riparian/aquatic resources included no equipment operation in wetlands, and no felling of trees or placing logging debris in wetland areas.</p> <p>Recreational snowmobile trail adjacency prompted use of warning signs during the sale and communications with the local club.</p> <p>Discussion included exotic/invasives; training and areas of consistency among staff foresters; procedures for adjacent landowner communications; logger training (FISTA).</p>
<p>Site 3: Willow Flowage Scenic Waters Area Tract 4403-948-12, ACTIVE Timber Sale</p>	<p>Unscheduled stop to view proposed new recreational trail location highlighting Master Plan goals that were direct response to public requests during the stakeholder input process to increase the mileage of hunter walking trails. Collaboration is being done with the local hunter walking club and the State Forest program. The Master [Forest Management] Plan for Willow Flowage Scenic Waters area may be found here, www.dnr.wi.gov/master_planning/willowflowage.</p>
<p>Site 4: Willow Flowage Scenic Waters Area Tract 4403-09-15, Timber Sale 9</p>	<p>Visited a wood turtle (<i>Glyptemys insculpta</i>) habitat improvement project designed to: improve turtle nesting success, reduce adult turtle mortality, improve habitat along river and stream corridors, and assess the effectiveness of conservation efforts through monitoring.</p> <p>The WDNR Incidental Take Permit/Authorization for Common Activities related to wood turtle was reviewed and discussions included Species Documents and guidance for wood turtles. Species Guidance documents available through the WDNR website. When foresters find occurrences in pre-assessment, links are provided to existing guidance documents. When guidance not available wildlife biologists and ecologists are consulted by foresters. The link for the wood turtle found here, http://dnr.wi.gov/files/PDF/pubs/er/ER0684.pdf.</p>
<p>Site 5: Willow Flowage Scenic Waters Area Tract 4403-06-15, Timber Sale 6</p>	<p>Aspen regeneration cut done 2012 and thinned a connected red pine stand from 185- to 110 square feet per acre of basal area. In 2016 a windstorm blew down a portion of the stand and staff discussed process for permitting and adjustments to sales. A portion of the sale is adjacent to a stream and wetland prompting a painted, 50 foot no-equipment riparian management zone. Wetland kegs were protected using measures described for a Willow Flowage site earlier in this report.</p>
<p>Site 6: Willow Flowage Scenic Waters Area Tract 4403-009-15, Timber Sale 009-15</p>	<p>A 52 acre red pine stand, 50 years old, thinned by removing pioneer and undesired hardwood species and marked trees on frozen ground only completed in spring 2015. Discussion included green tree retention and coarse woody debris (CWD). A legacy tree was observed retained on the site.</p>

	Discussed were CWD and green tree retention in WDNR BMPs;
Site 7: Willow Flowage Scenic Waters Area, Culvert stop	This was an unscheduled stop adjacent to Site 6. A culvert was examined that provided protection for the “Unnamed Tributary” (per Forest Hydrologist) during heavy rain flow and as part of management and protection of the road. Discussed were aquatic protection; road classification and planning; and the Land Management System (LMS) where roads are recorded.
Site 8: Willow Flowage Scenic Waters Area Tract 4403-006-15	Current blowdown salvage. Wood turtle adjustments to timber sale. Another turtle research study location done in cooperation with forestry adjacent to 60 ft2 basal area riparian area (RMZ) along the Tomahawk River.
Boatwright Itinerary Day 2: Southern Route	Sites in Waupaca, Shawano, and Outagamie Counties.
Sold Timber Sale #1, Tract #5904-01-14 – Welder Timber Sale (Sec 2-T27N R11E)	An 82 acre sale consisting of 6 stands. Sale is sold but not cut. Visited stand 46 which consists of northern hardwood and has been designated as an extended rotation stand. The harvest goal is to initiate conversion to an un-even aged stand leaving 90 sq. ft. BA/acre and removing large and small gaps. Deer are a serious threat to regeneration in this area and the DNR has fenced and planted 2 old fields.
Completed Timber Sale #513, Tract #6912-05-13 – Spaulding Creek Timber Sale (Sec 24-T25N-R12E)	A 6 acre sale of red maple/white pine with declining white birch. Intermediate cut with birch removal. Residual stocking is good with little damage. Good red painted RMZ along a wetland.
Completed Timber Sale #213, Tract #6901-02-13 – Kitzman Pine Timber Sale (Sec 29-T25N R12E)	A 1 acre red pine 1 st thin with good stocking, no damage to residuals and no issues.
Established Timber Sale Tract #6912-13-16 – Schwaab Pine Timber Sale (Sec 26-T25N R11E)	A 9 acre red pine marked 1 st thin. Dropping BA from 310 to 170. Marked a small clearcut area along road for a deck and future parking.
Established Timber Sale Tract #6904-15-16 – Leer Creek Timber Sale (Sec 9-T24N R11E)	A 38 acre sale including northern hardwood intermediate and aspen regen cuts with no issues.
Established Timber Sale Tract #6964-12-16 – Crossroads Timber Sale (Sec 31-T22N-R11E; Sec 5,6-T21N-R11E;Sec 1-T21N-R10E)	A 45 acre sale consisting of 6 stands involving red pine thinnings and 2 salvage areas. Hartman Creek State Park contains 1,500 acres with 101 primitive campsites and 2 large group campsites. The Park has a beach along Hartman Lake and 2 State Natural Areas.
Established Timber Sale Tract #6964-10-15 – Swan Song Timber Sale (Sec 36-T22N-R10E;Sec 31-T22N-R11E;Sec 6-T21N-R11E)	A 43 acre red/white pine intermediate cut with no issues.
Established Timber Sale Tract	A 2 acre oak regen cut with no issues.

#6908-11-15 – Weller DNR Line Timber Sale (Sec 10-T21N-R11E)	
Established Timber Sale Tract #6913-04-13 – Weiland Road Timber Sale (Sec 6-T21N R14E)	A 4 acre aspen regen cut leaving oaks and scattered aspen retention. Harvesting was restricted to frozen ground conditions due to the presence a patch of Karner blue butterfly habitat.
Date: Wednesday , 17 August 2016	
FMU/Location/Sites Visited	Activities/Notes
Hrubes Itinerary Day 3: North Route	Sites in Florence, Marinette, and Oconto Counties
Pike Wild River State Property: Sold Timber Sale #99, Tract #3819-02-14– Amberg North Branch Sale	The operation inspected was a red pine thin on a small parcel adjacent to private landholdings. The focus of the discussion with DNR personnel was primarily the manner in which personnel interacted with the adjacent landowners and, in particular, the use of line use agreements for the purpose of avoiding encroachment issues. Overall, the auditor was impressed with the successful manner in which DNR was able to undertake needed forestry operations on small parcels adjacent to private lands.
Peshtigo River State Forest, Completed Timber Sale #24, Tract #3810-03-14 – Boat Landing 8 Sale	Inspection of a selection harvest operation (red oak thinning) and aspen clearcut/regen harvest units. The harvest area is near a recreational facility (boat landing). The design and execution of the harvest was done in a manner that did not detract from the visual quality of the boat landing area. Bottom line: no issues arose relative to the certification standard.
Jacqmain Itinerary Day 3: Central Route	Sites in Langlade, Lincoln, and Oconto Counties
Site 1: Big Rib River Fisheries Area, Tract 3524-02-13, Timber Sale 13002	Northern hardwood Shelterwood harvest done in 2015. Sale areas parallel the Big Rib River for a corridor total of about 131 acres. Under advisement, direction, support and guidance by with a number of entities the sale layout exceeded BMP requirements for riparian areas and included from 100 foot to greater than 300 foot no-cut zones. Additional 35 foot no cut zones were place along intermittent stream. Integrated Property Management meeting review, WDNR Forest Hydrologist, biological surveys, Rapid Ecosystem Assessment, Wildlife Biologists, neighbor notifications, and other stakeholder input were all used in assessing, designing and implementing this harvest. Detailed discussions on overall timber planning process, Master and Interim forest management Plans, WisFIRS, riparian BMPs.
Site 2: Statewide Habitat Areas, Timber Sale 3599-01-16	A 51 acre white pine restoration area. About 6 acres thinned 2011 for tornado damage salvage. Sale set up, not cut. Entire area was mechanically site prepped using “Fee-Con” labor. Timber harvest is planned to remove undesirable species and reduce competition for natural white pine regeneration. No harvest March 15-September 15, and no skidding allowed during wet ground for wood turtle

	<p>protection. An aggressive root rot discovered in neighboring counties triggered specifying use of approved fungicide on all fresh cut stumps as well as other protective measures reviewed at the site. An Interim Forest Management Plan for the area was provided.</p> <p>Discussions included: training; consistency among foresters, wildlife biologists, fisheries specialists; integrated disciplinary approach to management among forestry, wildlife, recreation, fisheries, and ecological disciplines.</p>
<p>Site 3: Tract 3599-01-13, Timber Sale 13001</p>	<p>Active timber sale harvest stop for operator interview. All DNR staff and harvest operators (processor and skidder) wore appropriate PPE. Auditor verified spill kits, first aid kits, sale map and contract specifications, training qualifications (which were extensive in this case) that included regular SFI and FISTA logger trainings and specialized equipment and maintenance trainings provided by the operator’s company. Operator had also attended state-provided northern hardwood management trainings which he positively reviewed and stated he would attend more forestry management trainings if they were offered. The Ponsse processor had no apparent fluid leaks and was visibly well-maintained. A detailed interview was completed. Following the interview the forester administering the sale was present and had copies of the timber sale specifications, timber sale contract, all requisite insurance and liability certifications for the logging company, operator training records (covering 18 years), and provided the documentation of 2-3 times per week contact and sale inspections. This was a 44 acre aspen and balsam fir harvest leaving all hardwood, spruce, hemlock, white pine, and cedar. Both the logger and sale administrator independently and clearly demonstrated positive communications and familiarity with operational specifications of the sale.</p>
<p>Site 4: Peters Marsh Wildlife Area, Tract 3423-01-14, Timber Sale 315</p>	<p>Mix of aspen regeneration cuts with green tree retention on about 73 acres cut in August 2015. Young aspen forests objective for woodcock and golden winged warbler habitat. Several open small areas (< ½ acre) were maintained in this wildlife management zone using mowing. Discussion included: green tree retention and coarse woody debris and WDNR BMP trainings.</p>
<p>Site 5: Upper Wolf River Fishery Area, Tract 3410-02-15, Timber Sale 215</p>	<p>Red pine thinning, 25 years old, every 3rd row, rows marked, 31 acres. Discussions included Annosum root rot (Heterobasidion root disease) and red pine rotation ages.</p>
<p>Boatwright Itinerary Day 3: Southern Route</p>	<p>Sites in Waupaca, Shawano, and Outagamie Counties</p>
<p>Established Timber Sale Tract #6948-14-16 – Driftwood Timber Sale (Sec 10-T22N-R14E)</p>	<p>A 104 acre sale involving bottomland hardwood shelterwood and intermediate cuts, bottomland hardwood crop tree release and an aspen regen cut. Marking appeared appropriate with an adequate red painted RMZ along waterways. Part of the Lower Wolf River Bottoms Natural Resource Area. Equipment restrictions were placed possible archeological areas.</p>

Sold Timber Sale #6, Tract #4553-01-15 – LaSage Timber Sale (Sec 7,18-T22N-R16E)	A 98 acre sale involving a bottomland hardwood intermediate cut, aspen regen and dike clearing. Marking appeared appropriate with an adequate red painted RMZ along the Wolf River and other waterbodies. Frozen ground harvest requirement.
Sold Timber Sale #45602, Tract #4560-01-14 – Herman Road Timber Sale (Sec 13,14,23,24-T23N-R16E)	A 46 acre aspen regen cut leaving oak, cherry, maple and marked aspen. Good single tree retention. Frozen ground harvest requirement.
Sold Timber Sale#3, Tract #4509-01-14 – Wilderness Timber Sale (Sec 28,29-T24N-R16E)	A 151 acre sale involving bottomland hardwood intermediate thinning and single tree selection. 35’ buffer along the Wolf River and other wetlands. Frozen ground harvest requirement.
Established Timber Sale #314 Tract #5950-03-14 – Oxbow Sale (Sec 6,7-T25N-R16E)	A 95 acre bottomland hardwood intermediate cut with small areas of aspen regen cut and swamp white oak release.
Sold Timber Sale #115, Tract #5950-01-15 – Navarino Complex Timber Sale (Sec 28,29-T24N- R16E)	A 112 acre bottomland hardwood intermediate cut, white pine seed tree, aspen regen and red pine thin. Good RMZ along the Wolf River and other wetlands. Indian site and turtle nesting area protected by frozen ground harvest restriction.
Sold Timber Sale#5950-01-2012, Tract #112 – Hwy K Sale (Sec 5-7-T25N-R16E)	Added site of 185 acre partially cut sale involving bottomland hardwood intermediate cut, Swamp chestnut oak shelterwood cut and aspen regen cuts. Good oak retention in a completed aspen. No issues.
Date: Thursday, 18 August 2016	
FMU/Location/Sites Visited	Activities/Notes
8:00 AM – 11:15 AM	
Hrubes Itinerary Day 4: North Route	Sites in Florence, Marinette, and Oconto Counties
Peshtigo Harbor Unit of Green Bay West Shore Wildlife Area Sold timber sale #26; Tract #3801-01-15	Field stop was marked but not yet operated selection harvest. The focus of the harvest is intended to be oak and mixed hardwoods with a regeneration harvest (shelterwood, overstory removal).The timber sale, located in the Oconto Marsh Unit, was sold with the buyer subsequently defaulting. Discussion focused on markets and economics of timber management in marginal sites (low elevation, subject to very wet site conditions). Additional discussion of species of special concern management (e.g., bats). Positive note was made of the two no-cut retention areas, totaling 8 acres
Green Bay West Shores Wildlife Area Established timber sale— Tract #4329-01-06 Offered by not sold	Forest management objective: bottomland hardwood group selection regeneration harvest. This sale was offered but did not sell. The harvest site was toured; discussion focused on challenges of implementing forest management objectives in marginal areas (relative to markets) and marginal sites (subject to very wet conditions, requiring winter season harvesting). The harvest unit was very well marked, assuring that the operator (assuming it gets operated) will properly implement the intended harvest. The

	<p>overriding issue is the lack of a robust market in this part of the state and on such sites.</p>
<p>Green Bay West Shores Wildlife Area Established sale; Tract #4329-01-05 "Pensaukee Sale—Unit B"</p>	<p>Planned harvest—aspens coppice regen harvest and a swamp hardwood intermediate thin. This sale was offered twice but did not sell in either offering.</p> <p>Discussion focused on collaboration/coordination between different divisions within the DNR via mechanisms such as Annual Integrated Property Management Meetings.</p>
<p>Established sale; Tract #4329-01-05 "Pensaukee Sale—Unit A"</p>	<p>Planned harvest: oak shelterwood seed and prep cuts (different areas within unit)</p> <p>This unit is a designated HCV area; the auditor engaged in a discussion about HCV management on DNR-managed lands: most HCV areas are also designated as state natural areas.</p> <p>This area is within the Great Lakes Barren Remnant zone.</p> <p>While the timber sale has not sold, the auditor concluded that the intended operations would be clearly compatible with the designated status of the area.</p>
<p>Jacqmain Itinerary Day 4: Central Route</p>	<p>Sites in Langlade, Lincoln, and Oconto Counties</p>
<p>Site 1: Peshtigo Brook Wildlife Area, Tract 4354-01-15, Timber Sale 1</p>	<p>Pine-oak type harvest area, 102 acres managing to maintain current cover types as wildlife habitat, provide quality mast trees, and improve health. State natural area with additional focus to maintain current stand structure and diversity emulating natural oak and pine barrens habitat. Oak wilt and pine Annosum root rot led to preventive treatments. Sanitation cuts done in oak wilt pockets to minimize and contain spread among oak trees across the forest stands in the area. About 30% oak trees already standing dead. Oak wilt management included pre-sale girdling by herbicide followed by harvest. Exotic/invasives spread prevention included equipment cleaning prior- and after-harvest before leaving harvest area.</p> <p>Conducted an interview with harvest company's foreman on-site. No issues.</p>
<p>Site 2: South Branch Oconto River Fish Area, Timber Sale 4316-01-14</p>	<p>Aspen regeneration harvest, 9 acres retaining all white pine, red pine, hemlock, and oaks for wildlife and green tree retention with a target residual basal area of 16 ft² basal area per acre. Oak wilt disease a concern and spread conditions applied to sale. There were three NHI occurrences with adjacency to sale. Only one species evaluated as potentially impact by sale, wood turtle resulting in application of seasonal restrictions. The stand was split to provide a riparian management zone between the sale area and South Branch Oconto River.</p>
<p>Boatwright Itinerary Day 4:</p>	<p>Sites in Waupaca, Shawano, and Outagamie Counties</p>

Southern Route	
Sold Timber Sale #5950-01-2012, Tract #112 – Hwy K Sale (Sec 5-7-T25N-R16E)	Added site of 185 acre partially cut sale involving bottomland hardwood intermediate cut, swamp chestnut oak shelterwood cut and aspen regen cuts. Good oak retention in a completed aspen. Frozen ground harvest restrictions in the bottomland. No issues.
Completed Timber Sale #04-13, Tract #04-13 – Log Jam Sale (Sec 23-T25N-R15E)	Added Site of 223 acre intermediate bottomland hardwood cut favoring swamp white oak. Good residual stocking with little damage from the harvesting operation. Frozen ground harvest restriction.

2.2 Evaluation of Management Systems

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

3. Changes in Management Practices

No major changes in management practices have occurred during the past year.

The Wisconsin DNR enacted adjustments to camping fees for various managed state recreation facilities as described here, <http://fox6now.com/2015/07/26/camping-fees-for-state-parks-forests-trails-recreation-areas-to-increase-beginning-july-28th/>. Additional routine changes were made in hunting and trapping limits as prescribed for population management.

Several departmental-wide initiatives or relatively new activities are underway and should be monitored in future years:

- Significant retirements, high position vacancy rates, many new hires
- Core Work analysis – Analysis of core strengths and responsibilities of the department is continuing from prior year and projected to be finished 2016-2017.
- A state directive to reclassify land management areas will move land in the northern forests from 66% to 75% land classified as forest production areas for Northern State Forests excluding Governor Knowles State Forest.
- A mandate that DNR make available for sale 10,000 acres of property by June 30, 2017. By statute these lands must be outside established project boundaries. There is a process in place for filtering out those lands related to HCVF and exceptional biodiversity value.

- Initiative to inventory of motorized access and roads. (Div. Land and Forestry)
- Pesticide handbook has been released during 2016. (Div. Land and Forestry)
- Nursery program and consolidation included leasing Hayward Nursery (Div. Forestry)
- Implementation of ACT 166, directing that annual allowable harvest levels be within +/- 10% which is being monitored state-wide and met. (Div. Forestry)
- Reforestation Team working with public on natural regeneration monitoring program and development of deer browsing index for public and private lands. (Div. Forestry)
- Implementation of new process for reviewing and updating the Silviculture Handbook. (Div. Forestry)
- Land acquisitions and sales (All Divisions)

4. Results of the Evaluation

4.1 Existing Corrective Action Requests and Observations

Finding Number: 2015.1	
Select one: <input type="checkbox"/> Major CAR <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Minor CAR <input type="checkbox"/> Observation	
FMU CAR/OBS issued to (when more than one FMU):	
Deadline	<input type="checkbox"/> Pre-condition to certification <input type="checkbox"/> 3 months from Issuance of Final Report <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Next audit (surveillance or re-evaluation) <input type="checkbox"/> Other deadline (specify):
FSC Indicator:	6.6.d
<p>Non-Conformity: Reviews of prescriptions for pesticide use during this audit indicated partial conformance with the requirements in this indicator that in some cases maps were being used as part of prescriptions, and in other cases not. A new draft manual code was prepared in anticipation of being implemented by the 2015 field season, but the new procedures had not been put in place. A Minor CAR with a short term deadline is being issued in order to ensure that progress on this issue is made before the next field season.</p>	
<p>Corrective Action Request: The DNR must assure that written prescriptions for use of chemicals address the required elements of this indicator, specifically including a map of the treatment area.</p>	

<p>FME response <i>(including any evidence submitted)</i></p>	<p>The department has completed a full review and revision of its pesticide use procedures and policies. A new department Pesticide Use Team was established in April 2015. This team reviewed draft policy revisions, consulted with stakeholders and DNR staff in a public review process, made appropriate revisions and recommended final policy and procedures language for adoption by the department's Operations Management Team (OMT). The department approved the recommended manual code on 11/25/2015.</p> <p>Implementation of the changes began with an announcement to all staff in the department newsletter, The Resource, of the reporting requirements for the 2015 calendar year: Pesticide Use Reporting deadline is not flexible this year The deadline for submitting Chemical Use Reports is December 15, and is not flexible this year. There will also be changes coming to the Chemical Use Reporting form (4200-008) which will require it to be removed from the Intranet. The form will not be the same and have additional requirements. The department's Chemical Use form is available as an online form. The form is available through E-Forms on the department's Intranet site, search for Form #4200-008, or through the following link: http://wiatr.net/projects/chemuse/. In addition, please submit your annual DNR Pesticide Inventory form (4200-007) to your regional pesticide coordinator by December 15, 2015, as required by Manual Code 4230.1. If you have any questions, please contact Carol Schweiger or Todd Lanigan.</p> <p>In addition, a revised form and instructions and a series of training modules for new procedures are under development and will be rolled out in early 2016 for the 2016 field season: For all new Pesticide Use Approvals and Reports starting in January, 2016, maps will be required, as well as Lat Long. Training materials are all in draft form at this time and will be revised and finalized over the next month. These will include modules for an overview, approval process, reporting process, inventory and the following being created by UWEX. Uncertified applicators will need to watch all of these. Other staff need to watch the IPM module only. Module 1 - IPM. https://youtu.be/lk2XiAmN5d4 Module 2 - Safety and Handling. https://youtu.be/HZn0akls4P4 Module 3 - Label and the Law. https://youtu.be/grzH3I046Hg Module 4 - Emergency Planning and Response. https://youtu.be/r8oQpHSSJbo Module 5 - Keeping Pesticides on Target. https://youtu.be/FkouvZo4gAc</p> <p>Training of relevant staff for new pesticide use procedures including mapping requirements is scheduled to be completed in March and April 2016 for the upcoming field season. A copy of the March 9, 2016 email from Kelly Kearns, co-lead of the DNR Pesticide Use Team, was provided to auditors and details final implementation steps taken.</p>
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SCS Review	<p>The information provided by DNR, especially approval of the manual code revision requiring use of the new pesticide use and pesticide use approval forms, warrants closure of Minor CAR 2015.1 at this time (April 29, 2016). Implementation of the new system will be reviewed during the 2016 surveillance audit.</p> <p>Note as of August 18, 2016: The 2016 audit team reviewed the Departments updated pesticide use policies and procedures during the course of this year's audit and found them to be consistently and effectively employed, further validating closure of this Minor CAR.</p>
Status of CAR:	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Closed</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Upgraded to Major</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> <i>Other decision (refer to description above)</i></p>

Finding Number: 2015.2	
Select one: <input type="checkbox"/> Major CAR <input type="checkbox"/> Minor CAR <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Observation	
FMU CAR/OBS issued to (when more than one FMU):	
Deadline	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Pre-condition to certification</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> 3 months from Issuance of Final Report</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Next audit (surveillance or re-evaluation)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Other deadline (specify):</p>
FSC Indicator:	FSC-US Forest Management Standard v1.0, 7.2.a
<p>Issue/Background: There is an opportunity for adapting prescriptions to new guidance or information that becomes available after a sale has been planned and sold. The particular instance triggering the observation occurred at the Observatory Hill State Natural Area. The NHI search done on the property had been conducted in 2012 as part of the timber sale preparation. Seasonal restrictions were put into the contract in part to meet the nesting requirements of a threatened bird (the cerulean warbler). The sale finally began harvest in July 2015, at which point the seasonal restrictions had been extended until the end of August. The logger began harvesting, and then was shut down after one day following the updated guidance. While this particular instance was caught by the land management team, similar situations could arise on other sales when NHI data is prepared years before the actual land disturbing activities occur.</p>	
<p>Observation: There is an opportunity for improvement to analyze when it is necessary to incorporate the results of monitoring or new scientific and technical information, or change in policy into land management prescriptions (including harvesting, prescribed fire).</p>	

<p>FME Response <i>(including any evidence submitted)</i></p>	<p>Natural Heritage Inventory (NHI) data change over space and time, and when they do, it is usually the result of: 1) a new rare species is identified on a site, 2) the legal status of a species already known from a site has been changed (upgraded or downgraded), or 3) management guidance for a species has changed. The risk of a change in NHI data between the time of the initial Endangered Resources (ER) review and the actual implementation of land management activities (e.g., timber harvest, prescribed fire) that could impact a project or put a species at risk is, however, relatively low, and mostly predictable, based largely on the schedule of biotic inventory occurring in association with property master plan updates. To address this in a manner that considers level of risk, the WDNR - ER Review Team has existing recommendations regarding when an ER review should be re-run, and recently developed a tool to make this process easy to do. In short, provided that a full ER Review process has been completed at the inception of a project, re-running reviews is now as easy as clicking a single button (the original query is captured in a database). This will immediately reveal whether or not there have been any relevant changes, and keep a record that a re-run has been completed.</p> <p>Moving forward, the ER Review Team will: 1) meet with affected programs, e.g. Forestry, Fisheries, Wildlife, Parks, Facilities and Lands to discuss the ER Review Team recommendations to explore potential operational policy changes (e.g. timber sale or prescribed burn plan modifications for example) and training needs, and 2) communicate any changes in NHI or species guidance to staff who conduct ER Reviews via email and as prominent announcements on the NHI Portal login page.</p>
<p>SCS Review</p>	<p>During the August, 2016 surveillance audit, the 2016 audit team explored with DNR personnel the response to OBS 2015.2 and found appropriate implementation of the actions described in the Department’s written response. That is, the audit team observed objective evidence that DNR personnel are taking appropriate actions to assure that operational prescriptions, including those for activities already underway, reflect new guidance or information that may become available after initial formulation of a prescription. Accordingly, the 2016 audit team concludes that closure of this Observation is warranted.</p>
<p>Status of OBS:</p>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Closed <input type="checkbox"/> Upgraded to Major <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Other decision (refer to description above)</i></p>

4.2 New Corrective Action Requests and Observations

Finding Number: 2016.1	
Select one: <input type="checkbox"/> Major CAR <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Minor CAR <input type="checkbox"/> Observation	
FMU CAR/OBS issued to (when more than one FMU):	
Deadline	<input type="checkbox"/> Pre-condition to certification <input type="checkbox"/> 3 months from Issuance of Final Report <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Next audit (surveillance or re-evaluation) <input type="checkbox"/> Other deadline (specify):
FSC Indicator:	6.3.e
<p>Non-Conformity: At the time of the audit, DNR was unable to provide evidence, in the form of documentation and/or expert opinion, that the use of seed sources collected from throughout Wisconsin and portions of Minnesota (for some species) for producing planting stock that is deployed throughout the state meets the FSC requirement, in 6.3.e, that use of non-local sources shall be justified. That is, DNR is not using planting stock of known local provenance.</p> <p>Note: This Non-Conformity was raised at the closing meeting of the 2016 surveillance audit.</p>	
<p>Corrective Action Request: Wisconsin DNR must provide justification based upon evidence and/or expert opinion that seed collected from throughout Wisconsin and portions of Minnesota without geographic differentiation results in planting stock that is sufficiently well adapted across the range of site conditions found on DNR-managed state forests so as to meet the FSC requirement that, where available, local sources of known provenance are utilized.</p>	
FME Response <i>(including any evidence submitted)</i>	<p>On 24 August 2016, DNR arranged for and engaged in a teleconference involving DNR’s Joe VandeHey and Jeremiah Auer (both engaged in leadership roles at the state nurseries) and the SCS Lead Auditor. DNR Certification Coordinator, Mark Heyde, facilitated the teleconference and listened in but was not an active participant. The purpose of the teleconference was to provide the Lead Auditor with information and expert opinion regarding the Department’s seed collection and planting stock propagation procedures at its nurseries. Mr. VandeHey and Mr. Auer provided arguments in support of the DNR’s longstanding policy of not differentiating the sub-state regional origin of seed sources. The practice has been validated through ongoing monitoring of young planted stand survival and growth rates and further supported by the fact that genetic variation in red pine found throughout Wisconsin and Minnesota is quite limited.</p>
SCS Review	<p>On the basis of the information conveyed to the Lead Auditor during the teleconference, it is concluded that DNR has adequately justified its longstanding practice of not utilizing regional (sub-state) seed collection zones for the propagation of planting stock at the State Nurseries. The Lead Auditor is satisfied that the Department is deploying native species planting stock well suited to the range of planting sites found on the state forests and that planted stand performance is well within acceptable limits. With this additional information and justification provided on August 24th, the Lead Auditor concludes that closure of this Minor Corrective Action Request in conjunction with issuance of the audit report is warranted.</p>

Status of CAR:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Closed <input type="checkbox"/> Upgraded to Major <input type="checkbox"/> Other decision (refer to description above)
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Finding Number: 2016.2	
Select one: <input type="checkbox"/> Major CAR <input type="checkbox"/> Minor CAR <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Observation	
FMU CAR/OBS issued to (when more than one FMU):	
Deadline	<input type="checkbox"/> Pre-condition to certification <input type="checkbox"/> 3 months from Issuance of Final Report <input type="checkbox"/> Next audit (surveillance or re-evaluation) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other deadline (specify): No deadline for Observations
FSC Indicator:	6.3.h
Issue: Invasive non-native plant species, such as the spotted knapweed (<i>Centaurea stoebe</i>), are commonly present and generally expanding in their presence throughout the Wisconsin state forest system.	
Observation: While the task of limiting their continuing spread, let alone eliminating their presence, is a challenging one, there remain opportunities for DNR field personnel and managers to place greater emphasis on and effort at monitoring and limiting the ongoing spread of invasive non-native plant species across the state forests.	
FME Response (including any evidence submitted)	
SCS Review	
Status of OBS:	<input type="checkbox"/> Closed <input type="checkbox"/> Upgraded to Major <input type="checkbox"/> Other decision (refer to description above)

Finding Number: 2016.3	
Select one: <input type="checkbox"/> Major CAR <input type="checkbox"/> Minor CAR <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Observation	
FMU CAR/OBS issued to (when more than one FMU):	
Deadline	<input type="checkbox"/> Pre-condition to certification <input type="checkbox"/> 3 months from Issuance of Final Report <input type="checkbox"/> Next audit (surveillance or re-evaluation) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other deadline (specify): No deadline for Observations
FSC Indicator:	7.2.a
Issue: Indicator 7.2.a requires that management plans are kept up to date, as guided by ongoing review. At a minimum, full revision of the management plans should take place every 10 years. Master Plans for numerous DNR-managed state lands units are many years out of date, however most such out of date Master Plans have been augmented by relatively brief interim plan documents. While DNR clearly understands the importance of maintaining currency and relevancy of its property management plans, there remain ample opportunities to demonstrate greater conformity to this Indicator through greater allocation of resources to the plan revision and/or update process.	

Observation: Master Plans for numerous DNR-managed state lands units are many years out of date, although most such out of date Master Plans have been augmented by relatively brief interim plan documents. While DNR clearly understands the importance of maintaining currency and relevancy of its property management plans, there remain ample opportunities for demonstrating greater conformity to this Indicator through additional allocation of resources to the plan revision and/or update process. Replacing/revising unit master plans that are well beyond their intended lifespan should be a higher priority for the DNR.	
FME Response <i>(including any evidence submitted)</i>	
SCS Review	
Status of OBS:	<input type="checkbox"/> Closed <input type="checkbox"/> Upgraded to Major <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Other decision (refer to description above)</i>

5. Stakeholder Comments

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

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

Principal stakeholder groups are identified based upon results from past evaluations, lists of stakeholders from the FME under evaluation, and additional stakeholder contacts from other sources (e.g., chair of the regional FSC working group). The following types of groups and individuals were determined to be principal stakeholders in this evaluation:

5.1 Stakeholder Groups Consulted

Logging contractors	ENGO
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Stakeholder consultation activities are organized to give participants the opportunity to provide comments according to general categories of interest based on the three FSC chambers, as well as the SCS Interim Standard, if one was used. The table below summarizes the major comments received from stakeholders and the assessment team’s response. Where a stakeholder comment has triggered a subsequent investigation during the evaluation, the corresponding follow-up action and conclusions from SCS are noted below.

5.2 Summary of Stakeholder Comments and Responses from the Team, Where Applicable

<input type="checkbox"/> FME has not received any stakeholder comments from interested parties as a result of stakeholder outreach activities during this annual audit.	
Stakeholder comments	SCS Response
Economic concerns	
None	
Social concerns	
None	
Environmental concerns	
DNR is operating without a Master Plan in the area of interest to me. I think as a result of that they didn't manage a property correctly.	Although the DNR is making progress in updating and revising Master Plans, there are instances where the DNR is still using Interim Plans. This was specifically evaluated and the 2016 auditors concluded that continuing current progress should be sustained. OBS 2016.3.

6. Certification Decision and Comments/Commendations

The certificate holder has demonstrated continued overall conformance to the applicable Forest Stewardship Council standards. The SCS annual audit team recommends that the certificate be sustained, subject to subsequent annual audits and the FME's response to any open CARs.	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
<p>Comments and Commendations:</p> <p>The results of the 2016 annual surveillance audit unambiguously warrant the continuance of Wisconsin DNR's FSC-FM certification for its management of the Wisconsin state forests. DNR personnel interviewed during the audit consistently demonstrated a high level of commitment to forest stewardship of the state lands under their management.</p> <p>The following commendations substantively underscore the positive outcome of this year's surveillance audit:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> DNR personnel demonstrate an ethos of responsible management for and stewardship of a robust array of values and resources found on the state lands under their charge. Throughout the various field units and operations visited during the 2016 audit, the audit team observed exemplary interdisciplinary and integrative collaboration amongst DNR personnel. DNR personnel interviewed during field audits demonstrated thorough and consistent knowledge of RTE procedures, reinforced by specific related trainings on the subject matter. Annual Integrated Property Meetings are held for each property or group of properties; opportunities for public comments on proposed or ongoing projects are regularly offered. Natural regeneration techniques are generally the preferred approach of DNR field foresters. Structural retention in regeneration harvest units was found to be exemplary. 	

7. Changes in Certification Scope

Any changes in the scope of the certification since the previous audit are highlighted in **yellow** in the tables below.

Name and Contact Information

Organization name	State of Wisconsin, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources		
Contact person	Mark Heyde		
Address	101 S. Webster Street	Telephone	608-267-0565
	P.O. Box 7921	Fax	608-266-8576
	Madison, WI 53707-7921	e-mail	Mark.Heyde@Wisconsin.gov
		Website	dnr.wi.gov

FSC Sales Information

FSC salesperson	Sabina Dhungana, DNR, Forest Products Services		
Address	101 S. Webster Street	Telephone	608-261-0754
	P.O. Box 7921	Fax	608-266-8576
	Madison, WI 53707-7921	e-mail	Sabina.Dhungana@wisconsin.gov
		Website	dnr.wi.gov

Scope of Certificate

Certificate Type	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Single FMU		<input type="checkbox"/> Multiple FMU	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Group			
SLIMF (if applicable)	<input type="checkbox"/> Small SLIMF certificate		<input type="checkbox"/> Low intensity SLIMF certificate	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Group SLIMF certificate			
# Group Members (if applicable)				
Number of FMU's in scope of certificate				
Geographic location of non-SLIMF FMU(s)	<i>Latitude & Longitude:</i>			
Forest zone	<input type="checkbox"/> Boreal		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Temperate	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Subtropical		<input type="checkbox"/> Tropical	
Total forest area in scope of certificate which is:			Units: <input type="checkbox"/> ha or <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ac	
privately managed				
state managed	1,551,440			
community managed				
Number of FMUs in scope that are:				
less than 100 ha in area	0	100 - 1000 ha in area	0	
1000 - 10 000 ha in area	0	more than 10 000 ha in area	1	
Total forest area in scope of certificate which is included in FMUs that:			Units: <input type="checkbox"/> ha or <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ac	
are less than 100 ha in area	0			
are between 100 ha and 1000 ha in area	0			
meet the eligibility criteria as <i>low intensity</i> SLIMF	0			

FMUs	
Division of FMUs into manageable units:	
Individual management units are identified by property name and responsible bureau.	

Production Forests

Timber Forest Products	Units: <input type="checkbox"/> ha or <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ac
Total area of production forest (i.e. forest from which timber may be harvested)	746,006
Area of production forest classified as 'plantation'	0
Area of production forest regenerated primarily by replanting or by a combination of replanting and coppicing of the planted stems	92,154
Area of production forest regenerated primarily by natural regeneration, or by a combination of natural regeneration and coppicing of the naturally regenerated stems	653,852
Silvicultural system(s)	Area under type of management
Even-aged management	
Clearcut (clearcut size range 18)	311,282
Shelterwood	201,356
Other:	233,3680
Uneven-aged management	
Individual tree selection	102,012
Group selection	128,563
Other:	
<input type="checkbox"/> Other (e.g. nursery, recreation area, windbreak, bamboo, silvo-pastoral system, agro-forestry system, etc.)	
The sustainable rate of harvest (usually Annual Allowable Harvest or AAH where available) of commercial timber (m3 of round wood)	20,699
Non-timber Forest Products (NTFPs)	
Area of forest protected from commercial harvesting of timber and managed primarily for the production of NTFPs or services	0
Other areas managed for NTFPs or services	0
Approximate annual commercial production of non-timber forest products included in the scope of the certificate, by product type	Balsam boughs 68 tons; Christmas trees 6,372
Explanation of the assumptions and reference to the data source upon which AAH and NTFP harvest rates estimates are based:	
Data are derived from "WisFIRS" which is a database that contains all recon, treatment, and timber sale data for State and County Lands.	
Species in scope of joint FM/COC certificate: <i>Scientific/ Latin Name (Common/ Trade Name)</i>	
Balsam fir	Abies balsamea
Boxelder	Acer negundo
Norway maple	Acer platanoides
Red maple	Acer rubrum
Silver maple	Acer saccharinum
Sugar maple	Acer saccharum

Yellow birch	<i>Betula alleghaniensis</i>
River birch	<i>Betula nigra</i>
White birch	<i>Betula papyrifera</i>
Musclewood, Bluebeech	<i>Carpinus caroliniana</i>
Bitternut hickory	<i>Carya cordiformis</i>
Shagbark hickory	<i>Carya ovata</i>
Hackberry	<i>Celtis occidentalis</i>
American beech	<i>Fagus grandifolia</i>
White ash	<i>Fraxinus americana</i>
Black ash	<i>Fraxinus nigra</i>
Green ash	<i>Fraxinus pennsylvanica</i>
Honey locust	<i>Gleditsia triacanthos</i>
Butternut	<i>Juglans cinerea</i>
Black walnut	<i>Juglans nigra</i>
Eastern redcedar	<i>Juniperus virginiana</i>
European larch	<i>Larix decidua</i>
Tamarack	<i>Larix laricina</i>
Eastern Hophornbeam, Ironwood	<i>Ostrya virginiana</i>
Norway spruce	<i>Picea abies</i>
White spruce	<i>Picea glauca</i>
Black spruce	<i>Picea mariana</i>
Blue spruce	<i>Picea pungens</i>
Jack Pine	<i>Pinus banksiana</i>
Red Pine	<i>Pinus resinosa</i>
Eastern white pine	<i>Pinus strobus</i>
Scotch pine	<i>Pinus sylvestris</i>
Balsam poplar	<i>Populus balsamifera</i>
Eastern Cottonwood	<i>Populus deltoides</i>
Aspen/Popple	<i>Populus grandidentata</i>
Aspen/Popple	<i>Populus tremuloides</i>
Black cherry	<i>Prunus serotina</i>
White oak	<i>Quercus alba</i>
Swamp white oak	<i>Quercus bicolor</i>
Northern pin oak	<i>Quercus ellipsoidalis</i>
Bur oak	<i>Quercus macrocarpa</i>
Northern red oak	<i>Quercus rubra</i>
Black oak	<i>Quercus velutina</i>
Black locust	<i>Robinia pseudoacacia</i>
Northern white cedar	<i>Thuja occidentalis</i>
American basswood	<i>Tilia americana</i>
Eastern hemlock	<i>Tsuga canadensis</i>
American elm	<i>Ulmus americana</i>

FSC Product Classification

Timber products		
Product Level 1	Product Level 2	Species
W1 Rough wood	Roundwood (logs)	252,478 cord equivalent
W1 Rough wood	Fuel wood	1,618 cord equivalent
W3 Wood in chips	Wood chips	Included in W1 above
Non-Timber Forest Products		
Product Level 1	Product Level 2	Product Level 3 and Species
N6 Plants and parts of plants	Whole trees or plants	Christmas trees, Abies balsamea; Juniperus virginiana; Larix decidua; Larix laricina; Picea abies; Picea glauca; Picea mariana; Picea spp.; Pinus banksiana; Pinus resinosa; Pinus spp.*; Pinus strobus; Pinus sylvestris; Thuja occidentalis; Tsuga canadensis (L.) Carr.
N6 Plants and parts of plants	Whole trees or plants	Balsam boughs, Abies balsamea; Pinus strobus; Thuja occidentalis

Conservation Areas

Total area of forest and non-forest land protected from commercial harvesting of timber and managed primarily for conservation objectives		238,602 acres		
High Conservation Value Forest/ Areas				
High Conservation Values present and respective areas:		Units: <input type="checkbox"/> ha or <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ac		
	Code	HCV Type	Description & Location	Area
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	HCV1	Forests or areas containing globally, regionally or nationally significant concentrations of biodiversity values (e.g. endemism, endangered species, refugia).	<p>Driftless Area: Large rivers, complex floodplains, sand terraces; Large Blocks of Southern Forest; Prairie & Savanna Remnants</p> <p>Northwoods: Old-growth Developmental Stages HH and NH; Old-growth Developmental Stages Pines; Embedded Wetlands</p> <p>Glacial Outwash Plains & Lakebeds: Xeric Pine-Oak Forests; Pine-Oak Barrens; Large Peatlands, Sedge Meadow, & Wetlands</p> <p>Lake Michigan: Ridge & Swale Communities (inc. Lakeplain Prairie); Beach and Dune</p>	19,787

			<p>Formations; Level Bedrock Influenced Communities; estuaries, Green Bay Marshes Lake Superior: Freshwater Estuaries; Sandscapes; Dunes & Pine Forest; Boreal Clay Plain Forest; Apostle Islands Cliffs & Maritime Forest; Red Clay Wetlands</p> <p>Glaciated Southeast Wisconsin Prairies, Fens, Savannas</p> <p>Niagara Escarpment: Niagara Escarpment</p> <p>Ecological Landscape Features: Central Lake Michigan Central Sand Hills Central Sand Plains Forest Transition North Central Forest Northeast Sands Northern Highland Northern Lake Michigan Northwest Lowlands Northwest Sands Southeast Glacial Plains Southern Lake Michigan</p>	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	HCV2	<p>Forests or areas containing globally, regionally or nationally significant large landscape level forests, contained within, or containing the management unit, where viable populations of most if not all naturally occurring species exist in natural patterns of distribution and abundance.</p>	<p>Driftless Area: Large rivers, complex floodplains, sand terraces; Large Blocks of Southern Forest; Prairie & Savanna Remnants; Springs and Cold Water Streams; Cliffs, Caves and Talus Slopes; Relic Conifer Stands and Algific Slopes</p> <p>Northwoods: Old-growth Developmental Stages HH and NH; Old-growth Developmental Stages Pines; Embedded Wetlands; Biologically Rich Freshwater Lakes</p> <p>Glacial Outwash Plains & Lakebeds: Xeric Pine-Oak Forests; Pine-Oak Barrens; Large</p>	106,883

			<p>Peatlands, Sedge Meadow, & Wetlands</p> <p>Lake Michigan: Ridge & Swale Communities (inc. Lakeplain Prairie); Beach and Dune Formations; Level Bedrock Influenced Communities; estuaries, Green Bay Marshes</p> <p>Lake Superior: Freshwater Estuaries; Sandscapes; Dunes & Pine Forest; Boreal Clay Plain Forest; Apostle Islands Cliffs & Maritime Forest; Red Clay Wetlands</p> <p>Glaciated Southeast Wisconsin Prairies, Fens, Savannas, Kettle Moraine Forest, Emergent Marshes</p> <p>Niagara Escarpment: Niagara Escarpment</p> <p>Ecological Landscape Features: Central Lake Michigan Central Sand Hills Central Sand Plains Forest Transition North Central Forest Northeast Sands Southeast Glacial Plains Southern Lake Michigan</p> <p>Key Ecological Features: Marl Lakes, Lower Wolf River</p>	
☒	HCV3	Forests or areas that are in or contain rare, threatened or endangered ecosystems.	<p>Driftless Area: Large rivers, complex floodplains, sand terraces; Large Blocks of Southern Forest; Prairie & Savanna Remnants; Springs & Cold Water Streams; Cliffs, Caves, and Talus Slopes; Relict Conifer Stands & Algific Slopes</p> <p>Northwoods: Old-growth Developmental</p>	191,382

			<p>Stages HH and NH; Old-growth Developmental Stages Pines; Embedded Wetlands; Biologically Rich Wild Freshwater Lakes</p> <p>Glacial Outwash Plains & Lakebeds Xeric Pine-Oak Forests Pine-Oak Barrens Large Peatlands, Sedge Meadow, & Wetlands</p> <p>Lake Michigan: Ridge & Swale Communities (inc. Lakeplain Prairie); Beach and Dune Formations; Level Bedrock Influenced Communities; Estuaries; Green Bay Marshes</p> <p>Lake Superior Freshwater Estuaries; Sandscapes, Dunes & Pine Forest; Boreal Clay Plain Forest; Apostle Islands Cliffs & Maritime Forest; Red Clay Wetlands</p> <p>Glaciated Southeast Wisconsin: Prairies, Fens, Savannas; Kettle Moraine Forests; Emergent Marshes;</p> <p>Wisconsin's Key Ecological Features Marl Lakes; Lower Wolf River</p> <p>Niagara Escarpment: Niagara Escarpment</p> <p>Ecological Landscape Features: Central Lake Michigan Central Sand Hills Central Sand Plains Forest Transition North Central Forest Northeast Sands</p>	
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			Northern Highland Northern Lake Michigan Northwest Lowlands Northwest sands Southeast Glacial Plains Southwest Grasslands Superior Coastal Plain Western Coulees & Ridges Western Prairie	
<input type="checkbox"/>	HCV4	Forests or areas that provide basic services of nature in critical situations (e.g. watershed protection, erosion control).		
<input type="checkbox"/>	HCV5	Forests or areas fundamental to meeting basic needs of local communities (e.g. subsistence, health).		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	HCV6	Forests or areas critical to local communities' traditional cultural identity (areas of cultural, ecological, economic or religious significance identified in cooperation with such local communities).		776
Total Area of forest classified as 'High Conservation Value Forest/ Area'				318,828

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

<input type="checkbox"/>	N/A – All forestland owned or managed by the applicant is included in the scope.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Applicant owns and/or manages other FMUs not under evaluation.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Applicant wishes to excise portions of the FMU(s) under evaluation from the scope of certification.
Explanation for exclusion of FMUs and/or excision:	<p>The following DNR owned properties (about 37,798 total acres) are excluded from the scope of forest certification:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agricultural fields subject to share-crop agreements (approximately 20,600 acres – (Stands with cover-type F in WisFIRS) • Specific intensive non-forest use areas, as provided below: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • State Fish Hatcheries, Rearing Ponds & Rough Fish Stations (180 acres – LMS¹ (4 ac./site)) • State Forest Nurseries (297 acres – WisFIRS) • Poynette Game Farm and McKenzie Environmental Center (621 acres - WisFIRS) • Boat Access Sites (718 acres – LMS² (1 ac./access)) • Fire & Radio Tower Sites (143 acres – LMS³ (1 ac./tower)) • Ranger Stations, Administrative Offices and Storage Buildings (6,818 acres – LMS⁴ (2.5 ac./building)) • State Park Intensively Developed Recreation Areas (200 acres – WisFIRS) e.g. Peninsula State Park golf course, Blue Mound State Park swimming pool, Granite Peak Ski Area • Cooperatively managed state trails where the responsibility

	<p>and authority for planning and management have been given to partners, primarily counties (7,321 acres)</p> <p>Additionally, lands leased or eased from other owners who have retained vegetative management authority are also excluded (i.e. Forest Legacy conservation easements, stream access easements, etc).</p> <p>*Included in the scope of forest certification are DNR fee title owned properties and the leased Meadow Valley, McMillian, and Wood County Wildlife Areas.</p>	
Control measures to prevent mixing of certified and non-certified product (C8.3):	Certified areas are well defined so that any timber sold from uncertified lands is not mixed. Certified and uncertified material is sold as part of separate timber sales.	
Description of FMUs excluded from or forested area excised from the scope of certification:		
Name of FMU or Stand	Location (city, state, country)	Size (<input type="checkbox"/> ha or <input type="checkbox"/> ac)

8. Annual Data Update

8.1 Social Information

Number of forest workers (including contractors) working in forest within scope of certificate (differentiated by gender):		
# of male workers 1868 (721 permanent DNR Division of Forestry)	# of female workers 781 (240 Permanent)	
Number of accidents in forest work since last audit	Serious: # 8	Fatal: # 0

8.2 Annual Summary of Pesticide and Other Chemical Use

<input type="checkbox"/> FME does not use pesticides.				
Chemical Name	Area Treated (acres, may summarize multiple sites)	Amt Used	Units	General Target
Agri Star 2,4-D Amine 4	30	1.6	gallons	Individual targets are recorded on spray records for each site.
Aqua Neat	10	4.8	gallons	
Aquasweep	48	15	gallons	
ArborMectin	40	3.5	gallons	
Bark blue oil	1	1	gallons	
Bark Oil	20	9.64	gallons	
Buccaneer Plus	16	4	gallons	
Buccaneer Plus (glyphosate)	92.6	23.2	gallons	
Chemsurf w/ drift guard	34	6	gallons	
Cornerstone 5	13	1.5	gallons	
Dual Magnum	6.7	2.5	gallons	

DuPont Oust XP	0.01	1	gallons	
Element 3A	15	1.5	gallons	
Element 4	2.5	3.1	gallons	
Element 4 Herbicide	0.004591	0.15	gallons	
Elements 3A Herbicide	50	1.25	gallons	
ELEMETN 4	259	69	gallons	
Element 4	20	2	gallons	
Flexstar GT 3.5	20	6.13	gallons	
Fusilade	20	0.44	gallons	
Garlon 3A	5	1.2	gallons	
Garlon 4	2	1	gallons	
Garlon4Ultra	29	2.4	gallons	
Glyphosate (Buccaneer)	34	22.5	gallons	
Glyphosate 41	35	21.88	gallons	
Glyphosate Pro 4	5	2.5	gallons	
Halex	12.7	6.4	gallons	
Halex GT	81	40.45	gallons	
Imitator+	80	40	gallons	
Instigate	92.6	3.62	gallons	
liberate	1	0.001	gallons	
Mad Dog Plus	10	2.5	gallons	
Makaze Herbicide	6	2.25	gallons	
Milestone VM Plus	22	3	gallons	
Orion	26.3	2.4	gallons	
Princep 4L	20	15	gallons	
Razor Pro	125	2	gallons	
Round up power max	18	2.8	gallons	
Round Up-Poison Ivy and Tough Brush Killer	2	0.5	gallons	
Roundup Concentarate	10	2	gallons	
Roundup Power Max	7.6	1.9	gallons	
Select	5	1	gallons	
Simazine	18.1	0.8	gallons	
Thunder master	80	18.75	gallons	
Tomahawk Glyphosate	48	16.5	gallons	
Touch	8	3	gallons	
Traxion	20	1.75	gallons	
Triclopyr	50	2	gallons	
Triclopyr, Element 4	29	7.5	gallons	
trycloypr	13	1.5	gallons	
Water	0.1	3	gallons	
Element-4	1	1	liters	
Garlon - 4	0.3	2	liters	
tricolor 4	1	0.5	liters	
Crossbow	2	600	milliliters	
Milestone	2	45	milliliters	

Escort	128	5	ounces-dry	
Escort XP	2	0.125	ounces-dry	
Escort	25	3	ounces-dry	
Metsulfuron methly (Escort XP)	20	0.5	ounces-dry	
Oust	10	0.9	ounces-dry	
Plateau	20	160	ounces-dry	
Triplet	1	27.5	ounces-dry	
Clean Crop Amine 4	20	12	ounces-wet	
2,4-D LV6, Riverdale	1	3	ounces-wet	
Activator 90 Non-Ionic Surfactant	2.25	16	ounces-wet	
Affinity Broad Spec	20	0.6	ounces-wet	
Agrisolutions Select 2ec	4.5	4	ounces-wet	
Alligare SFM 75	8	2	ounces-wet	
Amine 4 2,4-D	0.1	9.16	ounces-wet	
Ammonia	2.25	4	ounces-wet	
Aquamaster	3	8	ounces-wet	
Aquamaster(Glyphosate)	0.1	6.75	ounces-wet	
Aquaneat	3.5	320	ounces-wet	
aquaneat	119.83	133	ounces-wet	
avenger	0.01	9	ounces-wet	
Barrage HF	20	8	ounces-wet	
Basis	20.1	3.2	ounces-wet	
Beyond	8	32	ounces-wet	
Beyond Herbicide	5	20	ounces-wet	
Buccaneer Plus (Glyposate)	10	26	ounces-wet	
capreno	14	42	ounces-wet	
Chopper	211	3798	ounces-wet	
Chopper GEN2	25	450	ounces-wet	
Class Act	51	192	ounces-wet	
Conerstone	34	260	ounces-wet	
Cornerstone Plus	3	24	ounces-wet	
Diesel	0.03	9	ounces-wet	
DuPont Escort XP	300	1093	ounces-wet	
Durango	61	48	ounces-wet	
Durango DMA	36	864	ounces-wet	
ELEMENT 3 A	17.24	611	ounces-wet	
Element 3A	3.5	93	ounces-wet	
Element 4	119.83	654.6	ounces-wet	
Element 4 Herbicide	8	63	ounces-wet	
Element 4 triclopyr	11	27	ounces-wet	
Element4	4.25	43.5	ounces-wet	
Garlon 3	1.25	48	ounces-wet	
GARLON 4 ULTRA	17.24	128	ounces-wet	

Garlon 4A	10	100	ounces-wet	
Gly Star Plus	1	192	ounces-wet	
Glyphomate 41	16	2	ounces-wet	
glyphosate	119.83	412	ounces-wet	
Glyphosate (cornerstone)	5	2.7	ounces-wet	
Glypro	0.5	16	ounces-wet	
Glystar Plus	0.1	26	ounces-wet	
Gordon's Amine 400 2,4-d Weed Killer	15	293	ounces-wet	
Green Thumb Wasp Spray	43	105	ounces-wet	
Habitat	20	241	ounces-wet	
Habitat Herbicide	3	2.4	ounces-wet	
Honcho Plus	0.5	9	ounces-wet	
Hornet	30	31.5	ounces-wet	
Intensity	4.5	15	ounces-wet	
Makaze	32	95.4	ounces-wet	
Methylated Seed Oil	1.25	22	ounces-wet	
Milestone	119.83	47.87	ounces-wet	
Milestone Herbicide	5	30	ounces-wet	
Milestone MV	1400	4.5	ounces-wet	
Milestone VM	121	9	ounces-wet	
Milstone VM	6	3	ounces-wet	
mso	10	10	ounces-wet	
NuFarm Razer Pro	300	462	ounces-wet	
Ortho Poison Ivy Max	0.01	9	ounces-wet	
Ortho Weed B-gone	300	65	ounces-wet	
Oust XP	39	39	ounces-wet	
Outlook	61	8	ounces-wet	
Panoramic 2SL	0.25	1	ounces-wet	
Pereference	1400	4.5	ounces-wet	
Permit	12.9	12.9	ounces-wet	
Phoenix	11	66	ounces-wet	
Plateau Herbicide	1	3	ounces-wet	
Polaris	15	52	ounces-wet	
Polaris	17	4.6	ounces-wet	
preeference	40	4	ounces-wet	
preference	1	1	ounces-wet	
Pursuit	11	44	ounces-wet	
Radiate	36	72	ounces-wet	
Rapter	11	55	ounces-wet	
Raptor	14	56	ounces-wet	
Razor	0.1	4	ounces-wet	
Razor	0.65	64	ounces-wet	
Rodeo	3	144	ounces-wet	
Round powermax	7.25	73	ounces-wet	

Round Up	9.5	688	ounces-wet	
Round Up Max	51	1224	ounces-wet	
Round Up Weather Max	30	231	ounces-wet	
Roundup	34	160	ounces-wet	
Round-up	12	264	ounces-wet	
roundup	48	32	ounces-wet	
Roundup Pro Herbicide	6.49	30	ounces-wet	
Shredder	51	64	ounces-wet	
Status	34	85	ounces-wet	
Tomahawk-4	25	822	ounces-wet	
Topeka	20	8	ounces-wet	
Tordon	9.5	94	ounces-wet	
Tordon RTU	5	4	ounces-wet	
Transline	17	140	ounces-wet	
Vanquish	300	72	ounces-wet	
Verdict	61	15	ounces-wet	
Verdict	23	15	ounces-wet	
Verdict Powered By Kixor	12	180	ounces-wet	
2,4-D Amine	75	7.5	pints	
2,4-D LV4	14	14	pints	
Banvel	14	7	pints	
Clarity	25	6.25	pints	
Dual	22	2	pints	
Extreme	10	30	pints	
LV400	25	12.5	pints	
Tenkoz Low-Vol 4	1	1	pints	
preferance	130	4	pounds	
Accord Concentrate	25	38	quarts	
Accord XRT 2	211	422	quarts	
Accord XRT II	36	3	quarts	
Bullzeye	25	25	quarts	
Capreno	40	3.75	quarts	
Dual Li Magnum	10	6.5	quarts	
Garlon XRT	36	2	quarts	
Honcho Plus - Glyphosate	28	30.5	quarts	
Honco Plus	2	5	quarts	
Instinct Nitrogen Stabilizer	270	270	quarts	
Makaze - Glyphosate	28	36.5	quarts	
Makaze (glyphosate)	31	20	quarts	
Powermax	17.5	17.5	quarts	
Princep	31	20	quarts	
Resolve	51	51	quarts	
Roundup Custom	33	22	quarts	
Roundup Weathermax	40	40	quarts	
Tordon RTU	0.1	1	quarts	

SECTION B – APPENDICES (CONFIDENTIAL)

Appendix 1 – List of FMUs Selected For Evaluation

FME consists of a single FMU

FME consists of multiple FMUs or is a Group

Appendix 2 – List of Stakeholders Consulted

List of FME Staff Consulted

Note: All DNR personnel listed may be contacted through the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources main operating phone system and by email found in a searchable directory here, <http://dnr.wi.gov/staffdir/newsearch/contactsearchext.aspx?exp=water%20quality>.

First Name	Last Name	Consultation method
Todd	Anderson	Field interview
Gary	Bartz	Field interview
Ben	Baumgart	Field interview
Michael	Bergum	Field interview
Heather	Berklund	Opening, Field interview
Sam	Blake	Field interview
Janet	Brehm	Field interview
Kay	Brockman-Mederas	Field interview
Aaron	Buchholz	Opening meeting
Heather	Berklund	Closing meeting
Marty	Calvert	Opening, Field interview, Closing
Tom	Carlson	Field interview
Chase	Chistopherson	Opening meeting, Field interview
Jason	Cotter	Field interview
Cole	Couvillion	Field interview
Paul	Cunningham	Opening meeting
Craig	Dalton	Field interview
Paul	Delong	Closing meeting
Chris	Duncan	Field interview
Joe	Fieweger	Field interview
Kate	Fitzgerald	Opening meeting
Jacob	Fries	Field interview
John	Gillen	Field interview
Chad	Gottbeheut	Field interview
Tom	Haigen	Opening meeting
Dave	Halfmann	Field interview
Carmen	Hardin	Opening meeting

Ken	Hayes	Opening meeting, Field interview
Joe	Henry	Field interview
Mark	Heyde	Closing meeting
Jeremy	Holtz	Field interview
John	Huff	Field interview
Zach	Hylinski	Field interview
Marci	Jahns	Field interview
Josh	Jarvis	Field interview
Steve	Kaufman	Field interview, Closing meeting
Mike	Lietz	Field interview
Carly	Lapin	Field interview
Rich	Lavalley	Field interview
Jon	Leith	Field interview
Kate	Lentz	Closing meeting
Katherine	Lenz	Opening meeting
Keith	Lindner	Field interview
Tim	Lizotte	Opening, Closing meeting
Jim	Lizotte	Opening meeting
John	Lubbers	Closing meeting
John	Lubbers	Opening, Field interview
Dave	Marquette	Field interview
Derrick	McGee	Field interview
Derek	Nellis	Field interview
Jeff	Olsen	Opening meeting
Sara	Pearson	Field interview
Jeff	Pennucci	Field interview
Steve	Petersen	Field interview
Jeff	Prey	Closing meeting
Jeff	Prey	Opening meeting
Teague	Prichard	Opening, Field interview, Closing meeting
Jeff	Pritzl	Opening, Closing meeting
Jamie	Remme	Field interview
Eric	Roers	Field interview
Bill	Ruff	Field interview
Dave	Sample	Opening, Closing meeting
Lucas	Schmidt	Field interview
Mike	Schuessler	Field interview
Ryan	Severson	Field interview
Ryan	Severson	Opening meeting
Tom	Shockley	Field interview
Brian	Spencer	Opening meeting, Field interview
Paul	Stearns	Field interview
Henry	Sullivan	Field interview
Frank	Trcka	Closing meeting
Joe	Tucker	Field interview
Adam	Wallace	Field interview

Jim	Warren	Opening meeting
Jim	Wetterau	Field interview
Craig	Williams	Field interview
Curt	Wilson	Opening, Field interview, Closing meeting
Liz	Wood	Field interview
Brian	Woodbury	Field interview
Tyler	Woodford	Field interview
Michelle	Woodford	Field interview
Jim	Woodford	Field interview
Darrell	Zastrow	Opening, Closing meeting

List of other Stakeholders Consulted

Name	Organization	Contact Information	Consultation method	Requests Cert. Notf.
Harry Baldrige	Country Forest Products	715-229-9205	Field interview	N
Brad Beyer	Beyer Enterprises	715-218-7560	Field interview	N
Matt Dallman	The Nature Conservancy	mdallman@tnc.org	Email, phone interview	Y
Lance Glime		715-528-5253	Field interview	N
Brandon Pagel	Frank’s Logging	920-591-1886	Field interview	N
Norm Poulton	Private Landowner		Phone interview	N
Lowell Smiley	Frank’s Logging	715-923-0016	Field interview	N
Field staff	Minerick Logging	906-542-7200	Field interview	N

Appendix 3 – Additional Audit Techniques Employed

No additional audit techniques were used.

Appendix 4 – Pesticide Derogations

Name of pesticide / herbicide (active ingredient)	Date derogation approved
FME has derogation for hexazinone, which has not been used since before 2014; no use was reported in 2014, 2015 or 2016. The derogation is no longer required since hexazinone is not on the 2015 list of FSC HHP.	9/Dec/2014

Appendix 5 – Detailed Observations

Evaluation Year	FSC P&C Reviewed
2013	All – (Re)certification Evaluation
2014	1.5, 2.3, P3, P4, 5.6, 6.2, 6.3, 6.9, 8.2, and 9.4
2015	P1, P2, P5, 6.2, 6.3, 6.9, 8.2, and 9.4
2016	1.5, 2.3, 3.2, 4.2, 4.4, 5.6, P6, 8.2, P9

C= Conformance with Criterion or Indicator
NC= Nonconformance with Criterion or Indicator
NA = Not Applicable
NE = Not Evaluated


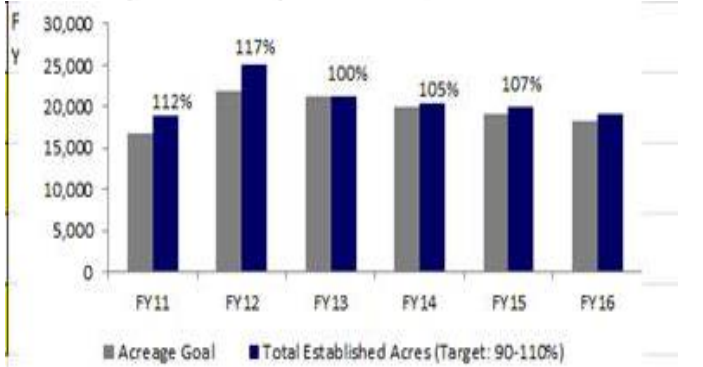
REQUIREMENT	C/N/C	COMMENT/CAR
P1 Forest management shall respect all applicable laws of the country in which they occur, and international treaties and agreements to which the country is a signatory, and comply with all FSC Principles and Criteria.		
C1.5. Forest management areas should be protected from illegal harvesting, settlement and other unauthorized activities.	C	
1.5.a. The forest owner or manager supports or implements measures intended to prevent illegal and unauthorized activities on the Forest Management Unit (FMU).	C	DNR actively takes measures to prevent illegal and unauthorized activities on the FMU through a variety of mechanisms, depending on the activity, resource, local circumstances, and conditions. DNR maintains a suite of timber harvesting, fishing, hunting, and other recreational and use licenses, permits, rules and regulations to manage access and activities on state lands.
1.5.b. If illegal or unauthorized activities occur, the forest owner or manager implements actions designed to curtail such activities and correct the situation to the extent possible for meeting all land management objectives with consideration of available resources.	C	<p>DNR routinely takes actions designed to enforce all rules and regulations that apply to access and use of state lands and resources.</p> <p>As a state agency DNR has its own law enforcement staff, including forestry law enforcement specialists and game wardens. Forest related crimes reported to FSC auditors included: destruction or theft of state property, unauthorized removal of operating or parking registered vehicle in unauthorized areas, entering unauthorized or closed area, camping in an unauthorized area, operating motor vehicle or recreation vehicle in unauthorized areas, allowing pets in unauthorized area or unleashed pets, and timber theft. Timber theft and trespass issues on State Lands are investigated by DNR Forester-Rangers, Law Enforcement (LE) Rangers, Conservation Wardens and/or County Sheriff’s departments.</p> <p>Birch theft continues to be a concern for state/public lands in northern WI. In one case, a Forestry LE Specialist worked with specified State Forest (NSF) Officers, the DNR Warden Investigative Unit, a County Sheriff’s Office, and the USFS to address timber theft issues in an identified County. The investigation involved state land, county forests, and private land. The law enforcement team arrested a suspect who had cut several thousands of dollars’ worth of birch from public lands in the area. During the course of this investigation, officers discovered vast areas of dead birch stands that they believed to be a direct result of birch bark peeling and illegal harvest of birch. Birch theft continues to be a concern for state/public lands in northern WI.</p> <p>In another case a NSF Officer in Northeast Wisconsin, also involving birch damage and theft, has potential to be a large scale, complex</p>

		<p>case and is a current investigation.</p> <p>Since the last summary report was submitted, DNR Forestry has implemented a new process of addressing forestry related violations that occur on state lands as well as private lands that involves specialization in investigating forestry related violations. NSF Officers have transitioned into the role of lead investigator on complex forestry violations when requested by local field staff.</p> <p>DNR Forestry LE staff attended a meeting with the USFS, DNR Foresters, and county foresters to discuss the law enforcement implications of Good Neighbor Authority (GNA) timber sales. All LE agencies will work together to handle complaints or investigations of GNA violations.</p> <p>DNR Forestry has developed a statewide complaint database to capture information regarding forestry violations. The electronic complaint database was implemented in the Spring of 2016 and has proven to be an effective tool.</p> <p>General Summary:</p> <p>The DNR LE Hotline is a phone/internet based complaint line that allows the public to report law violations to DNR. The DNR Hotline received a total of 422 complaints that were identified to be on State Property from 07/01/2015 to 06/30/2016.</p>
<p>P2 Long-term tenure and use rights to the land and forest resources shall be clearly defined, documented and legally established.</p>		
<p>C2.3. Appropriate mechanisms shall be employed to resolve disputes over tenure claims and use rights. The circumstances and status of any outstanding disputes will be explicitly considered in the certification evaluation. Disputes of substantial magnitude involving a significant number of interests will normally disqualify an operation from being certified.</p>	<p>C</p>	
<p>2.3.a. If disputes arise regarding tenure claims or use rights then the forest owner or manager initially attempts to resolve them through open communication, negotiation, and/or mediation. If these good-faith efforts fail, then federal, state, and/or local laws are employed to resolve such disputes.</p>	<p>C</p>	<p>No significant disputes over tenure rights have occurred since the last audit as reported by the DNR Division of Forestry Attorney in 2016. Extensive stakeholder consultation in formal and informal (open door policy) is undertaken to diffuse any potential disputes.</p>
<p>2.3.b. The forest owner or manager documents any significant disputes over tenure and use rights.</p>	<p>C</p>	<p>There are no significant disputes over tenure and use rights. Should such disputes arise they are to be handled through the State Natural Resources Board.</p>
<p>P3 The legal and customary rights of indigenous peoples to own, use and manage their lands, territories, and resources shall be recognized and respected.</p>		
<p>C3.2. Forest management shall not threaten or diminish, either directly or indirectly, the resources or tenure rights of indigenous peoples.</p>	<p>C</p>	
<p>3.2.a. During management planning, the forest owner or manager consults with American Indian groups that have legal rights or other binding agreements to the FMU to avoid harming their resources or rights.</p>	<p>C</p>	<p>Consultation is undertaken at several levels. DNR has a statewide tribal liaison to interact with tribes at a government to government level. Individual staff serve as liaison and contacts for individual tribes. Tribes are formally consulted during the master planning process to make sure that their resource rights are preserved.</p> <p>All harvests are screened through the state archeological office, which provides protection measures based on the type of resource to be protected – usually buffering out of sites. Location of the exact areas is kept confidential from DNR staff and contractors.</p>
<p>3.2.b. Demonstrable actions are taken so that forest management does not adversely affect tribal resources. When applicable, evidence of, and measures for, protecting tribal resources are</p>	<p>C</p>	<p>Annual Operation meetings and the Master Planning Process along with the Department’s consultation policy, allow for input from Native American bands and tribes on all aspects of state forest</p>

incorporated in the management plan.		management. Additionally, the six federally recognized Chippewa Bands in Wisconsin are currently engaged in a six year study for a self-reporting system for non-timber forest products on state lands in the ceded territory (roughly the northern 1/3 of Wisconsin).
P4 Forest management operations shall maintain or enhance the long-term social and economic well-being of forest workers and local communities.		
C4.2. Forest management should meet or exceed all applicable laws and/or regulations covering health and safety of employees and their families.	C	
4.2.a. The forest owner or manager meets or exceeds all applicable laws and/or regulations covering health and safety of employees and their families (also see Criterion 1.1).	C	<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> <p>The DNR tracks claims made by staff from Endangered Resources, Facilities & Lands, Fisheries Management & Habit Protection, Forestry, Nursery, Parks & Recreation, and Wildlife Management. Within this is tracked whether claims resulted from incidents on or outside of DNR lands. There were 121 claims from those Bureaus listed above. SCS was provided detailed information in a spreadsheet, this spreadsheet is retained by SCS within the 2016 Annual Audit Info Summary.</p> <p>In 2016 the DNR reported that the method for reporting tick bites was adjusted so that each bite is noted, but an accident report is only filed if medical attention is required.</p>
4.2.b. The forest owner or manager and their employees and contractors demonstrate a safe work environment. Contracts or other written agreements include safety requirements.	C	<p>Numerous active harvests were reviewed during this audit. Only one issue was encountered, leaving a hardhat in the cab operator's truck but it was available and was overall in conformance. During the audit DNR held daily safety discussions. Interviews with foresters in the field confirmed that safety plans and training are offered, required for certain topics (First aid, travel safety, vehicle safety), and tracked in DNR system. Contracts contain language requiring that contractors follow OSHA safety regulations.</p>
4.2.c. The forest owner or manager hires well-qualified service providers to safely implement the management plan.	C	<p>Interviews with two of the logging contractors during the audit emphasized safety protocols and training courses. Loggers' recited safety related training through their companies required by either DNR and/or the company (vehicle maintenance and related safety). The timber sale forester in each case had training records that verified documented training completed. In one case, the records contained over 7 years of training data. Interviews with foresters confirmed access to training for loggers and foresters. Records of logger and forester training are maintained by DNR and confirmed by visual inspection.</p> <p>Loggers are required to undergo FISTA training, focusing on safety and logging techniques by DNR requirements. Interviews with contract loggers in the field confirmed that safety training is at least annual. One interviewee described supervisory directives that exceeded state of federal requirements for operating in the field (total operations shut down authority for unsafe conditions and/or situations).</p>
C4.4. Management planning and operations shall incorporate the results of evaluations of social impact. Consultations shall be maintained with people and groups (both men and women) directly affected by management operations.		
4.4.a. The forest owner or manager understands the likely social impacts of management activities, and incorporates this understanding into management planning and operations. Social impacts include effects on:	C	<p>DNR has staff sociologists dedicated to understanding the social impact of forest management. The Wisconsin Environmental Policy act requires an evaluation of social impacts, including historic, cultural, scenic, and recreational resources. Archeological sites are</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Archeological sites and sites of cultural, historical and community significance (on and off the FMU; • Public resources, including air, water and food (hunting, fishing, collecting); • Aesthetics; • Community goals for forest and natural resource use and protection such as employment, subsistence, recreation and health; • Community economic opportunities; • Other people who may be affected by management operations. <p>A summary is available to the CB.</p>		<p>mapped in state database and protections measures are put in place prior to activities beginning.</p> <p>Individual master plans include discussion of social impacts as part of a regional property analysis.</p> <p>Notable examples of interaction with stakeholders included timber sales and recreation development at the Willow Flowage management area. The forester described public meetings held in association with completion of the Master Plan. An unplanned stop was made to inspect a potential trail improvement site that was a direct response to public requests for more hunter walking trails. The Willow Flowage Scenic Waters Master Plan may be found here, http://dnr.wi.gov/files/PDF/pubs/lf/lf0033.pdf.</p>
<p>4.4.b. The forest owner or manager seeks and considers input in management planning from people who would likely be affected by management activities.</p>	<p>C</p>	<p>Input from the public is a standard part of management planning. All planning documents are posted online. In cases of higher interest, public meetings are held to discuss individual plans.</p> <p>In 2016 DNR reports that DNR research scientists currently have two projects active for the socio-economic implications of:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Oak regeneration and policy: a multi-state investigation of the Driftless Area 2. Managing for old-growth attributes: Harvesting productivity and costs associated with restorative silvicultural practices <p>See http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/wildlifehabitat/research/forestry.html for details.</p> <p>DNR’s Park and Recreation Bureau initiated the process to revise the State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP); see http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/Lands/scorp/ for details.</p> <p>TNC expressed concern about harvesting practices on the Pine-Popple Wild Rivers property; meetings with TNC on site resolved the issues.</p>
<p>4.4.c. People who are subject to direct adverse effects of management operations are apprised of relevant activities in advance of the action so that they may express concern.</p>	<p>C</p>	<p>Local neighbors are contacted by individual property managers when activities begin. Interviews with foresters in 2016 confirmed routine and consistent communication with neighbors preceding any management activity. Examples were provided for forestry, WMA, and Fisheries lands.</p> <p>At a larger level, there is a government email distribution list that allows for interested parties to opt into notifications on certain topics and properties.</p>
<p>4.4.d. For public forests, consultation shall include the following components:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Clearly defined and accessible methods for public participation are provided in both long and short-term planning processes, including harvest plans and operational plans; 2. Public notification is sufficient to allow interested stakeholders the chance to learn of upcoming opportunities for public review and/or comment on the proposed management; 3. An accessible and affordable appeals process to planning decisions is available. <p>Planning decisions incorporate the results of public consultation. All draft and final planning documents, and their supporting data, are made readily available to the public.</p>	<p>C</p>	<p>Government email distribution list that allows for interested parties to opt into notifications on certain topics and properties.</p> <p>At an individual harvest level, managers communicate with neighboring owners when they are harvesting on a boundary. WEPA process provides opportunity for public input. Issues on a site level basis happen more informally. Harvest planning done on annual basis, with an opportunity for comment as part of that. All planning activities are presented on the DNR website for comment.</p> <p>Parties can avail themselves of administrative hearing process. Any decision by the department can be appealed (a decision being defined as any plan or permit). The aggrieved party has the opportunity to have appeal heard in front of hearing examiner.</p>
<p>P5 Forest management operations shall encourage the efficient use of the forest’s multiple products and services to ensure economic viability and</p>		

a wide range of environmental and social benefits.

<p>C5.6. The rate of harvest of forest products shall not exceed levels which can be permanently sustained.</p>	<p>C</p>																									
<p>5.6.a. In FMUs where products are being harvested, the landowner or manager calculates the sustained yield harvest level for each sustained yield planning unit, and provides clear rationale for determining the size and layout of the planning unit. The sustained yield harvest level calculation is documented in the Management Plan.</p> <p>The sustained yield harvest level calculation for each planning unit is based on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> documented growth rates for particular sites, and/or acreage of forest types, age-classes and species distributions; mortality and decay and other factors that affect net growth; areas reserved from harvest or subject to harvest restrictions to meet other management goals; silvicultural practices that will be employed on the FMU; management objectives and desired future conditions. <p>The calculation is made by considering the effects of repeated prescribed harvests on the product/species and its ecosystem, as well as planned management treatments and projections of subsequent regrowth beyond single rotation and multiple re-entries.</p>	<p>C</p>	<p>The sustained yield harvest in an output of the Wisconsin Forest Inventory and Reporting System (WisFIRS), and is routinely projected for 15 years. At present, growth rates are not used in projections, although a CFI system is being implemented that will allow calculation of growth. Instead, forest stands are visited on a 10-year cycle for reconnaissance, which includes measurements of volume. Recon data are considered in the annual update of 15-year harvest projections.</p> <p>A 2016 summary was provided for past year (2015) harvests comparing harvests to established annual allowable cut. See below:</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="873 632 1133 804"> <thead> <tr> <th>FY14</th> <th>FY15</th> <th>FY16</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>19,875</td> <td>19,021</td> <td>18,213</td> </tr> <tr> <td>20,286</td> <td>19,911</td> <td>19,034</td> </tr> <tr> <td>102%</td> <td>105%</td> <td>105%</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>  <p>Chart segments are enlarged below:</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="881 869 1297 1108"> <thead> <tr> <th>FY14</th> <th>FY15</th> <th>FY16</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>19,875</td> <td>19,021</td> <td>18,213</td> </tr> <tr> <td>20,286</td> <td>19,911</td> <td>19,034</td> </tr> <tr> <td>102%</td> <td>105%</td> <td>105%</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> 	FY14	FY15	FY16	19,875	19,021	18,213	20,286	19,911	19,034	102%	105%	105%	FY14	FY15	FY16	19,875	19,021	18,213	20,286	19,911	19,034	102%	105%	105%
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<p>5.6.b. Average annual harvest levels, over rolling periods of no more than 10 years, do not exceed the calculated sustained yield harvest level.</p>	<p>C</p>	<p>The 15-year projected AAH is 24,610, which includes the smoothed backlog of harvesting due, in part, to the addition of “other” state lands into the universe of managed lands. DNR will on average have 18,000 acres per year of established sales.</p>																								
<p>5.6.c. Rates and methods of timber harvest lead to achieving desired conditions, and improve or maintain health and quality across the FMU. Overstocked stands and stands that have been depleted or rendered to be below productive potential due to natural events, past management, or lack of management, are returned to desired stocking levels and composition at the earliest practicable time as justified in management objectives.</p>	<p>C</p>	<p>Master plans clearly set desired conditions for different forest types and age classes on each property. Management codes for each stand are established to move the land unit toward these conditions. Several site visits during the audit were to stands that were being restored to historical conditions.</p>																								
<p>5.6.d. For NTFPs, calculation of quantitative sustained yield harvest levels is required only in cases where products are harvested in</p>	<p>C</p>	<p>NTFPs include firewood, berries, bark, and boughs. Permits are issued for firewood cutting, in small quantities; berry picking occurs in</p>																								

<p>significant commercial operations or where traditional or customary use rights may be impacted by such harvests. In other situations, the forest owner or manager utilizes available information, and new information that can be reasonably gathered, to set harvesting levels that will not result in a depletion of the non-timber growing stocks or other adverse effects to the forest ecosystem.</p>		<p>several locations, but there is no indication that any of it is commercial. Tribes track the harvest of their members and report to DNR annually.</p>
<p>P6 Forest management shall conserve biological diversity and its associated values, water resources, soils, and unique and fragile ecosystems and landscapes, and, by so doing, maintain the ecological functions and the integrity of the forest.</p>		
<p>C6.1. Assessments of environmental impacts shall be completed - appropriate to the scale, intensity of forest management and the uniqueness of the affected resources -- and adequately integrated into management systems. Assessments shall include landscape level considerations as well as the impacts of on-site processing facilities. Environmental impacts shall be assessed prior to commencement of site-disturbing operations.</p>	<p>C</p>	
<p>6.1.a. Using the results of <i>credible scientific analysis, best available information</i> (including relevant databases), and local knowledge and experience, an assessment of conditions on the FMU is completed and includes:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Forest community types and development, size class and/or successional stages, and associated <i>natural disturbance regimes</i>; 2) <i>Rare, Threatened and Endangered (RTE) species</i> and <i>rare ecological communities</i> (including plant communities); 3) Other habitats and species of management concern; 4) Water resources and associated riparian habitats and hydrologic functions; 5) <i>Soil resources</i>; and 6) <i>Historic conditions</i> on the FMU related to forest community types and development, size class and/or successional stages, and a broad comparison of historic and current conditions. 	<p>C</p>	<p>The master planning process for state lands is authorized by Administrative Directive NR 44. Master plans present detailed analyses of historic conditions and natural disturbance patterns. More specifically, the Timber Sale Handbook lists specific topics that must be addressed on Form 2460-01 (FRM 2460) prior to management actions. FRM 2460 functions as a pre-assessment for management activities and includes soil types, water resources, habitat types, rare species or communities, and cultural and other relevant database searches.</p> <p>The FRM 2460 includes data and narratives that are traceable back to relevant data sources and includes: forest community and cover type information; Rare, Threatened, and Endangered species and rare ecological communities; notable habitat and other species of management concern; relevant water resources and associated riparian habitats and hydrologic functions, soil resources, and historic conditions.</p> <p>Notably, foresters interviewed during field audits demonstrated thorough and consistent knowledge of RTE procedures and described specific related trainings. The DNR system for incorporating multi-disciplinary approaches in an active forest management program was exemplary.</p>
<p>6.1.b. Prior to commencing site-disturbing activities, the forest owner or manager assesses and documents the potential short and long-term impacts of planned management activities on elements 1-5 listed in Criterion 6.1.a.</p> <p>The assessment must incorporate the <i>best available information</i>, drawing from scientific literature and experts. The impact assessment will at minimum include identifying resources that may be impacted by management (e.g., streams, habitats of management concern, soil nutrients). Additional detail (i.e., detailed description or quantification of impacts) will vary depending on the uniqueness of the resource, potential risks, and steps that will be taken to avoid and minimize risks.</p>	<p>C</p>	<p>Form 2460 is required to be completed before a timber sale is carried out. Other site-disturbing activities require different plans. Chapter 32 of the Timber Sale Handbook lists specific topics that must be included in the assessment and recorded on Form 2460, and appropriate codes for some of these items. These site-specific plans complement broad goals of Master Plans for long-term landscape composition. For areas where a Master Plan was not completed, or it was outdated, a temporary Interim Forest Management Plan (IFMP) was provided.</p>
<p>6.1.c. Using the findings of the impact assessment (Indicator 6.1.b), management approaches and field prescriptions are developed and implemented that: 1) avoid or minimize negative short-term and long-term impacts; and, 2) maintain and/or enhance the long-term ecological viability of the forest.</p>		
<p>6.1.d. On public lands, assessments developed in Indicator 6.1.a and management approaches developed in Indicator 6.1.c are made available to the public in draft form for review and comment</p>	<p>C</p>	<p>The process for developing property-specific Master Plans and IFMP does include steps for involving the public in developing draft and final plans. Final assessments are available to the public on</p>

<p>prior to finalization. Final assessments are also made available.</p>		<p>departmental web sites or by request in DNR offices. In addition and notably, Annual Integrated Property Meetings are held for each property or group of properties and offer opportunities for public comments on proposed or ongoing projects.</p>
<p>C 6.2. Safeguards shall exist which protect rare, threatened and endangered species and their habitats (e.g., nesting and feeding areas). Conservation zones and protection areas shall be established, appropriate to the scale and intensity of forest management and the uniqueness of the affected resources. Inappropriate hunting, fishing, trapping, and collecting shall be controlled.</p>	<p>C</p>	
<p>6.2.a. If there is a likely presence of RTE species as identified in Indicator 6.1.a then either a field survey to verify the species' presence or absence is conducted prior to site-disturbing management activities, or management occurs with the assumption that potential RTE species are present.</p> <p>Surveys are conducted by biologists with the appropriate expertise in the species of interest and with appropriate qualifications to conduct the surveys. If a species is determined to be present, its location should be reported to the manager of the appropriate database.</p>	<p>C</p>	<p>DNR has a thorough process for addressing the management of RTE species. Prior to master planning, Rapid Ecological Assessments are conducted by ecologists from the Bureau of Natural Heritage Conservation. Thus, any RTE species known to the ecologists or documented in the survey is considered in the planning process. In addition, any planned harvesting activity is reviewed by representatives from all relevant divisions of DNR, and Natural Heritage Inventory (NHI) databases are referenced. Interviews with a number of NHC ecologists during field visits revealed descriptions of numerous surveys designed to assess rare species and important indicator species.</p> <p>Notably, site inspections and interviews with staff during field audits presented multiple, consistent examples of integrated multi-disciplinary efforts when RTE species were identified and in efforts to determine if any actions might be needed for nearby or adjacent RTE occurrences.</p> <p>DNR reported in 2016 surveys for Rare, Threatened or Endangered (RTE) species and new conservation zones or protected areas that have been established including as listed below:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Numerous biotic inventories are in progress to support department master planning efforts. Inventories continuing from 2015 include the Brule River State Forest, as well as 12 state wildlife areas, a fishery area, and a stream protection. Additional inventory work has been initiated on seven Wildlife Areas in Washburn, Polk, and Barron counties in northwest Wisconsin. 2) Rare butterfly/moth surveys continue in west, southwest, central, and southeast Wisconsin, including Poweshiek skipperling, Karner blue butterfly, Ottoo skipper and other species. 3) Numerous bat surveys continue throughout the state. 4) Reference Wetland surveys continue to take place across the state, including state lands. 2016 is focusing on central and southwest Wisconsin. 5) The WI Wildlife Action Plan has been finalized and accepted. A planned phase later this year will look at potential boundary expansion and/or new Conservation Opportunity Areas (COAs). 6) We have ~42 ongoing Citizen Based Monitoring projects throughout the state, involving many partner programs and individuals. 7) District Ecologists and other staff routinely work with department land managers to review for potential impacts to rare species, develop master plans, etc. DNR Ecologists/Conservation Biologists will be available during the audit for questions on these subjects.

		<p>8) Master Plans approved in this past year have increased SNA acreage by a net total of 3,024 acres either by creating NEW SNAs or expanding others.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Glacial Lake Grantsburg Plan: Expanded - Blomberg Lake SNA was expanded 576 acres (from 390 to 966) and renamed to Blomberg Lake and Woods b. Northern Kettle Moraine wildlife, fish and natural areas Plan: 1) NEW - Mullet Creek White Cedar Wetland 86 acres, 2) NEW – Nichols Creek Cedars and Springs 71 acres, 3) NEW – Nichols Creek East Cedars 120 acres, 4) NEW – Kamrath Creek Forest and Fen 59 acres, 5) Expanded – Jackson Marsh 378 acres (from 212 to 590 acres) c. Sugar River Plan: 1) NEW – Albany Sand Prairie and Oak Savanna 80 acres, 2) NEW – Badfish Creek Wet Prairie and Spring Seeps 100 acres, 3) Expanded/Combined – Avon + Swenson (217 acres) were combined into the NEW Avon Bottoms Floodplain Forest 1,978 acres (net 1,761 acre expansion) d. Willow Flowage Plan: 1) Lower Tomahawk River Pines – contracted 20 acres, 2) Tomahawk River Pines was renamed to Upper Tomahawk River Pines - contracted 187 acres <p>9) 9) The four approved Master Plans above have designated a total of 9079 acres as Native Community Management Areas (NCMAs; including the aforementioned SNA acres). NCMA’s are managed with the primary objective of representing, restoring, and perpetuating native plant and animal communities, whether upland, wetland or aquatic, and other aspects of native biological diversity.</p> <p>Tier3 Management Plans have been approved for nine State Natural Areas in southwest and west Wisconsin, covering 1,342 acres.</p>
<p>6.2.b. When RTE species are present or assumed to be present, modifications in management are made in order to maintain, restore or enhance the extent, quality and viability of the species and their habitats. Conservation zones and/or protected areas are established for RTE species, including those S3 species that are considered rare, where they are necessary to maintain or improve the short and long-term viability of the species. Conservation measures are based on relevant science, guidelines and/or consultation with relevant, independent experts as necessary to achieve the conservation goal of the Indicator.</p>	<p>C</p>	<p>As above, pre-management reviews are conducted with an integrated team of personnel. Also, Form 2460 is required as part of a timber sale. This forms lists, among other things, descriptions of a number of ecological considerations, and the appropriate management response.</p> <p>Protection measures observed during the audit take a variety of forms, including seasonal restrictions such as for wildlife, an example is for wood turtle occurrences or research studies, ad hoc surveys for bald eagles that were described in interviews as leading to seasonal harvest restrictions. Several forests include the creation of diverse ages, size classes and forest communities as explicit goals. For an example of this see the Willow Flowage Scenic Waters Master Plan, http://dnr.wi.gov/files/PDF/pubs/lf/lf0033.pdf.</p>
<p>6.2.c. For medium and large public forests (e.g. state forests), forest management plans and operations are designed to meet species’ recovery goals, as well as landscape level biodiversity conservation goals.</p>	<p>C</p>	<p>In addition to the above finding, 6.2.b., these priorities are evident when reviewing a number of FRM 2460s and observing the close working relationship among DNR foresters, wildlife and fisheries biologist, and NHC ecologists.</p> <p>DNR SNAs function for a variety of ecological goals including landscape goals. The following management activities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Much native plant community restoration work has been completed by NHC and other DNR staff on SNAs. This and virtually all other land management activities are captured during the annual Integrated Property Management meetings, which are available for viewing online for comment, as well as anytime thereafter.

		2) Consultation with Wildlife Management and Natural Heritage Conservation (NHC) staff occurs before management activities are done around conservation areas.
6.2.d. Within the capacity of the forest owner or manager, hunting, fishing, trapping, collecting and other activities are controlled to avoid the risk of impacts to vulnerable species and communities (See Criterion 1.5).	C	As the state agency that regulates hunting, fishing, and trapping the DNR has a variety of regulatory mechanisms to manage and avoid collection of vulnerable species on its land. Hunting and gathering is monitored by game wardens and other law enforcement personnel, as well as DNR staff. DNR has extensive regulatory control mechanisms available and interviews with staff confirm knowledge of related policies as well as examples of enforcement activities taken. DNR confirms in 2016 that all activities funded, conducted, or approved by the department are screened for potential impacts to rare species using the Natural Heritage Inventory Portal. Standard guidance and other tools are available for a large number of species, and foresters and other land managers routinely consult with wildlife and Natural Heritage Conservation staff. In support of resource protection activities, there are dedicated conservation officers and several interviewed field foresters are also qualified as conservation enforcement officers.
C6.3. Ecological functions and values shall be maintained intact, enhanced, or restored, including: a) Forest regeneration and succession. b) Genetic, species, and ecosystem diversity. c) Natural cycles that affect the productivity of the forest ecosystem.	C	
C6.3.a. Landscape-scale indicators		
6.3.a.1. The forest owner or manager maintains, enhances, and/or restores under-represented successional stages in the FMU that would naturally occur on the types of sites found on the FMU. Where old growth of different community types that would naturally occur on the forest are under-represented in the landscape relative to natural conditions, a portion of the forest is managed to enhance and/or restore old growth characteristics.	C	DNR Master Plans and IFMPs contain goals meeting the requirements of this Indicator. Also, numerous examples provided in the field on FRM 2460s specify for the provision of successional stages in the landscape. The Willow Flowage 2460s are notable examples where successional stage and stand diversity were explicit prescriptive and area goals. Observations in the field were that foresters are routinely and consistently aware of and incorporating goals of age diversity factoring in ages of adjacent stands. Interviews demonstrated knowledge among most staff and all wildlife and fisheries staff of the measures currently being actively undertaken to enhance or restore old growth characteristics in the state forests.
6.3.a.2. When a rare ecological community is present, modifications are made in both the management plan and its implementation in order to maintain, restore or enhance the viability of the community. Based on the vulnerability of the existing community, conservation zones and/or protected areas are established where warranted.		
6.3.a.3. When they are present, management maintains the area, structure, composition, and processes of all Type 1 and Type 2 old growth . Type 1 and 2 old growth are also protected and buffered as necessary with conservation zones, unless an alternative plan is developed that provides greater overall protection of old growth values. Type 1 Old Growth is protected from harvesting and road construction. Type 1 old growth is also protected from other timber management activities, except as needed to maintain the ecological values associated with the stand, including old growth attributes (e.g., remove exotic species, conduct controlled burning, and thinning from below in dry forest types when and where restoration is appropriate). Type 2 Old Growth is protected from harvesting to the extent necessary to maintain the area, structures, and functions of the stand. Timber harvest in Type 2 old growth must maintain old	C	DNR staff are very aware of the importance of identifying and protecting old-growth forests. To that end, systematic reconnaissance of all forest stands on state lands uses three codes to designate different levels of late successional forests: relict forest, old-growth forest, and old forest. The relict forest designation corresponds to FSC Type 1 old growth; these forests are also coded as reserved. DNR also has developed an Old-Growth and Old Forest Handbook to assist in the assessment, classification, and management of old forests. Relict old growth stands (Type 1) are typed as reserved - no management. On any managed old-growth stand – any forest management is conducted primarily to maintain or enhance old growth characteristics. There were discussions during 2016 field site visits regarding the enhancement of existing forest stands to achieve older, more mature forest conditions.

<p>growth structures, functions, and components including individual trees that function as refugia (see Indicator 6.3.g).</p> <p>On public lands, old growth is protected from harvesting, as well as from other timber management activities, except if needed to maintain the values associated with the stand (e.g., remove exotic species, conduct controlled burning, and thinning from below in forest types when and where restoration is appropriate).</p> <p>On American Indian lands, timber harvest may be permitted in Type 1 and Type 2 old growth in recognition of their sovereignty and unique ownership. Timber harvest is permitted in situations where:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Old growth forests comprise a significant portion of the tribal ownership. 2. A history of forest stewardship by the tribe exists. 3. High Conservation Value Forest attributes are maintained. 4. Old-growth structures are maintained. 5. Conservation zones representative of old growth stands are established. 6. Landscape level considerations are addressed. 7. Rare species are protected. 		
<p>6.3.b. To the extent feasible within the size of the ownership, particularly on larger ownerships (generally tens of thousands or more acres), management maintains, enhances, or restores habitat conditions suitable for well-distributed populations of animal species that are characteristic of forest ecosystems within the landscape.</p>	<p>C</p>	<p>DNR’s forest management goals are ecologically oriented, and management is conducted to maintain ecological habitat conditions that are suited to each site. These decisions are aided by the habitat classification that is done as a component of reconnaissance surveys for each site.</p> <p>A variety of habitat restoration and enhancement projects are conducted annually on department lands including: savanna/barrens restoration, native prairie restoration, wetland restoration/enhancement, and young forest management. These activities are primarily guided by the WI Wildlife Action Plan, Joint Venture Waterfowl Plan, the Young Forest Initiative, and the various WI species management plans (turkey, etc). Property master plans identify the specific priority habitat types/work for each property based on guidance in the regional plans. Department staff often conduct habitat work in close partnership with habitat organizations (e.g. Ruffed Grouse Society, Wild Turkey Federation, Pheasants Forever, Ducks Unlimited, Trout Unlimited, etc.).</p> <p>A new program, “Adopt a Fish and Wildlife Area” has created many new partnerships and is providing additional resources for conducting habitat work on these lands. Due to limited base operations funding, most habitat projects are funded through grants, partnerships, donations, or species stamp revenue. This document provides and example, https://www.wisducks.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/04/Partner-groups-team-up-with-DNR-to-adopt-two-wildlife-areas-in-southern-Wisconsi.pdf. The program is described here, http://dnr.wi.gov/volunteer/.</p>
<p>6.3.c. Management maintains, enhances and/or restores the plant and wildlife habitat of Riparian Management Zones (RMZs) to provide:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) habitat for aquatic species that breed in surrounding uplands; b) habitat for predominantly terrestrial species that breed in adjacent aquatic habitats; c) habitat for species that use riparian areas for feeding, 	<p>C</p>	<p>Revisions to the Wisconsin Best Management Practices took effect in 2011; these specify additional protection for all wetlands, particularly seasonal wetlands, many of which are small but some of which are ecologically significant; foresters and loggers are aware of these provisions and work to implement them.</p> <p>Sale and/or harvest unit boundaries are designed to avoid or buffer wetlands, stream, lakes, and other water bodies. Riparian buffers</p>

<p>cover, and travel; d) habitat for plant species associated with riparian areas; and, stream shading and inputs of wood and leaf litter into the adjacent aquatic ecosystem.</p>		<p>associated with harvests are shown on maps and marked on the ground. 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.</p> <p>The BMPs are no longer seen as “new” rules, and foresters, logging contractors, and other agency staff were all knowledgeable of their details. Language in contracts instruct harvesters to avoid felling and leaving woody debris in season wetlands.</p> <p>2016 observations and interviews with field staff confirm that foresters are consistently implementing riparian protective buffers and including other considerations to protect forest resources.</p>
<p>Stand-scale Indicators 6.3.d Management practices maintain or enhance plant species composition, distribution and frequency of occurrence similar to those that would naturally occur on the site.</p>	<p>C</p>	<p>Management prescriptions for sites visited were consistently written to enhance or maintain current or desired composition of plant species on the site. This is done primarily by favoring natural regeneration, and focusing harvesting on removal of non-native species that had historically been planted on the FMU. DNR also uses extensive chemical, controlled burning, and mechanical treatments to combat invasive exotic species and maintain native plant communities. Examples of white pine restoration, [site] included non-commercial removal of competing woody vegetation as non-herbicide site preparation.</p>
<p>6.3.e. When planting is required, a local source of known provenance is used when available and when the local source is equivalent in terms of quality, price and productivity. The use of non-local sources shall be justified, such as in situations where other management objectives (e.g. disease resistance or adapting to climate change) are best served by non-local sources. Native species suited to the site are normally selected for regeneration.</p>	<p>C</p>	<p>Seed sources come from areas around the state’s two nurseries (Wi Rapids, Boscobel) through the Division’s tree improvement program. See supplemental Annual Reforestation Report. http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/TreePlanting/documents/treeImprovement-2014.pdf</p> <p>See the closing of Minor CAR 2016.1 for additional detail.</p>
<p>6.3.f. Management maintains, enhances, or restores habitat components and associated stand structures, in abundance and distribution that could be expected from naturally occurring processes. These components include: a) large live trees, live trees with decay or declining health, snags, and well-distributed coarse down and dead woody material. Legacy trees where present are not harvested; and b) vertical and horizontal complexity. Trees selected for retention are generally representative of the dominant species found on the site.</p>	<p>C</p>	<p>DNR reports 8,331 acres as even-aged harvest in FY 2016 (data export WisFIRS - even aged acres). DNR states that when even-aged harvests are conducted green tree retention guidelines, biomass harvesting and course woody debris guidelines are followed.</p> <p>DNR personnel use written silvicultural guidelines for retaining structural diversity in even-aged management systems including green tree retention, legacy tree, and coarse woody debris retention, all of which were observed in 2016 field inspections. Personnel consistently discussed and reflected recent training in understanding and application of the green tree retention standards. Based on recent revisions to the wildlife chapter in the Silviculture Manual foresters are marking more leave trees (individual) and painting off more pockets or clumps of leave trees, especially around wetlands.</p> <p>Legacy are trees are described in 2460 narratives and then indicated in the WisFIRS database.</p>
<p>6.3.g.1 In the Southeast, Appalachia, Ozark-Ouachita, Mississippi Alluvial Valley, and Pacific Coast Regions, when even-aged systems are employed, and during salvage harvests, live trees and other native vegetation are retained within the harvest unit as described in Appendix C for the applicable region.</p> <p>In the Lake States Northeast, Rocky Mountain and Southwest Regions, when even-aged silvicultural systems are employed, and</p>	<p>C</p>	<p>DNR foresters routinely retain green trees in a harvest by prescription and by marking wildlife trees. In addition, native vegetation is retained in riparian buffers and in retention islands. The Silviculture Handbook, Section 24-17, has detailed guidelines for retention of trees in managed stands.</p> <p>The Willow River Flowage sites were examples of green tree retention and [site, Rich Valley sites] where riparian buffers were established to</p>

<p>during salvage harvests, live trees and other native vegetation are retained within the harvest unit in a proportion and configuration that is consistent with the characteristic natural disturbance regime unless retention at a lower level is necessary for the purposes of restoration or rehabilitation. See Appendix C for additional regional requirements and guidance.</p>		<p>protect native vegetation, ecosystem structural features (coarse woody debris), and wildlife habitat specifically for amphibians and reptiles.</p>
<p>6.3.g.2 Under very limited situations, the landowner or manager has the option to develop a qualified plan to allow minor departure from the opening size limits described in Indicator 6.3.g.1. A qualified plan:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Is developed by qualified experts in ecological and/or related fields (wildlife biology, hydrology, landscape ecology, forestry/silviculture). 2. Is based on the totality of the best available information including peer-reviewed science regarding natural disturbance regimes for the FMU. 3. Is spatially and temporally explicit and includes maps of proposed openings or areas. 4. Demonstrates that the variations will result in equal or greater benefit to wildlife, water quality, and other values compared to the normal opening size limits, including for sensitive and rare species. 5. Is reviewed by independent experts in wildlife biology, hydrology, and landscape ecology, to confirm the preceding findings. 	<p>C</p>	<p>There are no opening-size limits for the Lake States-Central Hardwoods region.</p>
<p>6.3.h. The forest owner or manager assesses the risk of, prioritizes, and, as warranted, develops and implements a strategy to prevent or control invasive species, including:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. a method to determine the extent of invasive species and the degree of threat to native species and ecosystems; 2. implementation of management practices that minimize the risk of invasive establishment, growth, and spread; 3. eradication or control of established invasive populations when feasible: and, <p>monitoring of control measures and management practices to assess their effectiveness in preventing or controlling invasive species.</p>	<p>C</p>	<p>Auditors consistently observed efforts to limit the introduction and spread of exotic plants. Many contracts specify that logging equipment is cleaned before harvest is initiated. Staff are well-trained in invasive species BMPs. DNR monitors the effectiveness of their control measures and routinely make changes to methodology to control invasive species. Parks are especially active in controlling invasive species. Reconnaissance inventories, at least every 10 years, document the nature and extent of invasive species.</p> <p>DNR developed, in response to legislative directives, A Statewide Strategic Plan for Invasive Species. Invasive plants are a widespread problem on state lands, but DNR employees are well trained to identify and respond to the need for management.</p> <p>DNR continues to have an aggressive system to monitor and control the spread of invasive species. Focus species for sites visited during the 2015 audit were buckthorn, Japanese barberry, honeysuckle, and garlic mustard. While invasive species remain a challenge, their management continues to be a strong element of DNR’s overall performance.</p> <p>See OBS 2016.2 for additional detail.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 6.3.i. In applicable situations, the forest owner or manager identifies and applies site-specific fuels management practices, based on: (1) natural fire regimes, (2) risk of wildfire, (3) potential economic losses, (4) public safety, and (5) applicable laws and regulations. 	<p>C</p>	<p>DNR uses prescribed fire in wildlife management work to maintain open habitat characteristics of lowland and upland habitat. Prescribed fires are planned and controlled to meet safety and risk requirements. Many DNR personnel are certified fire fighters, and respond to wildfires when necessary.</p> <p>For the 2016 audit, DNR listed the following fire activity for Calendar Year 2015:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wildfires in DNR protection: 978 fires for 2721 acres. • Wildfires DNR provide assistance outside protection: 26 for 63

		<p>acres.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RX burn conducted by DNR: 291 for 23385 acres. • RX burns conducted by Pvt burners: 340 for 6837 acres.
<p>C6.4. Representative samples of existing ecosystems within the landscape shall be protected in their natural state and recorded on maps, appropriate to the scale and intensity of operations and the uniqueness of the affected resources.</p>	C	
<p>6.4.a. The forest owner or manager documents the ecosystems that would naturally exist on the FMU, and assesses the adequacy of their representation and protection in the <i>landscape</i> (see Criterion 7.1). The assessment for medium and large forests include some or all of the following: a) <i>GAP analyses</i>; b) collaboration with state natural heritage programs and other public agencies; c) regional, landscape, and watershed planning efforts; d) collaboration with universities and/or local conservation groups.</p> <p>For an area that is not located on the FMU to qualify as a Representative Sample Area (RSA), it should be under permanent protection in its natural state.</p>	C	<p>DNR has identified ecosystems that occurred naturally across the landscape. A GAP analysis has been completed and Wisconsin’s SNA program has documented locations of native ecosystems and have protected many of these sites as SNA’s. Details of criteria for establishing SNAs are presented in NR 44, Chapter 100, “Establishing State Natural Area.”</p>
<p>6.4.b. Where existing areas within the landscape, but external to the FMU, are not of adequate protection, size, and configuration to serve as representative samples of existing ecosystems, forest owners or managers, whose properties are conducive to the establishment of such areas, designate ecologically viable RSAs to serve these purposes.</p> <p>Large FMUs are generally expected to establish RSAs of purpose 2 and 3 within the FMU.</p>	C	<p>When sites are identified as future SNAs they go through an evaluation process (usually a biotic inventory) and are then ranked as to their uniqueness in representation of the representative sample ecosystem. The network of SNAs in Wisconsin include representative sample areas that address purposes 2 and 3 (See NR 44.100.10).</p>
<p>6.4.c. Management activities within RSAs are limited to low impact activities compatible with the protected RSA objectives, except under the following circumstances:</p> <p>a) harvesting activities only where they are necessary to restore or create conditions to meet the objectives of the protected RSA, or to mitigate conditions that interfere with achieving the RSA objectives; or</p> <p>b) road-building only where it is documented that it will contribute to minimizing the overall environmental impacts within the FMU and will not jeopardize the purpose for which the RSA was designated.</p>	C	<p>SNAs are not exclusively passive management. Management plans where SNAs are present document the management activities that will be allowed on individual SNAs. Some examples of management on SNAs include the use of fire to retain open habitat conditions and/or to encourage fire-tolerant species. Selective harvesting to favor species such as black oak and pitch pine is also used. The SNA website outlines management activities that are allowed on SNAs. Online interactive maps and individual SNA look up are available, http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/Lands/NaturalAreas/alpha.html#.</p>
<p>6.4.d. The RSA assessment (Indicator 6.4.a) shall be periodically reviewed and if necessary updated (at a minimum every 10 years) in order to determine if the need for RSAs has changed; the designation of RSAs (Indicator 6.4.b) is revised accordingly.</p>	C	<p>Established in 1985 by the Wisconsin legislature, Wisconsin's Natural Heritage Inventory program (NHI) is part of an international network of inventory programs. The program is responsible for maintaining data on the locations and status of rare species, natural communities, and natural features throughout the state. Species and natural communities tracked by the Wisconsin NHI Program can be found on the NHI Working List. New locations of rare species and communities are entered into the NHI database as they are found. The list is updated regularly (at least every 5 years). In addition, county inventories are being conducted as the first step in master planning, where NHC ecologists survey a wide array of vertebrates, invertebrates, and plants.</p>
<p>6.4.e. Managers of large, contiguous public forests establish and maintain a network of representative protected areas sufficient in size to maintain species dependent on interior core habitats.</p>	C	<p>Where possible, the SNA program in WI identifies the largest stands and or blocks of representative ecosystems that are present on the landscape. Wisconsin has a program to identify and protect LSNA (Landscape Scale Natural Areas), which are required to be 640 acres in size.</p>
<p>C6.5. Written guidelines shall be prepared and implemented to</p>		

<p>control erosion; minimize forest damage during harvesting, road construction, and all other mechanical disturbances; and to protect water resources.</p>	<p>C</p>	
<p>6.5.a. The forest owner or manager has written guidelines outlining conformance with the Indicators of this Criterion.</p>	<p>C</p>	<p>The Wisconsin “Forestry Best Management Practices for Water Quality” is one of the best, if not the best, written guidelines for controlling erosion and protecting water and wetlands.</p>
<p>6.5.b. Forest operations meet or exceed Best Management Practices (BMPs) that address components of the Criterion where the operation takes place.</p>	<p>C</p>	<p>Wisconsin BMPs are required by timber sale contracts and were in place at all sites, inspected during the audit, notwithstanding a minor leak of hydraulic fluid at one site (See 6.7.a)/</p>
<p>6.5.c. Management activities including site preparation, harvest prescriptions, techniques, timing, and equipment are selected and used to protect soil and water resources and to avoid erosion, landslides, and significant soil disturbance. Logging and other activities that significantly increase the risk of landslides are excluded in areas where risk of landslides is high. The following actions are addressed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Slash is concentrated only as much as necessary to achieve the goals of site preparation and the reduction of fuels to moderate or low levels of fire hazard. • Disturbance of topsoil is limited to the minimum necessary to achieve successful regeneration of species native to the site. • Rutting and compaction is minimized. • Soil erosion is not accelerated. • Burning is only done when consistent with natural disturbance regimes. • Natural ground cover disturbance is minimized to the extent necessary to achieve regeneration objectives. • Whole tree harvesting on any site over multiple rotations is only done when research indicates soil productivity will not be harmed. • Low impact equipment and technologies is used where appropriate. 	<p>C</p>	<p>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.</p> <p>BMPs are monitored by sale administration foresters, who ensure that provisions of contracts and BMPs are applied. Every 3 to 10 years the DNR conducts a systematic assessment of BMP compliance on public lands. The last BMP monitoring report was completed in 2014 and is available online at this web page, http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/ForestManagement/bmp.html.</p> <p>Water quality considerations including lakes or rivers potentially affected by the harvest are documented for each proposed harvest on Form 2460, 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. Streams, lakes and other water bodies and riparian zones are mapped, and are marked on the ground (red paint on trees) near harvests as appropriate.</p>
<p>6.5.d. The transportation system, including design and placement of permanent and temporary haul roads, skid trails, recreational trails, water crossings and landings, is designed, constructed, maintained, and/or reconstructed to reduce short and long-term environmental impacts, habitat fragmentation, soil and water disturbance and cumulative adverse effects, while allowing for customary uses and use rights. This includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • access to all roads and trails (temporary and permanent), including recreational trails, and off-road travel, is controlled, as possible, to minimize ecological impacts; • road density is minimized; • erosion is minimized; • sediment discharge to streams is minimized; • there is free upstream and downstream passage for aquatic organisms; • impacts of transportation systems on wildlife habitat and migration corridors are minimized; • area converted to roads, landings and skid trails is minimized; • habitat fragmentation is minimized; • unneeded roads are closed and rehabilitated. 	<p>C</p>	<p>Auditors inspected numerous roads, skid trails, and recreational trails. None were determined to be out of conformance with guidelines in the Wisconsin BMP Manual or with this indicator.</p>
<p>6.5.e.1. In consultation with appropriate expertise, the forest owner or manager implements written Streamside Management Zone (SMZ) buffer management guidelines that are adequate for preventing environmental impact, and include protecting and restoring water quality, hydrologic</p>		

<p>conditions in rivers and stream corridors, wetlands, vernal pools, seeps and springs, lake and pond shorelines, and other hydrologically sensitive areas. The guidelines include vegetative buffer widths and protection measures that are acceptable within those buffers.</p> <p>In the Appalachia, Ozark-Ouachita, Southeast, Mississippi Alluvial Valley, Southwest, Rocky Mountain, and Pacific Coast regions, there are requirements for minimum SMZ widths and explicit limitations on the activities that can occur within those SMZs. These are outlined as requirements in Appendix E.</p>		
<p>6.5.e.2. Minor variations from the stated minimum SMZ widths and layout for specific stream segments, wetlands and other water bodies are permitted in limited circumstances, provided the forest owner or manager demonstrates that the alternative configuration maintains the overall extent of the buffers and provides equivalent or greater environmental protection than FSC-US regional requirements for those stream segments, water quality, and aquatic species, based on site-specific conditions and the best available information. The forest owner or manager develops a written set of supporting information including a description of the riparian habitats and species addressed in the alternative configuration. The CB must verify that the variations meet these requirements, based on the input of an independent expert in aquatic ecology or closely related field.</p>	C	<p>While there are conditions where foresters are encouraged to use good judgment while operating in SMZs, most commonly auditors found that little or no harvesting activity took place in buffered areas.</p>
<p>6.5.f. Stream and wetland crossings are avoided when possible. Unavoidable crossings are located and constructed to minimize impacts on water quality, hydrology, and fragmentation of aquatic habitat. Crossings do not impede the movement of aquatic species. Temporary crossings are restored to original hydrological conditions when operations are finished.</p>	C	<p>Streams and wetlands were rarely crossed in the districts (south western, south central, south eastern) audited in 2013.</p>
<p>6.5.g. Recreation use on the FMU is managed to avoid negative impacts to soils, water, plants, wildlife and wildlife habitats.</p>	C	<p>Wisconsin’s public forests provide an exceptionally expansive and diverse range of recreation opportunities, and the state lands within the scope of this audit contribute to this diversity. Recreation use follows the same guidelines for protecting soil and water as does forest harvesting.</p>
<p>6.5.h. Grazing by domesticated animals is controlled to protect in-stream habitats and water quality, the species composition and viability of the riparian vegetation, and the banks of the stream channel from erosion.</p>	C	<p>Grazing is not normally allowed near streams, and is uncommon on this land base. Short-term “restoration” grazing on a small portion of Leola Marsh included fencing to protect wetlands/riparian areas.</p>
<p>C6.6. Management systems shall promote the development and adoption of environmentally friendly non-chemical methods of pest management and strive to avoid the use of chemical pesticides. World Health Organization Type 1A and 1B and chlorinated hydrocarbon pesticides; pesticides that are persistent, toxic or whose derivatives remain biologically active and accumulate in the food chain beyond their intended use; as well as any pesticides banned by international agreement, shall be prohibited. If chemicals are used, proper equipment and training shall be provided to minimize health and environmental risks.</p>	C/NC	
<p>6.6.a. No products on the FSC list of Highly Hazardous Pesticides are used (see FSC-POL-30-001 EN FSC Pesticides policy 2005 and associated documents).</p>	C	<p>Auditors examined records of pesticides used during calendar year 2016 and found no instances of use of chemicals on the FSC list of Highly Hazardous Pesticides.</p>
<p>6.6.b. All toxicants used to control pests and competing vegetation, including rodenticides, insecticides, herbicides, and fungicides are used only when and where non-chemical management practices are: a) not available; b) prohibitively expensive, taking into account overall environmental and social costs, risks and benefits; c) the only effective means for controlling invasive and exotic species; or d) result in less environmental damage than non-chemical alternatives (e.g., top soil disturbance, loss of soil litter and down wood debris). If chemicals are used, the</p>	C	<p>DNR has an intranet site that describes policies, procedures, required training and certification, as well as requirements for written plans and record keeping. 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</p>

<p>forest owner or manager uses the least environmentally damaging formulation and application method practical.</p> <p>Written strategies are developed and implemented that justify the use of chemical pesticides. Whenever feasible, an eventual phase-out of chemical use is included in the strategy. The written strategy shall include an analysis of options for, and the effects of, various chemical and non-chemical pest control strategies, with the goal of reducing or eliminating chemical use.</p>		<p>treatment situations. For example uncommon, rare, or protected plants can be growing intermixed with target (invasive) species.</p> <p>For the 2016 audit the DNR provided a complete list of all pesticides used over the 2015 season. A copy of this spreadsheet is maintained in their Annual Audit Info Summary submitted to and retained by SCS. Their listing includes all pesticide applications, the majority of which were for invasive plant control. The department maintains a system of Integrated Pest Management and in addition to pesticides a variety of hand, mechanical, and prescribed burning control methods are also used. Stand treatments are documented in the WisFIRS system. Field inspections includes sites that were treated with herbicides as site preparation for planting to control woody plant and grass competition. See the closing of Minor CAR 2015.1 for additional detail.</p>
<p>6.6.c. Chemicals and application methods are selected to minimize risk to non-target species and sites. When considering the choice between aerial and ground application, the forest owner or manager evaluates the comparative risk to non-target species and sites, the comparative risk of worker exposure, and the overall amount and type of chemicals required.</p>	C	<p>Managers are applying herbicides in a wide range of conditions to control many different invasive plant species. 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. 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.</p>
<p>6.6.d. Whenever chemicals are used, a written prescription is prepared that describes the site-specific hazards and environmental risks, and the precautions that workers will employ to avoid or minimize those hazards and risks, and includes a map of the treatment area.</p> <p>Chemicals are applied only by workers who have received proper training in application methods and safety. They are made aware of the risks, wear proper safety equipment, and are trained to minimize environmental impacts on non-target species and sites.</p>	C	<p>See Minor CAR 2015.1, now closed, for detail. DNR personnel responsible for chemical use and storage demonstrate safe practices.</p>
<p>6.6.e. If chemicals are used, the effects are monitored and the results are used for adaptive management. Records are kept of pest occurrences, control measures, and incidences of worker exposure to chemicals.</p>	C	<p>Adequate requirements for record-keeping are posted on DNR's intranet. Adaptive management for control of invasive species also is a product of the Citizen's Advisory Committee on Invasive Species.</p>
<p>C6.7. Chemicals, containers, liquid and solid non-organic wastes including fuel and oil shall be disposed of in an environmentally appropriate manner at off-site locations.</p>	C	
<p>6.7.a. The forest owner or manager, and employees and contractors, have the equipment and training necessary to respond to hazardous spills</p>	C	<p>DNR policy is for employees and contractors to call the DNR Hazardous Spill Coordinator for spills that meet or exceed the minimum reportable quantities (1 gallon for gas and 5 gallons for diesel/hydraulic fluid). Contractors working on the state forest properties demonstrate an awareness of the importance of spill preparedness</p>
<p>6.7.b. In the event of a hazardous material spill, the forest owner or manager immediately contains the material and engages qualified personnel to perform the appropriate removal and remediation, as required by applicable law and regulations.</p>	C	<p>Visual observation of the gas and diesel tank equipment and enclosures located at the North and South units of the Kettle Moraine State Forests confirmed that absorbent material for use on spills was nearby. Interviews with DNR personnel indicate they follow the containment instructions in the state BMP manual for small spills and contact the Hazardous Spill Coordinator for larger spills. See Indicator 6.7.a; this "spill" was quite minor. The logger on site did not attempt to stop or contain the drip, but mechanics were called and took appropriate measures while the auditor was on site.</p>
<p>6.7.c. Hazardous materials and fuels are stored in leak-proof containers in designated storage areas that are outside of riparian</p>	C	<p>During logger interviews equipment was inspected. No evidence of poorly maintained heavy equipment, where fluid leaks is a heightened</p>

management zones and away from other ecological sensitive features, until they are used or transported to an approved off-site location for disposal. There is no evidence of persistent fluid leaks from equipment or of recent groundwater or surface water contamination.		risk, was observed during this surveillance audit.
C6.8. Use of biological control agents shall be documented, minimized, monitored, and strictly controlled in accordance with national laws and internationally accepted scientific protocols. Use of genetically modified organisms shall be prohibited.	C	
6.8.a. Use of <i>biological control agents</i> are used only as part of a pest management strategy for the control of invasive plants, <i>pathogens</i> , insects, or other animals when other pest control methods are ineffective, or are expected to be ineffective. Such use is contingent upon peer-reviewed scientific evidence that the agents in question are non-invasive and are safe for native species.	C	DNR employs forest health specialists and makes their services readily available to the field units. They also work closely with forest pest specialists at University of Wisconsin, Madison and Stevens Point. Pest updates published quarterly: http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/ForestHealth/Publications.html
6.8.b. If biological control agents are used, they are applied by trained workers using proper equipment.	C	DNR did not report that any biological control agents were used on state lands in 2016. Biological agents have been used in the past, however, and guidelines are in place to assure that applicators are properly trained, whether DNR employees or
6.8.c. If biological control agents are used, their use shall be documented, monitored and strictly controlled in accordance with state and national laws and internationally accepted scientific protocols. A written plan will be developed and implemented justifying such use, describing the risks, specifying the precautions workers will employ to avoid or minimize such risks, and describing how potential impacts will be monitored.	C	DNR has a staff of 15 forest pest specialists. The majority of these specialists work on statewide projects, coordinating with federal agencies where applicable. Written plans are required and must be approved by USDA APHIS.
6.8.d. Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOs) are not used for any purpose	C	DNR reported that no GMOs are being used for any purpose.
C6.9. The use of exotic species shall be carefully controlled and actively monitored to avoid adverse ecological impacts.	C	
6.9.a. The use of <i>exotic species</i> is contingent on the availability of credible scientific data indicating that any such species is non-invasive and its application does not pose a risk to native biodiversity.	C	Only native tree species are planted on DNR state lands, and seed sources are local. Where grasses and other herbaceous vegetation are planted on log landings or openings for wildlife, approved seed mixes are used. Any non-native species in these mixes are known not to be invasive. Historic plantings of non-native species such as Norway spruce are being phased out and not replanted.
6.9.b. If exotic species are used, their provenance and the location of their use are documented, and their ecological effects are actively monitored.	C	None used, not applicable.
6.9.c. The forest owner or manager shall take timely action to curtail or significantly reduce any adverse impacts resulting from their use of exotic species	C	None used, not applicable.
C6.10. Forest conversion to plantations or non-forest land uses shall not occur, except in circumstances where conversion: a) Entails a very limited portion of the forest management unit; and b) Does not occur on High Conservation Value Forest areas; and c) Will enable clear, substantial, additional, secure, long-term conservation benefits across the forest management unit.	C	
6.10.a. Forest <i>conversion</i> to non-forest land uses does not occur, except in circumstances where conversion entails a very limited portion of the forest management unit (note that Indicators 6.10.a, b, and c are related and all need to be conformed with for conversion to be allowed).	C	No conversion of forest to non-forest uses has occurred on the lands within the scope of this certificate since the last audit.
6.10.b. Forest <i>conversion</i> to non-forest land uses does not occur on high conservation value forest areas (note that Indicators 6.10.a, b, and c are related and all need to be conformed with for conversion to be allowed).	C	See 6.10.a

<p>6.10.c Forest <i>conversion</i> to non-forest land uses does not occur, except in circumstances where conversion will enable clear, substantial, additional, secure, long term conservation benefits across the forest management unit (note that Indicators 6.10.a, b, and c are related and all need to be conformed with for conversion to be allowed).</p>	<p>C</p>	<p>Camping and other recreational activities are the primary purpose of state parks, so minor conversions to non-forested uses do occur on occasion. Campers receive information about conversion.</p>
<p>6.10.d Natural or semi-natural stands are not converted to plantations. Degraded, semi-natural stands may be converted to restoration plantations.</p>	<p>C</p>	<p>Many planted areas are being used to restore sites and move vegetation towards more natural conditions.</p>
<p>6.10.e Justification for land-use and stand-type conversions is fully described in the long-term management plan, and meets the biodiversity conservation requirements of Criterion 6.3 (see also Criterion 7.1.l)</p>	<p>C</p>	<p>Master Planning, Interim Forest Resource Plans, and site level planning include careful reviews of stand-type changes. Conversions to non-forest conditions are driven by ecological restoration, or recreation goals. Many sites in southern Wisconsin are former prairie or savanna types that have had encroachment by trees. Natural disturbance regimes, mainly periodic ground fires at irregular intervals, have been disrupted, which has caused these formerly open landscapes to afforest naturally. These are restoration projects to restore natural conditions consistent with natural range of variability and disturbance regimes.</p>
<p>6.10.f Areas converted to <i>non-forest use</i> for facilities associated with subsurface mineral and gas rights transferred by prior owners, or other conversion outside the control of the certificate holder, are identified on maps. The forest owner or manager consults with the CB to determine if removal of these areas from the scope of the certificate is warranted. To the extent allowed by these transferred rights, the forest owner or manager exercises control over the location of surface disturbances in a manner that minimizes adverse environmental and social impacts. If the certificate holder at one point held these rights, and then sold them, then subsequent conversion of forest to non-forest use would be subject to Indicator 6.10.a-d.</p>	<p>C</p>	<p>No such instances of conversion of forest land for mineral or gas development were reported to the auditors.</p>
<p>Principle #7: A management plan -- appropriate to the scale and intensity of the operations -- shall be written, implemented, and kept up to date. The long-term objectives of management, and the means of achieving them, shall be clearly stated.</p>		
<p>C7.2. The management plan shall be periodically revised to incorporate the results of monitoring or new scientific and technical information, as well as to respond to changing environmental, social and economic circumstances.</p>		
<p>7.2.a The management plan is kept up to date. It is reviewed on an ongoing basis and is updated whenever necessary to incorporate the results of monitoring or new scientific and technical information, as well as to respond to changing environmental, social and economic circumstances. At a minimum, a full revision occurs every 10 years.</p>	<p>C</p>	<p>This requirement has been the subject of recent Corrective Action Requests. While State Forest master plans are mostly current, the large number of smaller State Parks and Wildlife Areas, Fisheries Areas, etc. added to the certified lands base 5 years ago are still without plans that conform to the requirement of NR44. However, substantial progress is being made and a schedule has been established for completing and maintaining plans for all properties in accordance with the expectation of this indicator.</p> <p>In 2012, the state Natural Resources Board approved master plans for 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.</p> <p>As of May 2013, Eighty-one (81) Interim Forest Management Plans had been written for 178 properties covering 407,000 acres.</p> <p>See closing of OBS 2015.2 and new OBS 2016.3 for additional detail.</p>
<p>Principle #8: Monitoring shall be conducted -- appropriate to the scale and intensity of forest management -- to assess the condition of the forest, yields of forest products, chain of custody, management activities and their social and environmental impacts.</p>		
<p>8.2. Forest management should include the research and data</p>	<p>C</p>	

<p>collection needed to monitor, at a minimum, the following indicators: a) yield of all forest products harvested, b) growth rates, regeneration, and condition of the forest, c) composition and observed changes in the flora and fauna, d) environmental and social impacts of harvesting and other operations, and e) cost, productivity, and efficiency of forest management.</p>		
<p>8.2.a.1 For all commercially harvested products, an inventory system is maintained. The inventory system includes at a minimum: a) species, b) volumes, c) stocking, d) regeneration, and e) stand and forest composition and structure; and f) timber quality.</p>	C	<p>In addition to maintaining forest inventory accessible through the WisFIRS system, the DNR reported the following for FY16:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Total Recon acres for FY16= 89,364 acres • State Forest CFI and Statewide FIA completed annual plot cycle 1/5 of total • Forest regeneration survival monitoring checks (WISFIRS) 1,656 acres CY2015
<p>8.2.a.2 Significant, unanticipated removal or loss or increased vulnerability of forest resources is monitored and recorded. Recorded information shall include date and location of occurrence, description of disturbance, extent and severity of loss, and may be both quantitative and qualitative.</p>	C	<p>DNR, as has been unambiguously confirmed in prior audits, engaging in a full suite of monitoring activities on the lands under its management, a level and extent of monitoring that demonstrates clear conformance to this Indicator</p>
<p>8.2.b The forest owner or manager maintains records of harvested timber and NTFPs (volume and product and/or grade). Records must adequately ensure that the requirements under Criterion 5.6 are met.</p>	C	<p>In FY16 there were 254,096 cord equivalents for all completed sales on certified lands (WisFIRS “additional rpt 28b FY16”)</p>
<p>8.2.c The forest owner or manager periodically obtains data needed to monitor presence on the FMU of:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Rare, threatened and endangered species and/or their habitats; 2) Common and rare plant communities and/or habitat; 3) Location, presence and abundance of invasive species; 4) Condition of protected areas, set-asides and buffer zones; <p>High Conservation Value Forests (see Criterion 9.4).</p>		<p>A variety of wildlife surveys are conducted annually to monitor the status of WI wildlife populations, including nesting bird surveys, grouse drumming transects, summer deer observations, game bird brood surveys, pheasant crowing counts, eagle/osprey flights and nest monitoring, otter/beaver flights, winter mammal track surveys, bear bait index, waterfowl flights, waterfowl and dove banding, chronic wasting disease testing, avian influenza testing, and other wildlife disease monitoring, along with a variety of other wildlife and plant monitoring. Forest Health Monitoring which includes gypsy moth and EAB surveys.</p> <p>http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/wildlifehabitat/reports.html</p>
<p>8.2.d.1 Monitoring is conducted to ensure that site specific plans and operations are properly implemented, environmental impacts of site disturbing operations are minimized, and that harvest prescriptions and guidelines are effective.</p>		<p>DNR uses a suite of forms; scheduled surveys and inspections; quarterly, biannual, annual, and other period reports to ensure proper implementation of harvest planning and subsequent monitoring to minimize potential environmental impacts and effectiveness of harvest prescriptions. Numerous examples were given throughout the audit for such implementation from the landscape level down to the forest stand, trail, and waterways.</p>
<p>8.2.d.2 A monitoring program is in place to assess the condition and environmental impacts of the forest-road system.</p>	C	<p>Trail Use and Condition reports, BMP monitoring for water quality and soil disturbance. Monitoring of Master Plan goals</p> <p>http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/lands/masterplanning/mpreports.html</p>
<p>8.2.d.3 The landowner or manager monitors relevant socio-economic issues (see Indicator 4.4.a), including the social impacts of harvesting, participation in local economic opportunities (see Indicator 4.1.g), the creation and/or maintenance of quality job opportunities (see Indicator 4.1.b), and local purchasing opportunities (see Indicator 4.1.e).</p>	C	<p>DNR meets this Indicator as described under findings described earlier in the report under and 4.2.</p> <p>Findings from 4.1</p>
<p>8.2.d.4 Stakeholder responses to management activities are monitored and recorded as necessary.</p>	C	<p>As described under 2.3.a, 4.4.a, and 4.4.d.</p>
<p>8.2.d.5 Where sites of cultural significance exist, the opportunity to jointly monitor sites of cultural significance is offered to tribal representatives (see Principle 3).</p>	NE	
<p>8.2.e The forest owner or manager monitors the costs and</p>	C	<p>Quarterly and annual accomplishment reports show progress</p>

<p>revenues of management in order to assess productivity and efficiency.</p>		<p>throughout the year for various work goals (timber sale establishment). Timber sale inspections monitor at sale level. The annual Sport fish and Wildlife Restoration report was provided to USFWS, Annual master plan reports were submitted tracking progress towards property goals, The 2015 interim legislative invasive species report was completed and the 2016 biannual report will be done at the end of August, prescribed burn evaluations were completed, wetland restoration tracking reports were completed tracking progress towards the Wisconsin Joint Venture Plan goals.</p>
<p>P9 Management activities in high conservation value forests shall maintain or enhance the attributes which define such forests. Decisions regarding high conservation value forests shall always be considered in the context of a precautionary approach.</p> <p>High Conservation Value Forests are those that possess one or more of the following attributes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Forest areas containing globally, regionally or nationally significant: concentrations of biodiversity values (e.g., endemism, endangered species, refugia); and/or large landscape level forests, contained within, or containing the management unit, where viable populations of most if not all naturally occurring species exist in natural patterns of distribution and abundance b) Forest areas that are in or contain rare, threatened or endangered ecosystems c) Forest areas that provide basic services of nature in critical situations (e.g., watershed protection, erosion control) d) Forest areas fundamental to meeting basic needs of local communities (e.g., subsistence, health) and/or critical to local communities' traditional cultural identity (areas of cultural, ecological, economic or religious significance identified in cooperation with such local communities). 		
<p>C9.1. Assessment to determine the presence of the attributes consistent with High Conservation Value Forests will be completed, appropriate to scale and intensity of forest management.</p>	<p>C</p>	
<p>9.1.a. The forest owner or manager identifies and maps the presence of High Conservation Value Forests (HCVF) within the FMU and, to the extent that data are available, adjacent to their FMU, in a manner consistent with the assessment process, definitions, data sources, and other guidance described in Appendix F.</p> <p>Given the relative rarity of old growth forests in the contiguous United States, these areas are normally designated as HCVF, and all old growth must be managed in conformance with Indicator 6.3.a.3 and requirements for legacy trees in Indicator 6.3.f.</p>	<p>C</p>	<p>There is a significant overlap of State Natural Area and HCVF designation. All areas on DNR-managed lands that are determined to be HCVF are also contained in SNAs. Furthermore, the process that led to SNA designation includes all lands within an ecological landscape, adjacent to the FMU or not. In particular, DNR works with national forests, The Nature Conservancy, and county land managers to manage high conservation forests and other land types. Fully one-third of State Natural Areas are on land owned by partners. These areas have been identified and mapped and are contained in the NHI database. 653 designated State Natural Areas safeguard 358,000 acres of land and water.</p>
<p>9.1.b. In developing the assessment, the forest owner or manager consults with qualified specialists, independent experts, and local community members who may have knowledge of areas that meet the definition of HCVs.</p>	<p>C</p>	<p>Wisconsin has the nation's largest and oldest natural areas protection program. The Natural Areas Preservation Council, an independently appointed, 11-member body created by state law in 1951, advises DNR about the establishment, protection and management of State Natural Areas. DNR has undergone extensive review and assessment of HCVF within the SNA program.</p>
<p>9.4 Annual monitoring shall be conducted to assess the effectiveness of the measures employed to maintain or enhance the applicable conservation attributes.</p>		
<p>9.4.a The forest owner or manager monitors, or participates in a program to annually monitor, the status of the specific HCV attributes, including the effectiveness of the measures employed for their maintenance or enhancement. The monitoring program is designed and implemented consistent with the requirements of Principle 8.</p>	<p>C</p>	<p>DNR conducts such monitoring annually. In 2016 the DNR reports that monitoring was done on lands as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • State Lands compartment Recon (20yr cycle), State Forest CFI (Continuous Forest Inventory). • Repeatable Breeding Bird Survey points were established at the Brule River State Forest, continuing work that was done on several other state forests. • The statewide Wisconsin Breeding Bird Atlas involves bird surveys throughout the state, including many state lands, and is being coordinated by the department.

		<p>Also, site inspections and photo points were employed on many State Natural Areas. Approximately two-thirds of the 425 SNAs that are owned by the State are embedded in other program projects (e.g., Wildlife Management, Parks, and State Forests), making consistent monitoring of SNAs a challenge. We are approaching this difficulty on a number of fronts, including:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Review the history of SNA site inspection rules/guidance – done (available upon request). In short, historically, SNAs were to be inspected annually unless stated otherwise in the Management/Master plan. 2. We are facilitating an effort to establish a site inspection schedule that ensures that we are monitoring SNAs with enough frequency to capture significant events/changes/concerns as early as possible, yet take into consideration community type, location, staffing levels and any other relevant issues. 3. Utilize our eight SNA/Natural Heritage Conservation (NHC) Ecologists, including 3 hired relatively recently, to not only help conduct SNA inspections on the 140 SNAs that are owned by our program (i.e., “stand-alone), but also, to facilitate monitoring efforts by our DNR partners across the State. Prior to 2013, NHC Ecologists did not have SNA responsibilities, thus, this change could significantly improve site inspection compliance. This will include a concerted effort to inform our partner programs of the need to conduct site inspections using the SNA Form, and train as necessary and feasible. 4. We have solicited help from (non-SNA) Natural Heritage Conservation biologists that are conducting biotic inventories for numerous projects/planning efforts across the state, including SNAs.
<p>9.4.b When monitoring results indicate increasing risk to a specific HCV attribute, the forest owner/manager re-evaluates the measures taken to maintain or enhance that attribute, and adjusts the management measures in an effort to reverse the trend.</p>	<p>NE</p>	
<p>Principle #10: Plantations shall be planned and managed in accordance with Principles and Criteria 1-9, and Principle 10 and its Criteria. While plantations can provide an array of social and economic benefits, and can contribute to satisfying the world's needs for forest products, they should complement the management of, reduce pressures on, and promote the restoration and conservation of natural forests.</p> <p>At the beginning of DNR’s engagement in FSC certification, SCS determined that Principle 10 does not apply since the Wisconsin DNR program employs only natural forest management techniques.</p>		

Appendix 6 – Chain of Custody Indicators for FMEs

Chain of Custody indicators were not evaluated during this annual audit.