NSF-ISR, LTD
SURVEILLANCE AUDIT REPORT

A. Program Participant's Name: WI DNR State Forests FRS #1: 1Y941

B. Scope:

The SFI Program of Wisconsin DNR on the State Forests including land management operations and related sustainable forestry activities. State Forests are: Black River State Forest, Brule River, Coulee Experimental, Flambeau River, Governor Knowles, Kettle Moraine- Northern and Southern units, Northern Highland/American Legion, Peshtigo River and Point Beach.

☒ No Change
☐ Changed (see Section H, revised scope statement noted on FRS)

C. NSF Audit Team:

Lead Auditor: Mike Ferrucci; Auditors: Robert Hrubes, Gary Zimmer

D. Audit Date(s): July 10-14, 2006

E. Reference Documentation:

2005-2009 SFI Standard®

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

☒ Acceptable with no nonconformances; or

☐ Acceptable with minor nonconformances that should be corrected before the next regularly scheduled surveillance visit;

☐ Not acceptable with one or two major nonconformances - corrective action required;

☐ Several major nonconformances - the certification may be canceled unless immediate action is taken

G. Changes to Operations or to the SFI Standard:

Are there any significant changes in operations, procedures, specifications, FRS, etc. from the previous visit? ☒ Yes ☐ No If yes, provide brief description of the changes:
The Wisconsin DNR's SFI Program has improved and matured since the previous Surveillance Audit in public involvement, inventory and planning, training, and involvement in promotion of sustainable forestry.

H. Other Issues Reviewed:

☒ Yes ☐ No Public report from previous audit(s) is posted on SFB web site.

☒ Yes ☐ No ☐ N.A. SFI and other relevant logos or labels are utilized correctly.
If no, document on CAR forms.

I. Corrective Action Requests: (see also Appendix IV)

No Corrective Action Requests were issued this visit.

☒ Corrective Action Plan is not required.
☐ Corrective Action Plan is required within sixty days of this visit (for Minor Nonconformances).
CARs will be verified during the next Surveillance Audit.
☐ Corrective Action Plan is required within thirty days of this visit (for Major Nonconformances).
The auditor will make arrangements to verify the corrective action has been effectively implemented. All major nonconformance(s) must be closed by the auditor prior to the next scheduled surveillance audit by a special verification visit or by desk review, if possible.

At the conclusion of this Surveillance Audit visit, the following number of CARs remain open:

MAJOR(S): 0 MINOR(S): 0

In addition, three Opportunities For Improvement (OFIs) were identified.

Appendices:

Appendix I: Surveillance Notification Letter and Audit Schedule
Appendix II: Corrective Action Requests
Appendix III: Public Surveillance Audit Report
Appendix IV: Audit Matrix

APPENDIX I

Surveillance Notification Letter and Audit Schedule

From: Mike Ferrucci [mailto:mferrucci@iforest.com]
Sent: Monday, July 10, 2006 7:47 AM
To: 'Pingrey, Paul E.'
Subject: RE: July Certification Audit - State Forests and Other DNR Lands

Paul:

This email will serve as the final confirmation regarding this week's audit. Thanks for all of the efforts to prepare for this audit. The proposed schedule and checklists are fine, and I've provided my selections of likely sites (for Brule SF they are the five sales for which I asked information, but we can drop the one that was visited last time).

I'm sitting at the gate at the Hartford airport and hope to be there on time.

Mike Ferrucci
Office & Mobile: 203-887-9248
mferrucci@iforest.com

From: Pingrey, Paul E. [mailto:Paul.Pingrey@dnr.state.wi.us]
Sent: Friday, June 30, 2006 10:00 AM
To: mferrucci@iforest.com
Cc: Robert Hrubes; Prichard, Teague
Subject: RE: July Certification Audit - State Forests and Other DNR Lands

Here again is the proposed July 10-14 schedule and our draft checklist. DNR Finance mailed you the purchase requisitions a few days ago, and so that is taken care of. (FYI, they sent the NSF-ISR purchase order to Ann Arbor.) I think you have all the timber sale data you requested. Let us know if you need anything else when you send the "audit notification letter". Also, would you like to suggest an agenda for the broader DNR Lands discussion on the 14th?

Thanks,

Paul E. Pingrey
Forest Certification - Private Lands Specialist
Wisconsin DNR - Division of Forestry
PO Box 7921
Madison, WI 53707

ph. 608-267-7595
e-mail paul.pingrey@dnr.state.wi.us
http://www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/land/forestry/

Wisconsin State Forest Certification

2006 FSC and SFI Annual Surveillance Audit

Schedule of Events

Monday July 10th , 2006

1:00 - 2:30 pm – Madison Airport
Review revised SFI standards.
Mike Ferrucci, Bob Mather, Paul Pingrey, Teague Prichard

2:30 - Travel
Travel to Superior Wisconsin
Continue discussion of revised SFI standards
Robert Hrubes, Mike Ferrucci, Bob Mather, Paul Pingrey, Teague Prichard

8:30 pm – Barker Inn Hotel
Initial Consultation and review of response and progress made on CARs
Robert Hrubes, Mike Ferrucci, Bob Mather, Paul Pingrey, Teague Prichard

Overnight Superior, WI, Barkers Island Inn, 300 Marina Drive, Superior WI 1800-344-7515
http://www.barkersislandinn.com/barkers/location/
(5 Rooms) Mather, Prichard, Pingrey, Hrubes, Ferrucci – Confirmed 5 rooms

Tuesday July 11th, 2006

8:00 am - 10:00
Brule River State Forest Headquarters
6250 S. Ranger Rd. Brule, WI 54820, 715-372-5678
Office Visit with Brule River Staff Forest
Steve Petersen, Dave Schulz, Kevin Feind, Bob Mather, Robert Hrubes, Mike Ferrucci, Teague Prichard, Paul Pingrey, Colleen Matula, Ted Gostomski, Mike Luedeke, Greg Kessler

10:00 -4:30 pm
Brule River State Forest Field Audit and Field Lunch
Box Lunch Twin Gables (12 people)

4:30 pm
Exit Interview with Brule River Staff

Travel 3 hrs
Overnight Boulder Junction Boulder Bear Lodge (715) 385-2662
http://www.boulderbearmotorlodge.com/
(5 Rooms) Mather, Prichard, Pingrey, Hrubes, Ferrucci –Confirmed 5 rooms

Wednesday July 12th, 2006

8:00am - 10:30
Northern Highland American Legion State Forest Headquarters in Trout Lake
4125 Cty Hwy M Boulder Junction, WI 54512
Office Visit with NHAL Staff
Bob Mather, Robert Hrubes, Mike Ferrucci, Gary Zimmer, Randy Hoffman, Ted Gostomski, Paul Pingrey, Teague Prichard, Jeff Olsen, Cal Doering, Craig Dalton, Jim Wetterau, Todd Anderson, Paul Stearns, Bob Schepper, Mike Luedeke, Linda Wynn, Colleen Matula, Jim Warren, Carmen Wagner, Dennis Leith (a.m only)

10:30 -5:00 pm
NHAL State Forest Field Audit
Field Lunch (21 people)
Same individuals as above

Overnight Minocqua, WI. The Waters. 8116 Highway 51 South PO Box 1053
Minocqua, WI 54548 1.877.992.8377 **http://www.thewatersofminocqua.com/**
(8 Rooms) Bob Mather, Robert Hrubes, Mike Ferrucci, Teague Prichard, Paul Pingrey, Jim Warren, Gary Zimmer, Carmen Wagner. Confirmed 8 rooms -155324 to 31

Thursday July 13th, 2006

7:00 am - 8:00
Breakfast, Minocqua, The Island Cafe

8:00 -1:00 pm
DNR Woodruff Office
8770 HWY J WOODRUFF WI 54568 715-356-5211
Continue field audit with NHAL Staff
(Same individuals as above**)**

12:30 - 1:45 pm
Exit Interview with NHAL staff and Lunch
(Camp American Legion)
Field Lunch (approx 20 people)

2:00 pm – 5:30
Travel to Madison

Overnight in Madison downtown Inn on the Park (Reservations made for Mike on Thursday night; for Robert on Thursday-Friday nights.)

APPENDIX II

Corrective Action Requests

Corrective and Preventive Action Request (CAR)

Company/Location: Wisconsin DNR, Madison, WI	Date: 7/12/05 **FRS # 11941**
Auditor: Mike Ferrucci	CAR Number: 2005-06
Location of Finding: Point Beach State Forest	Previous CAR Number/Date: None
Discussed with: Supt. &WI DNR Audit Team	Nonconformance Type (underline): Major Minor

AUDITOR FINDING: Standard Number and Clause: 2005-2009 Sustainable Forestry Initiative Standard ® 2.2.6 i
Description: Appropriate storage of chemicals: Pesticides at PBSF (Round-up, Garlon, Accord) were found not to be stored in locked storage cabinet, which is required by chemical BMPs and DNR procedure.

IF NECESSARY, PLEASE ATTACH A SEPARATE REPORT ADDRESSING THE FOLLOWING THREE ITEMS:

1) **ROOT CAUSE ANALYSIS BY COMPANY**–Include potential causes & assurance problem does not exist in other areas.

SEE ATTACHED REPORT NEXT PAGE

2) **CORRECTIVE ACTION BY COMPANY** – Based on the Root Cause Analysis, the following action has been planned/taken to correct the problem. Please include expected completion date.

SEE ATTACHED REPORT NEXT PAGE

3) **PREVENTIVE ACTION BY COMPANY** – Based on the Root Cause Analysis, the following action has been planned/taken to correct the problem. Please include expected completion date.

SEE ATTACHED REPORT NEXT PAGE

AUDITOR REVIEW OF COMPANY'S PLAN:
The proposed plan is comprehensive and should address the issue quickly and thoroughly. Most aspects of action are already implemented, but will be assessed at next S.A.

STATUS: Open (plan accepted) AUDITOR/DATE: M. Ferrucci 7/21/05

AUDITOR REVIEW OF COMPANY'S COMPLETED ACTION:
The proposed plan was confirmed. Inspections at Brule River State Forest confirmed that this policy is being followed.

STATUS: Closed AUDITOR/DATE: M. Ferrucci 7/13/06

STATUS LEGEND: OPEN = CA Plan Accepted **CLOSED** = CA implemented, verified & accepted **REJECTED** = C/A Plan or Implementation rejected

Wisconsin State Forest Certification

FSC #SCS-FM/COC-0007N
SFI #NSF-SFIS-1Y941-S1

Corrective Action Plan and Accomplishments

SFI CAR 2005.5
FSC CAR 2005.10

CAR identified at the July 2005 Annual Surveillance Audit

Summary of Corrective Action Request: (general interpretation) Take immediate action to ensure the proper storage of chemicals at Point Beach State Forest. Assess the need to take necessary actions to ensure the proper storage of chemicals, as identified in the Department's manual code, are being implemented and monitored.

Planned Actions:

Within 5 days, correct the improper storage of chemicals at Point Beach State Forest. Specifically review, inspect and enforce the Department's policy on the proper storage of chemicals, including required storage unit, location (proximity to food and worker break room) and proper ventilation. Assess the need to communicate the Departments policy to all State Forest staff on proper use and storage of chemicals.

Accomplishments:

1.) Reviewed the most recent safety inspection at Point Beach State Forest dated November 2004. Storage of chemicals (including herbicides) was not identified as an issue needing attention. All chemicals were reported as being stored properly.

Enclosed: November 2004 Point Beach Safety Inspection Review.

2.) Mary Ginnebaugh, DNR Regional Safety Coordinator, conducted an on-site safety inspection of Point Beach State Forest on July 18, 2005. The safety inspection focused on the proper storage of chemicals, including the storage unit, the location and proximity to the worker break room, and proper ventilation. In brief, all of the plastic jugs containing pesticides or herbicides were noted to be properly stored inside the cabinet. Only empty cans and empty spray containers were stored on top of the cabinet. The inspection did make a number of recommendations to improve the work environment and area but immediate action was not required by the safety inspector.

Specific Actions Taken within 5 days and actions taken to ensure ongoing compliance

- The Department's Regional Safety Coordinator distributed and verbally communicated the Department's policy and procedures for proper storage of chemicals to all staff involved in the forests operations.
- Point Beach staff reviewed the procedures, corrected the problem by placing all chemicals in an appropriate cabinet.

Enclosed: July 2005 Point Beach State Forest Safety Review

3.) Communicated the Department's existing policy and procedures for the proper storage of chemicals on state forest properties. State Forest Specialist, Teague Prichard, sent a memo to all state forest superintendents and regional supervisors communicating the existing policy and manual codes for proper use and storage of chemicals.

Enclosed: Memo and Hazardous Materials manual code, 4221.1

APPENDIX III

Public SFI Surveillance Audit Report

The SFI Program of the Wisconsin DNR State Forests has demonstrated continuing conformance with the Sustainable Forestry Initiative Standard ®, 2005-2009 Edition (SFIS), according to the NSF-ISR SFIS Certification Audit Process.

NSF-ISR initially certified the Wisconsin State Forest System to the SFIS on May 5, 2004. This report describes the third follow-up Surveillance Audit designed to focus on changes in the standard, changes in operations, the management review system, and efforts at continuous improvement. In addition, all SFI requirements not covered in the 2005 Surveillance Audit were selected for detailed review.

The SFI Certification Audit was performed on sustainable forestry activities of the Wisconsin DNR and land management operations on Wisconsin State Forests encompassing over 490,000 acres of publicly owned forests, including the following properties:

- Black River State Forest
- Brule River
- Coulee Experimental
- Flambeau River
- Governor Knowles
- Kettle Moraine- Northern and Southern Units
- Northern Highland/American Legion
- Peshtigo River
- Point Beach

The surveillance audit was performed by NSF-ISR on July 10-13, 2006 by an audit team including Michael Ferrucci, Lead Auditor, Gary Zimmer, and Dr. Robert Hrubes. Audit team members fulfill the qualification criteria for conducting SFIS Certification Audits contained in the Sustainable Forestry Initiative® Audit Procedures and Qualifications (SFI APQ). The Wisconsin DNR's representative was Robert Mather, Director, Bureau of Forest Management who was supported during the audit by Paul Pingrey, Forest Certification Specialist and Teague Prichard, State Forest Specialist.

The objective of the audit was to assess continuing conformance of the firm's SFI Program to the requirements of the Sustainable Forestry Initiative® Standard, 2005-2009 Edition and to recertify the program under the "Continuous Surveillance Audit" option. Forest practices that were the focus of field inspections included those that have been conducted since the previous field audit conducted during July of 2005. In addition, SFI obligations to promote sustainable forestry practices, to ensure the smooth functioning of the SFI program on Wisconsin's State Forests and to incorporate continual improvement systems were reexamined during the audit.

The Indicators and Performance Measures of the 2005-2009 Sustainable Forestry Initiative Standard ® were utilized without modification or substitution. As with the initial certification, SFI Performance Measures and indicators involving wood procurement (Objective 8) were outside of the scope of the Wisconsin DNR's SFI program and were excluded from the scope of the SFI Certification Audit.

Forest Management on Wisconsin State Forests

Source: Wisconsin DNR Web Site: http://dnr.wi.gov/org/land/forestry/StateForests/sf-timber.htm

"Wisconsin State Forests are managed for multiple-use objectives. Along with recreational objectives, the State Forests are used to demonstrate various forest practices to the public, while meeting a variety of habitat objectives. Resource managers within the Department of Natural Resources use these objectives in conjunction with other demands to manage each state forest as a healthy ecosystem. Each year less than 2 % of the land under state forest ownership is actively managed. Of this 2% over 70% of the management prescriptions are thinnings, which reduce the density of stems to accelerate growth of the remaining trees and vertical structural diversity within the stand harvested. Approximately 30 % of the stands actively managed each year are harvested using regeneration techniques. After harvest these stands are either replanted or regenerate naturally and will continue to grow and produce forests and wood products for future generations. These regenerating forests also provide important habitat for species associated with young forests such as the snowshoe hare and woodcock.

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

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

SFIS Surveillance Audit Process

The review was governed by a detailed audit protocol designed to enable the audit team determine conformance with the applicable SFI requirements. The process included the assembly and review of audit evidence consisting of documents, interviews, and on-site inspections of ongoing or completed forest practices. Documents describing these activities were provided to the auditor in advance, and a sample of the available audit evidence was designated by the auditor for review.

The possible findings for specific SFI requirements included Full Conformance, Major Non-conformance, Minor Non-conformance, Opportunities for Improvement, and Practices that exceeded the Basic Requirements of the SFIS. Surveillance Audits generally focus on conformance issues and do not generally address exceptional practices.

Overview of Audit Findings

Wisconsin DNR's SFI Program was found to be in full conformance with the SFIS Standard. The NSF-ISR SFI Certification Audit Process determined that there were no new minor non-conformances and that the previous minor non-conformance has been closed.

The Wisconsin DNR demonstrated that it exceeds the SFI Standard in the following areas:

- "*4.1.3 Plans to locate and protect known sites associated with viable occurrences of critically imperiled and imperiled species and communities.*" and 6.1.1 "*Use of existing natural heritage data and expert advice in identifying or selecting sites for protection because of their ecologically, geologically, historically, or culturally important qualities.*" Biotic inventories, State Natural Areas and other efforts are made to add to existing information by seeking previously unknown rare, threatened, endangered species and communities or special sites.
- "*9.2.1 Participation, individually or through cooperative efforts or associations at the state, provincial, or regional level, in the development or use of … biodiversity conservation information for family forest owners.*" The DNR's publications and web site are comprehensive and of the highest quality.
- "*10.2.1 …(support) for wood producers' training courses*" is significant and much appreciated by the forestry community.
- "*12.2.3 Recreation opportunities for the public, where consistent with forest management objectives*" The recreational and educational programs and facilities on state forests are very well designed and maintained, with recreational use a priority in many locations.
- "*12.3.2 Appropriate contact with local stakeholders over forest management issues through state, provincial, federal, or independent collaboration.*" DNR's efforts to involve and inform the public regarding management programs are strong and steadily expanding through use of the web, mailings, public meetings, and newsletters.

Several opportunities for improvement were also identified. These findings do not indicate a current deficiency, but served to alert Wisconsin DNR about areas that could be strengthened or which could merit future attention. These include:

- 2.2.6 There is an opportunity to improve staff knowledge of pesticide storage policies;
- 4.1.4 Stand level diversity: Emerging concerns about impacts of deer browsing and awareness of emerging concepts such as variable density thinning; and
- 10.1.3 There is an opportunity to improve staff training for implementing new master plans.

Wisconsin DNR has also improved its SFI program as follows:

- The Master Plan for the Northern Highlands American Legion State Forest has been approved and is starting to be implemented;
- Additional staff resources have been allocated to planning, with significant progress made towards updates to the Peshtigo River and Black River Forests;
- An initiative for control of exotic invasive plants on state forests has been designed, funded, and the initial inventory and planning stages are being implemented;
- A continuous forest inventory (CFI) system has been funded and the design for this critical element of an adaptive approach to sustainable forest management is nearly complete;
- Public outreach efforts have broadened and intensified, with best practices being shared across the system;
- The role and capacity of the Bureau of Endangered Resources has been strengthened with the development of field staff such as the Regional Ecologist Positions allowing for timely assistance with critical forest management decisions and project-level input that helps meet the requirements of the SFI and other goals and objectives on state forests and other lands;
- An approach to the challenge of finding sustainable and appropriate levels and types of off-road vehicle (ORV) use on the state forest system has been designed and is in the study phase on the NHAL State Forest – this project could provide innovative models for other areas throughout the United States; and
- DNR Forestry Division staff with a range of skills and knowledge of suitable sites for field programs have joined and strengthened the logger training programs of the Wisconsin's Forest Industries Safety Training Alliance (FISTA), have increased their involvement in the Wisconsin Tree Farm Program and other efforts to inform landowners, and have helped improve the professionalism of loggers, foresters, and other partners by inviting them to attend state forestry division training workshops.

The SFI Program of the Wisconsin DNR is being audited under the continuous surveillance audit option provided in the SFI requirements. The 2005 and 2006 audits covered all elements of the 2005-2009 Sustainable Forestry Initiative Standard® , and as such the program achieved recertification under the continuous surveillance option. The next surveillance audit is scheduled for July 14, 2007.

Relevance of Forestry Certification

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

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

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

3. Reforestation and Productive Capacity
To provide for regeneration after harvest and maintain the productive capacity of the forestland base.

4. Forest Health and Productivity
To protect forests from uncharacteristic and economically or environmentally undesirable wildfire, pests, diseases, and other damaging agents and thus maintain and improve long-term forest health and productivity.

5. Long-Term Forest and Soil Productivity
To protect and maintain long-term forest and soil productivity.

6. Protection of Water Resources
To protect water bodies and riparian zones.

7. Protection of Special Sites and Biological Diversity
To manage forests and lands of special significance (biologically, geologically, historically or culturally important) in a manner that takes into account their unique qualities and to promote a diversity of wildlife habitats, forest types, and ecological or natural community types.

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

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

Source: Sustainable Forestry Initiative® (SFI) Standard, 2005–2009 Edition

For Additional Information Contact:

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APPENDIX IV

Audit Matrix

TITLE:	**NSF-ISR SFI Audit Matrix**
AESOP DOCUMENT NUMBER:	**4747**
AESOP REVISION NUMBER:	**5**
OLD DOCUMENT NUMBER:	**AC-971-0001**

NSF-ISR auditors use this document to record their findings for each SFIS Performance Measure and Indicator. If a non-conformance is found the auditor shall fully document the reasons on the Corrective Action Request (CAR) form. N/A in the Auditor column indicates that the associated Performance Measure or Indicator does not apply. Findings are indicated by a date code: Audit Date: July 2005 Date Code: 5; Audit Date: July 2006 Date Code: 6

Abbreviations used: BRSF – Brule River State Forest; NHAL – Northern Highlands American Legion State Forest; EIS – Environmental Impact Statement

Objective 1: To broaden the implementation of sustainable forestry by ensuring long-term harvest levels based on the use of the best scientific information available.

Performance Measure/ Indicator		Audit-or	- - - *Indicate Only One* - - - FC	EXR	Maj	Min	OFI
1.1	***Program Participants shall ensure that long-term harvest levels are sustainable and consistent with appropriate growth and-yield models and written plans.***		6				
1.1.1	A long-term resource analysis to guide forest management planning at a level appropriate to the size and scale of the operation, including: a. a periodic or ongoing forest inventory; b. a land classification system; c. soils inventory and maps, where available; d. access to growth-and-yield modeling capabilities; e. up-to-date maps or a geographic information system (GIS); f. recommended sustainable harvest levels; and g. a review of nontimber issues (e.g., pilot projects and economic incentive programs to promote water protection, carbon storage, or biological diversity conservation).		5,6				
1.1.2	Documentation of annual harvest trends in relation to the sustainable forest management plan.		6				
1.1.3	A forest inventory system and a method to calculate growth.		5				

Performance Measure/ Indicator		Audit-or	- - - Indicate Only One - - -				OFI
			FC	EXR	Maj	Min	
1.1.4	Periodic updates of inventory and recalculation of planned harvests.		5				
1.1.5	Documentation of forest practices (e.g., planting, fertilization, and thinning) consistent with assumptions in harvest plans.		5				

Objective 2: To ensure long-term forest productivity and conservation of forest resources through prompt reforestation, soil conservation, afforestation and other measures.

Performance Measure/ Indicator		Audit-or	- - - Indicate Only One - - -				OFI
			FC	EXR	Maj	Min	
2.1	***Program Participants shall reforest after final harvest, unless delayed for site-specific environmental or forest health considerations, through artificial regeneration within two years or two planting seasons, or by planned natural regeneration methods within five years.***		6				
2.1.1	Designation of all management units for either natural or artificial regeneration.		5,6				
2.1.2	Clear Requirements to judge adequate regeneration and appropriate actions to correct under-stocked areas and achieve desired species composition and stocking rates for both artificial and natural regeneration		6				
2.1.3	Minimized plantings of exotic tree species and research documentation that exotic tree species, planted operationally, pose minimal risk.		6				
2.1.4	Protection of desirable or planned advanced natural regeneration during harvest.		5				
2.1.5	Artificial reforestation programs that consider potential ecological impacts of a different species or species mix from that which was harvested.		6				
2.2	***Program Participants shall minimize chemical use required to achieve management objectives while protecting employees, neighbors, the public and the forest environment.***		6				
2.2.1	Minimized chemical use required to achieve management objectives.		6				
2.2.2	Use of least toxic and narrowest spectrum pesticide narrowest spectrum and least toxic pesticides necessary to achieve management objective.		6				
2.2.3	Use of pesticides registered for the intended use and applied in accordance with the label requirements.		6				
2.2.4	Use of Integrated Pest Management where feasible.		6				
2.2.5	Supervision of forest chemical applications by state-trained or certified applicators.		6				
2.2.6	Use of best management practices appropriate to the situation; for example: adjoining landowners or nearby residents notified of applications and chemicals used; appropriate multi-lingual signs or oral warnings used; public road access controlled during and after applications; streamside and other needed buffer strips appropriately designated; positive shut-off and minimal drift spray valves used; drift minimized by aerially applying forest chemicals parallel to buffer zones; water quality monitored or other methods used to assure proper …		6			5	6
2.2.6	…equipment use and stream protection of streams, lakes and other waterbodies; chemicals stored at appropriate locations; state reports filed as required; or methods used to ensure protection of federally listed threatened & endangered species						

Performance Measure/ Indicator		Audit -or	- - - Indicate Only One - - -				OFI
			FC	EXR	Maj	Min	
2.3	***Program Participants shall implement management practices to protect and maintain forest and soil productivity.***		6				
2.3.1	Use of soils maps where available.		5,6				
2.3.2	Process to identify soils vulnerable to compaction and use of appropriate methods to avoid excessive soil disturbance.		5,6				
2.3.3	Use of erosion control measures to minimize the loss of soil and site productivity.		5,6				
2.3.4	Post-harvest conditions conducive to maintaining site productivity (e.g., limited rutting, retained down woody debris, minimized skid trails).		5,6				
2.3.5	Retention of vigorous trees during partial harvesting, consistent with silvicultural norms for the area.		5,6				
2.3.6	Criteria that address harvesting and site preparation to protect soil productivity.		5,6				
2.3.7	Minimized road construction to meet management objectives efficiently.		5				
2.4	***Program Participants shall manage so as to protect forests from damaging agents such as environmentally or economically undesirable wildfire, pests and diseases to maintain and improve long-term forest health, productivity and economic viability.***		6				
2.4.1	Program to protect forests from damaging agents.		6				
2.4.2	Management to promote healthy and productive forest conditions to minimize susceptibility to damaging agents.		5,6				
2.4.3	Participation in, and support of, fire and pest prevention and control programs.		6				
2.5	***Program Participants that utilize genetically improved planting stock including those derived through biotechnology shall use sound scientific methods and follow all applicable laws and other internationally applicable protocols.***		6				
2.5.1	Program for appropriate research, testing, evaluation and deployment of genetically improved planting stock including trees derived through biotechnology.		6				

Objective 3: To protect water quality in streams, lakes and other water bodies.

Performance Measure/ Indicator		Audit-or	- - - Indicate Only One - - -				OFI
			FC	EXR	Maj	Min	
3.1	***Program Participants shall meet or exceed all applicable federal, provincial, state and local water quality laws and meet or exceed Best Management Practices developed under Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)-approved state water quality programs other applicable federal, provincial, state or local programs.***		6				
3.1.1	Program to implement state or provincial equivalent BMPs during all phases of management activities.		6				5
3.1.2	Contract provisions that specify BMP compliance.		5				
3.1.3	Plans that address wet weather events (e.g., inventory systems, wet weather tracts, defining acceptable operational conditions, etc.).		6				
3.1.4	Monitoring of overall BMP implementation.		5				
3.2	***Program Participant shall have or develop, implement, and document, riparian protection measures based on soil type, terrain, vegetation and other applicable factors.***		6				
3.2.1	Program addressing management and protection of streams, lakes and other water bodies and riparian zones.		6				
3.2.2	Mapping of streams, lakes and other water bodies and riparian zones, and where appropriate, identification on the ground.		6				
3.2.3	Implementation of plans to manage or protect streams, lakes and other water bodies.		5,6				
3.2.4	Identification and protection of nonforested wetlands, including bogs, fens, vernal pools and marshes of significant size.		5,6				
3.2.5	Where regulations or BMPs do not currently exist to protect riparian areas, use of experts to identify appropriate protection measures.		5, 6				

Objective 4: Manage the quality and distribution of wildlife habitats and contribute to the conservation of biological diversity by developing and implementing stand- and landscape- level measures that promote habitat diversity and the conservation of forest plants and animals including aquatic fauna.

Performance Measure/ Indicator		Audit-or	- - - Indicate Only One - - -				OFI
			FC	EXR	Maj	Min	
4.1	***Program participants shall have programs to promote biological diversity at stand- and landscape- scales.***		6				
4.1.1	Program to promote the conservation of native biological diversity, including species, wildlife habitats, and ecological or natural community types, at stand and landscape levels.		5,6				
4.1.2	Program to protect threatened and endangered species.		5,6				
4.1.3	Plans to locate and protect known sites associated with viable occurrences of critically imperiled and imperiled species and communities. Plans for protection may be developed independently or collaboratively and may include Program Participant management, cooperation with other stakeholders, or use of easements, conservation land sales, exchanges, or other conservation strategies		5	6			
4.1.4	Development and implementation of criteria, as guided by regionally appropriate science, for retention of stand-level wildlife habitat elements (e.g., snags, mast trees, down woody debris, den trees, nest trees).		5				6
4.1.5	Assessment, conducted individually or collaboratively, of forest cover types and habitats at the individual ownership level and, where credible data are available, across the landscape, and incorporation of findings into planning and management activities, where practical and when consistent with management objectives.		6				
4.1.6	Support of and participation in plans or programs for the conservation of old-growth forests in the region of ownership.		6				
4.1.7	Participation in programs and demonstration of activities as appropriate to limit the introduction, impact, and spread of invasive exotic plants and animals that directly threaten or are likely to threaten native plant and animal communities.		6				
4.1.8	Program to incorporate the role of prescribed or natural fire where appropriate.		5,6				
4.2	***Program Participants shall apply knowledge gained through research, science, technology, and field experience to manage wildlife habitat and contribute to the conservation of biological diversity.***		6				
4.2.1	Collection of information on critically imperiled and imperiled species and communities and other biodiversity-related data through forest inventory processes, mapping, or participation in external programs, such as NatureServe, state or provincial heritage programs, or other credible systems. Such participation may include providing nonproprietary scientific information, time, and assistance by staff, or in-kind or direct financial support.		6				
4.2.2	A methodology to incorporate research results and field applications of biodiversity and ecosystem research into forest management decisions.		5,6				

Objective 5: To manage the visual impact of harvesting and other forest operations.

Performance Measure/ Indicator		Audit -or	- - - Indicate Only One - - - FC	EXR	Maj	Min	OFI
5.1	***Program Participants shall manage the impact of harvesting on visual quality.***		6				
5.1.1	Program to address visual quality management.		5,6				
5.1.2	Incorporation of aesthetic considerations in harvesting, road, landing design and management, and other management activities where visual impacts are a concern.		5,6				
5.2	***Program Participants shall manage the size, shape, and placement of clearcut harvests.***		6				
5.2.1	Average size of clearcut harvest areas does not exceed 120 acres, except when necessary to respond to forest health emergencies or other natural catastrophes.		5,6				
5.2.2	Documentation through internal records of clearcut size and the process for calculating average size.		6				
5.3	***Program Participants shall adopt a green-up requirement or alternative methods that provide for visual quality.***		6				
5.3.1	Program implementing the green-up requirement or alternative methods.		5,6				
5.3.2	Harvest area tracking system to demonstrate compliance with the green-up requirement or alternative methods.		6				
5.3.3	Trees in clearcut harvest areas are at least 3 years old or 5 feet high at the desired level of stocking before adjacent areas are clearcut, or as appropriate to address operational and economic considerations, alternative methods to reach the performance measure are utilized by the Program Participant.		5,6				

Objective 6: To manage Program Participant lands that are ecologically, geologically, historically, or culturally important in a manner that recognizes their special qualities.

Performance Measure/ Indicator		Audit-or	- - - Indicate Only One - - - FC	EXR	Maj	Min	OFI
6.1.	***Program Participants shall identify special sites and manage them in a manner appropriate for their unique features.***		6				
6.1.1	Use of existing natural heritage data and expert advice in identifying or selecting sites for protection because of their ecologically, geologically, historically, or culturally important qualities.		5	6			
6.1.2	Appropriate mapping, cataloging, and management of identified special sites.		5,6				

Objective 7: To promote the efficient use of forest resources.

Performance Measure/ Indicator		Audit-or	- - - Indicate Only One - - - FC	EXR	Maj	Min	OFI
7.1	***Program Participants shall employ appropriate forest harvesting technology and "in-woods" manufacturing processes and practices to minimize waste and ensure efficient utilization of harvested trees, where consistent with other SFI Standard objectives.***		6				
7.1.1	Program or monitoring system to ensure efficient utilization, which may include provisions to ensure a. landings left clean with little waste; b. residues distributed to add organic and nutrient value to future forests; c. training or incentives to encourage loggers to enhance utilization; d. cooperation with mill managers for better utilization of species and low-grade material; e. merchandizing of harvested material to ensure use for its most beneficial purpose; f. development of markets for underutilized species and low-grade wood; g. periodic inspections and reports noting utilization and product separation; or h. exploration of alternative markets (e.g., energy markets).		5,6				

Objective 8: To broaden the practice of sustainable forestry through procurement programs. Not Applicable

Objective 9: To improve forestry research, science, and technology, upon which sound forest management decisions are based.

Performance Measure/ Indicator		Audit -or	- - - *Indicate Only One* - - - FC	EXR	Maj	Min	OFI
9.1	***Program Participants shall individually, through cooperative efforts, or through associations provide in-kind support or funding, in addition to that generated through taxes, for forest research to improve the health, productivity, and management of forest resources.***		6				
9.1.1	Current financial or in-kind support of research to address questions of relevance in the region of operations. The research will include some or all of the following issues: a. forest health, productivity, and ecosystem functions; b. chemical efficiency, use rate, and integrated pest management; c. water quality; d. wildlife management at stand or landscape levels; e. conservation of biological diversity; and f. effectiveness of BMPs.		5 (only part a. reviewed), 6 (all)				
9.2	***Program Participants shall individually, through cooperative efforts, or through associations develop or use state, provincial, or regional analyses in support of their sustainable forestry programs.***		6				
9.2.1	Participation, individually or through cooperative efforts or associations at the state, provincial, or regional level, in the development or use of a. regeneration assessments; b. growth-and-drain assessments; c. BMP implementation and compliance; and d. biodiversity conservation information for family forest owners.		5, 6 a, b	5, 6 (c. and d. exceeds)			

Objective 10: To improve the practice of sustainable forest management by resource professionals, logging professionals, and contractors through appropriate training and education programs.

Performance Measure/ Indicator		Audit-or	- - - Indicate Only One - - - FC	EXR	Maj	Min	OFI
10.1	***Program Participants shall require appropriate training of personnel and contractors so that they are competent to fulfill their responsibilities under the SFI Standard.***		6				
10.1.1	Written statement of commitment to the SFI Standard communicated throughout the organization, particularly to mill and woodland managers, wood procurement staff, and field foresters.		5, 6				
10.1.2	Assignment and understanding of roles and responsibilities for achieving SFI Standard objectives.		5, 6				
10.1.3	Staff education and training sufficient to their roles and responsibilities.		5, 6				6
10.1.4	Contractor education and training sufficient to their roles and responsibilities.		5, 6				
10.2	***Program Participants shall work closely with state logging or forestry associations, or appropriate agencies or others in the forestry community, to foster improvement in the professionalism of wood producers.***			6			
10.2.1	Participation in or support of SFI Implementation Committees to establish criteria and identify delivery mechanisms for wood producers' training courses that address a. awareness of sustainable forestry principles and the SFI Program; b. BMPs, including streamside management and road construction, maintenance, & retirement; c. regeneration, forest resource conservation, and aesthetics; d. awareness of responsibilities under the U.S. Endangered Species Act, the Canadian Species at Risk Act, and other measures to protect wildlife habitat; e. logging safety; f. U.S. Occupational Safety and Health Administration regulations, wage and hour rules, and other employment laws; g. transportation issues; h. business management; and i. public policy and outreach.		5	6			

Objective 11: Commitment to comply with applicable federal, provincial, state, or local laws and regulations.

Performance Measure/ Indicator		Audit-or	- - - Indicate Only One - - -				OFI
			FC	EXR	Maj	Min	
11.1	***Program Participants shall take appropriate steps to comply with applicable federal, provincial, state, and local forestry and related environmental laws and regulations.***		6				
11.1.1	Access to relevant laws and regulations in appropriate locations.		6				
11.1.2	System to achieve compliance with applicable federal, provincial, state, or local laws and regulations.		6				
11.1.3	Demonstration of commitment to legal compliance through available regulatory action information.		6				
11.1.4	Adherence to all applicable federal, state, & provincial regulations and international protocols for research & deployment of trees derived from improved planting stock & biotechnology.						
11.2	***Program Participants shall take appropriate steps to comply with all applicable social laws at the federal, provincial, state, and local levels in the country in which the Program Participant operates.***		6				
11.2.1	Written policy demonstrating commitment to comply with social laws, such as those covering civil rights, equal employment opportunities, antidiscrimination and anti-harassment measures, workers' compensation, indigenous peoples' rights, workers' and communities' right to know, prevailing wages, workers' right to organize, and occupational health and safety.		5, 6				

Objective 12: To broaden the practice of sustainable forestry by encouraging the public and forestry community to participate in the commitment to sustainable forestry and publicly report progress.

Performance Measure/ Indicator		Audit-or	- - - Indicate Only One - - -				OFI
			FC	EXR	Maj	Min	
12.1	***Program Participants shall support and promote efforts by consulting foresters, state and federal agencies, state or local groups, professional societies, and the American Tree Farm System® and other landowner cooperative programs to apply principles of sustainable forest management.***		6				
12.1.1	Support for efforts of SFI Implementation Committees.		5, 6				
12.1.2	Support for the development and distribution of educational materials, including information packets for use with forest landowners.		5, 6				
12.1.3	Support for the development and distribution of regional or statewide information materials that provide landowners with practical approaches for addressing biological diversity issues, such as specific wildlife habitat, critically imperiled or imperiled species, and threatened and endangered species.		5, 6				
12.1.4	Participation in efforts to support or promote conservation of working forests through voluntary market-based incentive programs (e.g., current-use taxation programs, Forest Legacy, or conservation easements).		5, 6				
12.1.5	Program Participants are knowledgeable about credible regional conservation planning and priority-setting efforts that include a broad range of stakeholders. Consider the results of these efforts in planning where practical and consistent with management objectives.		5, 6				
12.2	***Program Participants shall support and promote, at the state, provincial or other appropriate levels, mechanisms for public outreach, education, and involvement related to forest management.***		6				
12.2.1	Support for the SFI Implementation Committee program to address outreach, education, and technical assistance (e.g., toll-free numbers, public sector technical assistance programs).		5, 6				
12.2.2	Periodic educational opportunities promoting sustainable forestry, such as a. field tours, seminars, or workshops; b. educational trips; c. self-guided forest management trails; or d. publication of articles, educational pamphlets, or newsletters; or e. support for state, provincial, and local forestry organizations and soil and water conservation districts.		6				
12.2.3	Recreation opportunities for the public, where consistent with forest management objectives.			5,6			

Performance Measure/ Indicator		Audit -or	- - - Indicate Only One - - -				OFI
			FC	EXR	Maj	Min	
12.3	***Program Participants with forest management responsibilities on public lands shall participate in the development of public land planning and management processes.***		6				
12.3.1	Involvement in public land planning and management activities with appropriate governmental entities and the public.		5, 6				
12.3.2	Appropriate contact with local stakeholders over forest management issues through state, provincial, federal, or independent collaboration.			5, 6			
12.4	***Program Participants with forest management responsibilities on public lands shall confer with affected indigenous peoples.***		6				
12.4.1	Program that includes communicating with affected indigenous peoples to enable Program Participants to a. understand and respect traditional forest related knowledge; b. identify and protect spiritually, historically, or culturally important sites; and c. address the sustainable use of nontimber forest products of value to indigenous peoples in areas where Program Participants have management responsibilities on public lands.		5, 6				
12.5	***Program Participants shall establish, at the state, provincial, or other appropriate levels, procedures to address concerns raised by loggers, consulting foresters, employees, the public, or Program Participants regarding practices that appear inconsistent with the SFI Standard principles and objectives.***		6				
12.5.1	Support for SFI Implementation Committee efforts (toll-free numbers and other efforts) to address concerns about apparent nonconforming practices.		6				
12.5.2	Process to receive and respond to public inquiries.		6				
12.6	***Program Participants shall report annually to the SFI Program on their compliance with the SFI Standard.***		6				
12.6.1*	Prompt response to the SFI annual progress report. (*Note: This indicator will be reviewed in all audits.)		5, 6				
12.6.2	Recordkeeping for all the categories of information needed for SFI annual progress reports.		5, 6				
12.6.3	Maintenance of copies of past reports to document progress and improvements to demonstrate conformance to the SFI Standard		5, 6				

Objective 13: To promote continual improvement in the practice of sustainable forestry and monitor, measure, and report performance in achieving the commitment to sustainable forestry.

Performance Measure/ Indicator		Audit-or	*- - - Indicate Only One - - -* FC	EXR	Maj	Min	OFI
13.1*	***Program Participants shall establish a management review system to examine findings and progress in implementing the SFI Standard, to make appropriate improvements in programs, and to inform their employees of changes.*** (*This Performance Measure will be reviewed in all audits.)		6				
13.1.1	System to review commitments, programs, and procedures to evaluate effectiveness.		5, 6				
13.1.2	System for collecting, reviewing, and reporting information to management regarding progress in achieving SFI Standard objectives and performance measures.		5, 6				
13.1.3	Annual review of progress by management and determination of changes and improvements necessary to continually improve SFI conformance.		5, 6				

Auditor Notes (attach additional pages as needed) **Page _____**

Requirement	Notes
Note	*The Performance Measure or Indicator has been provided in italics only where needed to improve clarity. All requirements are listed in the previous portion of this attachment.*
1.1.1	*"A long-term resource analysis to guide forest management planning at a level appropriate to the size and scale of the operation"*. Confirmed that the most recent Master Plans (for BRSF and NHAL), in combination with other management tools such as RECON, GIS, etc, include all required items. The other forests have plans of varying ages from recently completed assessments used to revise plans to plans completed over twenty years ago. The older plans have been updated periodically with amendments or variances for specific issues or changes.
1.1.2	*Documentation of annual harvest trends in relation to the sustainable forest management plan.* 2005-2006 NHAL RECON level suggested for treatment 8,000 acres; actual 4094 acres; the process gives them a target that is far higher than their budgeted or staffed ability. This gap has an exaggerated appearance because many stands that were scheduled for treatment are not actually ready but are "updated in lieu of harvest". Reviewed the justification for 5 new forestry positions, including the metric of ratio of actual treatment (sale establishment) to recommend for treatment (from RECON).
1.1.3	*A forest inventory system and a method to calculate growth.* RECON drives an annual calculation of acres that may require treatment, and will require a closer look. About 70 percent of these acres are generally treated, with variation among the forests. Most of the remaining acres are rescheduled after updating the inventory ("update in lieu of harvest"). A new CFI initiative has been funded and is being designed to complement RECON. CFI plots are designed to supplement the FIA grid, with additional intensity of plots and more variables measured including coarse woody debris, invasives, rutting, and others.
1.1.4	*Periodic updates of inventory and recalculation of planned harvests.* Each year RECON program is run and an updated annual harvest acreage is computed for each forest (see 1.1.3 above). RECON has been receiving more attention and resources, with additional staff resources expected as the private forestry program is reorganized. At BRSF 25% of the forest has been reinventoried over the past 4 years. There are state-wide insect and disease monitoring programs including increased emphasis on gypsy moth and ash borer monitoring projects.
1.1.5	*Documentation of forest practices (e.g., planting, fertilization, and thinning) consistent with assumptions in harvest plans.* Harvest levels are not determined by overall growth rates nor a growth and harvest model, but by area control (see above). Thus there are no intensive forestry treatment assumptions in harvest plans, but cultural practices are recommended in silvicultural handbook, prescribed, and implemented.
2.1	BRSF forestry practices are designed and implemented by a skilled and experienced forestry team. Field observations at all sites visited confirmed that projects are planned to ensure regeneration following harvest within two years (planting) or five years (natural regeneration), or combinations of these methods. Jack pine natural regeneration methods and results were reviewed at multiple field sites, with good to excellent results for this often difficult-to-regenerate species. Oak regeneration sites visited (salvage of insect-killed stands) confirmed state-of-the-art knowledge and good results. Of the 4,000 acres affected by a severe ice storm in 2000 all needed reforestation is now complete, with over 1 million trees planted on 750 acres, and another 2,500 acres treated (salvage, natural regeneration). NHAL: Regeneration treatments observed were appropriate and generally quite effective. Even-aged regeneration is more certain than uneven-aged treatments, as moderately-high deer populations are affecting success rates for species that are favored as deer browse. This emerging issue (thus far regeneration targets are being met) will be a focus area of future Surveillance Audits
2.1.1	Confirmed by review of timber sale documentation that all harvest units are designated for either natural or artificial regeneration.
2.1.2	Confirmed that harvest planning and regeneration surveys, in conjunction with DNR Manual Codes, provide clear criteria to assess regeneration. Interviews and review of field sites and documents confirm that appropriate actions are taken to ensure good natural regeneration (observed pre-sale blade scarification results, an on-going anchor-chaining scarification, and results of a seed-tree site preparation burn), to monitor results, and to correct under-stocked

	areas. Planting and natural regeneration projects are carefully planned and implemented.
2.1.3	Confirmed that the state nursery does not plant or sell exotic trees, and no exotic tree species are planted Confirmed by Field observations that exotics such a Scotch pine are actively removed, and efforts made to prevent them from reproducing.
2.1.4	Field observations at all sites visited confirmed the protection of desirable or planned advanced natural regeneration during harvest. This is accomplished by the use of trained loggers, by provisions in logging contracts, by supervision by trained foresters, and occasionally by contractual provisions limiting harvesting to periods when small tree seedlings would be expected to be protected by deep snow cover.
2.1.5	*Artificial reforestation programs that consider potential ecological impacts of a different species or species mix from that which was harvested.* Master plans and or background EIS for these plans contain extensive analysis and review of target forest and stand composition and structure (example NHAL EIS pages 3-4). Interdisciplinary review that includes foresters, wildlife biologists, fisheries biologists, and ecologists ensures that ecological impacts of all aspects of harvesting and reforestation are considered.
2.2.1, 2.2.1	*Minimized chemical use required to achieve management objectives.* BRSF only uses Roundup, for invasive species control (poison ivy). NHAL: herbicides applied for Red Pine planting (Accord 2 pounds active, Oust 1 oz/acre) are used at 25% of rates allowed by label. Trenching prior to planting further minimizes chemical use.
2.2.3	*Use of pesticides registered for the intended use and applied in accordance with the label requirements.* Interviews at BRSF and NHAL confirmed applications by qualified personnel. Field interviews a application sites confirmed appropriate use of vegetation control chemicals.
2.2.4	*Use of Integrated Pest Management where feasible.* The entire forest management program is conceived and implemented to maintain healthy forest stands using an IPM approach. There are state-wide insect and disease monitoring programs including increased emphasis on gypsy moth and ash borer monitoring projects. Stands are maintained at healthy stocking levels, pest specialists assist local managers to monitor potential pest situations and to respond to emerging insect infestations or disease outbreaks. For example, foresters generally know exact status of Jack Pine budworm from annual surveys. NHAL has a gypsy moth plan.
2.2.5	*Supervision of forest chemical applications by state-trained or certified applicators.* BRSF: Confirmed that David Schultz, Forester is certified as a Commercial Pesticide Applicator (# 073294 002.0). NHAL: Confirmed Dean Farr, Forester, NHAL is certified as a Commercial Pesticide Applicator.
2.2.6	Use of best management practices appropriate to the situation was confirmed by interviews. Reviewed Manual Code 4221.1 General Department Guidelines for Hazardous Materials. OFI There is an opportunity to improve the knowledge of Department Guidelines for Hazardous Materials, including storage, MSDS sheets, etc.
2.3.1	Confirmed the use of soils maps and availability of a soils layer in the GIS. Habitat typing is also used.
2.3.2	Foresters use soil and topographic maps and habitat type classifications as appropriate to identify soils vulnerable to compaction and use a variety of methods to avoid excessive soil disturbance, including designation of frozen ground for all or a portion of a harvest area.
2.3.3	Field observations at all sites visited confirmed the effective use of erosion control measures to minimize the loss of soil and site productivity.
2.3.4	Field observations at all sites visited confirmed post-harvest conditions are conducive to maintaining site productivity. Little rutting was observed, most sites retained ample down woody debris, and BMPs for soil protection were utilized.
2.3.5	Field observations at all partial harvest sites visited confirmed the retention of vigorous trees. Foresters understand and implement cutting-edge recommendations for complex mixed species stands.
2.3.6	Criteria that address harvesting and site preparation to protect soil productivity include BMPs and the recently approved rutting guidelines.
2.3.7	There is little new road construction, and the road system appears to be designed to meet management objectives efficiently.

2.4.1, 2.4.2	*Program to protect forests from damaging agents. Management to promote healthy and productive forest conditions to minimize susceptibility to damaging agents.* The forestry program, including scheduled treatments to maintain vigorous stands and monitoring of forests susceptible to known pest epidemics, ensures that forests are protected from damaging agents. Although some Jack pine stands have been grown past recommended rotations foresters, aided by pest specialists, pay close attention to these stands and generally harvest them before mortality is apparent. Foresters use habitat typing to ensure appropriate species and species composition are encouraged, managed, maintained, and/or regenerated. Silviculture Handbook includes extensive recommendations for forest health.
2.4.3	*Participation in, and support of, fire and pest prevention and control programs.* Interviews and observations of staffing and equipment confirmed strong efforts in this area.
2.5.1, 11.1.4	Confirmed that Wisconsin DNR has a modern tree improvement program by review of "Wisconsin Forest Tree Improvement Program 2005 Annual Report". Excerpt: *"The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources' (WDNR) forest nursery program produced and distributed 14.6 million tree seedlings in 2005, reforesting almost 18,000 acres of public and private lands in Wisconsin. The use of genetically improved seed remains a critical part of this annual reforestation effort, ensuring that WDNR seedlings are well-adapted to Wisconsin growing conditions and have a high potential for survival and growth. The Wisconsin tree improvement program, through the long-term support of the state nurseries, continues to develop and manage seed orchards using a combination of parent tree and family selection, progeny testing, and selective breeding. First generation seed orchards are currently established for white pine, jack pine, red pine, white spruce, red oak, and black walnut. Second-generation seed orchards are established for jack pine."*
3.1.1	*Program to implement state or provincial equivalent BMPs during all phases of management activities.* Confirmed that soil and water BMPs are part of training for foresters and loggers, are featured in planning and are implemented in the field.
3.1.2	Confirmed that contract provisions specify BMP compliance.
3.1.3	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.
3.1.4	Monitoring of overall BMP implementation is conducted as part of a state-wide program. This program has identified issues with stream crossing BMPs, and the training and outreach efforts of the Wisconsin DNR have responded to these findings.
3.2.1	Planning at the forest and treatment levels provide for the management and protection of streams, lakes and other water bodies and riparian zones. Fisheries biologists, wildlife biologists, ecologists, and a hydrologist are all available to provide input, and in many cases lead the design and/or modification of treatments to ensure protections.
3.2.2	Streams, lakes and other water bodies and riparian zones are mapped. Field observations at all sites visited confirmed thatwhen treatments are scheduled these areas are identified on the ground, generally with the use of red paint marks on trees at the edge of the treatment area.
3.2.3	Field observations at all sites visited confirmed effective implementation of plans to manage or protect streams, lakes and other water bodies, as well as nonforested wetlands, including bogs, fens, vernal pools and marshes.
3.2.5	WI DNR has hired a State Hydrologist to help refine BMPs and guidelines regarding acceptable levels of rutting and soil compaction. The effort includes a trial program for definition of acceptable rutting, training, monitoring, and provisions for revision as needed.
4.1.1	*Program to promote the conservation of native biological diversity …* Wisconsin DNR employs professional biologists, ecologists, foresters, and others who are trained and experienced in managing terrestrial ecosystems to maintain diversity. BRSF has long had and maintains a structure for blocking sea lamprey (to keep exotic sea lampreys out of the pristine cold-water Brule River fishery, which is unique and valuable because it is relatively natural, cold, and connected directly to Lake Superior). Feral pig exotic species have escaped from a local game farm, and the DNR has been working to eradicate these feral pigs, which so far has not yet affected state forest lands. Also have a project that is doing beach monitoring along the Lake Superior portion of the BRSF. Have been cooperating with a regional initiative lead by Marsh bird Monitoring Program, Bird Studies Canada to monitor shorebirds. The NHAL Master Plan incorporates many efforts to conserve native biological diversity, including dry and dry-mesic forests dominated by red and

	white pine trees, northern hardwood and hemlock areas, rare and uncommon wetlands habitats such as wild rice marshes and rich fens, and restoration of Jack pine and tamarack.
4.1.2	*Program to protect threatened and endangered species.* On NHAL State Forest wolves and bald eagles are federally-listed as threatened, and extensive provisions are contained throughout the plan and implemented for the maintenance or improvement of their habitat. The BRSF plan includes provisions for RTE and uncommon species.
4.1.3	*Plans to locate and protect known sites associated with viable occurrences of critically imperiled and imperiled species and communities.* Assessments are conducted for a wide variety of uncommon species, including federally and state-listed rare, threatened, and endangered species and communities, which exceeds the requirement for G1 and G2 species. Confirmed that biotic inventories have been conducted in advance of now completed Master Plans, and that biotic inventories are currently underway for the Flambeau River State Forest and for the Governor Knowles State Forest. These practices clearly exceed the standard.
4.1.4	*Development and implementation of criteria …for retention of stand-level wildlife habitat elements…* Overall, conformance was demonstrated by Field observations at all sites visited. In partial harvests retention of snags, down woody debris, and trees with a range of sizes, with provisions for regeneration of all appropriate species, were clearly demonstrated. For clearcuts and shelterwood harvests dispersed and aggregate retention were commonly seen, although somewhat limited in Jack Pine stands for operational and ecological reasons (burns for site preparation and complete cutting in response to Jack Pine Budworm on the need for open conditions to stimulate the opening of serotinous cones, for example). Retention trees in both categories of harvests (partial or complete/heavy) were either marked with green paint or designated by species (for example, "retain all pine …"). OFI There is an opportunity to improve in the area of stand-level diversity by understanding the possible role of new techniques such as variable-density thinning.
4.1.5	*Assessment … of forest cover types and habitats at the individual ownership level and, where credible data are available, across the landscape, and incorporation of findings into planning and management activities...* The "Community Restoration & Old Growth Assessment", biotic inventories conducted for the northern forests, and provisions contained in the revised master plans constitute clear conformance. NHAL Master Plan page 5: "Overall, the largest ecological benefit of the plan … increased habitat diversity across the forest, providing older forest habitat elements that are highly limited at present… (including) extending the age range of stands, increasing species diversity within many stands, and reestablishing older-growth forest characteristics like snags, den trees and coarse woody debris." Another tool for understanding landscape context is the Ecological Landscapes Handbook.
4.1.6	Reserves or old-growth management occur on nearly all of the forests. NHAL plan page 4: "Old growth management is proposed for 22,290 acres. These are all on upland sites… thirteen percent of NHAL's upland acreage would be old-growth management … five percent would be passively managed." BRSF: Reserves are included in the conifer-dominated portions of the clay plains, the Brule River Bog and Spillway State Natural Area, and the Brule River terrace areas which are to be managed for old growth. Also confirmed DNR support (scientist, staff, sites) for research into management for old-growth characteristics.
4.1.7	The NHAL Master Plan includes a section on "Non-native Invasive Species". Wisconsin DNR has begun to implement a recent legislative initiative that provides funding for inventory of invasive species on state lands, the development of control plans, and a new three-quarters position (all this year) and control efforts (to begin next year).
4.1.8	Prescribed fire is incorporated into a portion of the stands where it could be helpful in controlling pest species, regenerating target vegetation of many growth forms, and reducing fire risk. Challenges exist in the implementation of fire use in some forests due to land ownership patterns and public concerns about risks associated with the use of prescribed fire. BRSF implements extensive prescribed burning for site preparation and to help restore dry pine forest community types including pine forest and barrens. NHAL is not commonly using prescribed fire due to logistical issues.
4.2.1	*Collection of information on critically imperiled and imperiled species and communities and other biodiversity-related data through forest inventory processes, mapping, or participation in external programs, such as NatureServe, state or provincial heritage programs, or other credible systems.* Biotic inventories are conducted by contractors and by BOR staff in advance of all new forest plans. BRSF fish monitoring at sea lamprey structure, Hilsenhoff Biotic Index on Water Quality for change monitoring; early successional forest bird monitoring indicate conformance. Foresters report any unusual plant or animal to specialists.

4.2.2	Wisconsin DNR employs professional biologists, ecologists, foresters, and others who are trained and experienced in managing terrestrial ecosystems to maintain diversity. Interviews confirmed that these professionals maintain their knowledge by attending, and often presenting, at local, regional, and national scientific conferences and meetings. In addition DNR is involved in a substantial amount of research in a variety of subject areas. Interviews confirmed that interdisciplinary review (roundtable meetings) operates effectively on all forests with the recent start of roundtable meetings at the Governor Knowles SF.
Objective 5	Sales are modified along lake shores, highways, trails, etc. Active forest management is accepted in the region. Special areas are designated for scenic priority management.
5.1.1, 5.1.2	The program for visual management includes the use of trained foresters, recommendations in the Silviculture and Aesthetics Manual, the harvest design and approval process incorporating review and approval by more senior (generally more experienced) foresters and by specialists including recreation staff, and harvest implementation by trained loggers. Field observations at all sites visited confirmed that a variety of methods are used to manage visual impacts including modifications to sale size and shape, retention of visual buffers along roads, trails, and riparian areas, retention of larger no-cut or modified treatment buffers along recreational lakes in the NHAL State Forest, and provisions in the management plans that emphasize the importance of managing all potential impacts of timber harvesting including visual impacts.
5.2.1	Average size of clearcuts in 2005 was slightly below 60 acres.
5.2.2	Wisconsin DNR has a system for tracking all harvests on all lands, using a standardized report template that links to a centralized database. Data on the number of acres of each type of harvest within each stand are included in the form.
5.3.1, 5.3.2, 5.3.3	Green-up requirements do not apply in most hardwood harvests, which use selection or shelterwood methods (no clearcuts). Aspen, regenerated by coppice systems (root suckering), are normally are at least 5 feet high within a single growing season, or at most two seasons. Pine clearcuts are the focus of green-up. Confirmed intensive efforts to regenerate Jack Pine (which can be difficult on some sites) including various types of site preparation, natural seeding, or planting. Confirmed regeneration surveys are conducted, and follow-up planting is implemented as needed. Field sites visited confirmed that sites meet green up before adjacent sites are harvested. Exceptions to green up would be allowed for forest pest situations (e.g. Jack Pine Budworm). Harvest areas are tracked through GIS system.
6.1.1, 6.1.2	Wisconsin Manual Code 1810.1 requires screening for potential archaeological and historic sites prior to initiating most management or development activities, including timber harvests and development of recreation sites. The management of designated State Natural Areas in the northern region is assigned to DNR foresters, as the Bureau of Endangered Resources (BOR) did not have field staff until the recent creation of the Regional Ecologist positions. These positions were not permanent at the time of the audit. The BOR is in the process of creating and filling five permanent Regional Ecologist positions. Master plans devote considerable attention to the role of special sites and their management. Wisconsin DNR clearly exceeds the standard by going beyond use of existing data to seek new sites, and then manages all species sites appropriately.
7.1.1	Field observations at all sites visited confirmed good to excellent utilization. Confirmed through interviews and prior auditor knowledge that excellent markets exist for nearly all species and grades present on WI State Forests. Most harvests are conducted using mechanical harvesters, which has led to good utilization. Review of the NHAL EIS confirmed awareness of non-timber forest products and their potential importance. These include "fish and game, wild rice, firewood, small branches or boughs for furniture, wreaths or other crafts, animals pelts, antlers, berries, mushrooms, nuts, medicinal herbs and bark, and ceremonial plants".
Objective 8	Not applicable (applies only to organizations procuring timber from other lands to supply a mill or processing facility).
9.1.1	*Current financial or in-kind support of research to address questions of relevance in the region of operations.* Survey report to AF&PA provides summary of research support: Forest Health and Productivity ($100,000 * internal, as noted, all from forestry account, either expenses only for work done in DNR or contracted includes all; work done by DNR employees, graduate students at UW Madison): Gypsy Moth, European Ash Borer; Dr. Mladenoff at U.Wisconsin; Bureau of Research old growth study; Star Lake Research Area at NHAL has had its 8th thinning in a 1913 Red pine planted plot. Water Quality ($50,000): BMP training, research on monitoring Wildlife and Fish ($89,020): forest-based species, goshawk work on Menominee Tribal

	Forest, cerulean warbler, elk; Landscape/Ecosystem Management and Biodiversity ($524,342 internal, $278,812 external): two large projects: Old Growth Study on FRSF and NHAL; and Dr. David Mladenoff at UW on varied projects; biotic inventory contracted with Bureau of Endangered Resources. Chemicals: Staff are testing biocontrol agents for invasives and two-lined chestnut borer
9.2.1. 12.1.5	a. and b. Vern Everson, Analyst uses FIA data to analyze regeneration and growth and yield Confirmed examples of output covering growth-and-drain and regeneration: "Wisconsin FIA - Selected Species: Volume of growing-stock on timberland (cuft), Site Index >60." Research is being done to determine survival rates of hardwood out plantings on private land. c. Wisconsin DNR has hired a State Hydrologist to help refine BMPs and guidelines regarding acceptable levels of rutting and soil compaction. This issue is of relevance beyond the State Forests under review, to also include Wisconsin County Forests and perhaps all forests within Wisconsin through the BMP Guidelines. As such the process for revising the guidelines will take additional time. Reviewed "DRAFT Rutting Policy for State Forest Lands – June 20, 2005". Confirmed the literature review as part of the BMP revision, and ongoing research on BMP effectiveness. d. Reviewed WI DNR new publication "10 Ways to Protect Your Woodland Property – An Introduction to Wisconsin's Forest Management Guidelines" which was supported in part by the SFI program. The booklet provides good information on item d and comprises an excellent resource for private landowners and loggers with contact information and with well-organized sources of additional information located in the final pages.
10.1.1	Reviewed resolution adopted by the Natural Resources Board recognizing the Department's commitment to the SFIS. Further, confirmed that WI DNR forest certification policy has been documented in the appropriate DNR Manual Code Handbooks and has been communicated to Department staff, partners and stakeholders by memoranda, news releases and training programs. Forest Certification was an agenda item at each of the state forest working group meetings (Fall, winter and summer). Confirmed that the Wisconsin "Executive Order # 145 Relating to Conserve Wisconsin and the Creation of High Performance Green Building Standards and Energy Conservation for State Facilities and Operations" includes SFI as one of the acceptable standards: "The State guidelines will recognize the use of wood-based materials and products from the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC), American Tree Farm System (ATFS), and Sustainable Forest Initiative (SFI) certification programs." Confirmed that the SFI Logo and the SFI Certificate Number both appear on the multi-part load tickets (Forest Product, Brule River State Forest Hauling Permit, Form 2400-130) used to document proper harvest and sale procedures and sale volumes.
10.1.2	Consistency plan includes certification roles as updated in last 2 years. Public lands handbook are regularly revised, lead by a standing specialty team for public lands, which meets quarterly to review and revise public lands handbooks. State forest working group meetings (Superintendent of each state forest, and key staff including Teague Pritchard, sometimes Area Leaders and other central office staff, often with Jim Warren, Bob Mather, Randy Hoffman, Jeff Barkley, etc.) meetings include certification issues.
10.1.3	Certification related training: The May 2005 State forest meeting had its primary emphasis on certification. New class of foresters (10 field staff) were trained by Paul Pingrey for one day on private forestry including certification. Confirmed that DNR has crafted materials for use by local areas. An example is the "Forest certification tool kit" available on DNR internal drive for first-line supervisors to use locally to train local staff on certification issues. Overall competency: each supervisor does a "Needs assessment for training" for each staff person that looks short and longer term. Training officer reviews bureau-wide training needs with second-line supervisors to determine need and set a calendar for one-time courses or ongoing courses that are offered. Each day in field checked a staff person's "needs assessment". Dave Schultz, BRSF confirmed training plan and Wisconsin DNR Employee Training History. Interview with Jay Gallager confirming that supervisors review training needs and then create needed training sessions (example document reviewed: Interviewed foresters in the field. Goshawk training was arranged for field staff at NHAL in response to finding active goshawk nest. Hydrologist obtained a federal EPA grant for a complete overhaul of BMP training, which is underway. Confirmed "DRAFT MINUTES – Forestry Training Study Team meeting (2nd meeting)" which is a division-wide internal review of training. OFI: There is an opportunity to improve staff training for implementing new master plans
10.1.4	Confirmed that WI DNR will require SFI training of all contractors for contracts effective after 1-1-06. Confirmed changes in policy. Confirmed that timber contract requires that

	loggers follow safety and labor relations requirements. Wisconsin DNR has asked Wisconsin SIC to consider requiring all contractors to have SIC training.
10.2.1	Confirmed with Bill Johnson, Wisconsin SIC Chair to confirm Wisconsin DNR involvement in a range of activities and attendance in SIC meetings. Bill stated that the DNR has been an excellent partner. Checked web site for content of FISTA training, which meets SFI requirements. Daryl Zastrow and Paul Pingrey generally attend Wisconsin SIC meetings, where they have advocated support for funding FISTA and requested increasing requirements for training to include all workers on logging sites (this change is under consideration). Bob Mather is on the Master Logger Certification Board; State of Wisconsin now supports scholarships for loggers seeking Master Logger Certification, expect to pay 50% of cost, Wisconsin SIC paying 25%. DNR staff regularly participate in Wisconsin SIC-approved FISTA logger training sessions as instructors. DNR staff organized and obtained funding for Forest Roads Wetland & Stream Crossings Workshop June 16 & 17, 2005 that included state, country, private and industrial foresters. As part of the effort to help improve BMP practices BRSF obtained and maintains a supply of timber mats for temporary bridging of small streams. Confirmed the "Timber Mat Rental Agreement". In total the activities confirmed under this indicator, including strong leadership in fostering professionalism of wood producers, demonstrate exceptional practices that clearly exceed the standard.
11.1.1	All state statutes and handbooks are available on a web site known to all managers and forestry field staff. A staffer in the Bureau of Legal Services develops and distributes printed statute updates every two years. DNR Handbook updates are updated regularly, with a schedule for these updates maintained by Stacy Youst, Directories Coordinator, Bureau of Management and Budget. Confirmed that supervisory personnel (Superintendent's, Area Forestry Leaders, Team Leaders) have printed copies available. Confirmed field forester had several forestry handbooks on his desk.
11.1.2	*System to achieve compliance with applicable federal, provincial, state, or local laws and regulations.* Confirmed by analysis and observations of supervisory structure of Wisconsin DNR. Trained and highly experience supervisors (Area Forestry Leaders, Team Leaders) are responsible for ensuring laws and regulations are understood and implemented.
11.1.3	Water Regulations and Zoning Bureau: Wisconsin DNR uses a manual code process to get wetlands approvals. There are no reports of violations on state forests.
11.1.4	Obtained and reviewed report on Tree Improvement Programs. Seed orchards use trees from genetic tree improvement. Seed collection for many seeds from consumers (of trees): use seed collection zones.
11.2.1	New employees receive orientation (2 days long) that includes all of the social policy training within first six months of receiving permanent employment. Policies and guidelines exist for all required social laws.
12.1	Confirmed "Cooperative Agreement Between the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources and the Wisconsin Tree Farm Committee" in which Wisconsin DNR provides substantial support for Wisconsin Tree Farm Program.
12.1.1	Confirmed with SIC Chair Wisconsin DNR involvement in promotion of sustainable forestry: Daryl Zastrow and Paul Pingrey generally attend Wisconsin SIC meetings, where they supported involvement with the Wisconsin American Tree Farm program including funding.
12.1.2	Confirmed continuing involvement of WI DNR personnel in SIC meetings and outreach activities. Reviewed WI DNR new publication "10 Ways to Protect Your Woodland Property – An Introduction to Wisconsin's Forest Management Guidelines" which was supported in part by the SFI program. SIC is funding distribution of Tree Farmer magazine to all private landowners in Wisconsin.
12.1.3	Reviewed WI DNR new publication "10 Ways to Protect Your Woodland Property – An Introduction to Wisconsin's Forest Management Guidelines" which was supported in part by the SFI program. This and the more detailed "guidelines" document, which is available in printed versions or on the web, cover all of the RTE, habitat, and biodiversity issues.
12.1.4	WI DNR has a private forestry program which has a very strong (Tree Farm Certified) current use taxation program titled the Managed Forest Law Program.`
12.1.5	Reviewed drafts of ongoing planning documents and recently completed plans, which include regional conservation planning and priority-setting efforts that involved a broad range of stakeholders (examples: Brule Rive State Forest Master Plan and EIS, NHAL State Forest Plan). Discussed DNR leadership in other assessments with regional implications (growth and drain, regeneration are examples, see 9.2.1 above)

12.2.1, 12.5.1	Confirmed continuing involvement of WI DNR personnel in SIC meetings and outreach activities. SIC has an inconsistent practices protocol. Reviewed WI DNR new publication "10 Ways to Protect Your Woodland Property – An Introduction to Wisconsin's Forest Management Guidelines" which was supported in part by the SFI program. Wisconsin SIC has endorsed the Wisconsin Tree Farm Program for such outreach, education, and technical assistance, and Wisconsin DNR has signed an MOU with the Wisconsin Tree Farm Program in which DNR provides financial support, in-kind services (60% of labor for inspections and organization).
12.2.2	BRSF: "Brule River State Forest Visitor" newspaper includes information on sustainable forestry, as does the "BRSF 2005 Annual Report". A naturalist is employed to help educate and inform visitors about a range of issues, including forestry, general ecology, and park rules. Confirmed that the Stone Chimney Canoe Landing boardwalk and the Stony Hill Nature Trail have interpretive signs. Bob Mather is on the Board for Master Logger Certification, and landowners are encouraged to work with "Certified Master Loggers". DNR staff organized and obtained funding for Forest Roads Wetland & Stream Crossings Workshop June 16 & 17, 2005 that included state, country, private and industrial foresters. NHAL: A tour was conducted for the local Chamber of Commerce. A tour of NHAL with representatives of the Lac de Flambeau tribe and the Wisconsin Natural Resources Board is planned for August, 2006. When the NHAL Superintendent retired the Area Forester was designated to be the main point of contact for the tribes. The forest hosts many such tours, and has a large vehicle available for tours and visits to facilitate the process of informing and educating interested groups.
12.2.3	Confirmed by review of recreational facilities on all state forests that the provision of recreational opportunities is a major strength of the state forest management program. Recreational activities that are encouraged and supported in the NHAL State Forest (with most also on the and Brule River State Forest) include hunting, trapping, wildlife viewing, camping, swimming, picnicking, boating, canoeing, fishing, snowmobile riding, biking on paved trails and mountain biking, skiing, snowshoeing, and enjoyment of the forest's scenic resources The trails, campgrounds, and visitor facilities on these lands are very well designed and maintained. Confirmed adequate continued funding of recreation and facilities projects at BRSF by review of printout for currently funded project from biennial budgets from 2002 to present, and proposed projects through 2013 and beyond. Accomplishments at Brule River SF since last visit: created foot trail connection between Stony Hill and North Country National Scenic Trail, upgrades to Mays Ledges Trail, and added pit toilets at Highway 13 Canoe Landing, and had a plan variance to develop the archery trail. BRSF's visitor newspaper has a facilities map with 2 campgrounds, 10 canoe landings, and four specialized trails: hiking trail (1.9 miles), nature trail (1.7 miles), snowmobile trail 26 miles), and x-C skiing/biking trail (14 miles).
12.3.1	*Involvement in public land planning and management activities with appropriate governmental entities and the public.* Reviewed drafts of ongoing planning documents and recently completed plans, which include input from a broad range of stakeholders (examples: Brule Rive State Forest Master Plan and EIS, NHAL State Forest Plan). Confirmed by review of documents including "State Forest Semi-Annual Report 2006 Northern Highlands American Legion Public Informational Meeting, Boulder Junction Community Center May 12, 2006" that regular public meetings are held and reports prepared.
12.3.2	*Appropriate contact with local stakeholders over forest management issues through state, provincial, federal, or independent collaboration.* Reviewed drafts of ongoing planning documents and recently completed plans, which include input from a broad range of stakeholders (examples: Brule Rive State Forest Master Plan and EIS, NHAL State Forest Plan). Confirmed through review of agendas, announcements, and meeting minutes/newsletters that that regular public meetings are held by state forests and reports prepared. Confirmed "State Forest Semi-Annual Report 2006 Northern Highlands American Legion Public Informational Meeting, Boulder Junction Community Center May 12, 2006" is an effective stakeholder communication tool. NHAL also has a web page for timber sales including prospectus, maps, and bid results. Performance exceeds the standard.
12.4.1	Brule River State Forest involvement with affected tribes- local tribal representative attends resource management roundtable meetings, had a special tour of the BRSF with him and Superintendent; spring 2006 GLIFWC wardens attended the northern state forests spring rangers' meeting to discuss treaties and tribal practices; regular contacts as needed NHAL State Forest held meetings with affected tribes. This is the largest state forest, where the plan was recently completed. The plan's EIS considered impacts to cultural resources and

	impacts to resources of tribal interest. The NHAL master planning team met with a tribal advocacy group (GLIFWC) regularly on a government-to-government basis to consult and to receive critical input on potential impacts of proposed activities. NHAL staff regularly meet with representatives of the Lac de Flambeau tribe, and a tour with this tribe and the Wisconsin Natural Resources Board is planned for August, 2006. When the NHAL Superintendent retired the Area Forester was designated to be the main point of contact for tribes.
12.5.2	The process to receive and respond to public inquiries includes formal paper- or computer-based comment or complaint recording and disposition forms, assignment to a senior responsible individual, and communications back to original source of information. In other cases issues are handled less formally.
12.6.1	Confirmed with Jason Metnick of AF&PA prompt response to the SFI annual progress report: Reviewed completed 2005 survey, confirming that Wisconsin DNR comprehensively responded to the annual SFI reporting survey for State Forests.
12.6.2	Confirmed recordkeeping for all the categories of information needed for SFI annual progress reports by interviews with appropriate personnel, review of information systems in place, and review of selected reports that are produced.
12.6.3	Confirmed maintenance of copies of past reports to document progress and improvements to demonstrate conformance to the SFI Standard. The 2004 and 2005 SFI Annual Surveys were provided to the audit team; these are stored in paper and electronic form.
13.1.1	The system for reviewing program effectiveness has two broad categories: performance reviews for staff with program-specific responsibilities, and program-focused reviews. Master plan monitoring, an FSC focus, also covers an important element of program effectiveness. Annual Reports provide a fairly comprehensive review of annual actions and activities on each forest, and in some cases managers are starting to link the annual report to the management plan. The department regularly conducts a comprehensive study of the effectiveness of major programs. Confirmed "DRAFT MINUTES – Forestry Training Study Team meeting (2nd meeting)" which is a division-wide internal review of training. Also confirmed "Forestry Law Enforcement Study: Summary Listing of Recommendations" comprises an effective management review of that portion of the program.
13.1.2	Confirmed that the Leadership Team Meetings regularly include updates about certification status and changes in programs needed to maintain certification or close corrective actions.
13.1.3	Confirmed by review of Forest Leadership Team minutes that management is kept well-informed of progress and that changes and improvements continue to be made to the program.. Certification was also a major agenda item at the Wisconsin Council on Forestry meeting held February 6, 2006, which provided evidence of changes made including significant progress in master plan updates, more emphasis on public input, enhancing training for loggers and DNR staff, and increased focus on roads, overall BMPs, and inventory updates.