

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

*Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
County Forest Program*

SCS-FM/COC-00083G

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<https://dnr.wi.gov/topic/CountyForests/>

CERTIFIED	EXPIRATION
22 December 2019	21 December 2024

DATE OF FIELD EVALUATION
4-7 August 2020
DATE OF REPORT FINALIZATION
26 August 2020

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Foreword

Cycle in annual surveillance evaluations				
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1 st annual evaluation	<input type="checkbox"/> 2 nd annual evaluation	<input type="checkbox"/> 3 rd annual evaluation	<input type="checkbox"/> 4 th annual evaluation	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (expansion of scope, Major CAR audit, special audit, etc.):
Name of Forest Management Enterprise (FME) and abbreviation used in this report:				
Wisconsin Counties (WISCO), Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WIDNR or DNR)				

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

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

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

Organization of the Report

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

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SECTION A – PUBLIC SUMMARY

1. General Information

1.1 Evaluation Team

Auditor name:	Beth Jacquain	Auditor role:	FSC Audit Team Leader
Qualifications:	<p>Beth is a Senior Certification Forester with SCS Global Services with 18+ years' experience in forestry including public land management, private consulting, and private corporate forest management working with landowners and harvest crews. Qualified ANSI RAB accredited ISO 14001 EMS Lead Auditor and an FSC® Lead Auditor for FSC Forest Management/Chain of Custody and Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI®) Fiber Sourcing and SFI Forest Management Standard. Also audited and led harvest and logging certification audits; and joint/combined PEFC® FM (AFS®, RW®, SFI®, ATFS®) audits. An 11-year member of the Forest Guild, 21-year adjunct-Faculty with Itasca Community College, Natural Resources Department. Member 20+ years Society of American Foresters, SAF Certified Forester #1467. Served SAF MN State Chair 2010 and multiple committees, state and national, throughout. MS Forest Biology/Ecology from Auburn University and BS Forest Management from Michigan State University. Beth's experience is in forest management and ecology; ecosystem silviculture; the use of silviculture towards meeting strategic and tactical goals; nursery/tree regeneration; forest timber quality improvement (sawmill/veneer), CSA/FIA Phase II forest inventory; conifer thinning operations, pine restoration, wildfire fighting, and fire ecology in conifer dominated systems. Beth has conducted evaluations throughout the forested regions of the US, WA/Victoria/Tasmania Australia, New Zealand, Fiji Islands (Viti levu), and Slovakia.</p>		
Auditor name:	Shannon Wilks	Auditor role:	FSC team
Qualifications:	<p>Mr. Wilks has over 27 years of professional experience in the forest industry. His roles have included procurement, supply chain management, contract negotiations and environmental management compliance. His experience includes 20 years with a global forest products company where he spent most of his career in the southern United States. He has also managed industrial properties with land management functions. Mr. Wilks is a Controlled Wood Senior Lead Auditor for FSC® Chain of Custody, Lead auditor for Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI®) Chain of Custody Standard, SFI® Fiber Sourcing, SFI® Forest Management Standard, Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification (PEFC®) Chain of Custody Standard and a Lead Auditor for Sustainable Biomass Program (SBP). Mr. Wilks is a graduate of Louisiana Tech University with a Bachelor of Science-Forest Management degree.</p>		

1.2 Total Time Spent on Evaluation

A. Number of days spent on-site for evaluation:	4
B. Number of auditors participating in on-site evaluation:	2
C. Number of days spent by any technical experts (in addition to amount in line A):	0
D. Additional days spent on preparation, stakeholder consultation, and follow-up:	2

E. Total number of person days used in evaluation:	10
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1.3 Standards Used

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

Standards applicable <i>NOTE: Please include the full standard name and Version number and check all that apply.</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Forest Stewardship Standard(s), including version: FSC-US Forest Management Standard, V1-0, 2010
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FSC Trademark Standard (FSC-STD-50-001 V2-0)
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SCS COC indicators for FMEs, V8-0
	<input type="checkbox"/> FSC standard for group entities in forest management groups (FSC-STD-30-005), V1-1
	<input type="checkbox"/> Other:

2. Certification Evaluation Process

2.1 Evaluation Itinerary, Activities, and Site Notes

Tuesday, August 4: Wood County – All Auditors
<p>Opening Meeting, 8:00 AM <i>Due to Covid-19 safety considerations the Opening Meeting was planned to not to exceed 10 attendees, including auditors. Additionally alternative venues for the Opening meeting with space for social distancing or an outdoor venues were used as much as possible. Auditors drove separately from FME staff, mask use and social distancing were followed.</i></p> <p>Opening Meeting, partial office and remote call-in, see Meeting Attendees list in Appendix : Introductions, client update, review scope of evaluation, audit plan, intro/update to FSC and SCS standards, confidentiality and public summary, conformance evaluation methods and tools, review of open CARs/OBS, emergency and security procedures for evaluation team, final site tour adjustments/additions.</p>
Site #/Tract number, name/Sale Number/Acres/Site Notes
<p>1. Tract 07-19 Natures Touch 27 acres. Salvage damaged timber within sale area. Boundaries are red and blue paint lines and town road. Entire stand harvested to promote regeneration. Dry soil conditions needed for harvesting. Purchased 8/21/19 with contractor information including insurance, training records. Natural Heritage Inventory (NHI) review found turtle, fish, bird, and frog species occurrences. No cultural or historical sites identified during prior review. Red shouldered hawk has nest on adjacent land. Green tree retention (GTR) throughout. Red paint on sale boundary. <i>Note: WI Counties all use WI DNR Form 2460, an environmental review checklist that serves as a</i></p>

<p><i>management prescription record. This form uses standardized sections for General Sale Description, Ecological Considerations, Water Quality Considerations, Aesthetic Considerations, Wildlife Considerations, Recreation Considerations (Trails, Campgrounds, Parks, etc), and Resources of Special Concern Considerations (Archaeological/Historical Review). The actions implemented during harvest and confirmed during this site visit were consistent with the 2460. Consistent implementation with 2460's may be assumed for the sites that follow unless otherwise specified.</i></p>
<p>2. Tract 6-19 Albino Aspen 36 acres. Purchased 6/25/2020 with contractor info provided. Aspen regeneration and salvage storm damaged timber. July 2019 storm with previous salvage operation. Green Tree Retention (GTR) with green and red marked trees. No invasive species found. NHI check found turtle, fish, frog and bird species hits within 2 mile buffer but none in management area. No chemical use. No cultural or historical sites identified during review. Website map checked on 4/30/2020. Red paint sale boundary. Discussion: use of NHI for RTE reviews.</p>
<p>3. Tract 9-15 Hidden Nugget Sale 50 acres. Sale was a combination of Aspen regeneration via coppice, improvement thinning in an oak/hardwood stand as well as an overstory removal to release advanced regeneration. Sale also within Wood County Dexter Park and involved the Yellow River with BMPs, recreational trails, campground and recreational considerations. Verified river boundary and buffer. Basal area 90-120 ft with 10-150 foot buffer between trail that paralleled the river. RMZ requirements met. Purchased on 4/25/16 contractor info provided. NHI check found butterfly, bird, and federally endangered Karner Blue Butterfly (KBB) high habitat potential range within 2 mile buffer. No cultural or historic occurrence. No chemical use.</p>
<p>4. Tract 6-15 Special Oak Sale 58 acres. Red pine row thinning, red pine marked thinning, oak harvest cut and aspen/oak coppice. Sale purchased 4/25/16 with contractor info provided. Oak wilt restriction April 1-July 15. Annosum Stump treatment required on pine stumps. NHI list 1 butterfly; 1 bird species and KBB high potential range within 2 mile buffer. No archaeological occurrences identified. Discussion: DATCAP requirements for Cellu-treat applications.</p>
<p>5. Tract 10-18 Three Point Popple 40 acres. Coppice harvest except all white pines and oak not marked with orange paint. Purchased on 4/10/19 with contractor info provided. 1 species identified within NHI and 0 archaeological occurrence. RMZ within sale delineated with red paint line. No chemical use identified on Timber Sale Notice and Cutting Report. Oak wilt restriction on harvesting. Firm/Frozen ground condition harvest only.</p>
<p>6. Tract 3-16 Keyhole Sale 38 acres. Shelterwood thinning to promote oak regeneration. Purchased on 5/17/18. Special concern turtle identified on NHI check but no habitat observed on ground. No archaeological occurrences identified. No chemical use identified. ITEM 15b.—YES AUDITORS REALLY DO READ THIS STUFF to ensure it meets SFI Forest Management Standards! Good regen throughout.</p>
<p>7. Tract 1-18 "50/50" 35 acres. Harvest sale with objective to regenerate with similar tree species. Mature to over mature oak. 1-2 acres pole sized aspen and red maple. Reserve green painted trees-GTR 11/acre. Some dead oak to be left for wildlife. Invasive buckthorn present with discussion to prevent spread. Harvest timing restrictions to control for oak wilt infestation were not applicable due to advanced state of oak. Natural regeneration planned. NHI indicated one plant within 2 mile buffer- no impact during harvesting. Enhancement of site noted. No stream size or riverside management zones RMZ). No historical or archaeological sites after checking on 1/18/18. Purchased on 6/11/18. Very good regen. Abundant and high quality snags and cavity trees retained. Original goal of 11 trees per acre GTR down due to continued mortality from oak wilt resulting in 2-7 / ac in observed area.</p>

<p>8. PJ Scarification - site dozed to scarify soil and create seedbed for jack pine to replace oak in area with very heavy oak wilt infestation. Will be hand seeded by foresters with locally sourced seed in the fall. Discussions: insect and disease considerations in forest management, succession vs forest type conversions, forests as providing habitat diversity.</p>
<p>Wednesday, August 5: Juneau County- Jacqmain</p>
<p>1. Bass Hollow Park HCV. Indigenous notes for site. Invasive species control, Early Detection Rapid Response (EDRR), herbicide application with applicator licensing and spray records for Garlon, aminopyralid, triclopyr, and Metsulfuron-methyl in multiple, separate applications to manage wild parsnip, Eurasian honeysuckle, multiflora rose, and autumn olive, garlic mustard, crown vetch, glossy buckthorn, and Japanese barberry.</p>
<p>2. Tract 09-15 Jack pine/oak harvest 23 acres. Clearcut retaining marked oak and all white and red pine snag and den trees. Objective to regenerate oak and jack pine. Oak wilt restrictions. NHI check found 2 species resulting in harvest restrictions for protections and otherwise harvest will enhance. Sale Purchased on 13 March 2015. Snags and green tree retention abundant. Wetland area excluded from sale providing buffer. Easement through property. A history review of the property was done in response to adjacent landowner requesting easement relocation. County worked through the process and the easement was relocated. Property boundary painted in red, eastern boundary had been surveyed staked and staked with rebar.</p>
<p>3. Atv trail - 2 miles stretch is the only ATV trail in Juneau County and was state funded. It was an existing snowmobile trail.</p>
<p>4. Tract 06-16. Kennedy Park and camping area. Thinning poor quality and suppressed trees and to reduce hazard risk near park and to promote more long-lived species in “big tree silviculture”. Stands being managed for social and ecological benefits in a high recreation use area. Black locust noted at old homestead location on-site. Was determined no action was best course. To honor the will of the person who donated the land for Kennedy Park & to protect wildlife, no hunting is allowed. Each fall the park hosts the Annual Wisconsin Bow hunter’s Association Broadhead Target Shooting event. Deer browsing present but relying on natural regeneration of red and white pine in the long-term stand planning. Residual damage was monitored during the harvest with minimal to no damage found. Sale purchased by on 11 March 2016.</p>
<p>5. Tract 06-15 Oak Ridge 23 acres. Natural regeneration harvest for oak leaving advanced regeneration, pine for mixed oak/pine forest. NHI found federally endangered Karner Blue Butterfly (KBB) area with lupine (host plant for larvae) found in follow-up survey, harvest determined to be of positive benefit for creation of KBB habitat. NHI review also found Northern Goshawk with last observance in 1997, no nests or activity found on site, site determined to be marginal quality for NG. Aesthetic considerations as location in Oak Ridge Recreation Area. Trail network for hiking and hunting use. Left higher density of oaks for visual management and give structural diversity retaining den and mast trees. Signage used during harvest. Cultural review found old log cabin protected from harvesting. Cabin to be evaluated for potential public hazard. Purchased on 18 March 2015. Boundaries painted in red.</p>
<p>6. Tract 07-18 Cutler Sale 71 acres. Multi-stand sale entailing 2 stands with overstory removal to release existing understory of desired species and 1 stand of improvement thinning in red pine for Sawlog and utility poles marked to cut. Stand ages, silviculture systems, green tree retention, regeneration plan, and other details included in Form 2460. Buckthorn found on-site and stems pulled by hand. Recreational hunting area determined to be enhanced by management. NHI check found high potential KBB area, no findings in lupine/butterfly surveys. 1 Bird finding and consulted with Conservation Biologist for management considerations. No historic or cultural sites found. Cellu-treat used for Annosum root rot. Stand boundaries painted red, property line at adjacent private land r in</p>

<p>blue. Retention areas within stand 3 marked with red paint. Purchased on 16 March 2018. Improved road for bear hunters by DNR Fire techs who need dozer training hours. DNR Fire techs will also help marking sales in the fall. Red paint sale on sale boundary of red pine thinning used Cellutreat, Chem applicator record with FISTA in the logger training record supplied. Abutting neighbor notified of sale when setting up the cutting line agreement (letter). Cross country ski trail through pine stand.</p>
<p>7. Tract 02-20 Red Pine thinnings 53 acres. Area A – Red pine thinning. Area B – Red and White pine thinned. Both marked to cut with orange paint. Thinning from below for growth, health and vigor leaving 2/3 of overstory. Prior thinnings. Root treatment for Heterobasidion root disease. NHI check found KBB in area. Landings excluded heavy concentration of host plant in nearby open areas as potential habitat for butterfly. Cellutreat application on roots. No cultural or historical sites identified. Purchased by TNT Timber Improvement LLC on 12 March 2020.</p>
<p>8. Tract 03-11. Prescribed burn 160 acres. Sanitation harvest of all dead and live scrub oak in stand heavily infested by oak wilt. White oak and all other species retained. Retained 3 or more wildlife snags per acre. Timber sale 73 acres, sold March 2011. Large retention patches confirmed although some oak mortality has occurred. The opportunity to use prescribed fire to shift the stand to native jack pine and replace heavy oak wilt area was recognized given adjacent land, agriculture fields, and road configurations that would allow strong burn controls and fire breaks. Prescribed burn done October 2015. Seeded in with jack pine after the burn.</p>
<p>9. Tract 03-20 LL Cool J 92 acres. Red pine thinning cut all orange painted. 2nd thinning marked down to 110 sqft/ac leaving about 2/3 existing overstory. NHI check found high potential range for butterfly and occurrence of butterfly found near sale area. Host plant surveys conducted with none found. Management determined to enhance habitat value for the species of consideration. Heterobasidion Root Disease treated with stump applications as cut. No cultural or historical sites found in archaeological/historical review. Sale purchased 12 March 2020.</p>
<p>10. Tract 04-20 Oculus 91 acres. Red pine thinnings in multiple stands, one oak area clearcut to regenerate to jack pine using trenching and direct seeding. Stand ages, prior treatments/thinnings, target residual basal areas are detailed in 2460. Pine stump treatments for Heterobasidion root disease. NHI review found high potential range of KBB. Butterfly survey and occurrence of state endangered lizard identified near sale. Both species determined no suitable habitat or positive impact from management activities. Archaeological/historical found no sites. Abundant green tree retention and good regeneration evident. Discussion: regeneration monitoring.</p>
<p>11. PJ Seeding. Oak and Jack pine harvest. Biomass site. A dozer was used to seed with “seed bomb” and seed delivery device attached by chain to the dozer.</p>
<p>Thursday, August 6: Jackson County - All auditors</p>
<p>Jackson County Workshop (open air): Abbreviated opening meeting. Review of Forester and Forest Tech training records. Safety discussion including County provided Insect Shield clothing for tick and insect protections and installation of clothes washer/dryer. Note: this office visit occurred in the open air-workshop/garage for Covid-19 safety considerations.</p>
<p>Tract 2-16 28 Acres. Contract for timber sale (TS) and logger training records supplied and examined. These records were provided for all sales in Jackson County. Harvest area was cut targeting all merchantable and non-merchantable trees down to 2” DBH except green marked and dead trees. Map observed with description of requirements. Observed TS notice and Cutting Report with completion date of 12/12/17. NHI review listed federal endangered butterfly for harvest area. No RMZ’s on stand. Retention of wildlife trees observed. No recreational considerations. Observed BMP language and regulatory requirements within contracts.</p>
<p>Tract 1-17 Road project, Sale 2473. Sale Area was 1320 ft x 60 ft (1.8 acres). Road construction clearing. All merchantable species to be cut. Sold 2/17/17 with completion of 4/1/2017. Timber Sale</p>

<p>Notice and Cutting Report finalized 6/5/18. NHI review-Karner Blue Butterfly listed-Federal Endangered. Review confirmed harvest area is intact overstory-no sunlight for lupine (host plant) or nectar pollinator plants. No RMZ or aesthetic considerations. No archaeological concerns-review of check conducted. Observed BMP language and regulatory requirements within contracts. Gated under authority of MSHA.</p>
<p>Tract 10-18 Jack Pine oak harvest, 36 acres. Sale area with 20 acre coppice regeneration and 16 acre overstory removal-cut of all Jack Pine and Aspen. Observed designated BMP area within sale. Red Line was minimum 15 ft away from stream ordinary high water mark. 100 foot buffer area-removal of Jack Pine and Aspen-residual BA down 45 sqft. Going lower than BMP recommended 60 sqft was justified within 2460. County Board members brought to site as part of advisory committee to approve overall silviculture approach and variations. Aesthetic management noted with retention of oak, maple and white pine trees. Impact to recreation identified-Trails. Frozen ground requirement. No archaeological impacts. Hunting allowed.</p>
<p>Wazee County Park - Wazee County Park is a reclaimed open pit iron mine. The deep clear water Wazee Lake hosts divers from all over the region. No gas motors are allowed on the lake, promoting silent sports like kayaking and canoeing. The Jackson County Iron Company started operating in the late 1960's before modern mining and environmental regulation existed. The mine produced hundreds of thousands of tons of ore annually. The mine closed in 1983. This abandoned mine with huge piles of overburden was transformed into a recreation destination that now hosts thousands of visitors annually. Visitors come to fish, kayak, hike, camp, scuba dive and use the beach. Lake Wazee is a 160-acre crystal clear lake that is 355 feet deep. The County Park currently has a herd of 10 elk that reside inside the park that came from the second Wisconsin elk reintroduction. The elk reintroduction was supported by RMEF (Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation), Jackson County Wildlife (local conservation group) Jackson County Board of Supervisors and the Ho-Chunk Nation.</p>
<p>Apiary site visit at Wayzee Park. This was a beehive site. Set up as a control in a bee study because of the little to no pesticide use in Wazee Park.</p>
<p>HCV SNA adjacent to county land, Globally imperiled pine barrens. County land about 140 acres surrounding the state HCV. Joint planning with WI DNR incorporating and cooperating with USFWS. Site was prescribe burned 15 yrs prior on county land but soils were too poor for the planned more frequent burning. One of the five units was used as a control unit that will not be burned instead mechanical site modification was used. Now managing in cooperation for 3 rare butterflies w 1 lupine species (host plant).</p>
<p>Tract 33-18 Red Pine thinning, Sale 538 with 264 acres. There were 255 acres harvested by clearcut and a 9 Acre Red Pine Thinning. Tract sold on 11/7/18. Review of TS Notice and Cutting Report-Management objectives identified, NHI check conducted, Landscape consideration identified, RMZ required. Wildlife snags left with recreation impact-identified. Observed BMP language and regulatory compliance requirements within contract.</p>
<p>Tract 1-18 Red Pine 1st thin, Sale Number 2527. Area 102 Acres. Cut every 4th row in Units A-D (39 acres); Cut all orange marked trees in Units E-H (63 acres). Review of Management objectives, soil habitats, NHI check and RMZ area. Heterobasidion Root Disease (HRD) treatment. Snags left for wildlife retention. Count contacted Trail Manager due to harvest impact. Concern identified for Archaeological along southern harvest area-no road building or soil disturbance allowed. Restrictions for cutting, skidding and road-building between April 1-July 15 (Oak Wilt). Observed BMP language and regulatory compliance requirements within contract.</p>
<p>Tract 25-18 Red Pine CC, Sale Number 2525. Area-20 acres over-story removal, cutting all Red Pine. No RMZ within sale area. Maps observed with denotations to leave white pine and hardwood for aesthetics. Acreage kept small to minimize visual impacts. Prescription for snags to be left. No</p>

historical or archaeological concerns based on 1/22/18 review. HRD (Annosum) Stump Treatment. Observed BMP language and regulatory requirements within contracts.
Friday, August 7: Jackson County - All auditors
8:00 am Stakeholder and staff interviews at lodging conference room, auditors only. Document review. WISFirs review. Auditor Deliberations.
2:00 pm Closing meeting at South Wood County Park (Outdoor and remote call-in): Re-introduction for any new attendees, Review any outstanding problems or issues encountered during audit; presentation of the audit conclusions; any new CARs or OBS and their classification; confidentiality and public summary; questions.

2.2 Evaluation of Management Systems

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

3. Changes in Management Practices

- There were no significant changes in the management and/or harvesting methods that affect the FME’s conformance to the FSC standards and policies.
- Significant changes occurred since the last evaluation that may affect the FME’s conformance to FSC standards and policies (*describe*):

4. Results of Evaluation

4.1 Definitions of Major CARs, Minor CARs and Observations

Major CARs: Major nonconformances, either alone or in combination with nonconformances of all other applicable indicators, result (or are likely to result) in a fundamental failure to achieve the objectives of the relevant FSC Criterion given the uniqueness and fragility of each forest resource. These are corrective actions that must be resolved or closed out before a certificate can be awarded. If Major CARs arise after an operation is certified, the timeframe for correcting these nonconformances is typically shorter than for Minor CARs. Certification is contingent on the certified FME’s response to the CAR within the stipulated time frame.

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

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

4.2 History of Findings for Certificate Period

FM Principle	Cert/Re-cert Evaluation (2019)	1 st Annual Evaluation (2020)	2 nd Annual Evaluation (2021)	3 rd Annual Evaluation (2022)	4 th Annual Evaluation (2023)
No findings	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
P1					
P2					
P3					
P4					
P5					
P6					
P7					
P8					
P9					
P10					
COC for FM					
Trademark					
Group					
Other					

4.3 Existing Corrective Action Requests and Observations

There were no open non-conformities.

4.4 New Corrective Action Requests and Observations

No new non-conformities were issued as a result of this audit.

5. Stakeholder Comments

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

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

Stakeholder consultation activities are organized to give participants the opportunity to provide comments according to general categories of interest based on the three FSC chambers, as well as the SCS Interim Standard, if one was used.

5.1 Stakeholder Groups Consulted

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

5.2 Summary of Stakeholder Comments and Evaluation Team Responses

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

The audit team sent email invitation to a selection of stakeholders for consultation as relevant to the Principles, Criteria and Indicators being evaluated in this audit.

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <i>FME has not received any stakeholder comments from interested parties as a result of stakeholder outreach activities during this annual evaluation.</i>	
Stakeholder Comment	SCS Response

6. Certification Decision

The certificate holder has demonstrated continued overall conformance to the applicable Forest Stewardship Council standards. The SCS annual evaluation team recommends that the certificate be sustained, subject to subsequent annual evaluations and the FME's response to any open CARs.	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
Comments:	

7. Annual Data Update

<input type="checkbox"/> No changes since previous evaluation.	
<input type="checkbox"/> Information in the following sections has changed since previous evaluation.	
<input type="checkbox"/> Name and Contact Information <input type="checkbox"/> FSC Sales Information <input type="checkbox"/> Scope of Certificate <input type="checkbox"/> Non-SLIMF FMUs <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Social Information	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pesticide and Other Chemical Use <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Production Forests <input type="checkbox"/> FSC Product Classification <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation & High Conservation Value Areas <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Areas Outside of the Scope of Certification

Name and Contact Information

Organization name	Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources – County Forest Program		
Contact person	Douglas Brown		
Address	518 W. Somo Ave. Tomahawk, WI 54487	Telephone	715-966-0157
		Fax	
		e-mail	Douglas.brown@wisconsin.gov
		Website	http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/CountyForests/

FSC Sales Information

<input type="checkbox"/> FSC Sales contact information same as above.			
FSC salesperson	Sabina Dhungana, Forest Products Services Specialist		
Address		Telephone	(608) 261-0754
		Fax	(608) 266-8756
		e-mail	Sabina.Dhungana@wisconsin.gov
		Website	http://www.dnr.wi.gov

Scope of Certificate

Certificate type	<input type="checkbox"/> Single FMU	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Multiple FMU
	<input type="checkbox"/> Group	
SLIMF if applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> Small SLIMF certificate	<input type="checkbox"/> Low intensity SLIMF certificate

	<input type="checkbox"/> Group SLIMF certificate		
# Group Members (if applicable)			
Number of FMU's in scope of certificate	21		
Geographic location of non-SLIMF FMU(s)	<i>Latitude & Longitude:</i> See non-SLIMF table below		
Forest zone	<input type="checkbox"/> Boreal	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Temperate	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Subtropical	<input type="checkbox"/> Tropical	
Total forest area in scope of certificate which is:		Units: <input type="checkbox"/> ha or <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ac	
privately managed			
state managed			
community managed WICFP Note: (Rpt.50A 7/1/2020 - FSC only)	1,782,081.21		
Number of FMUs in scope that are:			
less than 100 ha in area	0	100 - 1000 ha in area	0
1000 - 10 000 ha in area	4	more than 10 000 ha in area	17
Total forest area in scope of certificate which is included in FMUs that:		Units: <input type="checkbox"/> ha or <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ac	
are less than 100 ha in area	0		
are between 100 ha and 1000 ha in area	0		
meet the eligibility criteria as <i>low intensity</i> SLIMF FMUs	0		
Division of FMUs into manageable units:			
FMU are individual County Forests which are further subdivided into compartments and stands. See Non-SLIMF FMUs, below.			

Non-SLIMF FMUs (Multiple FMU Certificate)

Name of County	Phone number	Location & Coordinates		Total forest area	Year(s) evaluated
Ashland	(715) 769-3777	46° 12' 45" N	-90° 28' 56" W	40,305.19	Since 2005
Bayfield	(715) 373-6114	46° 47' 12" N	-90° 58' 52" W	172,020.87	Since 2005
Chippewa	(715) 726-7921	45° 11' 50" N	-91° 14' 53" W	34,653.84	Since 2005
Clark	(715) 743-5140	44° 35' 54" N	-90° 47' 46" W	134,672.26	Since 2005
Douglas	(715) 378-2219	46° 17' 39" N	-92° 0' 7" W	280,066.27	Since 2005
Eau Claire	(715) 839-4783	44° 45' 9" N	-91° 2' 7" W	52,670.71	Since 2005
Florence	(715) 528-3207	45° 46' 53" N	-88° 15' 4" W	36,394.80	Since 2005
Iron	(715) 561-2697	46° 17' 45" N	-90° 13' 48" W	175,308.42	Since 2005
Jackson	(715) 284-8475	44° 20' 57" N	-90° 32' 6" W	122,450.16	Since 2005
Lincoln	(715) 539-1034	45° 22' 57" N	-89° 50' 45" W	100,843.05	Since 2005
Oconto	(920) 834-7131	45° 2' 24" N	-88° 16' 40" W	43,705.83	Since 2005
Oneida	(715) 369-6140	45° 35' 24" N	-89° 37' 1" W	82,399.15	Since 2018
Price	(715) 339-6371	45° 34' 9" N	-90° 23' 54" W	92,302.45	Since 2005
Sawyer	(715) 634-6728	45° 42' 43" N	-91° 3' 9" W	115,196.50	Since 2005
Vilas	(715) 479-5160	46° 2' 8" N	-89° 17' 19" W	41,141.41	Since 2017

Washburn	(715) 635-4490	45° 57' 3" N	-91° 44' 54" W	149,956.03	Since 2005
Wood	(715) 421-8549	44° 22' 45" N	-90° 6' 2" W	37,826.21	Since 2005
Barron	(715) 537-6296	45° 37' 16" N	-91° 52' 6" W	16,264.69	Since 2005
Forest	(715) 478-3475	45° 31' 52" N	-88° 52' 26" W	14,826.67	Since 2005
Juneau	(608) 847-9390	44° 1' 2" N	-90° 8' 14" W	17,798.79	Since 2005
Taylor	(715) 748-1486	45° 19' 15" N	-90° 3' 47" W	17,687.92	Since 2005

Social Information

Number of forest workers (including contractors) working in forest within scope of certificate (differentiated by gender):		
Male workers: 1514	Female workers: 95	
Number of accidents in forest work since previous evaluation:	Serious: 0	Fatal: 0

Pesticide and Other Chemical Use

<input type="checkbox"/> FME does not use pesticides.					
County	Commercial name of pesticide / herbicide	Active ingredient	Quantity applied since previous evaluation (kg or lbs.)	Total area treated since previous evaluation (ha or ac)	Reason for use
Ashland	Accord XRT II	Glyphosate	24 Gallons	40	Site prep of hunter walking trails, invasive control, ROW Vegetation control
	Garlon 4 Ultra	Triclopyr-butoxyethyl ester	17.5 Gallons	45	Site prep of hunter walking trails, invasive control, ROW Vegetation control
	Oust XP	Sulfometuron methyl	2.375 Gallons	40	Site prep of hunter walking trails, invasive control, ROW Vegetation control
Barron	none				
Bayfield	Chopper	Imazapyr	41 gallons	263 acres	Site Prep for planting or seeding
	Accord XRT	Glyphosate	99 gallons	263	Site Prep for planting or seeding
	Oust Extra	Sulfometuron methyl	17 pounds	263	Site Prep for planting or seeding
	Forestry Garlon XRT	Triclopyr	9.5 gallons	60	Vegetation Management for Barrens
	Garlon 4 Ultra	Triclopyr	49 oz	9	Common Buckthorn
	Garlon 4 Ultra	Triclopyr	4 gallons	2	Oak Wilt Treatment
	Transline	Clypyralid	11 oz	2.5	Spotted Knapweed
	Transline	Clypyralid	4.25 oz	3.875	Black Locust
	Milestone	Aminopyralid	5 gallons	238	Spotted Knapweed
	Element 4	Triclopyr	13.5 gallons	2.75	Vegetation Management for Climate Change Project

Chippewa	Cornerstone Plus	glyphosate, N-(phosphonomethyl) glycine	.1 lbs	Spot treat 66 acres	Garlic Mustard suppression
Clark	<i>Garlon 4 Ultra</i>	Triclopyr	27.27 gallons	35.9 acres & Spot Treatments	Basal Bark Oak Release & Invasive Control
	<i>Roundup Custom</i>	Glyphosate	9 ounces	>1	Embankment maintenance
	<i>Escort XP</i>	Metsulfuron methyl	0.8 ounces	5 acres & Spot Treatments	Invasive Control
	<i>Aquaneat</i>	Glyphosate	32 ounces	0.5	Embankment maintenance
	<i>Transline</i>	Clopyralid	74.14 ounces	24 acres & Spot Treatments	Invasive Control
	<i>Milestone</i>	Aminopyralid	393.1 ounces	25 acres & Spot Treatments	Invasive Control
	<i>Tordon K</i>	Picloram	94.44 ounces	22 acres & Spot Treatments	Invasive Control
	<i>Polaris</i>	Imazapyr	8 ounces	0.5	Embankment maintenance
	<i>Activator 90 Surfactant</i>	Surfactant	16 ounces	>1	Embankment maintenance
	<i>Preference Surfactant</i>	Surfactant	61.44 ounces	Spot Treatments	Invasives
Douglas	Rodeo	Glyphosate	Less than 1/2 oz. 50% mix rate	Approximately 120 sq ft were treated	To control yellow flag iris
	Pathfinder II	Triclopyr	32 oz. total, rate of 16 oz./hour	1/4 acre	To control black locust
	Pathfinder II	Triclopyr	16 oz, 4oz/hour	5 acres	To control buckthorn
Eau Claire	Cellu-Treat	Borax	20 gallons	200 Acres	HRD Prevention
Florence	Garlon 3A	Triclopyr triethylamine sale	3 quarts	2 acres	ATC power line maintenance
	Escort XP	Metsulfuron methyl	1.5 ounces	2 acres	ATC power line maintenance
Forest	None				
Iron	None				
Jackson	Garlon XRT and Garlon	Triclopyr	XRT 357.5oz and 38.5qts	85acres and 60.5acres	Glossy Buckthorn

	Roundup	Glyphosate	56.5 qts	53 acres	weeds and Garlic Mustard
	Vanquish	Diglycolamine	1.25 oz	10 acres	Glossy Buckthorn
	Escort	Metsulfuronmethy	122 oz	35 acres	Glossy Buckthorn
	Polaris	Imazapyr	50 oz	20 acres	Glossy Buckthorn
	Vastlan	Triclopyr choline	39.5 oz	15 acres	Glossy Buckthorn
Juneau	Opensight	Aminopyralid+MSM /627-19-597	Rate: 1oz/10gal, Q: 20 gallons, Surfactant:1/2pt Activator 90	7.5 acres	Invasive Species Control
Lincoln	Element 4	Triclopyr	2% solution/foiar spot spray	26 acres	garlic mustard/road right of way
	Oust	Sulforeturon methyl	1 oz./acre	25 acres	garlic mustard
	Cellutreat	Disodium Octaborate Tetrahydrate (CAS No. 12280-03-4)	5% solution	stump spray 151 acres	HRD
	Cornerstone Plus	Glyphosate	2% solution/foiar spot spray	2 acres	road right of way/brush
Oconto	Round-up	Glyphosate	16 OZ	1/10th	Kill Garlic Mustard
	Polaris/Round Up	Imazypr	4 Oz Imazypr/12 Oz Gyphosate	1/5th acre	Kill Ornamental Bittersweet
	Polaris	Imazypr	5 Oz	1/10th acre	Kill Phragmites
	Polaris	Imazypr	4 Oz	1/5th acre	Kill Aspen Encroaching on Forest Opening
	Polaris	Imazypr	2 Oz	1/10th acre	Kill Garlic Mustard and other invasives
	Cellutreat	disodium Octaborate Tetrahydrate	150 pounds	225 acre	HRD
Oneida	Milestone	Aminopyralid	0.43 lb Active Ingredient	14 ac	Control of invasive species in wildlife openings.
	Milestone	Aminopyralid	0.006 lb Active Ingredient	0.5 ac	Control of woody and herbaceous encroachment on gravel camp pads and driveway
	Makaze	Glyphosate	1.125 lb Active Ingredient	0.5 ac	Control of woody and herbaceous encroachment on gravel camp pads and driveway
	Evade	Prodiamine	1.25 lb Active Ingredient	0.5 ac	Control of woody and herbaceous encroachment on gravel camp pads and driveway
Price	Glystar	Glyphosate	2.5% solution	12 acres	Wildlife opening maintenance and park maintenance
	Accord XRT II	Glyphosate	35.15 gallons	62.5 acres	Planting Site Prep
	Oust	sulfometuron-methyl	62.5 oz.	62.5 acres	Planting Site Prep
	Chopper GEN 11	Isopropylamine salt	9.76 gallons	62.5 acres	Planting Site Prep

	Garlon 4	Triclopyr	4oz.	9 buckthorn basal bark treated	buckthorn control
Sawyer	Garlon 4	Triclopyrbutoxyethyl ester	1 gallon	Less than 1 acre	Oak wilt control.
Taylor	Garlon 3A	Triclopyr 44.4%	5 oz	1 acre spot treat	Dam maintenance
	Garlon 3A	Triclopyr 44.4%	18 oz	3.5 acres spot treat	invasive control: buckthorn and honeysuckle
	Buccanneer Plus	Glyphosate 41%	15 oz	3 acres spot treat	invasive control: buckthorn and honeysuckle
Vilas	Chopper, Accord, Oust	Imazapyr, Glyphosate, Sulfometuron	6.5 gallons, 18.75 gallons, 50.0 ounces	50 acres	site prep for red oak
Washburn	Garlon 4	triclopyr butoxyethyl ester	1/4 pound	1/20 acre	treatment of scattered buckthorn
Wood	Cellu-Treat	Disodium Octaborate Tetrahydrate	Quantity – applied to cut stumps according to label	4 acres	prevent spread of Heterobasidion

Production Forests

Timber Forest Products	Units: <input type="checkbox"/> ha or <input type="checkbox"/> ac
Total area of production forest (i.e. forest from which timber may be harvested)	1,478,925 forested area. (1,419,309 ac-96% of total forested area is scheduled for harvest) (Rpt.101)
Area of production forest classified as 'plantation'	0
Area of production forest regenerated primarily by replanting or by a combination of replanting and coppicing of the planted stems	139,613 (PR, SW and 2/3 PJ) (Rpt.102)
Area of production forest regenerated primarily by natural regeneration, or by a combination of natural regeneration and coppicing of the naturally regenerated stems	1,339,312
Silvicultural system(s)	Area under type of management
Even-aged management	
Clearcut (clearcut size range 18.5)	163,195 - 1/3 PJ, OX, 1/2 MR, Fb, SB, 1/2 T, 1/2 C
Shelterwood	181,525 PW, O & 1/2 MR
Other: (e.g., coppice, seed-tree)	669,405 (A, BW, MC, SC, 1/2 T, 1/2 C)
Uneven-aged management	
Individual tree selection	230,438 NH
Group selection	75,625 BH, SH, CH, H, MD
Other:	

<input type="checkbox"/> Other (e.g. nursery, recreation area, windbreak, bamboo, silvo-pastoral system, agro-forestry system, etc.)		
Non-timber Forest Products (NTFPs)		
Area of forest protected from commercial harvesting of timber and managed primarily for the production of NTFPs or services		0
Other areas managed for NTFPs or services		0
Approximate annual commercial production of non-timber forest products included in the scope of the certificate, by product type		0
Species in scope of joint FM/COC certificate: <i>Scientific/ Latin Name (Common/ Trade Name)</i>		
Species	Scientific Name	Miscellaneous conifers:
Aspen/Poplar:	Populus tremuloides	Scotch pine Pinus sylvestris
	Populus grandidentata	European larch Larix decidua
Balsam poplar	Populus balsamifera	Norway spruce Picea abies
		Eastern red cedar Juniperus virginiana
Bottomland hardwoods:		Blue spruce Picea pungens
Eastern Cottonwood	Populus deltoides	Miscellaneous deciduous:
Swamp white oak	Quercus bicolor	Norway maple Acer platanoides
Silver maple	Acer saccharinum	Boxelder Acer negundo
American elm	Ulmus americana	Black locust Robinia pseudoacacia
River birch	Betula nigra	Honey locust Gleditsia triacanthos
Green ash	Fraxinus pennsylvanica	Eastern Hophornbeam, Ostrya virginiana
		Ironwood
		Musclewood, Blue Carpinus caroliniana
		beech
		Northern hardwoods:
Central hardwoods:		Sugar maple Acer saccharum
White oak	Quercus alba	Yellow birch Betula alleghaniensis
Bur oak	Quercus macrocarpa	White ash Fraxinus americana
Black oak	Quercus velutina	American beech Fagus grandifolia
Northern pin oak	Quercus ellipsoidalis	American basswood Tilia americana
Black walnut	Juglans nigra	White birch Betula papyrifera
Butternut	Juglans cinerea	Northern red oak Quercus rubra
Shagbark hickory	Carya ovata	Red Pine Pinus resinosa
Bitternut hickory	Carya cordiformis	Jack Pine Pinus banksiana
Black cherry	Prunus serotina	Eastern white pine Pinus strobus
Red maple	Acer rubrum	Black spruce Picea mariana
Hackberry	Celtis occidentalis	Tamarack Larix laricina
		Black ash Fraxinus nigra
Balsam fir	Abies balsamea	White spruce Picea glauca
Eastern hemlock	Tsuga canadensis	Northern white cedar Thuja occidentalis

FSC Product Classification

Timber products		
Product Level 1	Product Level 2	Species
W1	W1.1 Roundwood (logs/pulp)	All species listed above.
W1	W1.2 Fuel Wood	All species listed above.
W3 Wood in chips or particles	W3.1 Wood chips	All species listed above
Non-Timber Forest Products		
Product Level 1	Product Level 2	Product Level 3 and Species
None		

Note: W1, W2, and W3 product groups usually do not require a separate evaluation to FSC-STD-40-004 (COC) if processing occurs in the field for FM/COC and CW/FM certificate types. N1-N10 (NTFPs) are eligible to be sold with FSC claims under FM/COC certification if reported here. Bamboo and NTFPs derived from trees (e.g. cork, resin, bark) may be eligible for FM/COC and CW/FM certification. NTFPs used for food and medicinal purposes are not eligible for CW/FM certification. Check with SCS if you have any products intended to be sold with an FSC claim outside of any of these categories.

Conservation and High Conservation Value Areas

Conservation Area	Units: <input type="checkbox"/> ha or <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ac
Total amount of land in certified area protected from commercial harvesting of timber and managed primarily for conservation objectives (includes both forested and non-forested lands).*	59,613

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

High Conservation Value Forest / Areas			Units: <input type="checkbox"/> ha or <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ac
Code	HCV Type	Description & Location	
HCV1	Forests or areas containing globally, regionally or nationally significant concentrations of biodiversity values (e.g. endemism, endangered species, refugia).	Assorted bogs, wetland communities, fens, kettle lakes, and other areas containing significant biodiversity values (including endangered & threatened species) – 13 numerous counties	
HCV2	Forests or areas containing globally, regionally or nationally significant large landscape level forests, contained within, or containing the management unit, where viable populations of most if not all naturally occurring species exist in natural patterns of distribution and abundance.	Upper Nemadji Floodplain Forest – Douglas County Brazeau Cedar Swamp – Oconto County Penokee Range Hardwood-Iron County Silent Wood Benchmark Forest - Washburn County	
HCV3	Forests or areas that are in or contain rare, threatened or endangered ecosystems.	Barrens - Eau Claire, Clark, Douglas, Jackson Old Growth/ pine relics-Forest, Juneau, Sawyer, Taylor Oak Savanna - Washburn	

		Oneida - Enterprise Hemlocks, Noisy Creek Cedars, Gobbler Lake SNA
HCV4	Forests or areas that provide basic services of nature in critical situations (e.g. watershed protection, erosion control).	Winx Flowage – Clark
HCV5	Forests or areas fundamental to meeting basic needs of local communities (e.g. subsistence, health).	
HCV6	Forests or areas critical to local communities' traditional cultural identity (areas of cultural, ecological, economic or religious significance identified in cooperation with such local communities).	Burial Mounds - Oconto
Total area of forest classified as 'High Conservation Value Forest / Area'		

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

<input type="checkbox"/> N/A – All forestland owned or managed by the applicant is included in the scope.		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Applicant owns and/or manages other FMUs not under evaluation.		
<input type="checkbox"/> Applicant wishes to excise portions of the FMU(s) under evaluation from the scope of certification.		
Explanation for exclusion of FMUs and/or excision:	30 county forests exist in Wisconsin. The certificate is managed by the State of Wisconsin, Department of Natural Resources who offer certification as a service to all WI Counties. Of these, 21 have chosen to commit to FSC certification. There are an additional 6 counties that are certified through another FM scheme, and 3 are not certified under any forest certification program. Within each county, there may be forestlands that are outside of the scope for other reasons, such as being inaccessible to forest management for timber production or not enrolled in certification related programs (such as County Forest Law).	
Control measures to prevent mixing of certified and non-certified product (C8.3):	Each FMU has its own log or haul tickets that include the appropriate certificate codes as applicable. Non-certified FMUs are not permitted to use any certificate codes. Forest areas outside of the scope within certified counties typically are not managed through timber harvests.	
Description of FMUs excluded from or forested area excised from the scope of certification:		
Name of FMU or Stand	Location (city, state, country)	Size (<input type="checkbox"/> ha or <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ac)
See Wisconsin County Forest FMU Summary table below	Scattered across Wisconsin.	~750,000 acres. (Includes SFI-only counties, non-certified counties, and straight county land (not certified) in FSC counties)

Multi-FMU Management Program Members

All Counties in the Multi-FMU certificate are Community management selling Fiber/Logs as their Main Products.

Name of County	Phone number	Location & Coordinates		Total forest area	Year(s) evaluated
Ashland	(715) 769-3777	46° 12' 45" N	-90° 28' 56" W	40,305.19	Since 2005
Bayfield	(715) 373-6114	46° 47' 12" N	-90° 58' 52" W	172,020.87	Since 2005
Chippewa	(715) 726-7921	45° 11' 50" N	-91° 14' 53" W	34,653.84	Since 2005
Clark	(715) 743-5140	44° 35' 54" N	-90° 47' 46" W	134,672.26	Since 2005
Douglas	(715) 378-2219	46° 17' 39" N	-92° 0' 7" W	280,066.27	Since 2005
Eau Claire	(715) 839-4783	44° 45' 9" N	-91° 2' 7" W	52,670.71	Since 2005
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Iron	(715) 561-2697	46° 17' 45" N	-90° 13' 48" W	175,308.42	Since 2005
Jackson	(715) 284-8475	44° 20' 57" N	-90° 32' 6" W	122,450.16	Since 2005
Lincoln	(715) 539-1034	45° 22' 57" N	-89° 50' 45" W	100,843.05	Since 2005
Oconto	(920) 834-7131	45° 2' 24" N	-88° 16' 40" W	43,705.83	Since 2005
Oneida	(715) 369-6140	45° 35' 24" N	-89° 37' 1" W	82,399.15	Since 2018
Price	(715) 339-6371	45° 34' 9" N	-90° 23' 54" W	92,302.45	Since 2005
Sawyer	(715) 634-6728	45° 42' 43" N	-91° 3' 9" W	115,196.50	Since 2005
Vilas	(715) 479-5160	46° 2' 8" N	-89° 17' 19" W	41,141.41	Since 2017
Washburn	(715) 635-4490	45° 57' 3" N	-91° 44' 54" W	149,956.03	Since 2005
Wood	(715) 421-8549	44° 22' 45" N	-90° 6' 2" W	37,826.21	Since 2005
Barron	(715) 537-6296	45° 37' 16" N	-91° 52' 6" W	16,264.69	Since 2005
Forest	(715) 478-3475	45° 31' 52" N	-88° 52' 26" W	14,826.67	Since 2005
Juneau	(608) 847-9390	44° 1' 2" N	-90° 8' 14" W	17,798.79	Since 2005
Taylor	(715) 748-1486	45° 19' 15" N	-90° 3' 47" W	17,687.92	Since 2005

SECTION B – APPENDICES (CONFIDENTIAL)

Appendix 1 – List of FMUs Selected for Evaluation

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

SCS staff establish the design and level of sampling prior to each group or multiple FMU evaluation according to FSC-STD-20-007. A list of the FMUs sampled and the rationale behind their selection is listed below.

There are 21 Counties that belong to this certificate and a sampling is done each year

FMU Name	FMU Size Category: - SLIMF - non-SLIMF - Large > 10,000 ha	Forest Type: - Plantation - Natural Forest	Rationale for Selection: - Random Sample - Stakeholder issue - Ease of access - Other (please describe)
Wood County	Large	Natural	Sampling with random selections within the county.
Marathon County	Medium	Natural	Sampling with random selections within the county.
Juneau County	Medium	Natural	Sampling with random selections within the county.
Jackson County	Large	Natural	Sampling with random selections within the county.

Appendix 2 – Staff and Stakeholders Consulted

List of FME Staff Consulted

To protect privacy, **only FME staff who have expressly provided written permission are listed**. These records are retained by SCS and subject to FSC or ASI examination.

Wisconsin County Forest Certification Audit Opening Meeting Attendance

Opening Meeting – August 4, 2020, Wisconsin Rapids, WI

Beth Jacquain	FSC Lead Auditor
Shannon Wilks	SFI Lead Auditor
Rebekah Luedtke	WCFA Executive Director
Gary Zimmer	WCFA Assistant Executive Director
Fritz Schubert	Wood County Forest Administrator
Tom Lovlien	Marathon County Forest Administrator
Brian Loyd	Juneau County Forest Administrator

Jim Zahasky	Jackson County Forest Administrator
Jake Walczak	Taylor County Forest Administrator
Pat Smith	Florence County Forest Administrator
Gavin Hutchinson	DNR County Forest Liaison – Wood County
Chad Keranen	DNR County Forest Liaison – Marathon County
Robert Anderson	DNR County Forest Liaison – Juneau County
Zach Clausing	DNR County Forest Liaison – Jackson County
Lyle Eiden	DNR Wisconsin Rapids Team Leader
Shelly Wrzochalski	DNR Wausau Team Leader
Chris Semann	DNR La Crosse Team Leader
Greg Mitchell	DNR Black River Falls Area Leader
Jon Robaidek	DNR Ecologist/Conservation Biologist
Carly Lapin	DNR Ecologist/Conservation Biologist Supervisor
Scott Roepke	DNR Wildlife Biologist
Heather Berklund	DNR Forest Field Operations Deputy Administrator
Carmen Hardin	DNR Applied Forestry Bureau Director
Jim Warren	DNR Forestry Field Operations Bureau Director
Kristen Lambert	DNR Public and Private Lands Section Chief (Acting)
Brad Hutnik	DNR Silviculturist - Ecologist
Greg Edge	DNR Silviculturist - Ecologist
Mark Heyde	DNR Sustainable Forest Certification Coordinator
Doug Brown	DNR County Forest and Public Lands Specialist
Kristine Buchholtz	DNR Forestry Specialist

Wisconsin County Forest Certification Audit Closing Meeting Attendance

Closing Meeting – August 7, 2020, Wisconsin Rapids, WI

Beth Jacqmain	FSC Lead Auditor
Shannon Wilks	SFI Lead Auditor
Rebekah Luedtke	WCFA Executive Director
Gary Zimmer	WCFA Assistant Executive Director
Fritz Schubert	Wood County Forest Administrator
Tom Lovlien	Marathon County Forest Administrator
Brian Loyd	Juneau County Forest Administrator
Jim Zahasky	Jackson County Forest Administrator
John Wendorski	Jackson County Forestry Manager
Mike Peterson	Washburn County Forest Administrator
Pat Smith	Florence County Forest Administrator
Gavin Hutchinson	DNR County Forest Liaison – Wood County
Chad Keranen	DNR County Forest Liaison – Marathon County

Robert Anderson	DNR County Forest Liaison – Juneau County
Zach Clausing	DNR County Forest Liaison – Jackson County
Tyler Wood	DNR County Forest Liaison – Florence County
Lyle Eiden	DNR Wisconsin Rapids Team Leader
Shelly Wrzochalski	DNR Wausau Team Leader
Chris Semann	DNR La Crosse Team Leader
Greg Mitchell	DNR Black River Falls Area Leader
Jon Robaidek	DNR Ecologist/Conservation Biologist
Scott Roepke	DNR Wildlife Biologist
Mike Warnke	DNR Forestry Services Deputy Administrator
Carmen Hardin	DNR Applied Forestry Bureau Director
Jim Warren	DNR Forestry Field Operations Bureau Director
Kristen Lambert	DNR Public and Private Lands Section Chief (Acting)
Brad Hutnik	DNR Silviculturist - Ecologist
Greg Edge	DNR Silviculturist - Ecologist
Dave Kafura	DNR Forest Hydrologist
Mark Heyde	DNR Sustainable Forest Certification Coordinator
Doug Brown	DNR County Forest and Public Lands Specialist
Kristine Buchholtz	DNR Forestry Specialist

List of other Stakeholders Consulted*

To protect privacy, **only stakeholders who have expressly provided written permission are listed. These records are retained by SCS and subject to FSC or ASI examination.**

The audit team sent email invitations for consultation to recreation and American Indian representatives. The list of those approached are kept in SCS records, however because there were no responses, we do not have written permission to include their names in this report.

** Note: SCS may maintain additional records of stakeholder consultation activities (e.g., email notifications) in its recordkeeping system. Anonymous stakeholders may have provided comments as a part of stakeholder outreach activities.*

Appendix 3 – Additional Evaluation Techniques Employed

None.

Additional techniques employed (*describe*):

Due to Covid-19 the Wisconsin Counties multi-FMU members made documents available in a Sharepoint folder prior to the audit including site harvest and burn prescriptions (2640 forms), maps, sale prospectuses, and contracts (timber sale agreements). Additional information was also provided for special projects including restoration, HCV, and others.

Appendix 4 – Required Tracking

Pesticide Derogations

There are no active pesticide derogations for this FME.

Name of pesticide / herbicide (active ingredient)		Date derogation approved
Condition		Conformance (C / NC)
		Evidence of progress

Progressive HCVF Assessments

FME does not use partial or progressive HCVF assessments.

Note: In the case the FME is not operating in the entire management unit, it is permissible to only complete an HCVF assessment for the portion of the unit in which they are operating under special conditions. In such cases, the HCVF assessment must be extended if new areas are entered without an existing, appropriate HCVF assessment having been completed. An example includes a large forest concession where harvesting is initially limited to a smaller geographic scope.

Partial or progressive HCV must be noted in SCS tracking system for monitoring. Describe below the FME monitoring plan to ensure additional HCVF assessments are completed as necessary:
HCV Monitor Plan

Special Instructions or Scoping Notes for Next Regularly Scheduled Annual Audit

<input type="checkbox"/>	Not applicable; no significant issues identified that may impact the next audit.
Some issues were identified during this audit that the next audit team could consider in the next audit, such as:	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Scope of certificate:
<input type="checkbox"/>	Audit sampling:
<input type="checkbox"/>	Audit time:
<input type="checkbox"/>	Audit season:
<input type="checkbox"/>	Travel time between sites or FMUs:
<input type="checkbox"/>	Audit frequency:
<input type="checkbox"/>	Suggested audit team competency for next audit:
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Suggested requirements to include during the next audit: Due to Covid-19 face to face contact was minimized and there were no logger observations in the field. The next audit, should conditions allow, an active harvest operation must be included to observe OSH.

	Audit P1 for legal language in contracts to include “compliance with applicable laws”.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Suggested issues investigate during the next audit:
<input type="checkbox"/>	Suggested sites for inspection:
<input type="checkbox"/>	Stakeholders to be consulted:
<input type="checkbox"/>	Other(s) – please describe:

Appendix 5 – Forest Management Standard Conformance Table

Criteria required by FSC at every surveillance evaluation (<i>check all situations that apply</i>)	<input type="checkbox"/> NA – all FMUs are exempt from these requirements. <input type="checkbox"/> Plantations > 10,000 ha (24,710 ac): 2.3, 4.2, 4.4, 6.7, 6.9, 10.6, 10.7, and 10.8 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Natural forests > 50,000 ha (123,553 ac) ('low intensity' SLIMFs exempt): 1.5, 2.3, 3.2, 4.2, 4.4, 5.6, 6.2, 6.3, 8.2, and 9.4 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FMUs containing High Conservation Values ('small forest' SLIMFs exempt): 6.2, 6.3, 6.9 and 9.4
Documents and records reviewed for FMUs/ sites sampled	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> All applicable documents and records as required in section 7 of audit plan were reviewed; or <input type="checkbox"/> The following documents and records as required in section 7 of the audit plan were NOT reviewed (<i>provide explanation</i>):

Requirements Reviewed in Annual Evaluation

Evaluation Year	Requirements Reviewed (FSC P&C Reviewed, FM/COC Indicators, Trademark Indicators, Group Standard Indicators, etc.)
2019	All – (Re)certification Evaluation
2020	P2, P4, P7, CoC, TM and mandatory criteria from above: 1.5, 2.3, 3.2, 4.2, 4.4, 5.6, 6.2, 6.3, 6.9, 8.2, and 9.4
2021	
2022	
20XX	

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

FSC Principles Checklist

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

REQUIREMENT	C/NC	COMMENT/CAR
P1 Forest management shall respect all applicable laws of the country in which they occur, and international treaties and agreements to which the country is a signatory, and comply with all FSC Principles and Criteria.		

<p>C1.1 Forest management shall respect all national and local laws and administrative requirements.</p>	<p>C</p>	
<p>C1.2. All applicable and legally prescribed fees, royalties, taxes and other charges shall be paid.</p>	<p>C</p>	
<p>C1.3. In signatory countries, the provisions of all binding international agreements such as CITES, ILO Conventions, ITTA, and Convention on Biological Diversity, shall be respected.</p>	<p>C</p>	
<p>C1.4. Conflicts between laws, regulations and the FSC Principles and Criteria shall be evaluated for the purposes of certification, on a case by case basis, by the certifiers and the involved or affected parties.</p>	<p>C</p>	
<p>C1.5. Forest management areas should be protected from illegal harvesting, settlement and other unauthorized activities.</p>	<p>C</p>	
<p>1.5.a. The forest owner or manager supports or implements measures intended to prevent illegal and unauthorized activities on the Forest Management Unit (FMU).</p>	<p>C</p>	<p>Timber theft, trespass, and other illegal or unauthorized activities on county forests are dealt with locally and are typically investigated by county law enforcement, DNR wardens, or county forest patrol or recreation staff, as confirmed through interviews with county staff. The FMUs are regularly patrolled by county or DNR employees to detect illegal or unauthorized activities. Recreational user groups (e.g., ATV/HUV clubs, snowmobile clubs, and mountain biking clubs) are important mechanisms for monitoring the behavior of recreational users. Additionally, active timber sales are monitored by county foresters several times per week, which includes ensuring that illegal or unauthorized activities in harvested sites do not occur. County sheriffs, wardens, and other law enforcement issue citations for ordinance violations (e.g., off-trail ATV use, unpermitted firewood cutting, illegal deer stands, etc.).</p> <p>WCFP takes considerable action to limit illegal and unauthorized activities. Audit team observed gates, berms, and the implementation of other access control techniques including</p>

		<p>posted signs indicating allowed uses. Surveillance techniques may also be employed in cases of vandalism, trespass, dumping, or other illegal activities.</p> <p>Property boundaries are marked on the ground in advance of timber sales, as well as on harvest map, as verified by the 2020 audit team.</p>
<p>1.5.b. If illegal or unauthorized activities occur, the forest owner or manager implements actions designed to curtail such activities and correct the situation to the extent possible for meeting all land management objectives with consideration of available resources.</p>	<p>C</p>	<p>Maintaining a regular presence and good relations with user groups, as described in 1.5.a., are considered actions designed to curtail illegal or unauthorized activities.</p> <p>Wisconsin law allows flexibility in how timber theft and trespass cases are treated. Fines or payment of yield taxes or severance shares can be assigned. Such fines or payments are set between \$100 and \$10,000, but violators may be subject to criminal prosecution or required to cover additional expenses for the assessment and recovery of stolen timber. No significant instances of timber trespass were reported for the counties sampled in this year’s audit.</p> <p>In 2019, illegal harvesting of birch poles and pine boughs occurs on occasion. Monitoring with cameras and on-the-ground enforcement patrols are used to detect violators. In some areas, the counties have painted roadside birch to more easily track any trees removed illegally.</p> <p>Some counties, such as Douglas County, offer an anonymous violation reporting form on their websites that can be used by citizens to submit violation reports. Many counties have brochures that cover a variety of topics, including rules and regulations governing use of the forest, that are available to the general public as mechanisms for public education.</p>
<p>C1.6. Forest managers shall demonstrate a long-term commitment to adhere to the FSC Principles and Criteria.</p>	<p>C</p>	<p>-</p>
<p>1.6.a. The forest owner or manager demonstrates a long-term commitment to adhere to the FSC Principles and Criteria and FSC and FSC-US policies, including the FSC-US</p>	<p>C</p>	<p>All county forests that are FSC certified have made commitments. For example, the following is from the Juneau County Management Plan, page 300-6, Section 325: “To that end, Juneau County will commit to the Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI) and Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) in the management of the</p>

<p>Land Sales Policy, and has a publicly available statement of commitment to manage the FMU in conformance with FSC standards and policies.</p>		<p>Juneau County Forest. These certification standards fit within the framework of the County Forest Law program (s. 28.11, Wis. Stats.).”</p>
<p>1.6.b. If the certificate holder does not certify their entire holdings, then they document, in brief, the reasons for seeking partial certification referencing FSC-POL-20-002 (or subsequent policy revisions), the location of other managed forest units, the natural resources found on the holdings being excluded from certification, and the management activities planned for the holdings being excluded from certification.</p>	<p>C</p>	<p>Each county with forests under the Wisconsin County Forest Program has the option to be certified to either or both of the FSC or SFI standard. Of the 30 counties, 21 have attained FSC certification (County Forest Program). Certified county forests may have limited amount of forestlands they hold outside of the FSC certificate, which are documented in the CLUP. In general, excluded forestlands are unsuitable for timber management due to species composition (e.g., low timber value), difficulty in regeneration, and other reasons as stated in each county’s CLUP.</p>
<p>P2 Long-term tenure and use rights to the land and forest resources shall be clearly defined, documented and legally established.</p>		
<p>C2.1. Clear evidence of long-term forest use rights to the land (e.g., land title, customary rights, or lease agreements) shall be demonstrated.</p>	<p>C</p>	<p>-</p>
<p>2.1.a The forest owner or manager provides clear evidence of <i>long-term</i> rights to use and manage the FMU for the purposes described in the management plan.</p>	<p>C</p>	<p>County Land Information Department and Register of Deeds maintain all documentation related to ownership and use rights for all counties. Each county’s CLUP includes an explanation of ownership and use rights and the authority to manage the FMU.</p>
<p>2.1.b The forest owner or manager identifies and documents legally established use and access rights associated with the FMU that are held by other parties.</p>	<p>C</p>	<p>Register of Deeds maintains any recorded agreements held with other parties, as verified through a sample of records for counties visited in 2019. See County Forest CLUP– Ch 500 for policies specific to public use/access, including any schedule of public use fees. Interviews with staff confirm recognition of the use and access rights of multiple user groups. In one example in Juneau County, an adjacent landowner requested the relocation of an easement for Tract 09-15, see Site Notes. In this case Juneau County had the legal records of the easement and successfully transferred those access rights.</p>
<p>2.1.c Boundaries of land ownership and use rights are clearly identified on the ground and on maps prior to</p>	<p>C</p>	<p>Maps included in timber sale prospectuses for each county visited in 2020 included property boundaries where they existed. Timber sale boundaries were clearly marked with paint in the field.</p>

<p>commencing management activities in the vicinity of the boundaries.</p>		
<p>C2.2. Local communities with legal or customary tenure or use rights shall maintain control, to the extent necessary to protect their rights or resources, over forest operations unless they delegate control with free and informed consent to other agencies.</p> <p><i>Applicability Note: For the planning and management of publicly owned forests, the local community is defined as all residents and property owners of the relevant jurisdiction.</i></p>	<p>C</p>	<p>-</p>
<p>2.2.a The forest owner or manager allows the exercise of tenure and use rights allowable by law or regulation.</p>	<p>C</p>	<p>Evidence of compliance to public access includes field observation of road and trail traffic, deer stands, and other infrastructure for recreation. Interviews with staff indicate a high level of awareness of public access rights and restrictions, rights-of-way, and other use rights.</p> <p>The counties work collaboratively with different user groups to ensure that these rights are respected while protecting sensitive natural resources.</p>
<p>2.2.b In FMUs where tenure or use rights held by others exist, the forest owner or manager consults with groups that hold such rights so that management activities do not significantly impact the uses or benefits of such rights.</p>	<p>C</p>	<p>Counties hold public meetings on planned management activities, for which records are maintained and publicly available. Many counties also have a Citizen Advisory Committee that includes representatives of different interests, including recreational user groups and other use rights holders. Where tribal resources or rights exist, each county holds consultations with tribes during the management planning process.</p> <p>Interviews with stakeholders confirmed that the counties regularly meet with these groups to ensure that forest management activities are compatible with recreation and other rights.</p>
<p>C2.3. Appropriate mechanisms shall be employed to resolve disputes over tenure claims and use rights. The circumstances and status of any</p>	<p>C</p>	<p>-</p>

<p>outstanding disputes will be explicitly considered in the certification evaluation. Disputes of substantial magnitude involving a significant number of interests will normally disqualify an operation from being certified.</p>		
<p>2.3.a. If <i>disputes</i> arise regarding tenure claims or use rights then the forest owner or manager initially attempts to resolve them through open communication, negotiation, and/or mediation. If these good-faith efforts fail, then federal, state, and/or local laws are employed to resolve such disputes.</p>	C	<p>Confirmed in 2020: No significant disputes regarding tenure claims or use rights have occurred in the last year. However, the FME has mechanisms in place to seek the input of stakeholders and any disputes through open communication, negotiation, and/or mediation.</p>
<p>2.3.b. The forest owner or manager documents any significant disputes over tenure and use rights.</p>	C	<p>The DNR and counties maintain written documentation of any significant disputes over tenure and use rights.</p>
<p>P3 The legal and customary rights of indigenous peoples to own, use and manage their lands, territories, and resources shall be recognized and respected.</p>		
<p>C3.1. Indigenous peoples shall control forest management on their lands and territories unless they delegate control with free and informed consent to other agencies.</p>	NA	<p>FME does not manage any tribally-owned FMUs.</p>
<p>C3.2. Forest management shall not threaten or diminish, either directly or indirectly, the resources or tenure rights of indigenous peoples.</p>	C	-
<p>3.2.a. During management planning, the forest owner or manager consults with American Indian groups that have legal rights or other binding agreements to the FMU to avoid harming their resources or rights.</p>	C	<p>Indian treaty rights, and specifically Lake Superior Bands of Chippewa, were granted reserved rights to hunt, fish, and gather on all ceded lands in eastern Minnesota and northern Wisconsin as part of the treaties of 1837 and 1842. County board meetings and forestry committee meetings in which policies for resource management are set and provide opportunities for public input, including representatives of American Indian groups. The counties have established formal policies requiring consultation with tribal nations. The DNR and counties maintain relationships with local tribes and solicit input as needed.</p>

		<p>For 2019-2020 a letter was sent to 12 American Indian tribal representative for each of the tribal entities registered in Wisconsin for the current planning period. WCFA will next work with Tribal liaisons to reach out individually to representatives. There were responses acknowledging receipt of letters.</p>
<p>3.2.b. Demonstrable actions are taken so that forest management does not adversely affect tribal resources. When applicable, evidence of, and measures for, protecting tribal resources are incorporated in the management plan.</p>	<p>C</p>	<p>County and DNR staff are cognizant of the need to ensure that forest management activities do not adversely affect tribal resources. For example, on public lands within the ceded territory, which include county forests, a free permit process is used to provide for tribal gathering of firewood, boughs, tree bark, lodge poles, marsh hay, and maple syrup. A tribal member must provide his/her tribal ID card for this access, which is recorded by the county in which the collection occurs.</p> <p>Additionally, staff are aware of procedures for identifying known archaeological sites and implementing measures to protect them. Maps are protected and not for public use in order to secure locations from artifact hunters and looters. Forest management activities are coordinated with the state archaeologist and Native American tribes. Buffer lines on the ground and on management maps identify the boundary for activity prohibited within the area.</p> <p>Examples in Juneau and Jackson Counties were seen of cooperative projects and protective measures made to manage for shared indigenous values.</p>
<p>C3.3. Sites of special cultural, ecological, economic or religious significance to indigenous peoples shall be clearly identified in cooperation with such peoples, and recognized and protected by forest managers.</p>	<p>C</p>	<p>-</p>
<p>C3.4. Indigenous peoples shall be compensated for the application of their traditional knowledge regarding the use of forest species or management systems in forest operations. This compensation shall be formally agreed upon with their</p>	<p>NA</p>	<p>No traditional knowledge is used in the management of the FMUs.</p>

<p>free and informed consent before forest operations commence.</p>		
<p>P4 Forest management operations shall maintain or enhance the long-term social and economic well-being of forest workers and local communities.</p>		
<p>C4.1. The communities within, or adjacent to, the forest management area should be given opportunities for employment, training, and other services.</p>	<p>C</p>	<p>-</p>
<p>4.1.a. Employee compensation and hiring practices meet or exceed the prevailing <i>local</i> norms within the forestry industry.</p>	<p>C</p>	<p>Employment opportunities at DNR and county forests are non-discriminatory. At counties visited in 2020, state and federal postings were visible at county offices. State hiring processes adhere to strict policies for compliance to equal opportunity, including selecting interview candidates and other measures to ensure fair hiring practices. During interviews, county and DNR staff noted that benefit packages are especially good and include health insurance and pensions.</p>
<p>4.1.b. Forest work is offered in ways that create high quality job opportunities for employees.</p>	<p>C</p>	<p>There is a long average tenure of DNR and county forest staff, which suggests that the quality of work life (compensation, work hours, job security, intangibles, etc.) is desirable. County employees interviewed during the 2020 audit expressed high job satisfaction and ample opportunities for training, including DNR-sponsored programs. However, noting that all Counties have experienced reduction in training offerings during the Covid-19 pandemic.</p> <p>A sample of training records in personnel files was reviewed, covering a wide variety of topics including invasive species, Natural Heritage Inventory, chainsaw safety, WisFIRS, pesticide application, archeological site identification, among other subjects. Training records were confirmed for a sample of new and experienced staff at each of the four County offices visited in 2020.</p>
<p>4.1.c. Forest workers are provided with fair wages.</p>	<p>C</p>	<p>County and DNR jobs are quality positions with competitive compensation packages. County employees interviewed stated that wages are competitive. Benefit packages were viewed as being good.</p> <p>Interviewed operators indicated that bid rates accepted by the counties for purchased wood is comparable to current rates in the wood market.</p>

<p>4.1.d. Hiring practices and conditions of employment are non-discriminatory and follow applicable federal, state and local regulations.</p>	<p>C</p>	<p>County and DNR employment practices adhere to federal and state laws for exempt and non-exempt employees. As observed in county offices, OSHA and anti-discrimination posters are posted in publicly-visible places.</p>
<p>4.1.e. The forest owner or manager provides work opportunities to qualified local applicants and seeks opportunities for purchasing local goods and services of equal price and quality.</p>	<p>C</p>	<p>FME distributes bid prospectuses to a comprehensive list of potential bidders, including local operators. The size of timber sales is varied to allow access to a range of local companies.</p>
<p>4.1.f. Commensurate with the size and scale of operation, the forest owner or manager provides and/or supports learning opportunities to improve public understanding of forests and forest management.</p>	<p>C</p>	<p>DNR liaisons and county forest staff support a large number and wide range of environmental education activities. For example, DNR staff attend public meetings related to the management of county forests and also provide educational opportunities to the public, such as tours.</p> <p>Educating the public about Wisconsin’s county forests and the public benefits associated with sustainable forest management is a high priority for Wisconsin County Forests Association (WCFA). The quasi-governmental organization represents the forestry interests of the 30 counties in Wisconsin with lands enrolled under Wisconsin’s County Forest Law.</p>
<p>4.1.g. The forest owner or manager participates in local economic development and/or civic activities, based on scale of operation and where such opportunities are available.</p>	<p>C</p>	<p>FME supports local economic activity by providing access to employment opportunities for local community members, offering timber for bid, and offering other in-woods forestry contract work.</p> <p>Additionally, county forest and DNR employees reside in small, mid-sized, and large communities throughout Wisconsin and are engaged in civic activities throughout both as private citizens in off hours and as county and DNR representatives during work hours.</p>
<p>C4.2. Forest management should meet or exceed all applicable laws and/or regulations covering health and safety of employees and their families.</p>	<p>C</p>	<p>-</p>
<p>4.2.a. The forest owner or manager meets or exceeds all applicable laws and/or regulations covering health</p>	<p>C</p>	<p>No serious injuries or fatalities were reported in the last year. Likewise, operators interviewed indicated that no injuries had occurred. Counties reported that there have been no changes in the occupational health and safety regulatory framework in the</p>

<p>and safety of employees and their families (also see Criterion 1.1).</p>		<p>last year. Accident records for staff are maintained in personnel files, and a sample was reviewed.</p> <p>Jackson County and interviews with staff confirm that several counties supply Insect Shield clothing to County staff.</p>
<p>4.2.b. The forest owner or manager and their employees and contractors demonstrate a safe work environment. Contracts or other written agreements include safety requirements.</p>	<p>C</p>	<p>Contracts reviewed for timber harvests contain safety requirements. Timber contracts reviewed include stipulations to adhere to federal and state laws, including those pertaining to health and safety.</p>
<p>4.2.c. The forest owner or manager hires well-qualified service providers to safely implement the management plan.</p>	<p>C</p>	<p>All loggers interviewed had FISTA training or were also Wisconsin Master Logger certified. Records of contractors' FISTA training were viewed in county files and confirmed in the FISTA database.</p>
<p>C4.3 The rights of workers to organize and voluntarily negotiate with their employers shall be guaranteed as outlined in Conventions 87 and 98 of the International Labor Organization (ILO).</p>	<p>C</p>	<p>-</p>
<p>4.3.a Forest workers are free to associate with other workers for the purpose of advocating for their own employment interests.</p>	<p>C</p>	<p>Freedom of association is unambiguously guaranteed for all DNR and county employees. Right to organize is guaranteed by US and State of Wisconsin Law. For all employees of contractors, the standard contract requires the contractor to comply with all applicable labor laws; as such, freedom of association is ensured.</p>
<p>C4.4. Management planning and operations shall incorporate the results of evaluations of social impact. Consultations shall be maintained with people and groups (both men and women) directly affected by management operations.</p>	<p>C</p>	<p>-</p>
<p>4.4.a. The forest owner or manager understands the likely social impacts of management activities, and incorporates this understanding into management planning and operations. Social impacts include effects on:</p>	<p>C</p>	<p>County forest and DNR staff that were interviewed are aware of likely social impacts of forest management activities. Examples of incorporating the public social impacts into management planning and operations include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Buffers are placed around the historic Native American sites in order to protect artifacts and structures. Any management

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Archeological sites and sites of cultural, historical and community significance (on and off the FMU); • Public resources, including air, water and food (hunting, fishing, collecting); • Aesthetics; • Community goals for forest and natural resource use and protection such as employment, subsistence, recreation and health; • Community economic opportunities; • Other people who may be affected by management operations. <p>A summary is available to the CB.</p>		<p>near such sites is coordinated with the state archaeologist and Native American tribes.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • County forests allow camping, hunting, and fishing. Firewood cutting is allowed with a permit. Implementation of Wisconsin BMPs help to protect water quality. • Aesthetic considerations in setting up harvests are common, including aesthetic buffers harvest units. • Among the community goals that county forests provide, recreational opportunities remain important. County forests work closely with recreational user groups such as ATV/UTV, snowmobile, mountain bike, horse riding, and cross-country ski clubs to ensure that ample opportunities for recreation are created while protecting natural resources. • County forests support local economic opportunities by providing employment for local community members, offering timber for bid, and offering other in-woods forestry contract work. • The county forest program considers people who may be affected by management operations. For example, neighboring landowners are alerted to harvests, tribes are invited to provide input on management planning, and county board meetings are open to the public and invite comments. <p>The comprehensive land use plan for each county includes a description of the likely social impacts of management activities and how this understanding is incorporated into management planning and operations.</p>
<p>4.4.b. The forest owner or manager seeks and considers input in management planning from people who would likely be affected by management activities.</p>	<p>C</p>	<p>County board meetings and forestry committee meetings in which policies for resource management and work plans are set allow for public input. Those meetings are typically held monthly. County forest administrators are available for the public to provide feedback, and in this way they are constantly evaluating social impacts and incorporating them into management. WCFA oversaw the Wisconsin County Forest Practices Study, which evaluated facets of forest management in the state, including social impacts.</p>
<p>4.4.c. People who are subject to direct adverse effects of management operations are apprised of relevant activities in advance of the action so</p>	<p>C</p>	<p>County board meetings and forestry committee meetings in which policies for resource management and work plans are established allow for public input. Adjacent landowners are contacted in cases when management activities occur near</p>

<p>that they may express concern.</p>		<p>property boundaries or otherwise may affect use rights. County forest administrators are available to the public for people to provide feedback, and in this way they are constantly evaluating social impacts and incorporating them into management.</p>
<p>4.4.d. For public forests, consultation shall include the following components:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Clearly defined and accessible methods for public participation are provided in both long and short-term planning processes, including harvest plans and operational plans; 2. Public notification is sufficient to allow interested stakeholders the chance to learn of upcoming opportunities for public review and/or comment on the proposed management; 3. An accessible and affordable appeals process to planning decisions is available. <p>Planning decisions incorporate the results of public consultation. All draft and final planning documents, and their supporting data, are made readily available to the public.</p>	<p>C</p>	<p>The publicly-open county board and forestry committee meetings fulfill this requirement, as well as the administrators being available to the public.</p> <p>The County Forest Law establishes mechanisms for public participation in all planning processes. Annual work plans are open for public comment on each county’s website before management activities take place.</p> <p>Appeals are handled prior to plans becoming finalized to avoid conflicts; however, the public may contact their elected county representative or present information during monthly public meetings to appeal decisions. Draft and final plans are made available in county offices and on each county’s website.</p>
<p>C4.5. Appropriate mechanisms shall be employed for resolving grievances and for providing fair compensation in the case of loss or damage affecting the legal or customary rights, property, resources, or livelihoods of local peoples. Measures shall be taken to avoid such loss or damage.</p>	<p>C</p>	<p>-</p>
<p>4.5.a The forest owner or manager does not engage in negligent activities that cause damage to other people.</p>	<p>C</p>	<p>Through implementation of measures to protect property boundaries and ensure compliance to health and safety laws, the</p>

		FME avoids negligent actions. Any such cases would be handled through legal staff.
4.5.b The forest owner or manager provides a known and accessible means for interested stakeholders to voice grievances and have them resolved. If significant disputes arise related to resolving grievances and/or providing fair compensation, the forest owner or manager follows appropriate dispute resolution procedures. At a minimum, the forest owner or manager maintains open communications, responds to grievances in a timely manner, demonstrates ongoing good faith efforts to resolve the grievances, and maintains records of legal suites and claims.	C	FME must provide mechanisms for public input on forest management activities per the law that established the program. WCFP maintains communications with the local public and tribes regarding resources of others that may be impacted during management.
4.5.c Fair compensation or reasonable mitigation is provided to local people, communities or adjacent landowners for substantiated damage or loss of income caused by the landowner or manager.	C	Through interviews with staff, the audit team confirmed that there have been no recent cases of substantiated damage to adjacent lands or permitted use rights.
P5 Forest management operations shall encourage the efficient use of the forest’s multiple products and services to ensure economic viability and a wide range of environmental and social benefits.		
C5.1. Forest management should strive toward economic viability, while taking into account the full environmental, social, and operational costs of production, and ensuring the investments necessary to maintain the ecological productivity of the forest.	C	-
C5.2. Forest management and marketing operations should encourage the optimal use and local processing of the forest’s diversity of products.	C	-

<p>C5.3. Forest management should minimize waste associated with harvesting and on-site processing operations and avoid damage to other forest resources.</p>	<p>C</p>	<p>-</p>
<p>C5.4. Forest management should strive to strengthen and diversify the local economy, avoiding dependence on a single forest product.</p>	<p>C</p>	<p>-</p>
<p>C5.5. Forest management operations shall recognize, maintain, and, where appropriate, enhance the value of forest services and resources such as watersheds and fisheries.</p>	<p>C</p>	<p>-</p>
<p>C5.6. The rate of harvest of forest products shall not exceed levels which can be permanently sustained.</p>	<p>C</p>	<p>-</p>

<p>5.6.a. In FMUs where products are being harvested, the landowner or manager calculates the sustained yield harvest level for each sustained yield planning unit, and provides clear rationale for determining the size and layout of the planning unit. The sustained yield harvest level calculation is documented in the Management Plan.</p> <p>The sustained yield harvest level calculation for each planning unit is based on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • documented growth rates for particular sites, and/or acreage of forest types, age-classes and species distributions; • mortality and decay and other factors that affect net growth; • areas reserved from harvest or subject to harvest restrictions to meet other management goals; • silvicultural practices that will be employed on the FMU; • management objectives and desired future conditions. <p>The calculation is made by considering the effects of repeated prescribed harvests on the product/species and its ecosystem, as well as planned management treatments and projections of subsequent regrowth beyond single rotation and multiple re-entries.</p>	<p>C</p>	<p>Reconnaissance (recon) of land is a tool utilized in all the county forestry programs in the assessment of geographical, structural, and compositional attributes of existing resources. This field information is stored in the Wisconsin Forest Inventory & Reporting System (WisFIRS) management application. The database is used to analyze existing resources, evaluate management alternatives, and assist in the development and implementation of management plans. Recon is one tool used to assess forest resource information at the property level. All annual forest management activities that are carried out by any program (fish, wildlife, parks, endangered resources, etc.) that alter vegetation in any way (e.g., invasive species treatments, timber stand improvement, site preparation, tree planting, timber sales, and wildlife habitat management) is identified by compartment and stand within the WisFIRS database. Needs listed in the database, in addition to other multi-disciplinary input, is used in determining property budgets and annual work plans.</p> <p>Minor changes to annual harvest rates occur each year when planning is conducted for each county forest. During planning, if harvest intervals or early or late constraints are changed, the calculated annual allowable harvest changes accordingly. If harvest dates are updated on a large amount of the property, then the AAC can also be impacted.</p> <p>Harvest rates are established using area control methods and the data from WisFIRS. County forestry committees and county boards develop budgets annually, during which AAC acres are considered.</p> <p>There been any no major adjustments in the FME’s annual allowable harvest rate. Minor changes to AAC occur each year when planning is conducted for each county forest. During planning, if harvest intervals or operating season constraints are changed, then the calculated AAC will change accordingly. Additionally, if harvest dates are updated on a large portion of any one county forest, then the AAC can also be impacted.</p>
<p>5.6.b. Average annual harvest levels, over rolling periods of no more than</p>	<p>C</p>	<p>WCFP measures AAH in acres, and that figure varied from county to county. In sum, the AAH for the FSC-certified counties is 45,000 acres per year.</p>

<p>10 years, do not exceed the calculated sustained yield harvest level.</p>		<p>15-year average harvest for the FSC-certified is aligned with this AAH at 45,251 acres. In 2018, FSC-certified counties harvested 696,662 cords of pulpwood and 22,984 MBF of sawlogs on 37,490 acres.</p>
<p>5.6.c. Rates and methods of timber harvest lead to achieving desired conditions, and improve or maintain health and quality across the FMU. Overstocked stands and stands that have been depleted or rendered to be below productive potential due to natural events, past management, or lack of management, are returned to desired stocking levels and composition at the earliest practicable time as justified in management objectives.</p>	<p>C</p>	<p>WCFP uses standard harvest scheduling established in WisFIRS for each stand type. Future entries are based on ecological goals for the site, species composition, stocking, and past management. A combination of moving harvests forward and delaying harvest is used to ensure a balanced age class distribution over time across the landscape.</p>
<p>5.6.d. For NTFPs, calculation of quantitative sustained yield harvest levels is required only in cases where products are harvested in significant commercial operations or where traditional or customary use rights may be impacted by such harvests. In other situations, the forest owner or manager utilizes available information, and new information that can be reasonably gathered, to set harvesting levels that will not result in a depletion of the non-timber growing stocks or other adverse effects to the forest ecosystem.</p>	<p>C</p>	<p>The only significant commercial operations of NTFPs occur on counties with sphagnum moss and Christmas tree resources. Harvest areas and intervals are established based on data from past years that show how quickly the resource can recover.</p> <p>Other NTFPs are small scale and are controlled and harvest volumes monitored through issuing permits (e.g., Christmas trees, firewood). Permits are also issued to tribal members for gathering of boughs, tree bark, lodge poles, marsh hay, jack pine stumps, and maple syrup.</p> <p>None of the NTFPs are sold as FSC-certified.</p>
<p>P6 Forest management shall conserve biological diversity and its associated values, water resources, soils, and unique and fragile ecosystems and landscapes, and, by so doing, maintain the ecological functions and the integrity of the forest.</p>		
<p>C6.1. Assessments of environmental impacts shall be completed -- appropriate to the scale, intensity of forest management and the</p>	<p>C</p>	<p>-</p>

<p>uniqueness of the affected resources -- and adequately integrated into management systems. Assessments shall include landscape level considerations as well as the impacts of on-site processing facilities. Environmental impacts shall be assessed prior to commencement of site-disturbing operations.</p>		
<p>C 6.2. Safeguards shall exist which protect rare, threatened and endangered species and their habitats (e.g., nesting and feeding areas). Conservation zones and protection areas shall be established, appropriate to the scale and intensity of forest management and the uniqueness of the affected resources. Inappropriate hunting, fishing, trapping, and collecting shall be controlled.</p>	<p>C</p>	<p>-</p>
<p>6.2.a. If there is a likely presence of RTE species as identified in Indicator 6.1.a then either a field survey to verify the species' presence or absence is conducted prior to site-disturbing management activities, or management occurs with the assumption that potential RTE species are present.</p> <p>Surveys are conducted by biologists with the appropriate expertise in the species of interest and with appropriate qualifications to conduct the surveys. If a species is determined to be present, its location should be reported to the manager of the appropriate database.</p>	<p>C</p>	<p>The Wisconsin NHI database is consulted prior to all forest management activities, and the results are documents in Timber Sale Notice and Cutting Reports. Foresters work in consultation with DNR Wildlife and NHC staff to address any occurrences in order to ensure protection. Additional site surveys for species often conduct additional site surveys for species if the NHI database indicates the need. Sites visited during the audit included protection measures in place for RTE species to avoid the risk of impacts of forest management activities.</p>
<p>6.2.b. When RTE species are present or assumed to be present,</p>	<p>C</p>	

<p>modifications in management are made in order to maintain, restore or enhance the extent, quality and viability of the species and their habitats. Conservation zones and/or protected areas are established for RTE species, including those S3 species that are considered rare, where they are necessary to maintain or improve the short and long-term viability of the species. Conservation measures are based on relevant science, guidelines and/or consultation with relevant, independent experts as necessary to achieve the conservation goal of the Indicator.</p>		
<p>6.2.c. For medium and large public forests (e.g. state forests), forest management plans and operations are designed to meet species' recovery goals, as well as landscape level biodiversity conservation goals.</p>	C	<p>The US Fish and Wildlife Service has approved statewide Habitat Conservation Plans prepared by Wisconsin DNR for several species (e.g., Karner Blue Butterfly). Funding is provided to county forests by the DNR to perform habitat improvement work, which can be used for game or non-game species.</p>
<p>6.2.d. Within the capacity of the forest owner or manager, hunting, fishing, trapping, collecting and other activities are controlled to avoid the risk of impacts to vulnerable species and communities (See Criterion 1.5).</p>	C	<p>Activities that may impact Federal RTE species may be conducted under the authority of a broad or site-specific incidental take permit as approved by the DNR. Sites visited included protection measures in place for RTE species to avoid the risk of impacts of forest management activities.</p>
<p>C6.3. Ecological functions and values shall be maintained intact, enhanced, or restored, including: a) Forest regeneration and succession. b) Genetic, species, and ecosystem diversity. c) Natural cycles that affect the productivity of the forest ecosystem.</p>	C	-
<p>C6.3.a. Landscape-scale indicators</p>		
<p>C6.4. Representative samples of existing ecosystems within the landscape shall be protected in their</p>	C	-

<p>natural state and recorded on maps, appropriate to the scale and intensity of operations and the uniqueness of the affected resources.</p>		
<p>C6.5. Written guidelines shall be prepared and implemented to control erosion; minimize forest damage during harvesting, road construction, and all other mechanical disturbances; and to protect water resources.</p>	<p>C</p>	<p>-</p>
<p>C6.6. Management systems shall promote the development and adoption of environmentally friendly non-chemical methods of pest management and strive to avoid the use of chemical pesticides. World Health Organization Type 1A and 1B and chlorinated hydrocarbon pesticides; pesticides that are persistent, toxic or whose derivatives remain biologically active and accumulate in the food chain beyond their intended use; as well as any pesticides banned by international agreement, shall be prohibited. If chemicals are used, proper equipment and training shall be provided to minimize health and environmental risks.</p>	<p>C</p>	<p>-</p>
<p>C6.7. Chemicals, containers, liquid and solid non-organic wastes including fuel and oil shall be disposed of in an environmentally appropriate manner at off-site locations.</p>	<p>C</p>	<p>-</p>
<p>C6.8. Use of biological control agents shall be documented, minimized, monitored, and strictly controlled in accordance with national laws and</p>	<p>C</p>	<p>-</p>

<p>internationally accepted scientific protocols. Use of genetically modified organisms shall be prohibited.</p>		
<p>C6.9. The use of exotic species shall be carefully controlled and actively monitored to avoid adverse ecological impacts.</p>	C	-
<p>6.9.a. The use of <i>exotic species</i> is contingent on the availability of credible scientific data indicating that any such species is non-invasive and its application does not pose a risk to native biodiversity.</p>	C	<p>With the exception of limited biocontrol agents and erosion control plant species, exotic species are generally not used on the FMUs for commercial or management purposes.</p> <p><i>Wisconsin Forestry Best Management Practices for Water Quality</i> (Appendix D) lists non-native species suitable for cover crops for short term erosion control. <i>Wisconsin's Forestry Best Management Practices for Invasive Species Field Manual</i> (Appendix H) lists species recommended for revegetation.</p>
<p>6.9.b. If exotic species are used, their provenance and the location of their use are documented, and their ecological effects are actively monitored.</p>	C	<p>Wisconsin DNR analyzed the risk of using non-native species listed in these BMP manuals. County staff follow the guidelines from this evaluation, which indicated low risk of invasiveness and low risk of establishment of a seed bank.</p>
<p>6.9.c The forest owner or manager shall take timely action to curtail or significantly reduce any adverse impacts resulting from their use of exotic species</p>	C	
<p>C6.10. Forest conversion to plantations or non-forest land uses shall not occur, except in circumstances where conversion: a) Entails a very limited portion of the forest management unit; and b) Does not occur on High Conservation Value Forest areas; and c) Will enable clear, substantial, additional, secure, long-term conservation benefits across the forest management unit.</p>	C	-
<p>P7 A management plan -- appropriate to the scale and intensity of the operations -- shall be written, implemented, and kept up to date. The long-term objectives of management, and the means of achieving them, shall be clearly stated.</p>		
<p>C7.1. The management plan and supporting documents shall provide:</p>	C	-

<p>a) Management objectives. b) description of the forest resources to be managed, environmental limitations, land use and ownership status, socio-economic conditions, and a profile of adjacent lands. c) Description of silvicultural and/or other management system, based on the ecology of the forest in question and information gathered through resource inventories. d) Rationale for rate of annual harvest and species selection. e) Provisions for monitoring of forest growth and dynamics. f) Environmental safeguards based on environmental assessments. g) Plans for the identification and protection of rare, threatened and endangered species. h) Maps describing the forest resource base including protected areas, planned management activities and land ownership. i) Description and justification of harvesting techniques and equipment to be used.</p>		
<p>7.1.a The management plan identifies the ownership and legal status of the FMU and its resources, including rights held by the owner and rights held by others.</p>	<p>C</p>	<p>County-level FMPs include chapters on statutory authority and ownership. County-level FMPs cite Wisconsin Statutes 28.10 and 28.11, the legislation that establishes the authority for establishment of, administration of, and management of county forests. The <i>DNR Public Forest Lands Handbook</i> provides a comprehensive overview of these statutes. These Statutes have been stable with little change over several decades but if any significant changes were pursued in the future the WCFA would seek involvement.</p>
<p>7.1.b The management plan describes the history of land use and past management, current forest types and associated development, size class and/or successional stages, and</p>	<p>C</p>	<p>Each county’s CLUP describes the history of the forest in each county, the natural features of the forest, and the relevant biological communities and associated resources. Current forest types and age classes are presented in on integrated resource management.</p>

natural disturbance regimes that affect the FMU (see Indicator 6.1.a).		
<p>7.1.c The management plan describes:</p> <p>a) current conditions of the timber and non-timber forest resources being managed; b) desired future conditions; c) historical ecological conditions; and d) applicable management objectives and activities to move the FMU toward desired future conditions.</p>	C	FMPs are complemented by the <i>Wisconsin Forest Management Guidelines</i> (WFMG), published by DNR and revised in 2018. This document presents a history of forest conditions and natural disturbance regimes. Objectives are clearly presented in FMPs, and future conditions and activities are presented in WisFIRS models, AWP, and planning meeting minutes. There is some variation among plans in the presentation of desired future conditions.
<p>7.1.d The management plan includes a description of the landscape within which the FMU is located and describes how landscape-scale habitat elements described in Criterion 6.3 will be addressed.</p>	C	FMPs describe the landscape of each county in, and are complemented by a narrative (Form 2460) prepared for all timber sales. To varying degrees, examples of Form 2460 examined had relevant descriptions of the surrounding landscape. FMP also includes reference to landscape management and habitat elements.
<p>7.1.e The management plan includes a description of the following resources and outlines activities to conserve and/or protect:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • rare, threatened, or endangered species and natural communities (see Criterion 6.2); • plant species and community diversity and wildlife habitats (see Criterion 6.3); • water resources (see Criterion 6.5); • soil resources (see Criterion 6.3); • Representative Sample Areas (see Criterion 6.4); • High Conservation Value Forests (see Principle 9); <p>Other special management areas.</p>	C	FMPs include all of the elements listed in this indicator. Form 2460 and revised appendices of the plans also contain lists of RTE species. Each plan reviewed clearly identified HCVFs protected and managed in cooperation with the State Natural Areas Program.
<p>7.1.f If invasive species are present, the management plan describes invasive species conditions, applicable management objectives, and how</p>	C	Each county plan includes lists and management recommendations for invasive species. This is supplemented by an <i>Invasive Species BMP Manual</i> prepared by the Wisconsin Council on Forestry. Invasive species are also addressed on Form 2460 prior to implementation of timber sales.

they will be controlled (see Indicator 6.3.j).		
7.1.g The management plan describes insects and diseases, current or anticipated outbreaks on forest conditions and management goals, and how insects and diseases will be managed (see Criteria 6.6 and 6.8).	C	County plans address control of forest pests and pathogens. The <i>WDNR Public Forest Lands Handbook 2460.5</i> contains guidance on insects and diseases, with particular emphasis on how to use WisFIRS to develop management options.
7.1.h If chemicals are used, the plan describes what is being used, applications, and how the management system conforms with Criterion 6.6.	C	County forests use chemicals sparingly, especially for silviculture, and county management plans mostly address applicable laws and regulations on their use. Each county FMP includes an integrated pest management program, and the WFMG addresses pesticide use. A specific plan is required for each application, approved by the County Forest Administrator and detailed in either on Form 2460 or a separate chemical use form.
7.1.i If biological controls are used, the management plan describes what is being used, applications, and how the management system conforms with Criterion 6.8.	C	Similar to chemical use, the CLUP includes general reference to biological controls, if any. A specific plan would be approved, likely requiring and environmental assessment.
7.1.j The management plan incorporates the results of the evaluation of social impacts, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • traditional cultural resources and rights of use (see Criterion 2.1); • potential conflicts with customary uses and use rights (see Criteria 2.2, 2.3, 3.2); • management of ceremonial, archeological, and historic sites (see Criteria 3.3 and 4.5); • management of aesthetic values (see Indicator 4.4.a); • public access to and use of the forest, and other recreation issues; local and regional socioeconomic conditions and economic opportunities, including creation and/or maintenance of quality jobs	C	Social impacts are presented mostly in county plans, which include sections on treaty rights, cultural features, administration, training, ordinances, etc. Additional information is found in appendices. WCFA maintains information on socioeconomic impacts of the FME on its website, and was a part of the Wisconsin’s Forest Practices Study (WFPS) to examine the impacts of Wisconsin’s forestry practices. All of the social impact elements in this indicator are included in the documents that comprise county management plants.

<p>(see Indicators 4.1.b and 4.4.a), local purchasing opportunities (see Indicator 4.1.e), and participation in local development opportunities (see Indicator 4.1.g).</p>		
<p>7.1.k The management plan describes the general purpose, condition and maintenance needs of the transportation network (see Indicator 6.5.e).</p>	C	<p>County FMPs and AWP plans address the transportation network. BMP manuals provide descriptions of common methods of maintaining forest roads and trails.</p>
<p>7.1.l The management plan describes the silvicultural and other management systems used and how they will sustain, over the long term, forest ecosystems present on the FMU.</p>	C	<p>General references are contained in county plans. The <i>DNR Silviculture Guidance</i> is the primary reference for this element of the plan. Specific silviculture plans are part of Form 2460 and discussed in AWP.</p>
<p>7.1.m The management plan describes how species selection and harvest rate calculations were developed to meet the requirements of Criterion 5.6.</p>	C	<p>The degree to which harvest rate calculations are presented in county plans varies, but the <i>Public Lands Handbook</i> is the primary reference for harvest rate calculations along with Help menus in WisFIRS and reoccurring training. Species selection for harvest is a product of annual updates from forest recon and the programming of the WisFIRS system.</p>
<p>7.1.n The management plan includes a description of monitoring procedures necessary to address the requirements of Criterion 8.2.</p>	C	<p>Most of the required monitoring is part of the forest compartment reconnaissance (recon), described in detail in the <i>WDNR Public Forest Lands Handbook 2460.5</i>.</p>
<p>7.1.o The management plan includes maps describing the resource base, the characteristics of general management zones, special management areas, and protected areas at a level of detail to achieve management objectives and protect sensitive sites.</p>	C	<p>All relevant maps are included WCFP plans. Maps are also available through WisFIRS and GIS.</p>
<p>7.1.p The management plan describes and justifies the types and sizes of harvesting machinery and techniques employed on the FMU to minimize or limit impacts to the resource.</p>	C	<p>Although there are general descriptions of harvesting equipment in WFMG, specific requirements for machinery or special provisions for harvesting are included in prescriptions for each harvest and described on Form 2460. Most harvesting on WCFP is done with processors and forwarders, generally considered to have minimal impacts on resources.</p>

<p>7.1.q Plans for harvesting and other significant site-disturbing management activities required to carry out the management plan are prepared prior to implementation. Plans clearly describe the activity, the relationship to objectives, outcomes, any necessary environmental safeguards, health and safety measures, and include maps of adequate detail.</p>	<p>C</p>	<p>All elements of this indicator are addressed routinely in the harvest prescription and narrative completed before advertising timber sales. This is a multi-disciplinary process, usually involving DNR personnel with expertise in wildlife, fisheries, water, cultural features, etc. See Form 2460 and the AWP.</p> <p>Timber harvest planning is robust and well-documented, fulfilling the requirements of this and related indicators in this standard. As part of the harvest planning, approval and recordkeeping process a Timber Sale Notice and Cutting Report is prepared for all sales. The narrative portion includes the following sections:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. General Sale Description b Ecological Considerations, including Management History, Silvicultural Systems, Green Tree Retention, Post-Harvest Regeneration Plan, Invasive Species Evaluation, Insect/Disease Concerns, Skidding/Seasonal Restrictions, Wildlife Action Plan/Species of Greatest Conservation Need, Conservation Opportunity Area (COA), Results of NHI, and Comments c. Water Quality Considerations d. Aesthetic Considerations e. Wildlife Considerations, including Snag, Den and Mast Tree Retention, Game Openings, and Comments f. Recreation Considerations g. Resources of Special Concern Considerations (Archeological / Historical Review)
<p>7.1.r The management plan describes the stakeholder consultation process.</p>	<p>C</p>	<p>WCFP plans describes elements of stakeholder consultation, but this is addressed more specifically by the state statutes requiring environmental assessments and public oversight of county plans.</p>
<p>C7.2. The management plan shall be periodically revised to incorporate the results of monitoring or new scientific and technical information, as well as to respond to changing environmental, social and economic circumstances.</p>	<p>C</p>	<p>-</p>
<p>7.2.a The management plan is kept up to date. It is reviewed on an ongoing basis and is updated whenever necessary to incorporate the results of monitoring or new scientific and technical information, as well as to</p>	<p>C</p>	<p>County forest managers are directed to develop new comprehensive land use plans every 15 years by Wisconsin Statute 28.11(5)(a), although the plans are living documents and updated frequently. AWP's follow the entry of new data from forest reconnaissance, and annual WisFIRS updates produce new 15-year harvest projections.</p>

<p>respond to changing environmental, social and economic circumstances. At a minimum, a full revision occurs every 10 years.</p>		<p>The planning documents that guide management are updated on an as needed basis, in many cases at least every 10 years. Such documents include the <i>Silvicultural Handbook</i>, <i>Public Forest Lands Handbook</i>, <i>2460 Cutting Notices</i>, <i>Ecological Landscapes</i>, and <i>Annual Work Plans</i> for each county. Assuming that these planning documents continue to play important roles in guiding management of Wisconsin’s County Forests, the 15-year update schedule for the County Forest Comprehensive Land Use Plans is acceptable.</p> <p>Certain components of management planning documents, such as the DNR Silviculture Guidance, are updated at least annually due to the results of scientific and technical information.</p>
<p>C7.3. Forest workers shall receive adequate training and supervision to ensure proper implementation of the management plans.</p>	<p>C</p>	<p>-</p>
<p>7.3.a. Workers are qualified to properly implement the management plan; All forest workers are provided with sufficient guidance and supervision to adequately implement their respective components of the plan.</p>	<p>C</p>	<p>All operators records were provided for the 2020 audit and all were FISTA-trained; training records were reviewed. Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, face-to-face (F2F) engagements were limited and no operators were selected for F2F interviews.</p> <p>As confirmed in interviews with county and DNR staff and operators, pre-work meetings are conducted immediately prior to harvesting activity; a sample of pre-sale checklists was reviewed. Additionally, interviews with operators and a review of written inspection forms confirmed regular visits by county foresters during operations. Operators stated that county foresters are accessible if questions arise and that there is regular communication.</p>
<p>C7.4. While respecting the confidentiality of information, forest managers shall make publicly available a summary of the primary elements of the management plan, including those listed in Criterion 7.1.</p>	<p>C</p>	<p>-</p>
<p>7.4.a While respecting landowner confidentiality, the management plan or a management plan summary that outlines the elements of the plan</p>	<p>C</p>	<p>The County forest comprehensive land use plans are posted on most County Forestry Department websites. Plans are also available at publicly available county forest offices. Other components of the management plan are also available.</p>

<p>described in Criterion 7.1 is available to the public either at no charge or a nominal fee.</p>		
<p>7.4.b Managers of public forests make draft management plans, revisions and supporting documentation easily accessible for public review and comment prior to their implementation. Managers address public comments and modify the plans to ensure compliance with this Standard.</p>	<p>C</p>	<p>Both draft and final plans are made available for public input. WCFP management plans, annual work plans, and annual reports are posted on county website in most counties, and are available in other formats upon request.</p> <p>Monthly meetings with Forestry and Recreation Committees in each county are open to the public. (Note: all counties have such a committee, but committee names vary).</p>
<p>P8 Monitoring shall be conducted -- appropriate to the scale and intensity of forest management -- to assess the condition of the forest, yields of forest products, chain of custody, management activities and their social and environmental impacts.</p> <p><i>Applicability Note: On small and medium-sized forests (see Glossary), an informal, qualitative assessment may be appropriate. Formal, quantitative monitoring is required on large forests and/or intensively managed forests.</i></p>		
<p>C8.1. The frequency and intensity of monitoring should be determined by the scale and intensity of forest management operations, as well as, the relative complexity and fragility of the affected environment. Monitoring procedures should be consistent and replicable over time to allow comparison of results and assessment of change.</p>	<p>C</p>	<p>-</p>
<p>8.2. Forest management should include the research and data collection needed to monitor, at a minimum, the following indicators: a) yield of all forest products harvested, b) growth rates, regeneration, and condition of the forest, c) composition and observed changes in the flora and fauna, d) environmental and social impacts of harvesting and other operations, and e) cost, productivity, and efficiency of forest management.</p>	<p>C</p>	<p>-</p>

<p>8.2.a.1. For all commercially harvested products, an inventory system is maintained. The inventory system includes at a minimum: a) species, b) volumes, c) stocking, d) regeneration, and e) stand and forest composition and structure; and f) timber quality.</p>	<p>C</p>	<p>WisFIRS is a comprehensive system for guiding the reconnaissance and inventory of forest compartments as well as for scheduling harvest and other management options of stands. All of the elements listed in this indicator are included in the <i>Wisconsin DNR Public Forest Lands Handbook</i> (No. 2460.5).</p>
<p>8.2.a.2. Significant, unanticipated removal or loss or increased vulnerability of forest resources is monitored and recorded. Recorded information shall include date and location of occurrence, description of disturbance, extent and severity of loss, and may be both quantitative and qualitative.</p>	<p>C</p>	<p>No significant, unanticipated removal or loss or increased vulnerability of forest resources has occurred in the last year in the counties sampled. If such a loss were to occur, data would be gathered by a special reconnaissance inventory and entered into WisFIRS before annual updates of harvest scheduling.</p>
<p>8.2.b The forest owner or manager maintains records of harvested timber and NTFPs (volume and product and/or grade). Records must adequately ensure that the requirements under Criterion 5.6 are met.</p>	<p>C</p>	<p>Harvest volumes are entered into WisFIRS before annual harvest scheduling. Records for harvest of firewood and other non-certified NTFPs, including by members of tribes. Harvest data are manually entered into WisFIRS, as is data from the Timber Sale Notice & Cutting Reports. In this respect, WisFIRS is the central repository and mechanism for monitoring the volume harvested timber and non-certified NTFPs over time.</p>
<p>8.2.c. The forest owner or manager periodically obtains data needed to monitor presence on the FMU of:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Rare, threatened and endangered species and/or their habitats; 2) Common and rare plant communities and/or habitat; 3) Location, presence and abundance of invasive species; 4) Condition of protected areas, set-asides and buffer zones; 5) High Conservation Value Forests (see Criterion 9.4). 	<p>C</p>	<p>The DNR conducts wildlife surveys on county forests: nesting bird surveys, grouse transects, summer deer observations, winter track surveys, bear surveys, and a variety of other wildlife and plant monitoring.</p> <p>The NHI database is updated based on the results of statewide inventories, data generated by NHI cooperators at universities, nonprofit organizations, federal and state agencies and individuals; and published literature and reports submitted to the DNR.</p> <p>Foresters are trained to assess sites for invasive plants during routine forest reconnaissance. Invasives are on the recon datasheet to allow for retention of this information. Several counties participate in Cooperative Weed Management Associations. Additionally, the DNR also has a system for</p>

		<p>gathering invasives information (aquatic, wetland, and terrestrial) from the general public.</p> <p>Forest health monitoring, including gypsy moth and EAB surveys, occurs at the state level. During routine forest reconnaissance, foresters are trained to assess sites for invasives. Some counties locate incidents of invasive species detections via GPS for use when controlling and monitoring.</p> <p>As part of monitoring active harvest sites, as well as closing out such sites, county foresters ensure that protected areas, set-asides, and buffer zones are implemented according to the prescription. Notes from visits to active sites were reviewed, as were harvest close-out checklists.</p> <p>HCVs are monitored regularly, which was verified through document review and interviews with county staff.</p>
<p>8.2.d.1. Monitoring is conducted to ensure that site specific plans and operations are properly implemented, environmental impacts of site disturbing operations are minimized, and that harvest prescriptions and guidelines are effective.</p>	<p>C</p>	<p>In addition to regular monitoring of active harvests and close-out, BMP monitoring for water quality, soil disturbance monitoring, and vernal pond monitoring occurs. Examples of timber sale inspection reports and checklists for sites visited were reviewed.</p> <p>A report produced in February 2016 by the Forest Stewards Guild, <i>Wisconsin Forest Practices and Harvesting Constraints Assessment</i>, evaluates the collective impact of constraints (BMPs, etc.) on forest management and ecological consequences of those constraints. The report found “that overall, guidelines, best practices, and other constraints intended to protect forest resources have positive effects on forest composition and structure and in protecting forest productivity.” This suggests that harvest prescriptions and guidelines are effective in minimizing environmental impacts of site disturbing operations associated with active forest management.</p>
<p>8.2.d.2. A monitoring program is in place to assess the condition and environmental impacts of the forest-road system.</p>	<p>C</p>	<p>WCFP requires annual reports and annual work plans for each county. These annual plans routinely include information on the system of forest roads. <i>Wisconsin’s Forestry Best Management Practices for Water Quality</i> includes the need for inspection at regular intervals for active roads and inspection of inactive roads. County staff interviewed indicated that their regular presence in the forest is an important mechanism for monitoring road</p>

		conditions. Any problems noted by staff are promptly reported to the county administrator.
8.2.d.3. The landowner or manager monitors relevant socio-economic issues (see Indicator 4.4.a), including the social impacts of harvesting, participation in local economic opportunities (see Indicator 4.1.g), the creation and/or maintenance of quality job opportunities (see Indicator 4.1.b), and local purchasing opportunities (see Indicator 4.1.e).	C	With county board meetings being open to the public and most documents available for public review, the county administrators are continually aware of relevant socioeconomic issues. They often receive stakeholder comments and respond to those comments. Individual county comprehensive land use plans, as well as the WCFA website, contain monitoring information.
8.2.d.4. Stakeholder responses to management activities are monitored and recorded as necessary.	C	Meeting minutes with the public and Citizen Advisory Councils serve as a record of stakeholder interaction.
8.2.d.5. Where sites of cultural significance exist, the opportunity to jointly monitor sites of cultural significance is offered to tribal representatives (see Principle 3).	C	Communication with tribal representatives is ongoing, assuring that any opportunities for joint monitoring of cultural sites are made available to tribes.
8.2.e. The forest owner or manager monitors the costs and revenues of management in order to assess productivity and efficiency.	C	Quarterly and annual accomplishment reports show progress throughout the year for various work goals (timber sale establishment, reforestation, etc.). Timber sale inspections constitute monitoring at harvest sale level.
C8.3. Documentation shall be provided by the forest manager to enable monitoring and certifying organizations to trace each forest product from its origin, a process known as the "chain of custody."	C	
C8.4. The results of monitoring shall be incorporated into the implementation and revision of the management plan.	C	-
C8.5. While respecting the confidentiality of information, forest managers shall make publicly available a summary of the results of monitoring indicators, including those listed in Criterion 8.2.	C	-

P9 Management activities in high conservation value forests shall maintain or enhance the attributes which define such forests. Decisions regarding high conservation value forests shall always be considered in the context of a precautionary approach.

High Conservation Value Forests are those that possess one or more of the following attributes:

- a) Forest areas containing globally, regionally or nationally significant: concentrations of biodiversity values (e.g., endemism, endangered species, refugia); and/or large landscape level forests, contained within, or containing the management unit, where viable populations of most if not all naturally occurring species exist in natural patterns of distribution and abundance**
- b) Forest areas that are in or contain rare, threatened or endangered ecosystems**
- c) Forest areas that provide basic services of nature in critical situations (e.g., watershed protection, erosion control)**
- d) Forest areas fundamental to meeting basic needs of local communities (e.g., subsistence, health) and/or critical to local communities’ traditional cultural identity (areas of cultural, ecological, economic or religious significance identified in cooperation with such local communities).**

Examples of forest areas that *may have* high conservation value attributes include, but are not limited to:

Examples were removed for brevity but are in the standards.

C9.1. Assessment to determine the presence of the attributes consistent with High Conservation Value Forests will be completed, appropriate to scale and intensity of forest management.	C	-
C9.3. The management plan shall include and implement specific measures that ensure the maintenance and/or enhancement of the applicable conservation attributes consistent with the precautionary approach. These measures shall be specifically included in the publicly available management plan summary.	C	-
C9.4. Annual monitoring shall be conducted to assess the effectiveness of the measures employed to maintain or enhance the applicable conservation attributes.	C	

<p>9.4.a. The forest owner or manager monitors, or participates in a program to annually monitor, the status of the specific HCV attributes, including the effectiveness of the measures employed for their maintenance or enhancement. The monitoring program is designed and implemented consistent with the requirements of Principle 8.</p>	<p>C</p>	<p>Periodic reconnaissance is conducted updating and targeted monitoring visits to some HCVFs each year as needed. HCV areas mostly undergo passive management. Interviews with staff indicate that these are visited periodically to ensure that there is little to no visible anthropogenic disturbance.</p>
<p>9.4.b. When monitoring results indicate increasing risk to a specific HCV attribute, the forest owner/manager re-evaluates the measures taken to maintain or enhance that attribute, and adjusts the management measures in an effort to reverse the trend.</p>	<p>C</p>	<p>According to FME staff and external stakeholders, no increasing risks to HCVs have been detected.</p>
<p>P10 Plantations shall be planned and managed in accordance with Principles and Criteria 1-9, and Principle 10 and its Criteria. While plantations can provide an array of social and economic benefits, and can contribute to satisfying the world's needs for forest products, they should complement the management of, reduce pressures on, and promote the restoration and conservation of natural forests.</p> <p>This principle is not applicable for the FME which uses native species and stands are managed using native species and, in all cases, planting and regeneration uses native species appropriate to ecological conditions based on the Kotar’s ecological classification system for Wisconsin.</p>		

Appendix 6 – Chain of Custody Indicators for FMEs Conformance Table

Chain of Custody indicators were not evaluated during this evaluation.

SCS FSC Chain of Custody Indicators for Forest Management Enterprises, V8-0

REQUIREMENT	C/NC/NA
1. Quality Management	
1.1 The FME shall appoint a management representative as having overall responsibility and authority for the organization’s compliance with all applicable requirements of this standard.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> NC
Evidence 1.1: As confirmed through review of COC procedures, interviews with staff, the certificate manager is Chain of Custody Administrator with responsibility and authority for this FME’s conformance with the requirements of this standard.	
1.2 A system shall be implemented to track and trace all products that are sold with an FSC Claim from the <i>forest of origin</i> to the <i>forest gate(s)</i> . When legally required, and for group and multiple FMU certificates, this system shall also be documented. <i>The forest of origin should be the smallest reportable manageable unit, such as a tax parcel. It shall never be larger than a Forest Management Unit (FMU).</i> <i>The forest gate is defined as the point where the change in ownership of the certified-forest product occurs.</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> NC <input type="checkbox"/> NA, FME does not sell any products with an FSC claim
Evidence 1.2:	
1.3 The FME shall maintain complete records of all FSC-related COC activities, including sales and training, for at least 5 years.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> NC
Evidence 1.3: This FME’s sale records were presented and reviewed. Records of FSC-related CoC activities are kept for at least 5 years, per review of records and interviews with FME staff. Log load tickets were examined, for example: Wood County 20086, 20407, and 19118.	
1.4 The FME shall define its <i>forest gate(s)</i> (check all that apply):	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> NC
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Stump <i>Stumpage sale or sales of standing timber; transfer of ownership of certified-forest product occurs <u>upon</u> harvest.</i>	
<input type="checkbox"/> On-site concentration yard <i>Transfer of ownership of certified-product occurs at concentration yard under control of FME.</i>	
<input type="checkbox"/> Off-site Mill/ Log Yard/ Port	

<p><i>Transfer of ownership occurs when certified-product is unloaded or paid for at purchaser's facility or a facility under the purchaser's control.</i></p>	
<p><input type="checkbox"/> Auction house/ Brokerage <i>Transfer of ownership occurs at a government-run or private auction house/ brokerage.</i></p>	
<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Lump-sum sale/ Per Unit/ Pre-Paid Agreement <i>A timber sale in which the buyer and seller agree on a total price for marked standing trees or for trees within a defined area before the wood is removed — the timber is usually paid for <u>before</u> harvesting begins. Similar to a per-unit sale.</i></p>	
<p><input type="checkbox"/> Log landing <i>Transfer of ownership of certified-product occurs at landing/yarding areas.</i></p>	
<p><input type="checkbox"/> Other (Please describe):</p>	
<p>1.5 The FME shall have sufficient control over its <i>forest gate(s)</i> to ensure that there is no risk of mixing of FSC-certified forest products covered by the scope of the FM/COC certificate with forest products from outside of the scope prior to the transfer of ownership.</p>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> NC <input type="checkbox"/> NA, FME does not sell any products with an FSC claim</p>
<p>Evidence 1.4/1.5: The legal transfer point is defined within each timber sale contract. For field-scaled sales, specification that logs cannot be transferred prior to scaling is included in specific language. Transfer of ownership in those cases occurs either upon scaling or approval from county forest staff.</p>	
<p>1.6 The FME and its contractors shall not process FSC-certified material prior to transfer of ownership at the <i>forest gate(s)</i> without conforming to applicable chain of custody requirements. <i>NOTE: This does not apply to log cutting or de-barking units, small portable sawmills, on-site processing of chips/biomass or primary processing of Non-Timber Forest Products (NTFPs) under the FME's control (e.g., latex, rattan, maple syrup, etc.) originating from the FMU under evaluation.</i></p>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> NC <input type="checkbox"/> NA</p>
<p>Evidence 1.6: No processing occurs prior to legal transfer of ownership.</p>	
<p>1.7 The FME has supported transaction verification conducted by SCS and Assurance Services International (ASI) by providing samples of FSC transaction data as requested by SCS. <i>NOTE: Pricing information is not within the scope of transaction verification data disclosure.</i></p>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> NC <input type="checkbox"/> NA, no verification requested</p>
<p>1.8 The FME shall support fiber testing by surrendering samples and specimens of materials and information about species composition and the location where the sample originated for verification, as requested by its certification body, ASI or FSC.</p>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> NC <input type="checkbox"/> NA, no verification requested</p>
<p>Evidence 1.7/1.8: This has not been requested but WI DNR would comply with such requirements as confirmed with CoC administrator.</p>	
<p>2. Product Control, Sales and Delivery</p>	

<p>2.1. Products from the certified forest area shall be identifiable as certified at the <i>forest gate(s)</i>.</p>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> NC <input type="checkbox"/> NA, FME does not sell any products with an FSC claim
<p>Evidence 2.1: A variety of contracts were presented and reviewed. These documents include the identification of these products as certified (FSC 100%). Contracts were presented and reviewed for all sites examined during the audit, see Site Notes for a listing of those contracts reviewed. Most harvested timber is transferred upon severance from the stump (stumpage sales) or prior to harvest (lump-sum sales). Haul tickets may be used in stumpage sales to track harvested materials once they leave the site, but ownership remains with the buyer upon ownership transfer. In lump-sum sales, the buyer is responsible for any COC requirements. For field-scaled sales, in which logs are scaled at the landing prior to transport, county and/or DNR staff scale each log and mark it with paint. This lets the buyer know that the item is approved to transport.</p>	
<p>2.2 Information about all products sold shall be compiled and documented for all FMUs in the scope of certification, including:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Common and scientific species name; 2) Product name or description; 3) Volume (or quantity) of product; 4) Information to trace the material to the source of origin harvest block; 5) Harvest date; 6) If basic processing activities take place in the forest, the date and volume/quantity produced; and 7) Whether or not the material was sold with an FSC Claim. 	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> NC
<p>Evidence 2.2: County staff tally and track harvest timber volumes. Information is entered into WisFIRS for comparison of pre-harvest and post-harvest volume information. Scale tickets are retained for each load.</p>	
<p>2.3. The FME shall ensure that all sales documents issued for outputs sold with FSC claims include the following information:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) name and contact details of the FME; b) information to identify the customer, such as their name and address; c) date when the document was issued; d) product name or description, including common and scientific species name(s); e) quantity of products sold; f) the FME's FSC Forest Management (FM/COC) or FSC Controlled Wood (CW/FM) code; 	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> NC <input type="checkbox"/> NA, FME does not sell any products with an FSC claim

<p>g) clear indication of the FSC claim for each product item or the total products as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. the claim “FSC 100%” for products from FSC 100% product groups; or ii. the claim “FSC Controlled Wood” for products from FSC Controlled Wood product groups. 	
<p>2.4 If the sales documentation issued by the FME is not included with the shipment of the product and this information is relevant for the customer to identify the product as being FSC certified, the related delivery documentation has included the same information as required in indicator 2.3 and a reference linking it to the sales documentation. Note: 2.3 and 2.4 are based on FSC-STD-40-004 V3-0 Clauses 5.1 and 5.3</p>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> NC <input type="checkbox"/> NA, delivery documentation not required or FME is not responsible for issuing delivery documentation <input type="checkbox"/> NA, FME does not sell any products with an FSC claim</p>
<p>Evidence 2.3/2.4: A variety of timber sale contracts, trip tickets, wood settlement sheets and a timber harvest summary spreadsheet (2017 and 2018) were presented and reviewed and include the volume of products sold. A variety of timber sale contracts were presented and reviewed for each site described in section 2.1 (see Site Notes). Current county forest timber sale contracts and haul tickets are maintained by county forest administrators. Whenever changes are made relative to forest certification information, the WCFP manager is consulted. Contracts contain the correct certificate code and FSC claim, as well as elements a)-e). Samples of timber sale contracts and load tickets were examined. Load tickets examined have elements a)-g) of 2.3 as stated above.</p>	
<p>2.5 If the FME is unable to include the FSC claim and/or certificate code in sales or delivery documents, the required information has been provided to the customer through supplementary documentation (e.g. supplementary letters). In this case, the FME has obtained permission from SCS to implement supplementary documentation in accordance with the following criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. there shall exist clear information linking the supplementary documentation to the sales or delivery documents; b. there is no risk that the customer will misinterpret which products are or are not FSC certified in the supplementary documentation; and c. where the sales documents contain multiple products with different FSC claims, each product shall be cross-referenced to the associated FSC claim provided in the supplementary documentation. 	<p><input type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> NC <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NA, all information included per 2.3 and/or 2.4</p>
<p>Evidence 2.5: No space constraints, supplementary information is not required.</p>	
<p>2.6 The FME may identify products exclusively made of input materials from small or community producers by adding the following claim to sales documents: “From small or community forest producers.” This claim can be passed on along the supply chain by certificate holders.</p>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> NC</p>

<p>A forest management unit (FMU) or group of FMUs that meet(s) the small and low-intensity managed forest eligibility criteria (FSC-STD-1-003a) and addenda. A community FMU must comply with the tenure and management criteria defined in FSC-STD-40-004.</p>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NA, not a small or community producer; or does not wish to pass along this claim</p>
<p>Evidence 2.6: FME does not make such claims.</p>	
<p>3. Labeling and Promotion</p>	
<p><input type="checkbox"/> NA – FME does not use/ intend to use trademarks and no trademark uses were detected during the audit.</p>	
<p><input type="checkbox"/> NA – CW/FM certificates are not allowed to use FSC trademarks and no trademark uses were detected during the audit (Note: it is a Major nonconformity to 3.1 if CW/FM certificates are found to be using trademarks).</p>	
<p>3.1 The FME shall adhere to relevant trademark use requirements of FSC-STD-50-001 described in the <i>SCS Trademark Annex for FMEs</i>.</p>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> NC</p>
<p>Evidence 3.1: Refer to evidence and findings cited in applicable trademark checklist(s) cited below. <input type="checkbox"/> FSC trademark use was detected for a CW/FM certificate as described in Major CAR for 3.1, FSC-STD-30-010, Annex 3, 1.2, and FSC-STD-50-001, 2.1e and 11.2: See Trademark Checklist in this Audit report.</p>	
<p>4. Outsourcing</p>	
<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NA – FME does not outsource any COC-related activities, as confirmed via interviews, sales documentation, and field observation.</p>	
<p><input type="checkbox"/> NA – FME outsources low-risk activities such as transport and harvesting, as confirmed via interviews, sales documentation, and field observation.</p>	
<p>4.1 The FME shall provide the names and contact details of all outsourced service providers.</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> NC <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NA</p>
<p>4.2 The FME shall have a control system for the outsourced process and agreement which ensures that: a) The material used for the production of FSC-certified material is traceable and not mixed with any other material prior to the point of transfer of legal ownership; b) The outsourcer keeps records of FSC-certified material covered under the outsourcing agreement; c) The FME issues the final invoice for the processed or produced FSC-certified material following outsourcing; d) The outsourcer only uses FSC trademarks on products covered by the scope of the outsourcing agreement and not for promotional use; e) The outsourcer does not further outsource the material; and f) The outsourcer accepts the right of the certificate body to audit them.</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> NC <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NA</p>
<p>Evidence 4.1/4.2:</p>	

Logging and transportation of forest products are considered low risk and therefore these indicators are NA.	
5. Training and/or Communication Strategies/	
5.1 All relevant FME staff and outsourcers shall be trained in the FME’s COC control system commensurate with the scale and intensity of operations and shall demonstrate competence in implementing the FME’s COC control system.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> NC
5.2 The FME shall maintain up-to-date records of its COC training and/or communications program, such as a list of trained employees, completed COC trainings or communications, the intended frequency of COC training (e.g., training plan), and related program materials (e.g., presentations, memos, contracts, employee handbooks, etc.).	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> NC
Evidence 5.1/5.2: Interviewed County staff demonstrated awareness of when to use haul tickets and how to assign them to each sale. There is low risk for failure to pass COC claims on to buyers since information from 2.3 is included in contract templates. Informal training occurs at WCFA meetings to review certification issues, including COC. Operators showed proper understanding of how to use the trip ticket system and the purpose of the COC procedures. Training on COC procedures occurs for new employees that learn timber sale administration. Since the current COC system is largely automated as information is included in contracts and load tickets by default, training records of training are minimal.	

Appendix 7 – Trademark Standard Conformance Table

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

NA, does not use/intend to use FSC trademarks for any purposes; or
 NA, is fully integrated and all trademark uses are treated under the COC Annex to this report that includes a full review of FSC-STD-40-004 and FSC-STD-50-001.
(finished with this section; all TM checklists may be deleted)
Note: in case of requests for interpretation, the English version of these indicators shall be preferred.

Forest Management Trademark CARs Chart/ Certificate Type	Audit Type – Grade
<i>Since trademark use is a minor aspect of FM audits, most nonconformances result in Minor CARs outside of the exceptions noted in this table. In the cases of integrated operations (i.e., operations with both FM/COC and COC certificates), timelines assigned for Minor CARs may be aligned with nonconformities of the COC certificate (e.g., Minor CAR with deadline of 3 or 6 months). SCS national offices/affiliates may take local considerations (e.g., legal framework) into account to assign CAR grades.</i>	

FM/COC or FM (Single/Multiple FMU)	Main Evaluation – Major if detected prior to certificate issuance
	Re-Evaluation/ Surveillance – Major if certificate is not valid (e.g., suspended)
CW/FM (Single/Multiple/Group)	All – Major per 3.1 of SCS COC Indicators for FMEs
Annex A – TM Management System (TMMS)	All – Major if TMMS not approved by SCS or SCS affiliate
Annex B – Group	Main Evaluation – Major
	Re-Evaluation/ Surveillance – Major or Minor depending on the scale/scope

1. General Requirements for Use of the FSC Trademarks (FSC “checkmark-and-tree” logo, initials “FSC,” and/or name “Forest Stewardship Council”)		
Trademark uses reviewed:		
Trademark Application (on-product/promotional)	Case Approval #, or Email (include approver name & date), or other appropriate documentation	Are all elements correct? (e.g., trademark symbol, color scheme, size, etc.) If not, describe in Nonconformities below.
Website		Y <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/>
Timber Sale Contracts		Y <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/>
Log Load Tickets		Y <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/>
Forest Management Plans		Y <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> All known uses reviewed. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sample reviewed. Rationale that sample choice is sufficient to confirm requirements are met: Of the 21 Counties in the certificate only 4 were sampled in the field. Of those 4 counties all timber harvests and forest management activity documents were examined for logo use. Website was searched for “FSC” and “Forest Stewardship Council” terms, and the Certificate “landing page” was examined. <input type="checkbox"/> Trademark uses detected include those grandfathered in under prior FSC trademark rules (e.g., FSC-TMK-50-201). Place the initials “GF” by the specific Trademark Applications above. <i>Note: This only applies to printed items or physical promotional materials (e.g., hats, load tickets) in stock. New printings, items, and websites must be updated per FSC-STD-50-001 requirements. If the organization only has GF uses and no new uses, the rest of this checklist is NA.</i>		
1.2 Trademark License Agreement and valid certificate In order to use these FSC trademarks, the FME shall have a valid FSC trademark license agreement and hold a valid certificate.		Maintained on file by SCS Main Office

<p><i>Note: Consultations for certification Organizations applying for forest management certification or conducting activities related to the implementation of controlled wood requirements, may refer to FSC by name and initials for stakeholder consultation.</i></p>	
<p>Evidence 1.2: Maintained on file by SCS Main Office.</p>	
<p>1.6 Product Group List The products intended to be labeled or promoted as FSC certified have been included in the organization’s certified product group list.</p>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> NC <input type="checkbox"/> C w/ OBS
<p>Evidence 1.6: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Refer to Product Groups List in Public Summary Report; <input type="checkbox"/> The following nonconformance(s) were detected in Product Groups: ; or <input type="checkbox"/> Refer to OBS related to Product Groups:</p>	
<p>1.3 Trademark License Code The FSC trademark license code assigned by FSC to the organization accompanies any use of the FSC trademarks. It is sufficient to show the code once per product or promotional material.</p>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> NC <input type="checkbox"/> C w/ OBS
<p>1.4 Trademark Symbol The FSC logo and the ‘Forests For All Forever’ marks shall include the trademark symbol ® in the upper right corner when used on products or materials to be distributed in a country where the relevant trademark is registered. For use in a country where the trademark is not yet registered, use of the symbol ™ is recommended. The Trademark Registration List document is available in the FSC trade-mark portal and marketing toolkit. The symbol ® shall also be added to ‘FSC’ and ‘Forest Steward-ship Council’ at the first or most prominent use in any text; one use per material is sufficient (e.g. website or brochure). <i>NOTE: The use of the trademark symbol is not required for FSC claims in sales and delivery documents, or for the disclaimer statement specified in requirement 6.2.</i></p>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> NC <input type="checkbox"/> C w/ OBS <input type="checkbox"/> NA, one or more of noted exceptions applies
<p>2.1 Restrictions on using FSC trademarks The organization has not used the FSC trademarks in the following ways: a) in a way that could cause confusion, misinterpretation, or loss of credibility to the FSC certification scheme; b) in a way that implies that FSC endorses, participates in, or is responsible for activities performed by the organization, outside the scope of certification; c) to promote product quality aspects not covered by FSC certification; d) in product brand or company names, such as ‘FSC Golden Timber’ or website domain names; e) in connection with FSC controlled wood or controlled material – they shall not be used for labelling products or in any promotion of sales or sourcing of controlled material or FSC controlled wood; the initials FSC shall only be used to pass on FSC controlled wood claims in sales and de-livery documentation, in conformity with FSC chain of custody requirements.</p>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> NC <input type="checkbox"/> C w/ OBS
<p>2.2 Translations</p>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> NC

<p>The name 'Forest Stewardship Council' has not been replaced with a translation. A translation may be included in brackets after the name, for example: Forest Stewardship Council® (translation)</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> C w/ OBS <input type="checkbox"/> NA, no translations</p>
<p>Evidence 1.3, 1.4, 2.1, and 2.2: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Refer to Trademark uses reviewed above; <input type="checkbox"/> The following nonconformance(s) were detected ; or <input type="checkbox"/> Refer to OBS:</p>	
<p>Sections 8 and 9 Graphic Rules The organization has only used FSC logos that conform to the standard requirements governing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • color and font (8.1-8.3); • format and size (8.4-8.9); • label placement (8.10); and • 'Forests For All Forever' marks (9.1-9.7). 	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> NC <input type="checkbox"/> C w/ OBS</p>
<p>1.5 Trademark Use Approval The organization has submitted all intended uses of the FSC trademarks to SCS for approval. OR The organization has an approved trademark use management system in place. (If the organization has a trademark use management system, complete Annex A.)</p>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> NC <input type="checkbox"/> C w/ OBS</p>
<p>4.6 FSC trademarks may be used to identify FSC-certified materials in the chain of custody before the products are finished. It is not necessary to submit such segregation marks for approval. All segregation marks shall be removed before the products go to the final point of sale or are delivered to uncertified organizations.</p>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> NC <input type="checkbox"/> C w/ OBS <input type="checkbox"/> NA, trademarks no used for segregation marks/ no se usan las marcas registradas en marcas de separación</p>
<p>Evidence Graphic Rules, 1.5, and 4.6: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Refer to Trademark uses reviewed above; <input type="checkbox"/> The following nonconformance(s) were detected ; or <input type="checkbox"/> Refer to OBS:</p>	

2. On-Product Use of FSC Trademarks
 NA, no use of on-product trademarks (*on-product checklist may be deleted*)

3. Promotional Use of FSC Trademarks

NA, no use of promotional trademarks (*promotional checklist may be deleted*)

<p>6.1 Catalogues, Brochures, and Websites When the FSC trademarks have been used in catalogues, brochures, or websites, the following requirements apply:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is sufficient to present the promotional elements only once in catalogues, brochures, websites, etc. • If both FSC-certified and uncertified products are listed then a text such as “Look for our FSC®-certified products” shall be used next to the promotional elements and the FSC-certified products shall be clearly identified. • If some or all of the products are available as FSC certified on request only, this is be clearly stated. 	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> NC <input type="checkbox"/> C w/ OBS <input type="checkbox"/> NA, not using trademarks in catalogues/ brochures/websites/</p>
<p>6.2 Sales and Delivery Documents When the FSC trademarks are included on sales or delivery document templates that may be used for both FSC and non-FSC products, the following or a similar statement is included: “Only the products that are identified as such on this document are FSC certified”. <i>NOTE: Use of the FSC claim and certificate code on the invoices does not qualify as FSC trademark use.</i></p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> NC <input type="checkbox"/> C w/ OBS <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NA, not using trademarks on templates for FSC & non-FSC products</p>
<p>6.3 Promotional Items All promotional items (e.g., mugs, pens, T-shirts, caps, banners, vehicles, etc.) have displayed, at minimum, the FSC logo and FSC trademark license code.</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> NC <input type="checkbox"/> C w/ OBS <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NA, not labeling promotional items</p>
<p>6.5 Trade Fairs When the FSC trademarks are used for promotion at trade fairs, the organization has:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> clearly marked which products are FSC certified, or add a visible disclaimer stating “Ask for our FSC®-certified products” or similar if no FSC-certified products are displayed. <p><i>NOTE: Use of text to describe the FSC certification of the organization does not require a disclaimer.</i></p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> NC <input type="checkbox"/> C w/ OBS <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NA, not using trademarks at trade fairs</p>
<p>Section 6.6 and 6.7 Investment/Financial Claims 6.6 When investment companies or others are making financial claims based on the organization’s FSC certified operations, the organization has taken full responsibility for the use of the FSC trademarks. 6.7 Any such claims have been accompanied by the disclaimer, “FSC is not responsible for and does not endorse any financial claims on returns on investments.”</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> NC <input type="checkbox"/> C w/ OBS <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NA, not making financial claims about FSC status</p>
<p>7.1 and 7.2 Other Forestry Certification Scheme Logos The FSC trademarks have not been used together with the marks of other forest certification schemes in a way which implies equivalence, or in a way which is disadvantageous to the FSC trademarks in terms of size or placement.</p>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> NC <input type="checkbox"/> C w/ OBS <input type="checkbox"/> NA, not using other scheme logos</p>

<p>7.3 Business Cards The FSC trademarks have not used on business cards to promote the organization’s certification. The FSC logo or ‘Forests For All Forever’ marks are not used on business cards for promotion. A text reference to the organization’s FSC certification, with license code, is allowed, for example “We are FSC® certified (FSC® C#####)” or “We sell FSC®-certified products (FSC® C#####)”.</p>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> NC <input type="checkbox"/> C w/ OBS <input type="checkbox"/> NA, approval granted prior to July 1, 2011</p>
<p>7.4 Promotion with CB Logo FSC certified products have not been promoted using only the SCS Kingfisher and/or SCS Global Services logo.</p>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> NC <input type="checkbox"/> C w/ OBS</p>
<p>Evidence 6.1-6.3, 6.5-6.7, 7.1-7.4: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Refer to Trademark uses reviewed above; <input type="checkbox"/> The following nonconformance(s) were detected ; or <input type="checkbox"/> Refer to OBS:</p>	

Annex A: Trademark use management system
 NA, not using a trademark management system (*Annex A checklist may be deleted*)

Annex B, Additional trademark rules for group FM certificate holders
 NA, not a group FM certificate or group does not use FSC trademarks (*Annex B checklist may be deleted*)