



# Surveillance Audit Report

2010-2014 Sustainable Forestry Initiative® Standard

September 12, 2014

**A. Wisconsin DNR County Forest System**

**FRS #: 1Y943**

**B. Scope:**

SFI Program Objectives 1-7 and 14-20 of the SFI 2010-2014 Standard for land management for participating counties within the Wisconsin County Forest Program, encompassing approximately 2.2 million acres of forestland in the following 25 counties: Ashland, Barron, Bayfield, Burnett, Douglas, Eau Claire, Florence, Forest, Iron, Jackson, Juneau, Langlade, Lincoln, Marathon, Marinette, Oconto, Oneida, Polk, Price, Rusk, Sawyer, Taylor, Vilas, Washburn, and Wood. The SFI Certification Number is NSF-SFIS-1Y943.

No Change                       Changed

**C. NSF Audit Team:**

Lead Auditor: Tucker Watts    Auditors: JoAnn Hanowski (Kyle Meister, SCS Lead)

**D. Audit Dates: August 12-15, 2014**

**E. Reference Documentation:**

2010-2014 SFI Standard®

Company SFI Documentation:                      Rev. Level:                      Date Revised:

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

- Acceptable with no nonconformances; or
- Acceptable with minor nonconformances to be corrected before the next scheduled audit visit;
- Not acceptable with one or two major nonconformances - corrective action required;
- Several major nonconformances - certification may be canceled without immediate action

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

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

**H. Other Issues Reviewed:**

- Yes  No Public report from previous audit(s) is posted on SFB web site.
- Yes  No  N.A. SFI and other relevant logos or labels are utilized correctly. If no, document on CAR forms.

**Yes**  **No** The program is a Multi-site Organization:  
*Multi-Site Organization: A n organization having an identified central function (hereafter referred to as a central office — but not necessarily the headquarters of the organization) at which certain activities are planned, controlled or managed and a network of local offices or branches (sites) at which such activities are fully or partially carried out.*

Source: SFI Requirements, Section 9, Appendix: Audits of Multi-Site Organizations

IAF-MD1 or  The alternate approach outlined in SFI Requirements, Section 9, Appendix 1 was assessed by NSF’s Lead Auditor during the certification audit.

**Yes**  **No** Concerns/ issues are listed in the checklist (to be reviewed by NSF Forestry Program Manager)

**I. Corrective Action Requests:**

- Corrective Action Plan is not required.
- Corrective Action Plan is required within sixty days of this visit (for Minor Nonconformances). CARs will be verified during the next Surveillance Audit.
- Corrective Action Plan is required within thirty days of this visit (for Major Nonconformances). The auditor will make arrangements to verify the corrective action has been effectively implemented.

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

MAJOR(S): 0 MINOR(S): 0 Opportunities for Improvement (OFIs) identified: 0

NSF-ISR also identified the following areas where forestry practices and operations exceed the basic requirements of the SFI Standard:

Incorporation of aesthetics in high use and high visibility areas was exceptional. Aesthetics was a consideration in planning silvicultural activities in these areas. (SFI Performance measure 5.1.2 “Incorporation of aesthetic considerations in harvesting, road, landing design and management, and other management activities where visual impacts are a concern.”)

Involvement of user groups and community groups in public land planning and management provided for a wide range of stakeholders representing various user interests. Plans for annual activities are posted at kiosk in recreational areas for individual user review. (SFI Performance Measure 18.1.1 “Involvement in public land planning and management activities with appropriate governmental entities and the public.”)

**J. Future Audit Schedule:**

Follow-up or Surveillance Audits are required by the 2010-2014 Sustainable Forestry Initiative Standard ®. The next Re-Certification Audit is scheduled for August, 2015. The assigned lead auditor will contact you by February, 2015 to reconfirm and begin preparations. Another recertification must be completed within 3 years of the issue of this certificate.

For multi-site organizations the sampling plan requires audits of the central function and at least 3 of 25 sites each year for Surveillance Audits and at least 4 sites for recertification.

**Appendices:**

Appendix I: Surveillance Notification Letter and Audit Schedule

Appendix II: Public Summary Audit Report

Appendix III: Audit Matrix

Appendix IV: Participants in Opening and Closing Meeting

Appendix V: SFI Reporting Form

**Appendix I**



**Surveillance Notification Letter  
and Audit Schedule**



**NSF International Strategic Registrations**  
**Management Systems Registration**

---

August 1, 2014

Joe Schwantes, County & Public Forest Specialist  
Public & Private Forestry Section - Bureau of Forest Management  
Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources  
101 S Webster Street – FR/4  
Madison WI 53707-7921

Re: Confirmation of SFI Surveillance and FSC Recertification Audits, Wisconsin County Forest System

Dear Mr. Schwantes:

As previously arranged, we are scheduled to conduct the Surveillance Audit for the Wisconsin County Forest System against the SFI 2010-2014 Standard on August 12-15 as provided on the attached itinerary.

A sample of 4 of the 25 participating counties will be visited by the audit team as described in the audit plan below. We have completed the process for selecting field audit sites, and the Forest Administrators in the four counties selected for audits are finalizing the field visit itineraries.

In addition, the central office requirements will be reviewed during the opening meeting to be held on the evening of August 11 at the Neillsville Super 8 Motel, as well as at other times during the course of the audit as time is available (often while traveling to and from the selected counties each day). Records and other information pertaining to the centralized aspects of the program should be brought to the opening meeting or otherwise made available to the SFI Lead Auditor, Tucker Watts. The NSF checklist for SFI 2010-2014 Standard including the multi-site requirements is included with this revised audit plan to facilitate your preparations.

This is a partial review of your SFI Program to confirm that it continues to be in conformance with the requirements of the SFI 2010-2014 Standard. The focus will be on SFI requirements for a multi-site group as well as on assessing most of the forest management requirements within Objectives 1 through 7, and issues relating to legal and regulatory compliance (Objective 14), community involvement in the practice of sustainable forestry (Objective 17), Public Land Management Responsibilities (Objective 18), communications and public reporting (Objective 19), and as well as management review (Objective 20). During the audit I will also review any efforts made to address the “Opportunities for Improvement” that were identified in the 2013 audit.

The audit team will consist of Tucker Watts, NSF-ISR Lead Auditor, Kyle Meister, SCS Lead auditor, and JoAnn Hanowski, Team Auditor. During the audit we will follow the audit protocols described in the NSF procedures. The audit team will also conduct an FSC audit. Details of that process are available from SCS (an FSC Audit Plan “supplement” will be provided by SCS).

The enclosed tentative schedule (previously agreed to) should be reviewed by all participants. It can be adapted either in advance or on-site to accommodate any special circumstances, particularly the locations of actively harvested sites. If you have any questions regarding this planned audit, please contact either of us.

### **Requirements**

The requirements of the Sustainable Forestry Initiative® Standard, 2010-2014 Edition will be used in the audit; no indicators were modified. As with the initial certification the scope includes timberland only, as the Wisconsin County Forest Program’s SFI programs do not include procurement operations. Several of the SFI requirements are outside of the scope of the county programs and are excluded from the scope of the SFI Certification Audit as follows:

- Indicator 2.1.4 Plantings of exotic tree species
- Indicator 3.2.5 Alternatives to BMPs (BMPs are in place)
- Objectives 8 – 13 Procurement Requirements

### **Scope Statement:**

SFI Program Objectives 1-7 and 14-20 of the SFI 2010-2014 Standard for land management for participating counties within the Wisconsin County Forest Program, encompassing approximately 2.2 million acres of forestland in the following 25 counties: Ashland, Barron, Bayfield, Burnett, Douglas, Eau Claire, Florence, Forest, Iron, Jackson, Juneau, Langlade, Lincoln, Marathon, Marinette, Oconto, Oneida, Polk, Price, Rusk, Sawyer, Taylor, Vilas, Washburn, and Wood. The SFI Certification Number is NSF-SFIS-1Y943.

Please contact me if there are questions.

Sincerely yours,

James Tucker Watts

Lead Auditor, NSF-ISR, Ltd.

Enclosure: Agenda for Surveillance Audit

**SFI Standard 2010-2014 Surveillance Audit**  
**Wisconsin County Forest System – Facility # 1Y943**  
**August 12 - 15, 2014**

| <u>TIME</u>  | <u>ACTIVITY</u>  |
|--|--|
| <b><u>Pre-Opening Meeting, August 11, 2014</u></b> |  |
| 6:00 pm  | Pre-Opening Meeting (Approximately 90 minutes) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Introductions between auditors, WCFA, and WDNR staff</li> <li>- Discuss Wisconsin County Forest program structure and management systems (Begin SFI Program Review. Review to be continued during the course of the audit as time is available. This will be primarily while traveling to and from the selected counties each day.)*</li> <li>- Finalize logistics for field audit</li> </ul>  |
| <b><u>Day 1 Agenda – August 12, 2014</u></b>       |  |
| 8:15 am  | Opening Meeting/Agenda Review (Jackson County Office) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Review changes to the Facility Record Sheet</li> <li>- Discuss changes/improvements to the SFI Program, changes in operations, or changes in scope since the certification audit</li> <li>- Review NSF SFI Audit Procedures</li> <li>- Discuss field site visit provisions and other logistical issues</li> <li>- Verify effective implementation of any corrective action plans from the previous NSF certification audit or surveillance audit</li> <li>- Review SFI Survey forms and confirm public report is available to public</li> <li>- Review minutes of Management meetings</li> <li>- Review Logo or Label use issues</li> </ul> |
| 9:30 am  | Begin SFI Program Review - Field Visits <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Jackson County – Meister, Hanowski, Watts</li> </ul>  |
| 4:30 pm  | Summary of day   |
| <b><u>Day 2 Agenda – August 13, 2014</u></b>       |  |
| 8:00 am  | Continue SFI Program Review - Field Visit <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Clark County – Meister, Hanowski</li> <li>- Eau Claire County – Watts</li> </ul>  |
| 4:30 pm  | Summary of day   |

TIME                      ACTIVITY

**Day 3 Agenda – August 14, 2014**

8:00 am                      Continue SFI Program Review - Field Visit  
                                    - Juneau County – Meister  
                                    - Chippewa County - Hanowski  
                                    - Marathon County – Watts

4:30 pm                      Summary of day

**Day 4 Agenda – August 15, 2014**

8:00 am                      Auditors review findings and issues, prepare Audit Report and any CARs

11:30 am                      Closing Meeting

Call in available: 1(855)947-8255

Passcode: 9984 543#



**\*SFI Program Review (Objectives 8-13 are N/A)**

**Objectives 1 to 7: Requirements for Land Management Objectives 1 - 7 to be reviewed**

- 1.1 Sustainable Long-Term Harvest Levels
- 2.1 Prompt Reforestation After Harvest
- 2.2 Minimize Use of Chemicals
- 2.3 Protect and Maintain Forest & Soil Productivity
- 2.4 Forest Protection
- 2.5 Scientific Use of Improved Planting Stock
- 3.1 Best Management Practices
- 3.2 Riparian Protection Measures
- 4.1 Conservation of Biodiversity
- 4.2 Application of Research & Science to Cons. Biodiversity.
- 5.1 Visual Quality of Harvests
- 5.2 Clear-cut Size, Shape, Placement
- 5.3 “Green Up” or Alternative Methods
- 5.4 Support Recreational Opportunities for the Public
- 6.1 Identification & Management of Special Sites
- 7.1 Efficient Utilization

**Objectives 14 to 20 Requirements for All Program Participants Objectives 14, 17, 18, 19, 20 to be reviewed**

- 14.1 Forestry Law/Reg. Compliance System
- 14.2 Social Law Compliance (including ILO)
- 15.1 Support or Funding for Research
- 15.2 Develop or Use Regional Analyses
- 15.3 Broaden Awareness of Climate Change Impacts
- 16.1 Training of Contractors and Personnel
- 16.2 Improved Wood Producer Professionalism
- 17.1 Cooperative Efforts for Sustainable Forestry
- 17.2 Outreach, Education, Involvement
- 17.3 Inconsistent Practices or Concerns
- 18.1 Public Land Planning and Management
- 18.2 Conference with Indigenous People
- 19.1 Summary Audit Report (following audits)
- 19.2 Annual Reporting to SFI, Inc.
- 20.1 Management Review System

## Audit Plan: FSC Forest Management

Please review the information below regarding your upcoming audit and alert your auditor to any errors or omissions. All proprietary information sent to your auditors in preparation for your assessment will be kept confidential.

### 1. Name and Contact Information

|                   |  |           |  |
|-------------------|--|-----------|--|
| Organization name | Wisconsin DNR  |           |  |
| Contact person    | Joe Schwantes  |           |  |
| Address           | 101 S. Webster St.<br>PO Box 7921<br>Madison, WI 53707 | Telephone | 608-264-9217                           |
|                   |  | Cell      | 608-381-5970                           |
|                   |  | Fax       | 608-266-8756                           |
|                   |  | e-mail    | joseph.schwantes@wisconsin.gov         |
|                   |  | Website   | http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/CountyForests/ |

### 2. Audit team

|                    |                |
|--------------------|----------------|
| Lead Auditor Name  | Kyle Meister   |
| Auditor Phone      | 503.758.7768   |
| Team member's name | JoAnn Hanowski |
| Phone number       | 802.922.2428   |

### 3. Audit Scope

|                  |   |  |
|------------------|---|--|
| Certificate code | SCS-FM/COC-00083G   |  |
| Certificate Type | <input type="checkbox"/> Single FMU   | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Multiple FMU |
|                  | <input type="checkbox"/> Group  |  |
| Standards used   | <p><i>NOTE: Please be sure to include the full standard name and Version number. For example.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• FSC US Forest Management Standard, V1-0</li> <li>• SCS COC indicators for FMEs, V5-1</li> </ul>                    |  |
| Audit type       | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Full evaluation/re-certification (all Principles and Criteria of the applicable standard will be reviewed)<br><input type="checkbox"/> Annual surveillance evaluation (a portion of the applicable standard will be reviewed) |  |

### 4. Audit itinerary

|             |                    |
|-------------|--------------------|
| Audit dates | August 12-15, 2014 |
|-------------|--------------------|

| 11 – August - 2014          |   |
|-----------------------------|---|
| FMU/Location/ sites visited | Activities/ notes   |
| Super 8 Motel - Neillsville | Pre-opening meeting. Approximately 90 minutes sometime between 6-9pm (dependent on arrival times) to cover introductions between auditors, WCFA, and WDNR staff; discuss Wisconsin County Forest program structure and management systems, and finalize some logistics for upcoming field audits. |
| 12 – August – 2014          |   |
| FMU/Location/ sites visited | Activities/ notes   |

|                                     |   |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| Jackson County Office               | Opening Meeting: Introductions, client update, review audit scope, audit plan, intro/update to FSC and SCS standards and protocols, review of open CARs/OBS, final site selection |
| Jackson County                      |   |
| <b>13 – August – 2014</b>           |   |
| <b>FMU/Location/ sites visited*</b> | <b>Activities/ notes</b>  |
| Clark County (FSC team)             |   |
| Eau Claire (SFI team)               |   |
| <b>14 – August – 2014</b>           |   |
| Juneau County (FSC lead)            |   |
| Marathon County (SFI lead)          |   |
| Chippewa (Team auditor)             |   |
| <b>15 – August – 2014</b>           |   |
| <b>FMU/Location/ sites visited*</b> | <b>Activities/ notes</b>  |
|                                     | Closing Meeting Preparation: Auditor(s) take time to consolidate notes and confirm audit findings   |
|                                     | Closing Meeting and Review of Findings: Convene with all relevant staff to summarize audit findings, potential non-conformities and next steps                                    |

## 5. Audit logistics:

- If lodging is needed for the audit team and has not yet been booked, please make arrangements at this time. Lodging has already been reserved for the entire audit team under each auditor's name at the Super 8 Motel in Neillsville.
- Plans should be made to have lunch on site to expedite the visit. Lunches will be provided in the field for all members of the audit team.
- Travel will most likely occur in your vehicle(s) each day during the audit, but the audit team will have transportation to each field location at the start and end of each audit day. County and DNR staff will make arrangements for travel between field sites.

## 6. Field Site Selection:

Final site selection will occur during the opening meeting of the audit. Please be prepared to provide maps showing management activities within the FMU over the past two years. The SCS audit team will select an initial subset of sites for your certificate and will ask for additional information on these sites, including their accessibility and the likelihood of being actively harvested during the visit. Once we review this information, we will select a smaller number of sites to visit. On the day of the audit we would ask you to tell us about any sales that are being worked at that time, and we would add one or two of these if possible.

## 7. Document review:

Please have the following documents and/or information prepared for the audit, to be reviewed onsite:

- Training records (e.g., workshops, conferences, safety courses, etc.);
- Recently complete or active timber harvest planning and monitoring documentation;
- Complaints received;

- Accident records;
- Operational plan(s) for the next 12 months;
- Inventory records;
- Chemical use records (including quantitative data on the use of pesticides and any chemical use forms);
- Records of sales of FSC certified products (copies of invoices, bills, shipping documents).

## Appendix II



### **Wisconsin DNR County Forest Program 2014 SFI Summary Surveillance Audit Report**

The Wisconsin County Forest Program has achieved continuing conformance with the Sustainable Forestry Initiative® Standard, 2010-2014 Edition, according to the NSF-ISR SFIS Certification Audit Process.

The 25 participating Wisconsin County Forests have been certified to the Sustainable Forestry Initiative® Standard since December 10, 2004 (SFI certificate #NSF-SFIS-1Y943). In 2009 the scope of the Wisconsin SFI Program was expanded, and the program was re-certified. This report describes the second annual follow-up Surveillance Audit following the 2012 Re-Certification Audit.

Wisconsin County Forest Program includes 2.3 million acres of forestland managed by 29 counties in the central and northern portions of Wisconsin. The scope of the SFIS Certification encompasses sustainable forestry activities of participating counties within the Wisconsin County Forest System and land management operations in selected Wisconsin County Forests including 25 counties encompassing approximately 2.2 million acres of publicly owned forests, including the following counties:

Ashland, Barron, Bayfield, Burnett, Douglas, Eau Claire, Florence, Forest, Iron, Jackson, Juneau, Langlade, Lincoln, Marathon, Marinette, Oconto, Oneida, Polk, Price, Rusk, Sawyer, Taylor, Vilas, Washburn, Wood

Responsibility for management of these forests rests with elected county boards, with management activities implemented by county-employed foresters supported by DNR personnel. The forests are managed to provide revenue, habitat, recreational opportunities, and to protect biodiversity values and special sites. The lands abound with a variety of game and non-game wildlife species, and attract a variety of recreationists from hunters to trail users to nature enthusiasts. The most common tree species in order are aspen, sugar maple, red maple, red oak, red pine, basswood, and white birch. Harvest levels over the past decade have averaged over 17 million board feet and 750,000 cords per year.

The Wisconsin County Forest's SFI Program is managed by Joseph A Schwantes, DNR County Forests Specialist. A County Forest Certification Committee comprised of representatives of the counties, the Wisconsin County Forests Association, and DNR staff help implement the SFI program, reviewing progress and making suggestions for improvements or changes as needed. The Wisconsin County Forests Association provides considerable support for certification-related activities and is a key support mechanism for the program.

## **SFIS Surveillance Audit Process**

The audit was performed on August 12-15, 2014 by Tucker Watts, Lead Auditor and JoAnn Hanowski, Avian Ecologist. FSC Lead Auditor Kyle Meister also supported the team's activities. Auditors meet requirements for conducting SFIS Certification Audits per "Section 9. SFI 2010-2014 Audit Procedures and Auditor Qualifications and Accreditation" of Requirements for the SFI 2010-2014 Program: Standards, Rules for Label Use, Procedures, and Guidance.

The audit was conducted in conjunction with an FSC audit covering three of the same counties and one SFI-only county, the same organizational approach, and by the same audit team. The two processes (SFI and FSC) shared audit teams and reviewed much of the same evidence, but each program had a different team leader and audit objectives. This report is intended to describe the SFI portion of the evaluation; information about the FSC annual audit is available from Wisconsin DNR.

The objective of the audit was to assess ongoing conformance of the firm's SFI Program to the requirements of the Sustainable Forestry Initiative® Standard, 2010-2014 Edition. Four counties were reviewed: Eau Claire, Jackson, Juneau, and Marathon Counties. Forest practices that were the focus of field inspections have been conducted since January 1, 2013, but some older sites were reviewed as well. All of the relevant SFI requirements were examined during the audit. Multi-site sampling requirements provided in Section 9 of Requirements for the SFI 2010-2014 Program: Standards, Rules for Label Use, Procedures, and Guidance were also reviewed.

The requirements of the Sustainable Forestry Initiative® Standard, 2010-2014 Edition were used in the audit; no indicators were modified. As with the initial certification, the scope included timberland only, as the Wisconsin County Forest Program's SFI programs do not include procurement operations. Several of the SFI Performance Measures were outside of the scope of the county programs and were excluded from the scope of the SFI Certification Audit as follows:

- Indicator 2.1.4 Plantings of exotic tree species
- Indicator 2.1.7 Afforestation programs
- Objectives 8 – 13 Procurement Requirements
- Indicator 3.2.5 Alternatives to BMPs (BMPs are in place)

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

During the audit NSF-ISR reviewed a sample of the written documentation assembled to provide objective evidence of SFIS Conformance. NSF-ISR also selected field sites for inspection based upon the risk of environmental impact, likelihood of occurrence, special features, and other criteria outlined in the NSF-ISR SFI-SOP. NSF-ISR also selected and interviewed stakeholders such as contract loggers and other interested parties, and interviewed employees within the organization to confirm that the SFI Standard was understood and actively implemented.

The possible findings of the audit included Full Conformance, Major Non-conformance, Minor Non-conformance, Opportunity for Improvement, and Practices that exceeded the requirements.

### **Overview of 2014 Audit Findings**

Wisconsin County Forest Program's SFI Program was found to be in conformance with the SFIS Standard. There were no non-conformances, and the program was recommended for continued certification.

### **Review of 2013 Findings**

There were no Minor Non-conformances in 2013. In 2013, an "Opportunity for Improvement" was identified.

During the 2013 audit an opportunity to improve consistency in determining and recording the "Habitat Classification Types" on the Timber Sale Notice and Cutting Report (Form 2460-001A).

2013 Update: The audit team found increased emphasis on "Habitat Classification Types". Training was conducted during the year. Timber Sale Notice and Cutting Reports provided consistent detail.

### **2014 Exceptional Practices**

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

Incorporation of aesthetics in high use and high visibility areas was exceptional. Aesthetics was a consideration in planning silvicultural activities in these areas. (SFI Performance measure 5.1.2 "Incorporation of aesthetic considerations in harvesting, road, landing design and management, and other management activities where visual impacts are a concern.")

Involvement of user groups and community groups in public land planning and management provided for a wide range of stakeholders representing various user interests. Plans for annual activities are posted at kiosk in recreational areas for individual user review. (SFI Performance Measure 18.1.1 "Involvement in public land planning and management activities with appropriate governmental entities and the public.")

The next Audit is scheduled for August, 2015. This will be a Re-Certification audit.

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

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

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

**Summary of Evidence** – The forest management plans for Eau Claire, Jackson, Juneau, and Marathon Counties, supporting documents including WDNR manuals and handbooks, and the county forest inventory reports were the key evidence of conformance.

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

**Summary of Evidence** – Field observations and associated records were used to confirm practices. There are ongoing programs for reforestation, for protection against insects and diseases and wildfire, and for careful management of activities which could potentially impact soil and long-term productivity.

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

**Summary of Evidence** – Field observations of a range of sites were the key evidence. Auditors visited portions of selected field sites that were closest to water resources.

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

**Summary of Evidence** – Field observations, written plans and policies, use of college-trained field biologists, availability of specialists, and regular staff involvement in conferences and workshops that cover scientific advances were the evidence used to assess the requirements involved biodiversity conservation.

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

**Summary of Evidence** – Field observations of completed operations and policies/procedures for visual quality were assessed during the evaluation. Maps of recreation sites as well as field visits, helped confirm a very strong commitment to recreation programs and facilities.

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

**Summary of Evidence** – Field observations of completed operations, records of special sites, training records, and written protection plans were all assessed during the evaluation.



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

**Summary of Evidence** – Field observations of completed operations, contract clauses, inspection reports, and discussions with supervising foresters and with loggers provided the key evidence.

**Objectives 8 through 13 are not applicable**

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

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

**Summary of Evidence** – Field reviews of ongoing and completed operations were the most critical evidence. Information provided by Wisconsin DNR was also a factor.

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

**Summary of Evidence** – Financial records and awareness of predicted climate change impacts were confirmed. This Objective was not audited in its entirety in 2014.

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

**Summary of Evidence** – Training records of selected personnel, records associated with harvest sites audited, and stakeholder interviews were the key evidence for this objective. This Objective was not audited in its entirety in 2014.

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

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

**Summary of Evidence** – Interviews, agendas for meetings, and participation in the Wisconsin SFI Implementation Committee were sufficient to assess the requirements.

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

To support and implement sustainable forest management on public lands.

**Summary of Evidence** – Interviews and review of policies were used to confirm the requirements.

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

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

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

**Summary of Evidence** – Records of program reviews including annual “Partnership Meetings”, periodic internal audits, and agendas and notes from management review meetings, and interviews with personnel from all involved levels in the organization were assessed.

## **Relevance of Forestry Certification**

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

### **1. Sustainable Forestry**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

### **9. Legal Compliance**

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

### **10. Research**

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

**11. Training and Education**

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

**12. Public Involvement**

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

**13. Transparency**

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

**14. Continual Improvement**

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

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

**For Additional Information Contact:****For More Information Contact:**

Joseph A Schwantes, County Forests Specialist  
Wisconsin DNR – Forestry Division  
101 S Webster Street - FR/4, Madison WI 53703  
[Joseph.Schwantes@wisconsin.gov](mailto:Joseph.Schwantes@wisconsin.gov) 608-264-9217

or

Norman Boatwright, SFI Program Manager  
NSF Sustainability  
P.O. Box 4021, Florence, SC 29502  
[nboatwright@gmail.com](mailto:nboatwright@gmail.com) 843-229-1851

**Appendix III**



**Audit Matrix**

# Wisconsin DNR County Forestry Program

## August 2014 NSF-ISR SFI 2010-2014 MATRIX

### Findings and Instructions:

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

Yes  No  N.A. NSF mark (logo) is being used correctly.

Audit Notes:

**Objective 1. Forest Management Planning**

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

|              | 2010-2014 Requirement  | Audit<br>-or | <u>C</u> | <u>EXR</u> | <u>Maj</u> | <u>Min</u> | <u>OFl</u> | <u>Likely<br/>Gap *</u> | <u>Likely<br/>Conf. *</u> |
|--------------|--|--------------|----------|------------|------------|------------|------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| <i>1.1</i>   | <b>Program Participants shall ensure that forest management plans include long-term harvest levels that are sustainable and consistent with appropriate growth-and-yield models.</b> | JTW          | 14       |            |            |            |            |                         |                           |
| <i>Notes</i> | See evidence below.  |              |          |            |            |            |            |                         |                           |

|              | 2010-2014 Requirement<br>(Performance Measures bold)   | Audit<br>or | <u>C</u> | <u>EXR</u> | <u>Maj</u> | <u>Min</u> | <u>OFl</u> | <u>Likely<br/>Gap *</u> | <u>Likely<br/>Conf. *</u> |
|--------------|--|-------------|----------|------------|------------|------------|------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| <i>1.1.1</i> | Forest management planning at a level appropriate to the size and scale of the operation, including:<br>a. a long-term resources analysis;<br>b. a periodic or ongoing forest inventory;<br>c. a land classification system;<br>d. soils inventory and maps, where available;<br>e. access to growth-and-yield modeling capabilities;<br>f. up-to-date maps or a geographic information system;<br>g. recommended sustainable harvest levels for areas available for harvest; and<br>h. a review of non-timber issues (e.g. recreation, tourism, pilot projects and economic incentive programs to promote water protection, carbon storage, bioenergy feedstock production, or biological diversity conservation, or to address climate-induced ecosystem change).  | JTW         | 14       |            |            |            |            |                         |                           |
| <i>Notes</i> | Each county has County Forest Comprehensive Land Use Plan and Work Plans. Forest inventory is maintained in WisFIRS. Work Plan and inventory is updated annually. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Eau Claire County Forest Comprehensive Land Use Plan</li> <li>• 2014 Eau Claire County Parks &amp; Forestry Department Work Plan</li> <li>• Jackson County Forest Comprehensive Land Use Plan</li> <li>• Jackson County Forest Management 2014 Work Plan</li> <li>• Juneau County Forest Comprehensive Land Use Plan</li> <li>• Juneau County Land, Forestry, &amp; Parks Department 2014 Work Plan</li> <li>• Marathon County Forest Comprehensive Land Use Plan</li> <li>• Wausau &amp; Marathon County Parks, Recreation, &amp; Forestry Department, Forestry Division 2014 Work Plan</li> </ul> |             |          |            |            |            |            |                         |                           |

|              |   |           |          |            |            |            |            |                     |                       |
|--------------|---|-----------|----------|------------|------------|------------|------------|---------------------|-----------------------|
| 1.1.2        | Documentation of annual harvest trends in relation to the sustainable forest management plan in a manner appropriate to document past and future activities.  | JTW       | 14       |            |            |            |            |                     |                       |
| <i>Notes</i> | (CY12-Rpt. 301) Acres Estab. --- (Planning Yr – Rpt. 201) (Long Term Harvest Goal 15 yr avg.)<br><br>2011 -- 59,790 --- 60,079 PY12<br>2012 -- 48,070 --- 59,493 PY13<br>2013 -- 45,025 --- 58,397 PY14<br><br>Witnessed documentation in WisFIRS.  |           |          |            |            |            |            |                     |                       |
|              | <b>2010-2014 Requirement</b>  | Audit -or | <u>C</u> | <u>EXR</u> | <u>Maj</u> | <u>Min</u> | <u>OFl</u> | <u>Likely Gap *</u> | <u>Likely Conf. *</u> |
| 1.1.3        | A forest inventory system and a method to calculate growth and yield.   | JTW       | 14       |            |            |            |            |                     |                       |
| <i>Notes</i> | Forest inventory system is WisFIRS. A combination of WisFIRS and FIA data are used to calculate growth and yield. WISFIRS program is used each year to determine harvest levels (acres) based on the most recent inventory information. Basal area growth rates and stand ages are used to estimate the year in which stands will be silviculturally ready for the next treatment (thinning, regeneration, etc.), and that target date is recorded in WisFIRS. FIA data are reviewed to estimate growth, but the system is driven by stand-by-stand assessments completed immediately prior to treatment to confirm or adjust target harvest dates, not volume growth estimates.<br>Witnessed during audit. |           |          |            |            |            |            |                     |                       |
|              | <b>2010-2014 Requirement</b>  | Audit -or | <u>C</u> | <u>EXR</u> | <u>Maj</u> | <u>Min</u> | <u>OFl</u> | <u>Likely Gap *</u> | <u>Likely Conf. *</u> |
| 1.1.4        | Periodic updates of forest inventory and recalculation of planned harvests to account for changes in growth due to productivity increases or decreases (e.g. improved data, long-term drought, fertilization, climate change, forest land ownership changes, etc.).   | JTW       | 14       |            |            |            |            |                     |                       |
| <i>Notes</i> | 5% of the forest inventory is updated annually. Reconnaissance is based on harvesting. Reports are run to identify the age of reconnaissance. Focus is on updating oldest as soon as possible. Witnessed during audit.  |           |          |            |            |            |            |                     |                       |
|              | <b>2010-2014 Requirement</b>  | Audit -or | <u>C</u> | <u>EXR</u> | <u>Maj</u> | <u>Min</u> | <u>OFl</u> | <u>Likely Gap *</u> | <u>Likely Conf. *</u> |
| 1.1.5        | Documentation of forest practices (e.g., planting, fertilization, and thinning) consistent with assumptions in harvest plans.   | JTW       | 14       |            |            |            |            |                     |                       |
| <i>Notes</i> | Forest practices documented in WisFIRS. List of planned treatments witness. List is reviewed for development of annual Work Plan.   |           |          |            |            |            |            |                     |                       |

**Objective 2. Forest Productivity.**

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

|              | <b>2010-2014 Requirement</b>   | Audit<br>-or | <u>C</u> | <u>EXR</u> | <u>Maj</u> | <u>Min</u> | <u>OFI</u> | <u>Likely<br/>Gap *</u> | <u>Likely<br/>Conf. *</u> |
|--------------|--|--------------|----------|------------|------------|------------|------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| <b>2.1</b>   | <b>Program Participants shall promptly reforest after final harvest.</b> | JTW          | 14       |            |            |            |            |                         |                           |
| <b>Notes</b> | See evidence below.  |              |          |            |            |            |            |                         |                           |

|              | <b>2010-2014 Requirement</b>  | Audit<br>-or | <u>C</u> | <u>EXR</u> | <u>Maj</u> | <u>Min</u> | <u>OFI</u> | <u>Likely<br/>Gap *</u> | <u>Likely<br/>Conf. *</u> |
|--------------|---|--------------|----------|------------|------------|------------|------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| <b>2.1.1</b> | Designation of all harvest areas for either natural regeneration or by planting.  | JTW          | 14       |            |            |            |            |                         |                           |
| <b>Notes</b> | Timber Sale Notice And Cutting Report – Section 15. b. Ecological Considerations includes “Post-Harvest Regeneration Plan”. Planting includes Jack Pine, White Pine, Red Pine, and occasionally mixed conifer. Aspen and northern hardwood types are regenerated naturally. |              |          |            |            |            |            |                         |                           |

|              | <b>2010-2014 Requirement</b>  | Audit<br>-or | <u>C</u> | <u>EXR</u> | <u>Maj</u> | <u>Min</u> | <u>OFI</u> | <u>Likely<br/>Gap *</u> | <u>Likely<br/>Conf. *</u> |
|--------------|---|--------------|----------|------------|------------|------------|------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| <b>2.1.2</b> | Reforestation, unless delayed for site-specific environmental or forest health considerations or legal requirements, through planting within two years or two planting seasons, or by planned natural regeneration methods within five years. | JTW          | 14       |            |            |            |            |                         |                           |
| <b>Notes</b> | Witnessed no delays in regeneration. Aspen and Pine regeneration quick to regenerate. Discussed monitoring and witnessed documentation in WisFIRS.  |              |          |            |            |            |            |                         |                           |



|              | <b>2010-2014 Requirement</b>  | Audit<br>-or | <u>C</u> | <u>EXR</u> | <u>Maj</u> | <u>Min</u> | <u>OFI</u> | <u>Likely<br/>Gap *</u> | <u>Likely<br/>Conf. *</u> |
|--------------|---|--------------|----------|------------|------------|------------|------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| 2.1.3        | Clear criteria to judge adequate regeneration and appropriate actions to correct understocked areas and achieve acceptable species composition and stocking rates for both planting and natural regeneration. | JTW          | 14       |            |            |            |            |                         |                           |
| <b>Notes</b> | Silviculture Handbook includes criteria for adequate regeneration and corrective actions. Discussed requirements and assessment process during site visits.   |              |          |            |            |            |            |                         |                           |

|              | <b>2010-2014 Requirement</b>   | Audit<br>-or | <u>C</u> | <u>EXR</u> | <u>Maj</u> | <u>Min</u> | <u>OFI</u> | <u>Likely<br/>Gap *</u> | <u>Likely<br/>Conf. *</u> |
|--------------|--|--------------|----------|------------|------------|------------|------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| 2.1.4        | Minimized plantings of exotic tree species, and research documentation that exotic tree species, planted operationally, pose minimal risk. | N/A          |          |            |            |            |            |                         |                           |
| <b>Notes</b> | No exotics planted.  |              |          |            |            |            |            |                         |                           |

|              | <b>2010-2014 Requirement</b>  | Audit<br>-or | <u>C</u> | <u>EXR</u> | <u>Maj</u> | <u>Min</u> | <u>OFI</u> | <u>Likely<br/>Gap *</u> | <u>Likely<br/>Conf. *</u> |
|--------------|---|--------------|----------|------------|------------|------------|------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| 2.1.5        | Protection of desirable or planned advanced natural regeneration during harvest.  | JTW          | 14       |            |            |            |            |                         |                           |
| <b>Notes</b> | Witnessed during site visits. Protection of regeneration documented in Timber Sale Notice And Cutting Report. Monitored on Closing And Compliance Check List (Witnessed in Jackson County). |              |          |            |            |            |            |                         |                           |


|              | <b>2010-2014 Requirement</b>  | Audit<br>-or | <u>C</u> | <u>EXR</u> | <u>Maj</u> | <u>Min</u> | <u>OFI</u> | <u>Likely<br/>Gap *</u> | <u>Likely<br/>Conf. *</u> |
|--------------|---|--------------|----------|------------|------------|------------|------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| 2.1.6        | Planting programs that consider potential ecological impacts of a different species or species mix from that which was harvested.   | JTW          | 14       |            |            |            |            |                         |                           |
| <b>Notes</b> | Habitat Classification is used to determine species or species mix for planting. Habitat Classification is documented on the Timber Sale Notice And Cutting Report – 15. a. General Sale Description. During the year training has been conducted on the habitat classification system. |              |          |            |            |            |            |                         |                           |

|              | <b>2010-2014 Requirement</b>  | Audit<br>-or | <u>C</u> | <u>EXR</u> | <u>Maj</u> | <u>Min</u> | <u>OFI</u> | <u>Likely<br/>Gap *</u> | <u>Likely<br/>Conf. *</u> |
|--------------|---|--------------|----------|------------|------------|------------|------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| 2.1.7        | Afforestation programs that consider potential ecological impacts of the selection and planting of tree species in non-forested landscapes. | N/A          |          |            |            |            |            |                         |                           |
| <i>Notes</i> | No afforestation is being conducted.  |              |          |            |            |            |            |                         |                           |

|              | <b>2010-2014 Requirement</b>  | Audit<br>-or | <u>C</u> | <u>EXR</u> | <u>Maj</u> | <u>Min</u> | <u>OFI</u> | <u>Likely<br/>Gap *</u> | <u>Likely<br/>Conf. *</u> |
|--------------|---|--------------|----------|------------|------------|------------|------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| 2.2          | <b>Program Participants shall minimize chemical use required to achieve management objectives while protecting employees, neighbors, the public and the environment, including wildlife and aquatic habitats.</b> | JTW          | 14       |            |            |            |            |                         |                           |
| <i>Notes</i> | See evidence below.   |              |          |            |            |            |            |                         |                           |

|              | <b>2010-2014 Requirement</b>  | Audit<br>-or | <u>C</u> | <u>EXR</u> | <u>Maj</u> | <u>Min</u> | <u>OFI</u> | <u>Likely<br/>Gap *</u> | <u>Likely<br/>Conf. *</u> |
|--------------|---|--------------|----------|------------|------------|------------|------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| 2.2.1        | Minimized chemical use required to achieve management objectives.   | JTW          | 14       |            |            |            |            |                         |                           |
| <i>Notes</i> | Acres of pesticides applied in the past year were provided by Wisconsin DNR in a Pesticide Use Table which covered the following information: County, Commercial Name of Pesticide/Herbicide, Active Ingredient, Quantity Used, Treatment Area (acres), and Reason for use. The total acres treated are quite low as a proportion of the lands in the county forestry program – about 2,610 acres or less than two-tenths of one percent of the lands are listed as receiving chemical treatment over the past 12 months. This figure is probably a significant overestimate because the acres include spot treatments of cut stumps and to destroy isolated populations of invasive species. |              |          |            |            |            |            |                         |                           |

|              | <b>2010-2014 Requirement</b>   | Audit<br>-or | <u>C</u> | <u>EXR</u> | <u>Maj</u> | <u>Min</u> | <u>OFI</u> | <u>Likely<br/>Gap *</u> | <u>Likely<br/>Conf. *</u> |
|--------------|--|--------------|----------|------------|------------|------------|------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| 2.2.2        | Use of least-toxic and narrowest-spectrum pesticides necessary to achieve management objectives.   | JTW          | 14       |            |            |            |            |                         |                           |
| <i>Notes</i> | Chemical used include traditional forestry chemicals and chemicals for weed control in parks. Complete list and amounts included in Pesticide Use Table. |              |          |            |            |            |            |                         |                           |

|              | <b>2010-2014 Requirement</b>   | Audit<br>-or | <u>C</u> | <u>EXR</u> | <u>Maj</u> | <u>Min</u> | <u>OFI</u> | <u>Likely<br/>Gap *</u> | <u>Likely<br/>Conf. *</u> |
|--------------|--|--------------|----------|------------|------------|------------|------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| 2.2.3        | Use of pesticides registered for the intended use and applied in accordance with label requirements.   | JTW          | 14       |            |            |            |            |                         |                           |
| <b>Notes</b> | <p>On site visits witnessed and discussed pesticide use and prescriptions. Additional information provided in Pesticide Use Table.</p>  <p>Pesticide Use SFI counties 2013.docx</p> |              |          |            |            |            |            |                         |                           |

|              | <b>2010-2014 Requirement</b>  | Audit<br>-or | <u>C</u> | <u>EXR</u> | <u>Maj</u> | <u>Min</u> | <u>OFI</u> | <u>Likely<br/>Gap *</u> | <u>Likely<br/>Conf. *</u> |
|--------------|---|--------------|----------|------------|------------|------------|------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| 2.2.4        | Use of integrated pest management where feasible.   | JTW          | 14       |            |            |            |            |                         |                           |
| <b>Notes</b> | <p>County Forest Comprehensive Land Use Plan contains Chapter 600: Protection contains Integrated Pest Management. County Forest Comprehensive Land Use Plans state: “Integrated pest management for the purpose of this Plan, is defined as follows: The maintenance of destructive agents, including insects, at tolerable levels, by the planned use of a variety of preventive, suppressive, or regulatory tactics and strategies that are ecologically and economically efficient and socially acceptable.”</p> <p>Stands are monitored during silviculture programs and inventory collection. Flights are made for Oak Wilt during July. When presence of insects or disease is noted stands or spots are treated. A salvage or sanitation cut may be used if possible (Example witnessed Jack Pine Bud Worm).</p> <p>Good forest management and healthy stands are the key actions taken for integrated pest management.</p> |              |          |            |            |            |            |                         |                           |

|              | <b>2010-2014 Requirement</b>   | Audit<br>-or | <u>C</u> | <u>EXR</u> | <u>Maj</u> | <u>Min</u> | <u>OFI</u> | <u>Likely<br/>Gap *</u> | <u>Likely<br/>Conf. *</u> |
|--------------|--|--------------|----------|------------|------------|------------|------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| 2.2.5        | Supervision of forest chemical applications by state- or provincial-trained or certified applicators.                                | JTW          | 14       |            |            |            |            |                         |                           |
| <b>Notes</b> | <p>Licensed applicators used for large applications. Spot treatments are conducted by employees. License of employees witnessed.</p> |              |          |            |            |            |            |                         |                           |

|              | <b>2010-2014 Requirement</b>  | Audit<br>-or | <u>C</u> | <u>EXR</u> | <u>Maj</u> | <u>Min</u> | <u>OFI</u> | <u>Likely<br/>Gap *</u> | <u>Likely<br/>Conf. *</u> |
|--------------|---|--------------|----------|------------|------------|------------|------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| 2.2.6        | Use of management practices appropriate to the situation, for example:<br>a. notification of adjoining landowners or nearby residents concerning applications and chemicals used;<br>b. appropriate multilingual signs or oral warnings;<br>c. control of public road access during and immediately after applications;<br>d. designation of streamside and other needed buffer strips;<br>e. use of positive shutoff and minimal-drift spray valves;<br>f. aerial application of forest chemicals parallel to buffer zones to minimize drift;<br>g. monitoring of water quality or safeguards to ensure proper equipment use and protection of streams, lakes and other water bodies;<br>h. appropriate storage of chemicals;<br>i. filing of required state or provincial reports; and/or<br>j. use of methods to ensure protection of threatened and endangered species. | JTW          | 14       |            |            |            |            |                         |                           |
| <i>Notes</i> | Contracts witnessed contain practices. Practices discussed during site visits. Practices are being met during applications.   |              |          |            |            |            |            |                         |                           |

|              | <b>2010-2014 Requirement</b>  | Audit<br>-or | <u>C</u> | <u>EXR</u> | <u>Maj</u> | <u>Min</u> | <u>OFI</u> | <u>Likely<br/>Gap *</u> | <u>Likely<br/>Conf. *</u> |
|--------------|---|--------------|----------|------------|------------|------------|------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| 2.3          | <b>Program Participants shall implement forest management practices to protect and maintain forest and soil productivity.</b> | JTW          | 14       |            |            |            |            |                         |                           |
| <i>Notes</i> | See evidence below.   |              |          |            |            |            |            |                         |                           |

|              | <b>2010-2014 Requirement</b>  | Audit<br>-or | <u>C</u> | <u>EXR</u> | <u>Maj</u> | <u>Min</u> | <u>OFI</u> | <u>Likely<br/>Gap *</u> | <u>Likely<br/>Conf. *</u> |
|--------------|---|--------------|----------|------------|------------|------------|------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| 2.3.1        | Use of soils maps where available.  | JTW          | 14       |            |            |            |            |                         |                           |
| <b>Notes</b> | Soils maps available in ARC View and WisFIRS (Witnessed). Hard copies are also available through NRCS. Soils used for planning harvesting and silviculture operations. Soil Type is noted on the Timber Sale Notice And Cutting Report – 15. a. General Sale Description. |              |          |            |            |            |            |                         |                           |

|              | <b>2010-2014 Requirement</b>   | Audit<br>-or | <u>C</u> | <u>EXR</u> | <u>Maj</u> | <u>Min</u> | <u>OFI</u> | <u>Likely<br/>Gap *</u> | <u>Likely<br/>Conf. *</u> |
|--------------|--|--------------|----------|------------|------------|------------|------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| 2.3.2        | Process to identify soils vulnerable to compaction, and use of appropriate methods to avoid excessive soil disturbance.  | JTW          | 14       |            |            |            |            |                         |                           |
| <b>Notes</b> | Soils vulnerable to compaction are identified using soil maps, topographic maps, habitat classification, and site reconnaissance. Methods to avoid excessive soil disturbance include contracts, Timber Sale Notice And Cutting Report, Timber Sale Prospectus, and compliance checks. Sites visited demonstrated appropriate methods have been used. Minimal soil damage witnessed. |              |          |            |            |            |            |                         |                           |

|              | <b>2010-2014 Requirement</b>   | Audit<br>-or | <u>C</u> | <u>EXR</u> | <u>Maj</u> | <u>Min</u> | <u>OFI</u> | <u>Likely<br/>Gap *</u> | <u>Likely<br/>Conf. *</u> |
|--------------|--|--------------|----------|------------|------------|------------|------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| 2.3.3        | Use of erosion control measures to <i>minimize</i> the loss of soil and site <i>productivity</i> .   | JTW          | 14       |            |            |            |            |                         |                           |
| <b>Notes</b> | Witnessed during site visits. Erosion control measures included water bars, scattering debris, and scheduling of harvesting during frozen ground conditions. |              |          |            |            |            |            |                         |                           |

|              | <b>2010-2014 Requirement</b>  | Audit<br>-or | <u>C</u> | <u>EXR</u> | <u>Maj</u> | <u>Min</u> | <u>OFI</u> | <u>Likely<br/>Gap *</u> | <u>Likely<br/>Conf. *</u> |
|--------------|---|--------------|----------|------------|------------|------------|------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| 2.3.4        | Post-harvest conditions conducive to maintaining site productivity (e.g. limited rutting, retained down woody debris, minimized skid trails). | JTW          | 14       |            |            |            |            |                         |                           |
| <b>Notes</b> | Witnessed during site visits. Documented on Closing And Compliance Check List (Witnessed for Jackson County).                                 |              |          |            |            |            |            |                         |                           |

|              | <b>2010-2014 Requirement</b>  | Audit<br>-or | <u>C</u> | <u>EXR</u> | <u>Maj</u> | <u>Min</u> | <u>OFI</u> | <u>Likely<br/>Gap *</u> | <u>Likely<br/>Conf. *</u> |
|--------------|---|--------------|----------|------------|------------|------------|------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| 2.3.5        | Retention of vigorous trees during partial harvesting, consistent with scientific silvicultural standards for the area. | JTW          | 14       |            |            |            |            |                         |                           |
| <i>Notes</i> | Witnessed during site visits. During marking, tree selection favored retention of vigorous trees.                       |              |          |            |            |            |            |                         |                           |

|              | <b>2010-2014 Requirement</b>   | Audit<br>-or | <u>C</u> | <u>EXR</u> | <u>Maj</u> | <u>Min</u> | <u>OFI</u> | <u>Likely<br/>Gap *</u> | <u>Likely<br/>Conf. *</u> |
|--------------|--|--------------|----------|------------|------------|------------|------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| 2.3.6        | Criteria that address harvesting and site preparation to protect soil productivity.  | JTW          | 14       |            |            |            |            |                         |                           |
| <i>Notes</i> | Wisconsin BMPs for Water Quality and Wisconsin DNR Timber Sale Handbook contain rutting criteria.<br>Witnessed rutting requirements in Timber Sale Contract. |              |          |            |            |            |            |                         |                           |

|              | <b>2010-2014 Requirement</b>  | Audit<br>-or | <u>C</u> | <u>EXR</u> | <u>Maj</u> | <u>Min</u> | <u>OFI</u> | <u>Likely<br/>Gap *</u> | <u>Likely<br/>Conf. *</u> |
|--------------|---|--------------|----------|------------|------------|------------|------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| 2.3.7        | Road construction and skidding layout to minimize impacts to soil productivity and water quality.   | JTW          | 14       |            |            |            |            |                         |                           |
| <i>Notes</i> | Roads and skid trails are included in Timber Sale Notice and Cutting Report. Restrictions may be defined in Timber Sale Prospectus and Timber Sale Contracts to restrict road and skid tail use.<br>Construction and maintenance of roads are defined in the County Forest Comprehensive Land Use Plan and annual Work Plan.<br>Witnessed no issues on site visits. |              |          |            |            |            |            |                         |                           |

|              | <b>2010-2014 Requirement</b>  | Audit<br>-or | <u>C</u> | <u>EXR</u> | <u>Maj</u> | <u>Min</u> | <u>OFI</u> | <u>Likely<br/>Gap *</u> | <u>Likely<br/>Conf. *</u> |
|--------------|---|--------------|----------|------------|------------|------------|------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| 2.4          | <b>Program Participants shall manage so as to protect forests from damaging agents, such as environmentally or economically undesirable wildfire, pests, diseases and invasive exotic plants and animals, to maintain and improve long-term forest health, productivity and economic viability.</b> | JTW          | 14       |            |            |            |            |                         |                           |
| <i>Notes</i> | See evidence below.   |              |          |            |            |            |            |                         |                           |

|              | <b>2010-2014 Requirement</b>   | Audit<br>-or | <b><u>C</u></b> | <b><u>EXR</u></b> | <b><u>Maj</u></b> | <b><u>Min</u></b> | <b><u>OFI</u></b> | <b><u>Likely<br/>Gap *</u></b> | <b><u>Likely<br/>Conf. *</u></b> |
|--------------|--|--------------|-----------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 2.4.1        | Program to protect forests from damaging agents.   | JTW          | 14              |                   |                   |                   |                   |                                |                                  |
| <b>Notes</b> | <p>County Forest Comprehensive Land Use Plan contains Chapter 600: Protection. Objective is stated “To protect and manage the resources of the forest from preventable losses resulting from fire, insects, diseases and other destructive elements including those caused by people. Protective methods shall include proper silvicultural methods.”</p> <p>Site visits and interviews confirmed foresters are monitoring invasive species and pests present and advancing into their county, including: Gypsy Moth, Emerald Ash Borer, Oak Wilt, and others.</p> |              |                 |                   |                   |                   |                   |                                |                                  |

|              | <b>2010-2014 Requirement</b>  | Audit<br>-or | <b><u>C</u></b> | <b><u>EXR</u></b> | <b><u>Maj</u></b> | <b><u>Min</u></b> | <b><u>OFI</u></b> | <b><u>Likely<br/>Gap *</u></b> | <b><u>Likely<br/>Conf. *</u></b> |
|--------------|---|--------------|-----------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 2.4.2        | Management to promote healthy and productive forest conditions to minimize susceptibility to damaging agents.   | JTW          | 14              |                   |                   |                   |                   |                                |                                  |
| <b>Notes</b> | <p>County Forest Comprehensive Land Use Plan contains Chapter 600: Protection states silviculture as the chosen method to minimize impacts from damaging agents.</p> <p>Site visits confirm forest management to promote health, vigorous growing stands. Combination of scheduling, planning and implementation demonstrated good forest management.</p> |              |                 |                   |                   |                   |                   |                                |                                  |

|       | <b>2010-2014 Requirement</b>   | Audit<br>-or | <b><u>C</u></b> | <b><u>EXR</u></b> | <b><u>Maj</u></b> | <b><u>Min</u></b> | <b><u>OFI</u></b> | <b><u>Likely<br/>Gap *</u></b> | <b><u>Likely<br/>Conf. *</u></b> |
|-------|--|--------------|-----------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 2.4.3 | Participation in, and support of, fire and pest prevention and control programs. | JTW          | 14              |                   |                   |                   |                   |                                |                                  |

**Notes**

Partnership Minutes demonstrate support and involvement with requirements. Witnessed minutes from Eau Claire, Jackson, Juneau, and Marathon County.

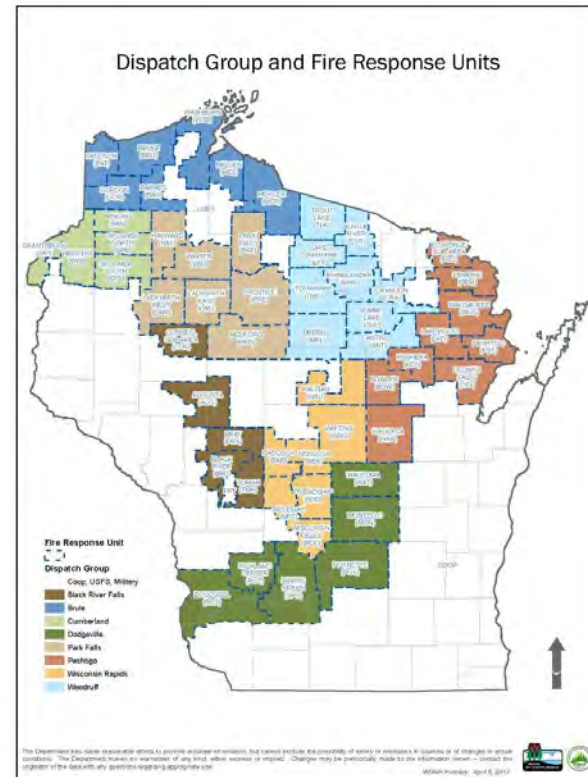
County Forests receive forest health reports generated by WDNR Forest Health Staff – see link to website of annual and monthly reports. <http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/ForestHealth/Publications.html>

Additionally, county foresters can work directly with DNR forest health staff to diagnosis and treat forest health concerns.

Many of the county forests lie partly or completely within the boundary of areas protected from forest fire by WDNR. DNR along with local resources detect and suppress wildfires. Many fire detection towers operated by WDNR are located in partnership on county forest lands as outlined in WI Statute 28.11(4)f. Hazard mitigation grants are also available to counties to perform projects that help protect forest resources, such as construction & maintenance of fire breaks. Many county forest staff participate in WDNR incident management teams that are assembled to help respond to large forest fires and other natural disasters. Attached below is a map of WDNR protection areas and a summary year to date of fires and acres burned on all lands in this area.


**Wildfire statistics**

| DNR Dispatch Group<br>(see map below) | YTD<br>Fires | YTD Acres<br>Burned |
|---------------------------------------|--------------|---------------------|
| <b>Black River Falls</b>              | 43           | 199                 |
| <b>Brule</b>                          | 14           | 4.8                 |
| <b>Cumberland</b>                     | 26           | 18.57               |
| <b>Dodgeville</b>                     | 153          | 2051.07             |
| <b>Park Falls</b>                     | 29           | 18.24               |
| <b>Peshtigo</b>                       | 99           | 288.67              |
| <b>Wisconsin Rapids</b>               | 95           | 111.792             |
| <b>Woodruff</b>                       | 41           | 10.94               |
| <b>Totals for calendar year:</b>      | 500          | 2703.115            |





|              | <b>2010-2014 Requirement</b>   | Audit<br>-or | <u>C</u> | <u>EXR</u> | <u>Maj</u> | <u>Min</u> | <u>OFI</u> | <u>Likely<br/>Gap *</u> | <u>Likely<br/>Conf. *</u> |
|--------------|--|--------------|----------|------------|------------|------------|------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| 2.5          | <b>Program Participants that deploy improved planting stock, including varietal seedlings, shall use sound scientific methods.</b> | JTW          | 14       |            |            |            |            |                         |                           |
| <i>Notes</i> | See evidence below.  |              |          |            |            |            |            |                         |                           |

|              | <b>2010-2014 Requirement</b>   | Audit<br>-or | <u>C</u> | <u>EXR</u> | <u>Maj</u> | <u>Min</u> | <u>OFI</u> | <u>Likely<br/>Gap *</u> | <u>Likely<br/>Conf. *</u> |
|--------------|--|--------------|----------|------------|------------|------------|------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| 2.5.1        | Program for appropriate research, testing, evaluation and deployment of improved planting stock, including varietal seedlings.   | JTW          | 14       |            |            |            |            |                         |                           |
| <i>Notes</i> | <p>WDNR's Reforestation Programs consist of 3 parts: 1) Tree Improvement, 2) State Forestry Nursery Program, 3) Reforestation Monitoring. A copy of the 2013 Annual Report is below.</p> <p><br/>treeimprovement-2013.doc</p> |              |          |            |            |            |            |                         |                           |

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

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

|              | <b>2010-2014 Requirement</b>  | Audit<br>-or | <u>C</u> | <u>EXR</u> | <u>Maj</u> | <u>Min</u> | <u>OFI</u> | <u>Likely<br/>Gap *</u> | <u>Likely<br/>Conf. *</u> |
|--------------|---|--------------|----------|------------|------------|------------|------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| 3.1          | <b>Program Participants shall meet or exceed all applicable federal, provincial, state and local water quality laws, and meet or exceed best management practices developed under Canadian or U.S. Environmental Protection Agency-approved water quality programs.</b> | JTW          | 14       |            |            |            |            |                         |                           |
| <i>Notes</i> | See evidence below.   |              |          |            |            |            |            |                         |                           |

|              | <b>2010-2014 Requirement</b>  | Audit<br>-or | <u>C</u> | <u>EXR</u> | <u>Maj</u> | <u>Min</u> | <u>OFI</u> | <u>Likely<br/>Gap *</u> | <u>Likely<br/>Conf. *</u> |
|--------------|---|--------------|----------|------------|------------|------------|------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| 3.1.1        | Program to implement state or provincial best management practices during all phases of management activities.  | JTW          | 14       |            |            |            |            |                         |                           |
| <b>Notes</b> | <p>Compliance with BMPs is stated in contracts witnessed.</p> <p>Forms are used to monitor and document BMP implementation during timber harvest. Included are pre-harvest meeting, interim inspections, final inspection and closing.</p> <p>BMP implementation is also monitored and documented during silviculture operations.</p> |              |          |            |            |            |            |                         |                           |
|              | <b>2010-2014 Requirement</b>  | Audit<br>-or | <u>C</u> | <u>EXR</u> | <u>Maj</u> | <u>Min</u> | <u>OFI</u> | <u>Likely<br/>Gap *</u> | <u>Likely<br/>Conf. *</u> |
| 3.1.2        | Contract provisions that specify conformance to best management practices.  | JTW          | 14       |            |            |            |            |                         |                           |
| <b>Notes</b> | Contracts witnessed contained BMP compliance.   |              |          |            |            |            |            |                         |                           |
|              | <b>2010-2014 Requirement</b>  | Audit<br>-or | <u>C</u> | <u>EXR</u> | <u>Maj</u> | <u>Min</u> | <u>OFI</u> | <u>Likely<br/>Gap *</u> | <u>Likely<br/>Conf. *</u> |
| 3.1.3        | Plans that address wet-weather events (e.g. forest inventory systems, wet-weather tracts, definitions of acceptable operating conditions).  | JTW          | 14       |            |            |            |            |                         |                           |
| <b>Notes</b> | Witnessed in Timber Sale Notice And Cutting Report – 15. b. Ecological Considerations. Skidding/Seasonal Restrictions defines acceptable operating periods.   |              |          |            |            |            |            |                         |                           |
|              | <b>2010-2014 Requirement</b>  | Audit<br>-or | <u>C</u> | <u>EXR</u> | <u>Maj</u> | <u>Min</u> | <u>OFI</u> | <u>Likely<br/>Gap *</u> | <u>Likely<br/>Conf. *</u> |
| 3.1.4        | Monitoring of overall best management practices implementation.   | JTW          | 14       |            |            |            |            |                         |                           |
| <b>Notes</b> | <p>BMP implementation is monitored during timber sale administration and silviculture operation.</p> <p>A BMP assessment on state and county lands is conducted periodically. The last assessment was conducted during Fall of 2013. Data is currently being analyzed for reporting.</p>  |              |          |            |            |            |            |                         |                           |

|              | <b>2010-2014 Requirement</b>   | Audit<br>-or | <b><u>C</u></b> | <b><u>EXR</u></b> | <b><u>Maj</u></b> | <b><u>Min</u></b> | <b><u>OFI</u></b> | <b><u>Likely<br/>Gap *</u></b> | <b><u>Likely<br/>Conf. *</u></b> |
|--------------|--|--------------|-----------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 3.2          | <b>Program Participants shall have or develop, implement and document riparian protection measures based on soil type, terrain, vegetation, ecological function, harvesting system and other applicable factors.</b> | JTW          | 14              |                   |                   |                   |                   |                                |                                  |
| <i>Notes</i> | See evidence below.  |              |                 |                   |                   |                   |                   |                                |                                  |

|              | <b>2010-2014 Requirement</b>   | Audit<br>-or | <b><u>C</u></b> | <b><u>EXR</u></b> | <b><u>Maj</u></b> | <b><u>Min</u></b> | <b><u>OFI</u></b> | <b><u>Likely<br/>Gap *</u></b> | <b><u>Likely<br/>Conf. *</u></b> |
|--------------|--|--------------|-----------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 3.2.1        | Program addressing management and protection of rivers, streams, lakes, and other water bodies and riparian zones.   | JTW          | 14              |                   |                   |                   |                   |                                |                                  |
| <i>Notes</i> | <p>Management and protection witnessed in planning of timber harvest on Timber Sale Notice And Cutting Report – 15. C. Water Quality Considerations.</p> <p>Contracts witnessed include provisions for water quality.</p> <p>Timber sale administration and monitoring of silviculture operations addresses water quality issues.</p> <p>During site visits implementation of protections witnessed by painting lines for RMZs and avoiding areas during operations. No issues identified.</p> |              |                 |                   |                   |                   |                   |                                |                                  |

|              | <b>2010-2014 Requirement</b>   | Audit<br>-or | <b><u>C</u></b> | <b><u>EXR</u></b> | <b><u>Maj</u></b> | <b><u>Min</u></b> | <b><u>OFI</u></b> | <b><u>Likely<br/>Gap *</u></b> | <b><u>Likely<br/>Conf. *</u></b> |
|--------------|--|--------------|-----------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 3.2.2        | Mapping of rivers, streams, lakes, and other water bodies as specified in state or provincial best management practices and, where appropriate, identification on the ground.  | JTW          | 14              |                   |                   |                   |                   |                                |                                  |
| <i>Notes</i> | <p>Witnessed in WisFIRS and ARC Map in development of timber sale and silviculture maps.</p> <p>Riparian areas were witness during site visits as being used for sale boundaries or buffers were painted for protection.</p> |              |                 |                   |                   |                   |                   |                                |                                  |

|              | <b>2010-2014 Requirement</b>   | Audit<br>-or | <u>C</u> | <u>EXR</u> | <u>Maj</u> | <u>Min</u> | <u>OFI</u> | <u>Likely<br/>Gap *</u> | <u>Likely<br/>Conf. *</u> |
|--------------|--|--------------|----------|------------|------------|------------|------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| 3.2.3        | Implementation of plans to manage or protect rivers, streams, lakes, and other water bodies. | JTW          | 14       |            |            |            |            |                         |                           |
| <i>Notes</i> | Witnessed during site visits. No issues identified.  |              |          |            |            |            |            |                         |                           |

|              | <b>2010-2014 Requirement</b>  | Audit<br>-or | <u>C</u> | <u>EXR</u> | <u>Maj</u> | <u>Min</u> | <u>OFI</u> | <u>Likely<br/>Gap *</u> | <u>Likely<br/>Conf. *</u> |
|--------------|---|--------------|----------|------------|------------|------------|------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| 3.2.4        | Identification and protection of non-forested wetlands, including bogs, fens and marshes, and vernal pools of ecological significance.  | JTW          | 14       |            |            |            |            |                         |                           |
| <i>Notes</i> | Witnessed identification in WisFIRS and ARC Map in development of timber sale and silviculture maps.<br>Protection witnessed during site visits. Lines were painted around areas to limit access. |              |          |            |            |            |            |                         |                           |

|              | <b>2010-2014 Requirement</b>   | Audit<br>-or | <u>C</u> | <u>EXR</u> | <u>Maj</u> | <u>Min</u> | <u>OFI</u> | <u>Likely<br/>Gap *</u> | <u>Likely<br/>Conf. *</u> |
|--------------|--|--------------|----------|------------|------------|------------|------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| 3.2.5        | Where regulations or best management practices do not currently exist to protect riparian areas, use of experts to identify appropriate protection measures. | N/A          |          |            |            |            |            |                         |                           |
| <i>Notes</i> | BMPs have been developed for Wisconsin.  |              |          |            |            |            |            |                         |                           |

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

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

|              | <b>2010-2014 Requirement</b>  | Audit<br>-or | <u>C</u> | <u>EXR</u> | <u>Maj</u> | <u>Min</u> | <u>OFI</u> | <u>Likely<br/>Gap *</u> | <u>Likely<br/>Conf. *</u> |
|--------------|---|--------------|----------|------------|------------|------------|------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| 4.1          | <b>Program Participants shall have programs to promote biological diversity at stand- and landscape-levels.</b> | JTW          | 14       |            |            |            |            |                         |                           |
| <i>Notes</i> | See evidence below.   |              |          |            |            |            |            |                         |                           |

|              | <b>2010-2014 Requirement</b>   | Audit<br>-or | <b><u>C</u></b> | <b><u>EXR</u></b> | <b><u>Maj</u></b> | <b><u>Min</u></b> | <b><u>OFl</u></b> | <b><u>Likely<br/>Gap *</u></b> | <b><u>Likely<br/>Conf. *</u></b> |
|--------------|--|--------------|-----------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 4.1.1        | Program to promote the conservation of native biological diversity, including species, wildlife habitats and ecological community types.   | JTW          | 14              |                   |                   |                   |                   |                                |                                  |
| <b>Notes</b> | <p>Counties participate with the State in the implementation of the Wildlife Action Plan, identification of SNA's and HCVF habitats and forests. County employees have received training on the applicability of the WAP to their properties. WI DNR Wildlife biologists work with the Counties to insure that these programs are recognized and implemented on County lands.</p> <p><b>HCVF &amp; Exceptional Resource Areas witnessed include the following:</b></p> <p><u>Eau Claire</u>: Coon Fork Barrens, South Fork Barrens, Pea Creek Sedge Meadow, North Fork Eau Claire River, Canoe Landing Prairie, Horse Creek Wilderness Area, Wilson Wilderness Area, Hathaway Creek Wilderness Area, Brown Creek White Pine.</p> <p><u>Jackson</u>: Bauer-Brockway Barrens, Deer Island/North Floater, Bear Bluff Wetlands, Glenn Creek Barrens, Brockway Ponds, Spaulding Fen, Milton Sand Barrens</p> <p><u>Juneau</u>: Remnant old growth hemlock, old growth forest-Pine relicts, Remnant old growth hemlock</p> <p><b>Implementation of the Wildlife Action Plan witnessed in the following projects:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ruffed Grouse habitat</li> <li>• Prairie habitat</li> <li>• Flowage project</li> </ul> |              |                 |                   |                   |                   |                   |                                |                                  |

|              | <b>2010-2014 Requirement</b>  | Audit<br>-or | <b><u>C</u></b> | <b><u>EXR</u></b> | <b><u>Maj</u></b> | <b><u>Min</u></b> | <b><u>OFl</u></b> | <b><u>Likely<br/>Gap *</u></b> | <b><u>Likely<br/>Conf. *</u></b> |
|--------------|---|--------------|-----------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 4.1.2        | Program to protect threatened and endangered species.   | JTW          | 14              |                   |                   |                   |                   |                                |                                  |
| <b>Notes</b> | <p>Counties are mandated to meet requirement.</p> <p>Work with other state, federal, and private agencies to identify and protect.</p> <p>Identified in NHI Database.</p> |              |                 |                   |                   |                   |                   |                                |                                  |

|              | <b>2010-2014 Requirement</b>   | Audit<br>-or | <u>C</u> | <u>EXR</u> | <u>Maj</u> | <u>Min</u> | <u>OFI</u> | <u>Likely<br/>Gap *</u> | <u>Likely<br/>Conf. *</u> |
|--------------|--|--------------|----------|------------|------------|------------|------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| 4.1.3        | Program to locate and protect known sites associated with viable occurrences of critically imperiled and imperiled species and communities also known as Forests with Exceptional Conservation Value. Plans for protection may be developed independently or collaboratively, and may include Program Participant management, cooperation with other stakeholders, or use of easements, conservation land sales, exchanges, or other conservation strategies.  | JTW          | 14       |            |            |            |            |                         |                           |
| <b>Notes</b> | The Wisconsin Natural Heritage Inventory (NHI) is checked prior to establishing all timber harvests. Documentation of an NHI screening appears on the Timber Sale Notice And Cutting Report. The species and communities included in the NHI database include those identified by endangered resources staff as threatened, endangered, and special concern and cover those that are considered imperiled and critically imperiled. Comprehensive land use plans also incorporate such considerations. |              |          |            |            |            |            |                         |                           |

|              | <b>2010-2014 Requirement</b>  | Audit<br>-or | <u>C</u> | <u>EXR</u> | <u>Maj</u> | <u>Min</u> | <u>OFI</u> | <u>Likely<br/>Gap *</u> | <u>Likely<br/>Conf. *</u> |
|--------------|---|--------------|----------|------------|------------|------------|------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| 4.1.4        | Development and implementation of criteria, as guided by regionally appropriate best scientific information, to retain stand-level wildlife habitat elements such as snags, stumps, mast trees, down woody debris, den trees and nest trees.  | JTW          | 14       |            |            |            |            |                         |                           |
| <b>Notes</b> | County personnel employ State wide silvicultural guidelines or individual county adopted tree retention guidelines as incorporated in comprehensive county forest land use plans, for retaining structural diversity in even-aged management systems.<br>Timber Sale Notice And Cutting Report – 15. b. Ecological. Considerations contain documentation for Green Tree Retention.<br>Timber Sale Notice And Cutting Report – 15. e. Wildlife Considerations contains documentation for snag, den, and mast tree retention.<br>During site visits implementation was witnessed and discussed. No issues identified. |              |          |            |            |            |            |                         |                           |

|              | <b>2010-2014 Requirement</b>  | Audit<br>-or | <u>C</u> | <u>EXR</u> | <u>Maj</u> | <u>Min</u> | <u>OFI</u> | <u>Likely<br/>Gap *</u> | <u>Likely<br/>Conf. *</u> |
|--------------|---|--------------|----------|------------|------------|------------|------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| 4.1.5        | Program for assessment, conducted either individually or collaboratively, of forest cover types, age or size classes, and habitats at the individual ownership level and, where credible data are available, across the landscape, and take into account findings in planning and management activities.  | JTW          | 14       |            |            |            |            |                         |                           |
| <i>Notes</i> | <p>Wisconsin Wildlife Action Plan (WAP) and Conservation Opportunity Areas (COA) serve as tools for assessment and planning.</p> <p>Conservation Opportunity Areas (COAs) located in the selected audit counties but not necessarily on County Forest Land include the following:<br/> <b>Eau Claire:</b> Eau Claire and Clark Barrens Restoration, Lower Chippewa Bluffs and Floodplain, Lower Chippewa River, Eau Claire River<br/> <b>Jackson:</b> Black River, Coulee Forests, Fort McCoy Barrens and Oak Savanna, Meadow Valley Sandhill, Robinson Creek, Hills Creek, Lower Black River, Morrison Creek<br/> <b>Juneau:</b> Meadow Valley Sandhill, Green Sand Cuesta, Buckhorn, Yellow River-Hemlock Creek, Lemonweir River<br/> <b>Marathon:</b> Mead, Little Wolf River, Middle Wisconsin River, Rib-Little Rib Rivers, Plover River</p> <p>The following webpage allows searching by county for Conservation Opportunity Areas: <a href="http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/WildlifeHabitat/county.asp">http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/WildlifeHabitat/county.asp</a></p> |              |          |            |            |            |            |                         |                           |

|              | <b>2010-2014 Requirement</b>  | Audit<br>-or | <u>C</u> | <u>EXR</u> | <u>Maj</u> | <u>Min</u> | <u>OFI</u> | <u>Likely<br/>Gap *</u> | <u>Likely<br/>Conf. *</u> |
|--------------|---|--------------|----------|------------|------------|------------|------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| 4.1.6        | Support of and participation in plans or programs for the conservation of old-growth forests in the region of ownership.                | JTW          | 14       |            |            |            |            |                         |                           |
| <i>Notes</i> | Where old-growth forests have been identified, the Counties have set aside these lands for old growth protection. Witnessed in WisFIRS. |              |          |            |            |            |            |                         |                           |

|              | <b>2010-2014 Requirement</b>   | Audit<br>-or | <u>C</u> | <u>EXR</u> | <u>Maj</u> | <u>Min</u> | <u>OFI</u> | <u>Likely<br/>Gap *</u> | <u>Likely<br/>Conf. *</u> |
|--------------|--|--------------|----------|------------|------------|------------|------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| 4.1.7        | Participation in programs and demonstration of activities as appropriate to limit the introduction, impact and spread of invasive exotic plants and animals that directly threaten or are likely to threaten native plant and animal communities.  | JTW          | 14       |            |            |            |            |                         |                           |
| <i>Notes</i> | <p>Invasive Species Rule NR 40, The invasive species rule (Wis. Adm. Code ch. NR 40) makes it illegal to possess, transport, transfer, or introduce certain invasive species in Wisconsin without a permit. Everyone is responsible to comply with these regulations. Some counties have had invasive species inventories and/or plans completed. (Example Beaver Creek Reserve). Forest reconnaissance includes monitoring for invasive species. (Example flights for OAK Wilt). Sustainable forestry grants have been awarded for some control efforts.</p> <p>A list of monitoring/control by county since the last audit was witnessed by the auditor.</p> <p>Witnessed Oak Wilt treatment and discussed control program. GIS points identified for locations.</p> |              |          |            |            |            |            |                         |                           |

|              | <b>2010-2014 Requirement</b>   | Audit<br>-or | <u>C</u> | <u>EXR</u> | <u>Maj</u> | <u>Min</u> | <u>OFI</u> | <u>Likely<br/>Gap *</u> | <u>Likely<br/>Conf. *</u> |
|--------------|--|--------------|----------|------------|------------|------------|------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| 4.1.8        | Program to incorporate the role of prescribed or natural fire where appropriate.   | JTW          | 14       |            |            |            |            |                         |                           |
| <i>Notes</i> | <p>Prescribed fire used for wildlife management. Discussed use at Prairie Site.</p> <p>Use of prescribed fire included in Minutes of Eau Clair, Jackson, and Marathon Counties Partnership Meetings.</p> |              |          |            |            |            |            |                         |                           |

|              | <b>2010-2014 Requirement</b>   | Audit<br>-or | <u>C</u> | <u>EXR</u> | <u>Maj</u> | <u>Min</u> | <u>OFI</u> | <u>Likely<br/>Gap *</u> | <u>Likely<br/>Conf. *</u> |
|--------------|--|--------------|----------|------------|------------|------------|------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| 4.2          | <b>Program Participants shall apply knowledge gained through research, science, technology and field experience to manage wildlife habitat and contribute to the conservation of biological diversity.</b> | JTW          | 14       |            |            |            |            |                         |                           |
| <i>Notes</i> | See evidence below.  |              |          |            |            |            |            |                         |                           |



|              | <b>2010-2014 Requirement</b>  | Audit<br>-or | <u>C</u> | <u>EXR</u> | <u>Maj</u> | <u>Min</u> | <u>OFI</u> | <u>Likely<br/>Gap *</u> | <u>Likely<br/>Conf. *</u> |
|--------------|---|--------------|----------|------------|------------|------------|------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| 4.2.1        | Collection of information on Forests with Exceptional Conservation Value and other biodiversity-related data through forest inventory processes, mapping or participation in external programs, such as NatureServe, state or provincial heritage programs, or other credible systems. Such participation may include providing non-proprietary scientific information, time and assistance by staff, or in-kind or direct financial support. | JTW          | 14       |            |            |            |            |                         |                           |
| <i>Notes</i> | FECVs have been identified using the Wisconsin Natural Heritage Inventory database. These areas have been identified and mapped in WisFIRS.   |              |          |            |            |            |            |                         |                           |

|              | <b>2010-2014 Requirement</b>   | Audit<br>-or | <u>C</u> | <u>EXR</u> | <u>Maj</u> | <u>Min</u> | <u>OFI</u> | <u>Likely<br/>Gap *</u> | <u>Likely<br/>Conf. *</u> |
|--------------|--|--------------|----------|------------|------------|------------|------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| 4.2.2        | A methodology to incorporate research results and field applications of biodiversity and ecosystem research into forest management decisions.  | JTW          | 14       |            |            |            |            |                         |                           |
| <i>Notes</i> | Counties have access to research results, analysis and planning completed by the State of Wisconsin DNR which they incorporate into their forest management decisions. Wisconsin DNR biologists are involved in all county forestry programs. Good working relationships were apparent. The State continues to write management plans for T&E species and make them available to County personnel. |              |          |            |            |            |            |                         |                           |

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

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

|              | <b>2010-2014 Requirement</b>   | Audit<br>-or | <u>C</u> | <u>EXR</u> | <u>Maj</u> | <u>Min</u> | <u>OFI</u> | <u>Likely<br/>Gap *</u> | <u>Likely<br/>Conf. *</u> |
|--------------|--|--------------|----------|------------|------------|------------|------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| 5.1          | <b>Program Participants shall manage the impact of harvesting on visual quality.</b> | JTW          | 14       |            |            |            |            |                         |                           |
| <i>Notes</i> | See evidence below.  |              |          |            |            |            |            |                         |                           |

|              | <b>2010-2014 Requirement</b>  | Audit<br>-or | <b><u>C</u></b> | <b><u>EXR</u></b> | <b><u>Maj</u></b> | <b><u>Min</u></b> | <b><u>OFI</u></b> | <b><u>Likely<br/>Gap *</u></b> | <b><u>Likely<br/>Conf. *</u></b> |
|--------------|---|--------------|-----------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 5.1.1        | Program to address visual quality management.   | JTW          | 14              |                   |                   |                   |                   |                                |                                  |
| <b>Notes</b> | County Forests Comprehensive Land Use Plans contain Chapter 520 Aesthetic Management Zone.<br>Timber Sale Notice And Cutting Report – 15. D. Aesthetic Consideration contains documentation for timber sales.<br>Witnessed and discussed use of strips along trails and shape for Grouse clearcuts. |              |                 |                   |                   |                   |                   |                                |                                  |
|              | <b>2010-2014 Requirement</b>  | Audit<br>-or | <b><u>C</u></b> | <b><u>EXR</u></b> | <b><u>Maj</u></b> | <b><u>Min</u></b> | <b><u>OFI</u></b> | <b><u>Likely<br/>Gap *</u></b> | <b><u>Likely<br/>Conf. *</u></b> |
| 5.1.2        | Incorporation of aesthetic considerations in harvesting, road, landing design and management, and other management activities where visual impacts are a concern.   | JTW          |                 | 14                |                   |                   |                   |                                |                                  |
| <b>Notes</b> | Witnessed and discussed during site visits use of leave strips along trails and shape for Grouse clearcuts.<br>Incorporation of aesthetics in high use and high visibility areas was exceptional. Aesthetics was a consideration in planning silvicultural activities in these areas.               |              |                 |                   |                   |                   |                   |                                |                                  |
|              | <b>2010-2014 Requirement</b>  | Audit<br>-or | <b><u>C</u></b> | <b><u>EXR</u></b> | <b><u>Maj</u></b> | <b><u>Min</u></b> | <b><u>OFI</u></b> | <b><u>Likely<br/>Gap *</u></b> | <b><u>Likely<br/>Conf. *</u></b> |
| 5.2          | <b>Program Participants shall manage the size, shape and placement of clearcut harvests.</b>  | JTW          | 14              |                   |                   |                   |                   |                                |                                  |
| <b>Notes</b> | See evidence below.   |              |                 |                   |                   |                   |                   |                                |                                  |
|              | <b>2010-2014 Requirement</b>  | Audit<br>-or | <b><u>C</u></b> | <b><u>EXR</u></b> | <b><u>Maj</u></b> | <b><u>Min</u></b> | <b><u>OFI</u></b> | <b><u>Likely<br/>Gap *</u></b> | <b><u>Likely<br/>Conf. *</u></b> |
| 5.2.1        | Average size of clearcut harvest areas does not exceed 120 acres (50 hectares), except when necessary to meet regulatory requirements or to respond to forest health emergencies or other natural catastrophes.   | JTW          | 14              |                   |                   |                   |                   |                                |                                  |
| <b>Notes</b> | See average clearcut size below.  |              |                 |                   |                   |                   |                   |                                |                                  |

|              | <b>2010-2014 Requirement</b>   | Audit<br>-or | <u>C</u> | <u>EXR</u> | <u>Maj</u> | <u>Min</u> | <u>OFI</u> | <u>Likely<br/>Gap *</u> | <u>Likely<br/>Conf. *</u> |
|--------------|--|--------------|----------|------------|------------|------------|------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| 5.2.2        | Documentation through internal records of clearcut size and the process for calculating average size.  | JTW          | 14       |            |            |            |            |                         |                           |
| <i>Notes</i> | 17.73 acres – 2013 average clear-cut size<br>16.99 acres – 2012 average clear-cut size.<br>17.53 acres -- 2011 average clear-cut size.<br>18.95 acres - 2010 average clear-cut size.<br>*Advanced timber sale report/export from WisFIRS (sales established during calendar year). |              |          |            |            |            |            |                         |                           |

|              | <b>2010-2014 Requirement</b>   | Audit<br>-or | <u>C</u> | <u>EXR</u> | <u>Maj</u> | <u>Min</u> | <u>OFI</u> | <u>Likely<br/>Gap *</u> | <u>Likely<br/>Conf. *</u> |
|--------------|--|--------------|----------|------------|------------|------------|------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| 5.3          | <b>Program Participants shall adopt a green-up requirement or alternative methods that provide for visual quality.</b> | JTW          | 14       |            |            |            |            |                         |                           |
| <i>Notes</i> | See evidence below.  |              |          |            |            |            |            |                         |                           |

|              | <b>2010-2014 Requirement</b>  | Audit<br>-or | <u>C</u> | <u>EXR</u> | <u>Maj</u> | <u>Min</u> | <u>OFI</u> | <u>Likely<br/>Gap *</u> | <u>Likely<br/>Conf. *</u> |
|--------------|---|--------------|----------|------------|------------|------------|------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| 5.3.1        | Program implementing the green-up requirement or alternative methods.   | JTW          | 14       |            |            |            |            |                         |                           |
| <i>Notes</i> | Foresters were knowledgeable of green-up requirements. System of plan review and approval ensures multiple persons reviewing green-up requirements. |              |          |            |            |            |            |                         |                           |

|              | <b>2010-2014 Requirement</b>  | Audit<br>-or | <u>C</u> | <u>EXR</u> | <u>Maj</u> | <u>Min</u> | <u>OFI</u> | <u>Likely<br/>Gap *</u> | <u>Likely<br/>Conf. *</u> |
|--------------|---|--------------|----------|------------|------------|------------|------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| 5.3.2        | Harvest area tracking system to demonstrate conformance with the green-up requirement or alternative methods.   | JTW          | 14       |            |            |            |            |                         |                           |
| <i>Notes</i> | Timber sale maps and WisFIRS are used to review adjacent stands during sale planning to meet green-up.<br>Foresters were knowledgeable of green-up requirements. System of plan review and approval ensures multiple persons reviewing green-up requirements. |              |          |            |            |            |            |                         |                           |

|              | <b>2010-2014 Requirement</b>  | Audit<br>-or | <b><u>C</u></b> | <b><u>EXR</u></b> | <b><u>Maj</u></b> | <b><u>Min</u></b> | <b><u>OFI</u></b> | <b><u>Likely<br/>Gap *</u></b> | <b><u>Likely<br/>Conf. *</u></b> |
|--------------|---|--------------|-----------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 5.3.3        | Trees in clearcut harvest areas are at least 3 years old or 5 feet (1.5 meters) high at the desired level of stocking before adjacent areas are clearcut, or as appropriate to address operational and economic considerations, alternative methods to reach the performance measure are utilized by the Program Participant. | JTW          | 14              |                   |                   |                   |                   |                                |                                  |
| <i>Notes</i> | Witnessed during site visits. No issues identified.   |              |                 |                   |                   |                   |                   |                                |                                  |

|              | <b>2010-2014 Requirement</b>   | Audit<br>-or | <b><u>C</u></b> | <b><u>EXR</u></b> | <b><u>Maj</u></b> | <b><u>Min</u></b> | <b><u>OFI</u></b> | <b><u>Likely<br/>Gap *</u></b> | <b><u>Likely<br/>Conf. *</u></b> |
|--------------|--|--------------|-----------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 5.4          | <b>Program Participants shall support and promote recreational opportunities for the public.</b> | JTW          | 14              |                   |                   |                   |                   |                                |                                  |
| <i>Notes</i> | See evidence below.  |              |                 |                   |                   |                   |                   |                                |                                  |

|              | <b>2010-2014 Requirement</b>   | Audit<br>-or | <b><u>C</u></b> | <b><u>EXR</u></b> | <b><u>Maj</u></b> | <b><u>Min</u></b> | <b><u>OFI</u></b> | <b><u>Likely<br/>Gap *</u></b> | <b><u>Likely<br/>Conf. *</u></b> |
|--------------|--|--------------|-----------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 5.4.1        | Provide recreational opportunities for the public, where consistent with forest management objectives.   | JTW          | 14              |                   |                   |                   |                   |                                |                                  |
| <i>Notes</i> | <p>Wisconsin County Forests provide a diverse range of recreation opportunities for the public. Recreation is a major component of all management decisions. Recreation facilities include picnic areas, swimming beaches, boat launches, fishing docks, campgrounds, historic sites with interpretive signs, rifle and archery ranges, an arboretum, interpretive center, ski trails, and the following types of trails: nature or interpretive, hiking, biking, cross-country skiing facilities, snowmobile, horse, and ATV.</p> <p>Color brochures and maps were witnessed for all counties visited. Interaction of the public and forest management was witness on all properties visited.</p> |              |                 |                   |                   |                   |                   |                                |                                  |

**Objective 6. Protection of Special Sites.**

To manage lands that are ecologically, geologically or culturally important in a manner that takes into account their unique qualities.

|              | <b>2010-2014 Requirement</b>  | Audit<br>-or | <u>C</u> | <u>EXR</u> | <u>Maj</u> | <u>Min</u> | <u>OFI</u> | <u>Likely<br/>Gap *</u> | <u>Likely<br/>Conf. *</u> |
|--------------|---|--------------|----------|------------|------------|------------|------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| <b>6.1</b>   | <b>Program Participants shall identify special sites and manage them in a manner appropriate for their unique features.</b> | JTW          | 14       |            |            |            |            |                         |                           |
| <b>Notes</b> | See evidence below.   |              |          |            |            |            |            |                         |                           |

|              | <b>2010-2014 Requirement</b>   | Audit<br>-or | <u>C</u> | <u>EXR</u> | <u>Maj</u> | <u>Min</u> | <u>OFI</u> | <u>Likely<br/>Gap *</u> | <u>Likely<br/>Conf. *</u> |
|--------------|--|--------------|----------|------------|------------|------------|------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| <b>6.1.1</b> | Use of information such as existing natural heritage data, expert advice or stakeholder consultation in identifying or selecting special sites for protection.   | JTW          | 14       |            |            |            |            |                         |                           |
| <b>Notes</b> | NHI and Archeological, Historical database checks are made before conducting timber sale activities. Natural heritage sites were identified in consultation with ER staff during development of comprehensive land use plans. Source: Joe Schwantes, County & Public Forest Specialist<br>Witnessed on Timber Sale Notice And Cutting Report 15. b. Ecological Considerations.<br>Sites witnessed in NHI database. |              |          |            |            |            |            |                         |                           |

|              | <b>2010-2014 Requirement</b>   | Audit<br>-or | <u>C</u> | <u>EXR</u> | <u>Maj</u> | <u>Min</u> | <u>OFI</u> | <u>Likely<br/>Gap *</u> | <u>Likely<br/>Conf. *</u> |
|--------------|--|--------------|----------|------------|------------|------------|------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| <b>6.1.2</b> | Appropriate mapping, cataloging and management of identified special sites.  | JTW          | 14       |            |            |            |            |                         |                           |
| <b>Notes</b> | Sites witnessed in NHI database.<br>Witnessed on Timber Sale Notice And Cutting Report 15. b. Ecological Considerations. |              |          |            |            |            |            |                         |                           |

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

To promote the efficient use of forest resources.

|              | <b>2010-2014 Requirement</b>   | Audit<br>-or | <u>C</u> | <u>EXR</u> | <u>Maj</u> | <u>Min</u> | <u>OFI</u> | <u>Likely<br/>Gap *</u> | <u>Likely<br/>Conf. *</u> |
|--------------|--|--------------|----------|------------|------------|------------|------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| <b>7.1</b>   | <b>Program Participants shall employ appropriate forest harvesting technology and in-woods manufacturing processes and practices to minimize waste and ensure efficient utilization of harvested trees, where consistent with other SFI Standard objectives.</b> | JTW          | 14       |            |            |            |            |                         |                           |
| <b>Notes</b> | See evidence below.  |              |          |            |            |            |            |                         |                           |

|              | <b>2010-2014 Requirement</b>   | Audit<br>-or | <u>C</u> | <u>EXR</u> | <u>Maj</u> | <u>Min</u> | <u>OFI</u> | <u>Likely<br/>Gap *</u> | <u>Likely<br/>Conf. *</u> |
|--------------|--|--------------|----------|------------|------------|------------|------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| <b>7.1.1</b> | Program or monitoring system to ensure efficient utilization, which may include provisions to ensure: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. management of harvest residue (e.g. slash, limbs, tops) considers economic, social and environmental factors (e.g. organic and nutrient value to future forests) and other utilization needs;</li> <li>b. training or incentives to encourage loggers to enhance utilization;</li> <li>c. cooperation with mill managers for better utilization of species and low-grade material;</li> <li>d. exploration of markets for underutilized species and low-grade wood and alternative markets (e.g. bioenergy markets); or</li> <li>e. periodic inspections and reports noting utilization and product separation.</li> </ul> | JTW          | 14       |            |            |            |            |                         |                           |
| <b>Notes</b> | Timber Sale Contract includes utilization clause and logger training requirement. Utilization is monitored during timber sale administration. Foresters interviewed are knowledgeable of local markets and utilization specs. No utilization issues identified during site visits.   |              |          |            |            |            |            |                         |                           |

**Objectives 8-13 Not Applicable**

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

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

|              | <b>2010-2014 Requirement</b>  | Audit<br>-or | <u>C</u> | <u>EXR</u> | <u>Maj</u> | <u>Min</u> | <u>OFI</u> | <u>Likely<br/>Gap *</u> | <u>Likely<br/>Conf. *</u> |
|--------------|---|--------------|----------|------------|------------|------------|------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| <b>14.1</b>  | <b>Program Participants shall take appropriate steps to comply with applicable federal, provincial, state and local forestry and related social and environmental laws and regulations.</b> | JTW          | 14       |            |            |            |            |                         |                           |
| <b>Notes</b> | See evidence below.   |              |          |            |            |            |            |                         |                           |

|               | <b>2010-2014 Requirement</b>   | Audit<br>-or | <u>C</u> | <u>EXR</u> | <u>Maj</u> | <u>Min</u> | <u>OFI</u> | <u>Likely<br/>Gap *</u> | <u>Likely<br/>Conf. *</u> |
|---------------|--|--------------|----------|------------|------------|------------|------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| <b>14.1.1</b> | Access to relevant laws and regulations in appropriate locations.  | JTW          | 14       |            |            |            |            |                         |                           |
| <b>Notes</b>  | Relevant federal and state laws and regulations are available on-line. County ordinances are listed in Chapter 330 with full text found in Chapter 900 of County Forest Comprehensive Land Use Plans. Witnessed plans. |              |          |            |            |            |            |                         |                           |

|               | <b>2010-2014 Requirement</b>  | Audit<br>-or | <u>C</u> | <u>EXR</u> | <u>Maj</u> | <u>Min</u> | <u>OFI</u> | <u>Likely<br/>Gap *</u> | <u>Likely<br/>Conf. *</u> |
|---------------|---|--------------|----------|------------|------------|------------|------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| <b>14.1.2</b> | System to achieve compliance with applicable federal, provincial, state or local laws and regulations.  | JTW          | 14       |            |            |            |            |                         |                           |
| <b>Notes</b>  | Documentation of relevant County ordinances is found in County Forest Comprehensive Land Use Plans. Witnessed plans.<br>Foresters receive training on applicable laws and regulations.<br>Approval system for plans involves foresters at various levels of management to review and approve.<br>Contracts state compliance with laws and regulations.<br>System of pre-activity meetings, monitoring and closing review ensure compliance of harvesting and silviculture operations. |              |          |            |            |            |            |                         |                           |

|              | <b>2010-2014 Requirement</b>  | Audit<br>-or | <u>C</u> | <u>EXR</u> | <u>Maj</u> | <u>Min</u> | <u>OFI</u> | <u>Likely<br/>Gap *</u> | <u>Likely<br/>Conf. *</u> |
|--------------|---|--------------|----------|------------|------------|------------|------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| 14.1.3       | Demonstration of commitment to legal compliance through available regulatory action information.  | JTW          | 14       |            |            |            |            |                         |                           |
| <i>Notes</i> | No issues identified during interviews. Witnessed ledger with listing of all counties issues/problems with legal compliance with federal, state, local forestry and related social and environmental laws/regulations in the past year. No issues listed. |              |          |            |            |            |            |                         |                           |

|              | <b>2010-2014 Requirement</b>  | Audit<br>-or | <u>C</u> | <u>EXR</u> | <u>Maj</u> | <u>Min</u> | <u>OFI</u> | <u>Likely<br/>Gap *</u> | <u>Likely<br/>Conf. *</u> |
|--------------|---|--------------|----------|------------|------------|------------|------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| 14.2         | <b>Program Participants shall take appropriate steps to comply with all applicable social laws at the federal, provincial, state and local levels in the country in which the Program Participant operates.</b> | JTW          | 14       |            |            |            |            |                         |                           |
| <i>Notes</i> | See evidence below.   |              |          |            |            |            |            |                         |                           |

|              | <b>2010-2014 Requirement</b>   | Audit<br>-or | <u>C</u> | <u>EXR</u> | <u>Maj</u> | <u>Min</u> | <u>OFI</u> | <u>Likely<br/>Gap *</u> | <u>Likely<br/>Conf. *</u> |
|--------------|--|--------------|----------|------------|------------|------------|------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| 14.2.1       | Written policy demonstrating commitment to comply with social laws, such as those covering civil rights, equal employment opportunities, anti-discrimination and anti-harassment measures, workers' compensation, indigenous peoples' rights, workers' and communities' right to know, prevailing wages, workers' right to organize, and occupational health and safety. | JTW          | 14       |            |            |            |            |                         |                           |
| <i>Notes</i> | Witnessed human resources bulletin boards in counties visited.   |              |          |            |            |            |            |                         |                           |

|              | <b>2010-2014 Requirement</b>  | Audit<br>-or | <u>C</u> | <u>EXR</u> | <u>Maj</u> | <u>Min</u> | <u>OFI</u> | <u>Likely<br/>Gap *</u> | <u>Likely<br/>Conf. *</u> |
|--------------|---|--------------|----------|------------|------------|------------|------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| 14.2.2       | Forestry enterprises will respect the rights of workers and labor representatives in a manner that encompasses the intent of the International Labor Organization (ILO) core conventions. | JTW          | 14       |            |            |            |            |                         |                           |
| <i>Notes</i> | Are there any ILO-related complaints? If yes NSF must pass these along to SFI Inc.<br><br>There have been no ILO-related complaints received by County Forests.                           |              |          |            |            |            |            |                         |                           |



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

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

|              | <b>2010-2014 Requirement</b>  | Audit<br>-or | <u>C</u> | <u>EXR</u> | <u>Maj</u> | <u>Min</u> | <u>OFI</u> | <u>Likely<br/>Gap *</u> | <u>Likely<br/>Conf. *</u> |
|--------------|---|--------------|----------|------------|------------|------------|------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| <b>15.1</b>  | <b>Program Participants shall individually and/or through cooperative efforts involving SFI Implementation Committees, associations or other partners provide in-kind support or funding for forest research to improve forest health, productivity, and sustainable management of forest resources, and the environmental benefits and performance of forest products.</b> |              |          |            |            |            |            |                         |                           |
| <b>Notes</b> | Note: This objective is not a focus area for 2014.  |              |          |            |            |            |            |                         |                           |

|               | <b>2010-2014 Requirement</b>   | Audit<br>-or | <u>C</u> | <u>EXR</u> | <u>Maj</u> | <u>Min</u> | <u>OFI</u> | <u>Likely<br/>Gap *</u> | <u>Likely<br/>Conf. *</u> |
|---------------|--|--------------|----------|------------|------------|------------|------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| <b>15.1.1</b> | Financial or in-kind support of research to address questions of relevance in the region of operations. The research shall include some of the following issues:<br>a. forest health, productivity, and ecosystem functions;<br>b. chemical efficiency, use rate and integrated pest management;<br>c. water quality and/or effectiveness of best management practices including effectiveness of water quality and best management practices for protecting the quality, diversity and distributions of fish and wildlife habitats;<br>d. wildlife management at stand- and landscape-levels;<br>e. conservation of biological diversity;<br>f. ecological impacts of bioenergy feedstock removals on productivity, wildlife habitat, water quality and other ecosystem functions;<br>g. climate change research for both adaptation and mitigation;<br>h. social issues;<br>i. forest operations efficiencies and economics;<br>j. energy efficiency;<br>k. life cycle assessment;<br>l. avoidance of illegal logging; and<br>m. avoidance of controversial sources. |              |          |            |            |            |            |                         |                           |
| <b>Notes</b>  | Note: This objective is not a focus area for 2014.   |              |          |            |            |            |            |                         |                           |

|              | <b>2010-2014 Requirement</b>  | Audit<br>-or | <u>C</u> | <u>EXR</u> | <u>Maj</u> | <u>Min</u> | <u>OFI</u> | <u>Likely<br/>Gap *</u> | <u>Likely<br/>Conf. *</u> |
|--------------|---|--------------|----------|------------|------------|------------|------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| 15.1.2       | Research on genetically engineered trees via forest tree biotechnology shall adhere to all applicable federal, state, and provincial regulations and international protocols. |              |          |            |            |            |            |                         |                           |
| <i>Notes</i> | Note: This objective is not a focus area for 2014.  |              |          |            |            |            |            |                         |                           |

|              | <b>2010-2014 Requirement</b>  | Audit<br>-or | <u>C</u> | <u>EXR</u> | <u>Maj</u> | <u>Min</u> | <u>OFI</u> | <u>Likely<br/>Gap *</u> | <u>Likely<br/>Conf. *</u> |
|--------------|---|--------------|----------|------------|------------|------------|------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| 15.2         | <b>Program Participants shall individually <u>and/or</u> through cooperative efforts involving SFI Implementation Committees, associations or other partners develop or use state, provincial or regional analyses in support of their sustainable forestry programs.</b> |              |          |            |            |            |            |                         |                           |
| <i>Notes</i> | Note: This objective is not a focus area for 2014.  |              |          |            |            |            |            |                         |                           |

|              | <b>2010-2014 Requirement</b>   | Audit<br>-or | <u>C</u> | <u>EXR</u> | <u>Maj</u> | <u>Min</u> | <u>OFI</u> | <u>Likely<br/>Gap *</u> | <u>Likely<br/>Conf. *</u> |
|--------------|--|--------------|----------|------------|------------|------------|------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| 15.2.1       | Participation, individually and/or through cooperative efforts involving SFI Implementation Committees and/or associations at the national, state, provincial or regional level, in the development or use of some of the following:<br>a. regeneration assessments;<br>b. growth and drain assessments;<br>c. best management practices implementation and conformance;<br>d. biodiversity conservation information for family forest owners;<br>and e. social, cultural or economic benefit assessments. |              |          |            |            |            |            |                         |                           |
| <i>Notes</i> | Note: This objective is not a focus area for 2014.   |              |          |            |            |            |            |                         |                           |

|              | <b>2010-2014 Requirement</b>   | Audit<br>-or | <u>C</u> | <u>EXR</u> | <u>Maj</u> | <u>Min</u> | <u>OFI</u> | <u>Likely<br/>Gap *</u> | <u>Likely<br/>Conf. *</u> |
|--------------|--|--------------|----------|------------|------------|------------|------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| 15.3         | <b>Program Participants shall individually and/or through cooperative efforts involving SFI Implementation Committees, associations or other partners broaden the awareness of climate change impacts on forests, wildlife and biological diversity.</b> |              |          |            |            |            |            |                         |                           |
| <i>Notes</i> | Note: This objective is not a focus area for 2014.   |              |          |            |            |            |            |                         |                           |

|              | <b>2010-2014 Requirement</b>   | Audit<br>-or | <u>C</u> | <u>EXR</u> | <u>Maj</u> | <u>Min</u> | <u>OFI</u> | <u>Likely<br/>Gap *</u> | <u>Likely<br/>Conf. *</u> |
|--------------|--|--------------|----------|------------|------------|------------|------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| 15.3.1       | Where available, monitor information generated from regional climate models on long-term forest health, productivity and economic viability. |              |          |            |            |            |            |                         |                           |
| <i>Notes</i> | Note: This objective is not a focus area for 2014.   |              |          |            |            |            |            |                         |                           |

|              | <b>2010-2014 Requirement</b>   | Audit<br>-or | <u>C</u> | <u>EXR</u> | <u>Maj</u> | <u>Min</u> | <u>OFI</u> | <u>Likely<br/>Gap *</u> | <u>Likely<br/>Conf. *</u> |
|--------------|--|--------------|----------|------------|------------|------------|------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| 15.3.2       | Program Participants are knowledgeable about climate change impacts on wildlife, wildlife habitats and conservation of biological diversity through international, national, regional or local programs. |              |          |            |            |            |            |                         |                           |
| <i>Notes</i> | Note: This objective is not a focus area for 2014.   |              |          |            |            |            |            |                         |                           |

### **Objective 16. Training and Education.**

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

|              | <b>2010-2014 Requirement</b>   | Audit<br>-or | <u>C</u> | <u>EXR</u> | <u>Maj</u> | <u>Min</u> | <u>OFI</u> | <u>Likely<br/>Gap *</u> | <u>Likely<br/>Conf. *</u> |
|--------------|--|--------------|----------|------------|------------|------------|------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| 16.1         | <b>Program Participants shall require appropriate training of personnel and contractors so that they are competent to fulfill their responsibilities under the SFI 2010-2014 Standard.</b> |              |          |            |            |            |            |                         |                           |
| <i>Notes</i> | Note: This objective is not a focus area for 2014.   |              |          |            |            |            |            |                         |                           |

|              | <b>2010-2014 Requirement</b>  | Audit<br>-or | <u>C</u> | <u>EXR</u> | <u>Maj</u> | <u>Min</u> | <u>OFI</u> | <u>Likely<br/>Gap *</u> | <u>Likely<br/>Conf. *</u> |
|--------------|---|--------------|----------|------------|------------|------------|------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| 16.1.1       | Written statement of commitment to the SFI 2010-2014 Standard communicated throughout the organization, particularly to facility and woodland managers, fiber sourcing staff and field foresters. |              |          |            |            |            |            |                         |                           |
| <i>Notes</i> | Note: This objective is not a focus area for 2014.  |              |          |            |            |            |            |                         |                           |

|              | <b>2010-2014 Requirement</b>  | Audit<br>-or | <u>C</u> | <u>EXR</u> | <u>Maj</u> | <u>Min</u> | <u>OFI</u> | <u>Likely<br/>Gap *</u> | <u>Likely<br/>Conf. *</u> |
|--------------|---|--------------|----------|------------|------------|------------|------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| 16.1.2       | Assignment and understanding of roles and responsibilities for achieving SFI 2010-2014 Standard objectives. |              |          |            |            |            |            |                         |                           |
| <i>Notes</i> | Note: This objective is not a focus area for 2014.  |              |          |            |            |            |            |                         |                           |

|              | <b>2010-2014 Requirement</b>   | Audit<br>-or | <u>C</u> | <u>EXR</u> | <u>Maj</u> | <u>Min</u> | <u>OFI</u> | <u>Likely<br/>Gap *</u> | <u>Likely<br/>Conf. *</u> |
|--------------|--|--------------|----------|------------|------------|------------|------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| 16.1.3       | Staff education and training sufficient to their roles and responsibilities. |              |          |            |            |            |            |                         |                           |
| <i>Notes</i> | Note: This objective is not a focus area for 2014.                           |              |          |            |            |            |            |                         |                           |

|              | <b>2010-2014 Requirement</b>  | Audit<br>-or | <u>C</u> | <u>EXR</u> | <u>Maj</u> | <u>Min</u> | <u>OFI</u> | <u>Likely<br/>Gap *</u> | <u>Likely<br/>Conf. *</u> |
|--------------|---|--------------|----------|------------|------------|------------|------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| 16.1.4       | Contractor education and training sufficient to their roles and responsibilities. |              |          |            |            |            |            |                         |                           |
| <i>Notes</i> | Note: This objective is not a focus area for 2014.                                |              |          |            |            |            |            |                         |                           |

|              | <b>2010-2014 Requirement</b>  | Audit<br>-or | <u>C</u> | <u>EXR</u> | <u>Maj</u> | <u>Min</u> | <u>OFI</u> | <u>Likely<br/>Gap *</u> | <u>Likely<br/>Conf. *</u> |
|--------------|---|--------------|----------|------------|------------|------------|------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| 16.1.5       | Forestry enterprises shall have a program for the use of certified logging professionals (where available) and qualified logging professionals. |              |          |            |            |            |            |                         |                           |
| <i>Notes</i> | Note: This objective is not a focus area for 2014.  |              |          |            |            |            |            |                         |                           |

|              | <b>2010-2014 Requirement</b>   | Audit<br>-or | <u>C</u> | <u>EXR</u> | <u>Maj</u> | <u>Min</u> | <u>OFI</u> | <u>Likely<br/>Gap *</u> | <u>Likely<br/>Conf. *</u> |
|--------------|--|--------------|----------|------------|------------|------------|------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| <b>16.2</b>  | <b>Program Participants shall work individually and/or with SFI Implementation Committees, logging or forestry associations, or appropriate agencies or others in the forestry community to foster improvement in the professionalism of wood producers.</b> |              |          |            |            |            |            |                         |                           |
| <b>Notes</b> | Note: This objective is not a focus area for 2014.   |              |          |            |            |            |            |                         |                           |

|               | <b>2010-2014 Requirement</b>  | Audit<br>-or | <u>C</u> | <u>EXR</u> | <u>Maj</u> | <u>Min</u> | <u>OFI</u> | <u>Likely<br/>Gap *</u> | <u>Likely<br/>Conf. *</u> |
|---------------|---|--------------|----------|------------|------------|------------|------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| <b>16.2.1</b> | <p>Participation in or support of SFI Implementation Committees to establish criteria and identify delivery mechanisms for wood producers' training courses that address:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. awareness of sustainable forestry principles and the SFI program;</li> <li>b. best management practices, including streamside management and road construction, maintenance and retirement;</li> <li>c. reforestation, invasive exotic plants and animals, forest resource conservation, aesthetics, and special sites;</li> <li>d. awareness of responsibilities under the U.S. Endangered Species Act, the Canadian Species at Risk Act, and other measures to protect wildlife habitat (e.g. Forests with Exceptional Conservation Value);</li> <li>e. logging safety;</li> <li>f. U.S. Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) and Canadian Centre for Occupational Health and Safety (COHS) regulations, wage and hour rules, and other provincial, state and local employment laws;</li> <li>g. transportation issues;</li> <li>h. business management;</li> <li>i. public policy and outreach; and</li> <li>j. awareness of emerging technologies.</li> </ul> |              |          |            |            |            |            |                         |                           |
| <b>Notes</b>  | Note: This objective is not a focus area for 2014.  |              |          |            |            |            |            |                         |                           |

|              | <b>2010-2014 Requirement</b>   | Audit<br>-or | <u>C</u> | <u>EXR</u> | <u>Maj</u> | <u>Min</u> | <u>OFI</u> | <u>Likely<br/>Gap *</u> | <u>Likely<br/>Conf. *</u> |
|--------------|--|--------------|----------|------------|------------|------------|------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| 16.2.2       | <p>Participation in or support of SFI Implementation Committees to establish criteria for recognition of logger certification programs, where they exist, that include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. completion of SFI Implementation Committee recognized logger training programs and meeting continuing education requirements of the training program;</li> <li>b. independent in-the-forest verification of conformance with the logger certification program standards;</li> <li>c. compliance with all applicable laws and regulations including responsibilities under the U.S. Endangered Species Act, the Canadian Species at Risk Act and other measures to protect wildlife habitat;</li> <li>d. use of best management practices to protect water quality;</li> <li>e. logging safety;</li> <li>f. compliance with acceptable silviculture and utilization standards;</li> <li>g. aesthetic management techniques employed where applicable; and</li> <li>h. adherence to a management or harvest plan that is site specific and agreed to by the forest landowner.</li> </ul> |              |          |            |            |            |            |                         |                           |
| <b>Notes</b> | Note: This objective is not a focus area for 2014.   |              |          |            |            |            |            |                         |                           |

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

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

|              | <b>2010-2014 Requirement</b>  | Audit<br>-or | <u>C</u> | <u>EXR</u> | <u>Maj</u> | <u>Min</u> | <u>OFI</u> | <u>Likely<br/>Gap *</u> | <u>Likely<br/>Conf. *</u> |
|--------------|---|--------------|----------|------------|------------|------------|------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| <i>17.1</i>  | <b>Program Participants shall support and promote efforts by consulting foresters, state, provincial and federal agencies, state or local groups, professional societies, conservation organizations, indigenous peoples and governments, community groups, sporting organizations, labor, universities, extension agencies, the American Tree Farm System® and/or other landowner cooperative programs to apply principles of sustainable forest management.</b> | JTW          | 14       |            |            |            |            |                         |                           |
| <i>Notes</i> | See evidence below.   |              |          |            |            |            |            |                         |                           |

|               | <b>2010-2014 Requirement</b>   | Audit<br>-or | <u>C</u> | <u>EXR</u> | <u>Maj</u> | <u>Min</u> | <u>OFI</u> | <u>Likely<br/>Gap *</u> | <u>Likely<br/>Conf. *</u> |
|---------------|--|--------------|----------|------------|------------|------------|------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| <i>17.1.1</i> | Support, including financial, for efforts of SFI Implementation Committees.  | JTW          | 14       |            |            |            |            |                         |                           |
| <i>Notes</i>  | WDNR and WCFA contribute to the SIC through their time and participation. Mark Heyde, Wisconsin DNR Forest Certification Specialist and Jane Severt, WCFA Executive Director are on the SIC. |              |          |            |            |            |            |                         |                           |

|               | <b>2010-2014 Requirement</b>   | Audit<br>-or | <u>C</u> | <u>EXR</u> | <u>Maj</u> | <u>Min</u> | <u>OFI</u> | <u>Likely<br/>Gap *</u> | <u>Likely<br/>Conf. *</u> |
|---------------|--|--------------|----------|------------|------------|------------|------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| <i>17.1.2</i> | Support for the development of educational materials for use with forest landowners (e.g. information packets, websites, newsletters, workshops, tours, etc.).   | JTW          | 14       |            |            |            |            |                         |                           |
| <i>Notes</i>  | <p>Brochures and educational material were witnessed at each County Office visited in racks, available to the public.</p> <p>Maps and recreation guides were provided to the auditor for each County visited.</p> <p>WCFA has supported Trees for Tomorrow, sponsorship of From Forest to Finish: A Community-Based Learning Retreat for Educators, (in partnership with LEAF program).</p> <p>Beaver Creek Reserve is a 400 acres area with nature center and overnight facilities for environmental education. They have 2 naturalists on staff. School districts use material and facilities.</p> |              |          |            |            |            |            |                         |                           |

|              | <b>2010-2014 Requirement</b>   | Audit<br>-or | <b><u>C</u></b> | <b><u>EXR</u></b> | <b><u>Maj</u></b> | <b><u>Min</u></b> | <b><u>OFI</u></b> | <b><u>Likely<br/>Gap *</u></b> | <b><u>Likely<br/>Conf. *</u></b> |
|--------------|--|--------------|-----------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 17.1.3       | Support for the development of regional, state or provincial information materials that provide forest landowners with practical approaches for addressing special sites and biological diversity issues, such as invasive exotic plants and animals, specific wildlife habitat, Forests with Exceptional Conservation Value, and threatened and endangered species. | JTW          | 14              |                   |                   |                   |                   |                                |                                  |
| <b>Notes</b> | WDNR develops material through its extension and private forestry programs.<br>Wisconsin SIC has developed landowner information.  |              |                 |                   |                   |                   |                   |                                |                                  |

|              | <b>2010-2014 Requirement</b>   | Audit<br>-or | <b><u>C</u></b> | <b><u>EXR</u></b> | <b><u>Maj</u></b> | <b><u>Min</u></b> | <b><u>OFI</u></b> | <b><u>Likely<br/>Gap *</u></b> | <b><u>Likely<br/>Conf. *</u></b> |
|--------------|--|--------------|-----------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 17.1.4       | Participation in efforts to support or promote conservation of managed forests through voluntary market-based incentive programs such as current-use taxation programs, Forest Legacy Program or conservation easements.   | JTW          | 14              |                   |                   |                   |                   |                                |                                  |
| <b>Notes</b> | WDNR supports the following programs and activities: Managed Forest Law Program is a current-use taxation program, the DNR has received Forest Legacy funding, and the state has purchased and currently manages conservation easements on significant acreage of forested land. |              |                 |                   |                   |                   |                   |                                |                                  |

|              | <b>2010-2014 Requirement</b>  | Audit<br>-or | <b><u>C</u></b> | <b><u>EXR</u></b> | <b><u>Maj</u></b> | <b><u>Min</u></b> | <b><u>OFI</u></b> | <b><u>Likely<br/>Gap *</u></b> | <b><u>Likely<br/>Conf. *</u></b> |
|--------------|---|--------------|-----------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 17.1.5       | Program Participants are knowledgeable about credible regional conservation planning and priority-setting efforts that include a broad range of stakeholders and have a program to take into account the results of these efforts in planning.  | JTW          | 14              |                   |                   |                   |                   |                                |                                  |
| <b>Notes</b> | Confirmed awareness and use of the Wisconsin Wildlife Action Plan. Witnessed use of use of Wildlife Action Plan in creation of Grouse Habitat, American Woodcock habitat, and the Prairie Project to restore native grasses for pheasant habitat.<br>Relevant COAs are known by the counties and the Wisconsin DNR, and efforts are made to consider the COA goals during planning. |              |                 |                   |                   |                   |                   |                                |                                  |



|              | <b>2010-2014 Requirement</b>   | Audit<br>-or | <u>C</u> | <u>EXR</u> | <u>Maj</u> | <u>Min</u> | <u>OFl</u> | <u>Likely<br/>Gap *</u> | <u>Likely<br/>Conf. *</u> |
|--------------|--|--------------|----------|------------|------------|------------|------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| <i>17.2</i>  | <b>Program Participants shall support and promote, at the state, provincial or other appropriate levels, mechanisms for public outreach, education and involvement related to sustainable forest management.</b> | JTW          | 14       |            |            |            |            |                         |                           |
| <i>Notes</i> | .  |              |          |            |            |            |            |                         |                           |

|               | <b>2010-2014 Requirement</b>   | Audit<br>-or | <u>C</u> | <u>EXR</u> | <u>Maj</u> | <u>Min</u> | <u>OFl</u> | <u>Likely<br/>Gap *</u> | <u>Likely<br/>Conf. *</u> |
|---------------|--|--------------|----------|------------|------------|------------|------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| <i>17.2.1</i> | Periodic educational opportunities promoting sustainable forestry, such as<br>a. field tours, seminars, websites, webinars or workshops;<br>b. educational trips;<br>c. self-guided forest management trails;<br>d. publication of articles, educational pamphlets or newsletters; or<br>e. support for state, provincial, and local forestry organizations and soil and water conservation districts.   | JTW          | 14       |            |            |            |            |                         |                           |
| <i>Notes</i>  | <p>WCFA projects for education promoting sustainability include the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sponsors scholarships for high school students in urban areas to attend sessions at Trees for Tomorrow in Eagle River.</li> <li>• Worked with LEAF to develop curriculum and host a teacher’s workshop at Camp Bird. Agenda witnessed.</li> <li>• Contract is in place and filming has begun on an episode of “Discover Wisconsin” focused on county forests. Scheduled to air in February, 2015.</li> <li>• Jane Severt chairs a group working on “Increasing Public Understanding of the Benefits of Sustainable Forest Management”. This group was established following the Governor’s Forestry Economic Summit to address one of the 5 priority goals established by the summit.</li> <li>• Numerous opportunities are available to address County Boards, County Forestry Committees, and other groups. Confirmed in letter from Jane Severt and discussions with County Foresters and DNR Foresters.</li> </ul> |              |          |            |            |            |            |                         |                           |

|              | <b>2010-2014 Requirement</b>   | Audit<br>-or | <u>C</u> | <u>EXR</u> | <u>Maj</u> | <u>Min</u> | <u>OFI</u> | <u>Likely<br/>Gap *</u> | <u>Likely<br/>Conf. *</u> |
|--------------|--|--------------|----------|------------|------------|------------|------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| 17.3         | <b>Program Participants shall establish, at the state, provincial, or other appropriate levels, procedures to address concerns raised by loggers, consulting foresters, employees, <u>unions</u>, the public or other Program Participants regarding practices that appear inconsistent with the SFI Standard principles and objectives.</b> | JTW          | 14       |            |            |            |            |                         |                           |
| <i>Notes</i> | See evidence below.  |              |          |            |            |            |            |                         |                           |

|              | <b>2010-2014 Requirement</b>   | Audit<br>-or | <u>C</u> | <u>EXR</u> | <u>Maj</u> | <u>Min</u> | <u>OFI</u> | <u>Likely<br/>Gap *</u> | <u>Likely<br/>Conf. *</u> |
|--------------|--|--------------|----------|------------|------------|------------|------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| 17.3.1       | Support for SFI Implementation Committees (e.g. toll free numbers and other efforts) to address concerns about apparent nonconforming practices.   | JTW          | 14       |            |            |            |            |                         |                           |
| <i>Notes</i> | WDNR and WCFA contribute to the SIC through their time and participation. Mark Heyde, Wisconsin DNR Forest Certification Specialist and Jane Severt, WCFA Executive Director are on the SIC. WDNR has been involved with the Inconsistent Practices Committee. |              |          |            |            |            |            |                         |                           |

|              | <b>2010-2014 Requirement</b>  | Audit<br>-or | <u>C</u> | <u>EXR</u> | <u>Maj</u> | <u>Min</u> | <u>OFI</u> | <u>Likely<br/>Gap *</u> | <u>Likely<br/>Conf. *</u> |
|--------------|---|--------------|----------|------------|------------|------------|------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| 17.3.2       | Process to receive and respond to public inquiries. SFI Implementation Committees shall submit data annually to SFI Inc. regarding concerns received and responses.   | JTW          | 14       |            |            |            |            |                         |                           |
| <i>Notes</i> | County forests are managed by professional staff under the direction of elected county board members (through a forestry committee that is a subset of the full board). Public comment is received during the planning process before implementation of plans. In addition to the county board members the county foresters are also involved with user group which provide input.<br><br>Witnessed posting of maps of planned activities on kiosk in recreation areas. |              |          |            |            |            |            |                         |                           |

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

To promote and implement sustainable forest management on public lands.

|              | <b>2010-2014 Requirement</b>   | Audit<br>-or | <u>C</u> | <u>EXR</u> | <u>Maj</u> | <u>Min</u> | <u>OFI</u> | <u>Likely<br/>Gap *</u> | <u>Likely<br/>Conf. *</u> |
|--------------|--|--------------|----------|------------|------------|------------|------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| <i>18.1</i>  | <b>Program Participants with forest management responsibilities on public lands shall participate in the development of public land planning and management processes.</b> | JTW          | 14       |            |            |            |            |                         |                           |
| <i>Notes</i> | See evidence below.  |              |          |            |            |            |            |                         |                           |

|               | <b>2010-2014 Requirement</b>   | Audit<br>-or | <u>C</u> | <u>EXR</u> | <u>Maj</u> | <u>Min</u> | <u>OFI</u> | <u>Likely<br/>Gap *</u> | <u>Likely<br/>Conf. *</u> |
|---------------|--|--------------|----------|------------|------------|------------|------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| <i>18.1.1</i> | Involvement in public land planning and management activities with appropriate governmental entities and the public.   | JTW          |          | 14         |            |            |            |                         |                           |
| <i>Notes</i>  | <p>County and State land planning and management activities are coordinated through the use of the WDNR Liaison Foresters and by incorporating state forest management, private forestry, and county forestry activities within the same administrative line-staff field organization. Senior managers from the three key components of the county program (County Forestry, Wisconsin DNR Forestry, and Wisconsin County Forests Association) have demonstrated continuing involvement in statewide planning efforts such as the Wildlife Action Plan and the Wisconsin Forestry Plan.</p> <p>County forests are run by the citizens of each county. Public comment is received during the planning process before implementation of plans. In addition to the county board members the county foresters are also involved with user group which provide input. Public members can comment during any monthly county forestry committee meeting.</p> <p>Involvement of user groups and community groups in public land planning and management provide for a wide range of stakeholders representing various user interests. Site specific planned activities (e.g. timber sales) are often posted at kiosk in recreational areas for individual user review.</p> |              |          |            |            |            |            |                         |                           |

|              | <b>2010-2014 Requirement</b>  | Audit<br>-or | <u>C</u> | <u>EXR</u> | <u>Maj</u> | <u>Min</u> | <u>OFI</u> | <u>Likely<br/>Gap *</u> | <u>Likely<br/>Conf. *</u> |
|--------------|---|--------------|----------|------------|------------|------------|------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| 18.1.2       | Appropriate contact with local stakeholders over forest management issues through state, provincial, federal or independent collaboration.  | JTW          | 14       |            |            |            |            |                         |                           |
| <b>Notes</b> | <p>County Forest Administrators monthly committee meetings are open to the public. Public comments are welcomed.</p> <p>The County Forest Comprehensive Land Use Plan and Annual Work Plan are brought before the county board for approval. Citizens can provide input or ask questions.</p> <p>Web sites provide detailed information on county forestry programs, including forestry committee meeting agendas and minutes, annual work plans, and annual reports and (in some cases) 15-year plans.</p> |              |          |            |            |            |            |                         |                           |

|              | <b>2010-2014 Requirement</b>   | Audit<br>-or | <u>C</u> | <u>EXR</u> | <u>Maj</u> | <u>Min</u> | <u>OFI</u> | <u>Likely<br/>Gap *</u> | <u>Likely<br/>Conf. *</u> |
|--------------|--|--------------|----------|------------|------------|------------|------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| 18.2         | <b>Program Participants with forest management responsibilities on public lands shall confer with affected indigenous peoples.</b> | JTW          | 14       |            |            |            |            |                         |                           |
| <b>Notes</b> | See evidence below.  |              |          |            |            |            |            |                         |                           |

|              | <b>2010-2014 Requirement</b>   | Audit<br>-or | <b>C</b> | <b>EXR</b> | <b>Maj</b> | <b>Min</b> | <b>OFI</b> | <b>Likely<br/>Gap *</b> | <b>Likely<br/>Conf. *</b> |
|--------------|--|--------------|----------|------------|------------|------------|------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| 18.2.1       | <p>Program that includes communicating with affected indigenous peoples to enable Program Participants to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. understand and respect traditional forest-related knowledge;</li> <li>b. identify and protect spiritually, historically, or culturally important sites; and</li> <li>c. address the use of non-timber forest products of value to indigenous peoples in areas where Program Participants have management responsibilities on public lands.</li> </ul>   | JTW          | 14       |            |            |            |            |                         |                           |
| <i>Notes</i> | <p>County Board meetings and forestry committee meetings in which policies for resource management and work plans are set allow for public input, including Native American organizations. The DNR and Counties also maintain relationships with local Tribes and solicit input as needed as confirmed through interviews.</p> <p>County Forests employees have participated in cultural resources training that included at least one tribal representative.</p> <p>In 2014, auditors confirmed that Jackson, Clark, Eau Claire, and Juneau Counties have varying levels of contact with the representatives of the Ho-Chunk Nation. The Ho-Chunk Nation prefers to maintain the confidentiality of special sites and will inform county staff of areas to avoid or even ask to identify leave trees. For management activities being conducted within the ceded territory over which the tribe has use and access rights, Jackson County forest managers meet with representatives at least twice a year to review any measures necessary to protect tribal rights. In Juneau County, while not within the ceded area, tribal representatives have met with staff on proposed harvest sites to devise measures to protect burial mounds. Juneau is currently exploring an opportunity with a tribal member to collect some undesirable trees that are hindering regeneration objectives for hard-mast species such as oak.</p> <p>County Forest Comprehensive Land Use Plan includes common measures to protect tribal resources in Chapter 200. The Timber Sale Notice and Cutting Report is also used to document any field-level precautions and measures to take.</p> <p>WI DNR uses a variety of mechanisms to consult with the six federally recognized Chippewa tribes regarding forest management and off-reservation hunting rights. These mechanisms include designating individual tribal liaisons to consult with each Chippewa tribes on forestry related topics including County Forests, specific inclusion and communications with Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission on important forestry management protocols (e.g., biomass harvest guidelines, BMPs for water quality, Invasive Species BMPs, Silviculture Handbook, and Forest Management Guidelines). In addition, all Chippewa tribes were consulted on the Division of Forestry’s “Strategic Direction”. Chippewa tribes participate in DNR management committees that relate to forest and wildlife management.</p> <p>WCFA recently joined the Wild Rice Advisory Committee to represent the County Forest system. This committee has members from several tribes on it. WCFA hopes that its participation in this committee improves the relationship with the tribes. Notes from WCFA’s representative at the meeting (8/11/14) were provided.</p> |              |          |            |            |            |            |                         |                           |

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

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

|              | <b>2010-2014 Requirement</b>  | Audit<br>-or | <u>C</u> | <u>EXR</u> | <u>Maj</u> | <u>Min</u> | <u>OFI</u> | <u>Likely<br/>Gap *</u> | <u>Likely<br/>Conf. *</u> |
|--------------|---|--------------|----------|------------|------------|------------|------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| <i>19.1</i>  | <b>A Certified Program Participant shall provide a summary audit report, prepared by the certification body, to SFI Inc. after the successful completion of a certification, recertification or surveillance audit to the SFI 2010-2014 Standard.</b> | JTW          | 14       |            |            |            |            |                         |                           |
| <i>Notes</i> | See evidence below.   |              |          |            |            |            |            |                         |                           |

|               | <b>2010-2014 Requirement</b>   | Audit<br>-or | <u>C</u> | <u>EXR</u> | <u>Maj</u> | <u>Min</u> | <u>OFI</u> | <u>Likely<br/>Gap *</u> | <u>Likely<br/>Conf. *</u> |
|---------------|--|--------------|----------|------------|------------|------------|------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| <i>19.1.1</i> | The summary audit report submitted by the <i>Program Participant</i> (one copy must be in English), shall include, at a minimum,<br>a. a description of the audit process, <i>objectives</i> and scope;<br>b. a description of substitute <i>indicators</i> , if any, used in the audit and a rationale for each;<br>c. the name of <i>Program Participant</i> that was audited, including its SFI representative;<br>d. a general description of the <i>Program Participant's</i> forestland and manufacturing operations included in the audit;<br>e. the name of the <i>certification body</i> and <i>lead auditor</i> (names of the <i>audit team</i> members, including <i>technical experts</i> may be included at the discretion of the <i>audit team</i> and <i>Program Participant</i> );<br>f. the dates the certification was conducted and completed;<br>g. a summary of the findings, including general descriptions of evidence of conformity and any nonconformities and corrective action plans to address them, opportunities for improvement, and exceptional practices; and<br>h. the certification decision. | JTW          | 14       |            |            |            |            |                         |                           |
| <i>Notes</i>  | Summary Report for the 2013 audit report witnessed on SFI website.   |              |          |            |            |            |            |                         |                           |

|              | <b>2010-2014 Requirement</b>  | Audit<br>-or | <b><u>C</u></b> | <b><u>EXR</u></b> | <b><u>Maj</u></b> | <b><u>Min</u></b> | <b><u>OFI</u></b> | <b><u>Likely<br/>Gap *</u></b> | <b><u>Likely<br/>Conf. *</u></b> |
|--------------|---|--------------|-----------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| <b>19.2</b>  | <b>Program Participants shall report annually to SFI Inc. on their conformance with the SFI 2010-2014 Standard.</b> | JTW          | 14              |                   |                   |                   |                   |                                |                                  |
| <b>Notes</b> | See evidence below.   |              |                 |                   |                   |                   |                   |                                |                                  |

|               | <b>2010-2014 Requirement</b>  | Audit<br>-or | <b><u>C</u></b> | <b><u>EXR</u></b> | <b><u>Maj</u></b> | <b><u>Min</u></b> | <b><u>OFI</u></b> | <b><u>Likely<br/>Gap *</u></b> | <b><u>Likely<br/>Conf. *</u></b> |
|---------------|---|--------------|-----------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| <b>19.2.1</b> | Prompt response to the SFI annual progress report.  | JTW          | 14              |                   |                   |                   |                   |                                |                                  |
| <b>Notes</b>  | Emails confirming submission of 2013 SFI Annual Progress Report witnessed. Prior to due date, Joe received approval from SFI, Inc. to submit research information after due date. Report was sent on March 14, 2014. Research information was sent within one week. |              |                 |                   |                   |                   |                   |                                |                                  |

|               | <b>2010-2014 Requirement</b>   | Audit<br>-or | <b><u>C</u></b> | <b><u>EXR</u></b> | <b><u>Maj</u></b> | <b><u>Min</u></b> | <b><u>OFI</u></b> | <b><u>Likely<br/>Gap *</u></b> | <b><u>Likely<br/>Conf. *</u></b> |
|---------------|--|--------------|-----------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| <b>19.2.2</b> | Recordkeeping for all the categories of information needed for SFI annual progress reports.                                  | JTW          | 14              |                   |                   |                   |                   |                                |                                  |
| <b>Notes</b>  | WisFIRs system tracks harvest information. Other systems are used to track contributions. All documents requested witnessed. |              |                 |                   |                   |                   |                   |                                |                                  |

|               | <b>2010-2014 Requirement</b>  | Audit<br>-or | <b><u>C</u></b> | <b><u>EXR</u></b> | <b><u>Maj</u></b> | <b><u>Min</u></b> | <b><u>OFI</u></b> | <b><u>Likely<br/>Gap *</u></b> | <b><u>Likely<br/>Conf. *</u></b> |
|---------------|---|--------------|-----------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| <b>19.2.3</b> | Maintenance of copies of past reports to document progress and improvements to demonstrate conformance to the SFI 2010-2014 Standard. | JTW          | 14              |                   |                   |                   |                   |                                |                                  |
| <b>Notes</b>  | Group certificate manager is Joe Schwantes. Past report witnessed as requested.   |              |                 |                   |                   |                   |                   |                                |                                  |

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

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

|              | <b>2010-2014 Requirement</b>  | Audit<br>-or | <u>C</u> | <u>EXR</u> | <u>Maj</u> | <u>Min</u> | <u>OFI</u> | <u>Likely<br/>Gap *</u> | <u>Likely<br/>Conf. *</u> |
|--------------|---|--------------|----------|------------|------------|------------|------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| <i>20.1</i>  | <b>Program Participants shall establish a management review system to examine findings and progress in implementing the SFI Standard, to make appropriate improvements in programs, and to inform their employees of changes.</b> | JTW          | 14       |            |            |            |            |                         |                           |
| <i>Notes</i> | See evidence below.   |              |          |            |            |            |            |                         |                           |

|               | <b>2010-2014 Requirement</b>  | Audit<br>-or | <u>C</u> | <u>EXR</u> | <u>Maj</u> | <u>Min</u> | <u>OFI</u> | <u>Likely<br/>Gap *</u> | <u>Likely<br/>Conf. *</u> |
|---------------|---|--------------|----------|------------|------------|------------|------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| <i>20.1.1</i> | System to review commitments, programs and procedures to evaluate effectiveness.<br>Note: For multi-site programs the auditing requirements of Section 9 or the ISO MD-1 requirements must be followed (see Multi-site Checklist); at a minimum internal audits or monitoring that spans all sites and addresses the relevant part of the SFI Standard is expected. | JTW          | 14       |            |            |            |            |                         |                           |
| <i>Notes</i>  | System includes Partnership Meetings, Internal Audit and Management Review. Documents witnessed by auditor.   |              |          |            |            |            |            |                         |                           |

|               | <b>2010-2014 Requirement</b>  | Audit<br>-or | <u>C</u> | <u>EXR</u> | <u>Maj</u> | <u>Min</u> | <u>OFI</u> | <u>Likely<br/>Gap *</u> | <u>Likely<br/>Conf. *</u> |
|---------------|---|--------------|----------|------------|------------|------------|------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| <i>20.1.2</i> | System for collecting, reviewing, and reporting information to management regarding progress in achieving SFI 2010-2014 Standard objectives and performance measures. | JTW          | 14       |            |            |            |            |                         |                           |
| <i>Notes</i>  | System includes Partnership Meetings, Internal Audit and Management Review. Documents witnessed by auditor.   |              |          |            |            |            |            |                         |                           |



|              | <b>2010-2014 Requirement</b>  | Audit<br>-or | <b><u>C</u></b> | <b><u>EXR</u></b> | <b><u>Maj</u></b> | <b><u>Min</u></b> | <b><u>OFI</u></b> | <b><u>Likely<br/>Gap *</u></b> | <b><u>Likely<br/>Conf. *</u></b> |
|--------------|---|--------------|-----------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 20.1.3       | Annual review of progress by management and determination of changes and improvements necessary to continually improve conformance to the SFI 2010-2014 Standard.   | JTW          | 14              |                   |                   |                   |                   |                                |                                  |
| <b>Notes</b> | Annual CFL Management Review conducted on August 4, 2014. Agenda and Minutes witnessed. Agenda included a) Review County Forest Certification group participation, b) Review of progress and future plans on outstanding Corrective Actions (CARs) and Opportunities for Improvement / Recommendations, c) 2014 County Forest SFI Surveillance and FSC full recertification audit, d) Discussion & Review of new developments regarding the SFI & FSC standards, e) Review of switch from Group to Multiple FMU FSC certificate, f) Additional topics identified prior to or during the meeting, and g) Items from the floor. Attendance included the following: Paul DeLong – Chief State Forester, Division of Forestry, Darrell Zastrow, Deputy Division Administrator, Bob Mather – Director, Bureau of Forest Management, Jim Warren – Chief, Public & Private Forestry Section in Bureau of Forest Management, Jane Severt – Executive Director – Wisconsin County Forests Association, Jeff Barkley – Assistant to the Executive Director WCFA, Joe Schwantes – DNR County Forest Specialist, Mark Heyde – DNR Forest Certification Coordinator. |              |                 |                   |                   |                   |                   |                                |                                  |

### Multi-site Certification – Two Options

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

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

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

- a) What specific activities are planned, controlled or managed at the central office?
- Approval of all timber sales and
  - Approve annual work plans and long-range plans
  - Record of each timber sale and of overall inventory through WISFIRs
  - Development of policies and procedures as needed
  - Support for Wisconsin SFI Implementation Committee
  - Support for Wisconsin Master Logger Program and FISTA-training
  - Research Support
  - Climate Change requirements
- b) For each activity, provide evidence:  
Evidence provided in main checklist.

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

A legal or contractual link shall exist between all sites.

Yes  No Evidence

County Forestry Program: The link is documented in Wisconsin statutes 28.10 & 28.11. Statutes provide for order of entry into the program by each county and provisions for withdrawal of an individual tract. Complete withdrawal of a county from the program is not politically likely.

SFI Group: The SFI counties are linked by resolution passed by the County Forestry Committee. Formal process is stated in the Public Lands Handbook.

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

Yes  No Evidence

State law and regulations define allowable activities and provide authorization for partnership. The sites operate within a common framework for inventory, management plans, timber sales, projects, and other forestry related activities.

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

Yes  No Evidence: Procedures within participating counties are nearly identical. There are some local ordinances for land use and customized county timber sale contracts. An example of customization would be for payments.

### **Central Function Requirements:**

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

Yes  No Evidence: Each participating county has passed a resolution authorizing involvement. The WDNR commitment is stated in regulations and governor's proclamation.

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

Yes  No Evidence: The central function is provided by the WDNR, supported by the Wisconsin County Forests Association. Many documents were provided and reviewed establishing strong conformance, including minutes of partnership meetings, WCFA meetings, emails, and briefing documents. There is a full-time "county forest specialist" and the WCFA provides very significant certification-related support within the overall organizational mission of supporting sustainable forestry on county forest lands in Wisconsin.

WDNR Team Leaders coordinate discussion of CARs and OFIs at annual Partnership Meetings. Every three years each county forest undergoes a more comprehensive internal audit including financial, operational, and forest certification. WCFA has a certification topic at most of the annual meetings. Support of county forestry programs by WCFA was witnessed during the audit.

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

Yes  No Evidence: Public Lands Handbook describes the process for enrolling and removing a county from the group, in a section titled "Landowner Entry and Departure from the Group Organization(s)".

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

Yes  No Evidence Public Forest Lands Handbook, Group Administration section describes process for maintaining group records, including "Lists and acreages of FSC and SFI group members".

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

Yes  No Evidence  
There are several types of monitoring: Monitoring of individual activities (Ex. timber sale inspections); Internal audit of annual partnership meeting; and Comprehensive internal audit. This audit is conducted every 3 years and includes financial, operational, and forest certification.

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

Yes  No Evidence  
Each county forest undergoes a comprehensive internal audit including financial, operational, and forest certification every three years. This audit is conducted by a 2-person core team consisting of an accounting specialist and the DNR area forestry staff specialist. The county forest administrator and the WDNR Liaison Forester are involved in the audits and in the review of the draft report. The reports are ultimately sent to the Wisconsin County Forest Program Specialist and to the DNR Forest Management Bureau Director. The program specialist looks for trends. The internal CARs are also sent to the WCFA Legislative Committee.

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

Yes  No Evidence Annual CFL Management Review conducted on August 4, 2014. Agenda topics and attendance noted in 20.1.3.

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

Yes  No Evidence

Partnership Meeting Minutes for the counties visited include CARs and resolution.

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

Yes  No Evidence There have been no additions to the program.

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

Sites implement and maintain the requirements of the relevant standard.

Yes  No Evidence Four counties audited in 2014. No issues identified. See details in SFI checklist.

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

Yes  No Evidence Information requested by auditor provided in a timely manner. Partnership minutes document communication and support.

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

Yes  No Evidence Audit revealed a high level of cooperation between state and county personnel.

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

Yes  No Evidence: Communication to and from the Central Office is well coordinated. Resolution of CARs and OFIs have been implemented in a timely manner.

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

### **Sampling and Non-sampling**

**NA; Option 1 used**

End of Multi-site Checklists

# Audit Notes

## Persons Interviewed:

|                |                                      |
|----------------|--------------------------------------|
| Sara Birdstrom | Office Manager, Beaver Creek Reserve |
| Mike Mason     | Ted Strzok Logging                   |
| Tim Jacobs     | Jacobs Logging                       |

## Jackson County – August 12, 2014

**Compartment 130** – 80 Acre Jack Pine Bud Worm Salvage. 35 years old. Replanted with containerized Red Pine. Plant 800 TPA; Survival 600 TPA (Silviculture Handbook).

**Bauer Brockway Barren** – Wisconsin owns 120 Acres. Jackson County 170 Acres. Cooperative management of state and county. Burn every 5 years. Special site – Prairie Habitat and for Kaner Blue Butterfly.

**Ruffed Grouse Habitat** – 1-8 acre clearcuts. Cuts in 10 year increments. No retention – discourage predators. Harvesting scheduled in WisFIRS.

**ATV Trails** – Recreation use. Signs and brush used to control access. AMZ 1 Chain along trails. Signs with numbering for 911. Graded weekly. No issues.

**Stand 16-12** – 60 Acre Regeneration cut. Retention. Next stand White Pine & Maple. Cut when frozen ground. No issue.

## Eau Claire County – August 13, 2014

**Beaver Creek Reserve 400 Acres** – Environmental education for schools. Overnight facility. 8 miles of trails. 2 Staff naturalist. Butterfly house. Tag Monarch Butterflies. Citizen Science Group has assessed invasive species along trails and public use areas. Sara Birdstrom, Office Manager.

**Stand 16-09** – Timber type and age verified for data accuracy. Managed for timber, wildlife, aesthetics. Aesthetics is critical due to heavy use. Increase diversity in stand. RMZ painted red. Retention trees in stand.

**Stand 10-10** – Oak regeneration. Survey acorns for regeneration. Verify in 2 years. 1/10 Acre plots for regeneration survey. Entered regeneration in WisFIRS.

**Stand 10-11** – Clearcut for regeneration of Oak-Maple. Retention trees marked. 1 year visual survey of regeneration. Match species to site. Entered species in WisFIRS Comment Box. Aesthetics along road.

**Sand Pit – Dredge Site** – Dredge sand from river. Aesthetic zone around area. No issues.

**Kelly Road** – Ruffed Grouse Area – Patch clearcuts for Grouse habitat and Golden Wing Warbler. Witnessed patterns and harvesting. No issues.

**Prairie Barren** – No chemical use. Special site.

**Horse Creek Wilderness Area** – Late succession White Pine. Only cutting is salvage. Special site.

**Forest Road 5, Compartment 6** – 2 stage shelterwood. 40-50% will be removed in 10-15 years. Scarify soil for regeneration of Oak-White Birch. Marked leave trees. Shelterwood gives options if regeneration is not successful. Removes duff as fire. No issues.

**Stand 10-13** – Regeneration harvest for oak. Acorns available for regeneration. Stream crossing uses tops. Good flow. No sedimentation. No issue. Retention islands for aesthetics and wildlife. Strips left along road for aesthetics. No issues.

**ATV Trails** – 911 markers to identify locations for safety. Gravel for drains. Aesthetics along trails. Grant to re-work after logging.

**Stand 16-90** – 30 Acre Clearcut /Thinning. Retention trees identified. Whole Tree Chipper used. Bark is used on ski trails. Aspen regeneration. Mats used for access to roads. Residual trees protected around retention. No issues.

### **Marathon County – August 14, 2014**

**Stand 2-13** – Aspen Clearcut. Overstory removal with leave trees marked. Ruffed Grouse Habitat. Second is series of 5-10 acre clearcuts. Retention in islands. Aesthetics in shape of clearcut. Fall will make 1<sup>st</sup> year regeneration check. Regeneration check between 1 to 5 years. Enter in WisFIRS. No issues.

**Stand 2-14** – Thin 5<sup>th</sup> Row & Between Red Pine. Not cut. Skid rows marked. Trees marked to reduce BA 110-120. No issues.

**Stand 1-10** – Aspen clearcuts for Ruffed Grouse. Retain leave trees. Shaped for aesthetics. Scarify for reproduction. Cutting line red along Tag Alder swamp. RMZ no issue.

Timber sales and silviculture activities posted on kiosk at trail heads for communicating with public.

**Stand 1-12** – 133 Acres. Harvest with Salvage. Marked Aspen, high risk Aspen, Oak, Maple. Harvest July 15 to November 15 to minimize impacts with public use. Retention trees for diversity and wildlife (Bear & Birds).

**Oak Wilt** – Remove trees and underground roots. Identify perimeter, girdle trees, poison. Catalog Oak Wilt pockets. Treated during summer. Research trial. Share results. Managed by Forest Health & Science Group.

**Stand 1-14** – Third thinning. Marked to 110 BA. Sold but not cut. Potential pole products. Oaks retained for wildlife.

Property used for 2 Mountain Bike events per year. 12,000 to 13,000 users. Mountain Bike Trails 9 miles. High School Cross Country runs. Tours for schools.

**Stand #10** – Alder stand for American Woodcock Habitat. Identified as conservation need in Wisconsin Wildlife Action Plan. Older Alder identified for regeneration. Immediate response with population increase. Key is edge, age class, small opening.

**Prairie** – Work with Pheasants Are Forever. Restore natural grasses. Invasive Reed Canary Grass eliminated. Controlled by mow and burn every year. Enhance wildlife - Turkey

**Flowage** – Work with Boy Scouts. Signage developed by Interpretive Media Class at UW, Stephens Point. Refuge with native rice and water control. No hunting. Interpretive trail for school groups. Watch for Wildlife Program from Wisconsin.

**Juneau County**

| <b>14 – August – 2014</b> |  |
|---------------------------|--|
| Juneau County (FSC lead)  | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Opening meeting for Juneau: overview of county. Discussion of training and working with WDNR.</li> <br/> <li>2. Tract 6-11: Clearcut, with individual tree retention of white pine and white oak, to release black oak regeneration. Some leave-trees cut and reported to County due to damage during felling. Wetland buffer of 15 ft. Winter logged, some tops in swamp, but only near edge. Within Karner Blue Butterfly habitat range, may be suitable. Examination of stumps for leave-tree marks, none found.</li> <br/> <li>3. Tract 4-12: Similar clearcut to 6-11 with retention. Property boundary marked; sale boundary ~10 ft from property boundary. Examination of stumps for leave-tree marks, none found.</li> <br/> <li>4. Tract 3-13: Third red pine thinning. Re-entry set at 10-15 years depending on basal area; can conduct upwards of 5 thinnings over time. Use of hot-saw, processor, and skidder for operations. Objective is to maintain red pine on this site.</li> <br/> <li>5. Tract 3-11: Proposed prescribed burn to re-establish Jack pine and thin oak retention areas to deal with site heavily impacted by oak wilt. Will be WDNR silvicultural trial area. Discussion of fire safety and planning.</li> <br/> <li>6. Previously established Jack pine restoration. Use of disking and seed-bombing after plow.</li> <br/> <li>7. Hamel tract acquisition (&gt;800 acres): Review of special site management plan and recon. Discussion of recreation</li> </ol> |

plans and review of environmental impacts prior to trail infrastructure upgrade.

8. Tract 7-13: Leave-tree marking for two areas to be harvested in 2015 or later. Clearcut with reserves for black oak site (retain some black oaks of various sizes). Harvest larger oaks due to size and impending mortality. Single-tree selection area to release understory regeneration and reduce silver maple basal area. Swamp white oak, bitternut hickory, black walnut, green ash, and silver maple retained. Final basal area objective of 70.

9. Tract 1-12: Salvage of aspen after a tornado in 2012. Removal of downed trees and retention of healthy trees over 37 acres. One area affected un-entered due to access issues. May serve as comparison over time.

10. Tract 5-11: Aspen regeneration site (marked, not harvested). Winter harvest is mitigation for nearness to wet-site and potential presence of species of concern. Park of snowmobile trail. Will harvest 2015 or later depending on weather.



## Appendix IV



# Participants in Opening and Closing Meeting

### Opening Meeting Jackson County

| <u>Name</u>     | <u>Title</u>                          |
|-----------------|---------------------------------------|
| Joe Schwantes   | WDNR – County Forest Specialist       |
| Jim Zahasky     | Administrator/ Jackson Co.            |
| Eric Zenz       | WDNR                                  |
| Greg Edge       | WDNR – Silviculturist                 |
| Jon Schweitzer  | Assistant Administrator/Jackson Co.   |
| Dave Spaude     | Jackson Co Forestry                   |
| Cody Caulum     | WDNR – Forester CL                    |
| Scott Roepke    | WDNR – Jackson Co Wildlife Biologist  |
| Don Houser      | Jackson County Intern                 |
| Jeff Barkley    | WCFA                                  |
| Jason Wood      | Jackson Co Forestry                   |
| Larry Whaley    | WDNR – Area Forestry Leader           |
| Steve Courtney  | WDNR – WC District Leader             |
| Paul Westegaard | WDNR – Area Forestry Staff Specialist |

### Opening Meeting Eau Claire County

| <u>Name</u>                                   | <u>Title</u>  |
|---|---|
| Bill Hogseth                                  | WDNR Wildlife Biologist                             |
| Paul Westegaard<br>– County Forest Specialist | WDNR – Area Forestry Staff Specialist Joe Schwantes |
| Steve Edge                                    | WDNR Eau Claire Team Leader                         |
| Jody Gindt                                    | Eau Claire County Forester                          |
| Josh Pedersen                                 | Eau Claire County Forestry & Parks Administrator    |
| Nolan Kriegel                                 | WDNR LTE Forester                                   |
| Dave Kafura                                   | WDNR Forest Hydrologist                             |
| Brooke Ludwig                                 | WDNR Forest Liaison                                 |
| Greg Edge                                     | WDNR – Silviculturist                               |

### Opening Meeting Marathon County

| <u>Name</u>  | <u>Title</u>                             |
|--------------|--|
| Jeff Barkley | WCFA                                     |
| Doug Brown   | Assistant Administrator/ Marathon County |
| Chad Keranen | WDNR – County Forest Liaison             |
| Elroy Zemke  | WCFA Board & President                   |

Arnold Schlei  
Mark Heyde  
Shirley Bargander  
Cortney Schaefer  
Carmen Hardin  
Tom Lovlien

WCFA Board & Forest Committee Member  
WDNR Certification Coordinator  
WDNR Team Leader  
WDNR Wildlife Biologist  
WDNR Forestry – Science Section Chief  
Forest Administrator/ Marathon County

## **Closing Meeting**

### **Name**

Joe Schwantes  
Ian Remus  
Dave Spaude  
Eric Zenz  
Jeff Barkley  
John Wendorski  
Luke Nigon  
Rick Dailey  
Cody Caulum  
Einar Fransen  
Brooke Ludwig  
Mike Dahlby  
Mark Heyde  
Chris Martin  
Teague Prichard  
Tom Lovlien  
Bryan Loyd  
Dylan Bell  
Doug King

### **Organization**

WDNR – County Forest Specialist  
Clark County  
Jackson County  
WDNR  
WCFA  
Clark County  
Clark County  
Clark County  
WDNR  
Clark County  
WDNR  
Chippewa County  
WDNR  
WDNR  
WDNR  
Marathon County  
Juneau County  
WDNR  
Juneau County

**Appendix V**



**SFI Reporting Form**

No Changes