



Re-certification Audit Report

2010-2014 Sustainable Forestry Initiative® Standard

September 21, 2012

A. Wisconsin DNR Lands

FRS #: 1Y941

B. Scope:

No Change Changed

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

Categories included in the DNR Lands forest certification review include:

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

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

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

C. NSF Audit Team:

Lead Auditor: Mike Ferrucci Auditors: JoAnn Hanowski, Dave Capen (SCS Lead)

D. Audit Dates: August 12-16, 2012

E. Reference Documentation:

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

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

- Acceptable with no nonconformances; or
- Acceptable with minor nonconformances to be corrected before the next scheduled audit visit;
- Not acceptable with one or two major nonconformances - corrective action required;
- Several major nonconformances - 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:

SFI Major CAR 2012-1 - Minor Non-conformance 2011-01 was elevated to a Major Non-conformance (the 2011 Minor CAR Plan has not been fully implemented).

- 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.

Your Corrective Action Plans should be provided through your NSF On-line Interface. Any questions should be directed to Tyrek A. Morgan 734-827-6869 tmorgan@nsf-isr.org.

Note: Certificate expiration date is December 31, 2012. Normally Major CARs must be closed within 90 days of the closing meeting (this would be November 13) and evidence would need to be provided within 60 days of the closing meeting (October 14). The NSF Lead Auditor will attempt to obtain an extension to December 10, allowing NSF 3 weeks to review the corrective actions, approve the report, and issue a new certificate.

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

J. Future Audit Schedule:

Follow-up or Surveillance Audits are required by the 2010-2014 Sustainable Forestry Initiative Standard ®. The next Surveillance Audit is scheduled for August 2013. The assigned lead auditor will contact you 2-3 months prior to this date to reconfirm and begin preparations. Recertification must be completed before December, 2015.

Multi-site sampling: There are land management types: state forests, state parks, state wildlife areas, state natural areas, recreation areas, and scattered parcels. The sampling plan requires audits of the central function and 4 of 6 land management types (aka “sites”) each year for Surveillance Audits and 5 of 6 sites for recertification.

Appendices:

Appendix I: Surveillance Notification Letter and Audit Schedule

Appendix II: Public Surveillance Audit Report

Appendix III: Audit Matrix

Appendix IV: Site Visit Notes and Participants

Appendix V: SFI Reporting Form (if needed)

Appendix I



Surveillance Notification Letter and Audit Schedule



Date: May 9, 2012
To: Teague Pritchard, Wisconsin DNR
Subject: 2012 Audit Plan

The next Wisconsin State land audit is scheduled for August 13-16, 2012. (The next Wisconsin county land Surveillance Audit is scheduled for August 8-10, 2012.) This will be a recertification audit covering all applicable standards.

As in the past we will plan this audit jointly with SCS for FSC. We can work on the details via email over the next month or so.

Best Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael Ferrucci".

Mike Ferrucci, Lead Auditor, NSF-ISR, Ltd.

From: Prichard, Teague - DNR [<mailto:Teague.Pritchard@Wisconsin.gov>]
Sent: Friday, June 01, 2012 3:14 PM
To: Mike Ferrucci
Cc: Heyde, Mark A - DNR; Julian Eldridge; Brendan Grady; Thompson, Craig D - DNR; Schwantes, Joseph A - DNR
Subject: RE: August audits; new certification and county forest specialists

Mike - Mark Heyde has been appointed as the Departments certification coordinator. Mark will begin the first week in June.
Joe Schwantes, the County Forest Specialist replacing Jeff, will begin his duties starting June 21 ish.

We may utilize some additional Forestry staff to assist in the audit, including scheduling and planning but Mark and I have to game plan.
IN addition, ICIT, the Depts integrated certification implementation team, with a representative from each DNR program, will be heavily engaged as many of the current CARS are related to all programs.

In the meantime, Mark and I will begin to coordinate the information you requested below focusing our attention on suggesting locations and general schedule. Once we develop a game plan we will share a draft proposal for your consideration next week. Mark and I will pull all the past field audit locations but generally what I remember is 2012 ----" in the north" focusing a bit more heavily on state forests ?
NHAL being one large property.

It may be best at some point to have us all chat by phone as ne folks come on board and things firm up on both the County and State audit

Hope things are well Mike
Best Teague

From: Mike Ferrucci [<mailto:mferrucci@iforest.com>]
Sent: Friday, June 01, 2012 1:34 PM
To: Prichard, Teague - DNR
Cc: Julian Eldridge; Brendan Grady
Subject: August audits; new certification and county forest specialists

Teague:

Can you introduce your new colleagues via email and tell me whether to work directly with them on the audit planning?

Background and some questions/suggestions

1. The Wisconsin State land Surveillance Audit is scheduled for August 13-16, 2012.

- Did we agree on a region of the state? I think we said north. I need to start working on travel plans.
- Can you make some suggestions for locations. Northern Highland is one likely locale.
- We will need an update on the deer issue; a briefing from the wildlife agency would be important
- I'd like a summary of other changes in your program since the last audit
- CAR responses should be provided 2 weeks prior to the audit if possible, but no later than August 7
- An update on planning (State Forests and Other State Lands) is requested

2. The next Wisconsin county land Surveillance Audit is scheduled for August 8-10, 2012.

I worked with Jeff Barkley to develop the county forest audit schedule outline:

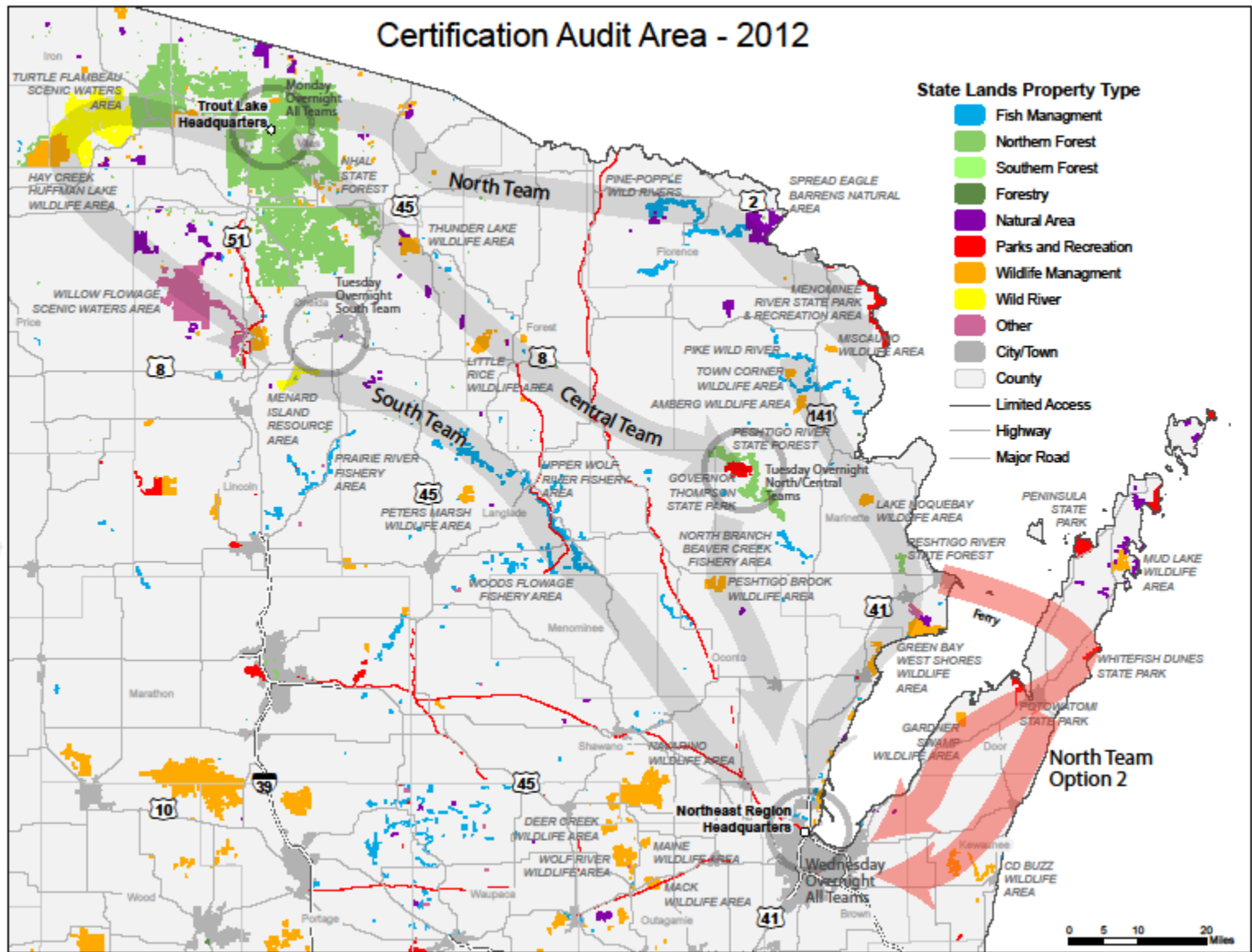
... portions deleted

Mike Ferrucci

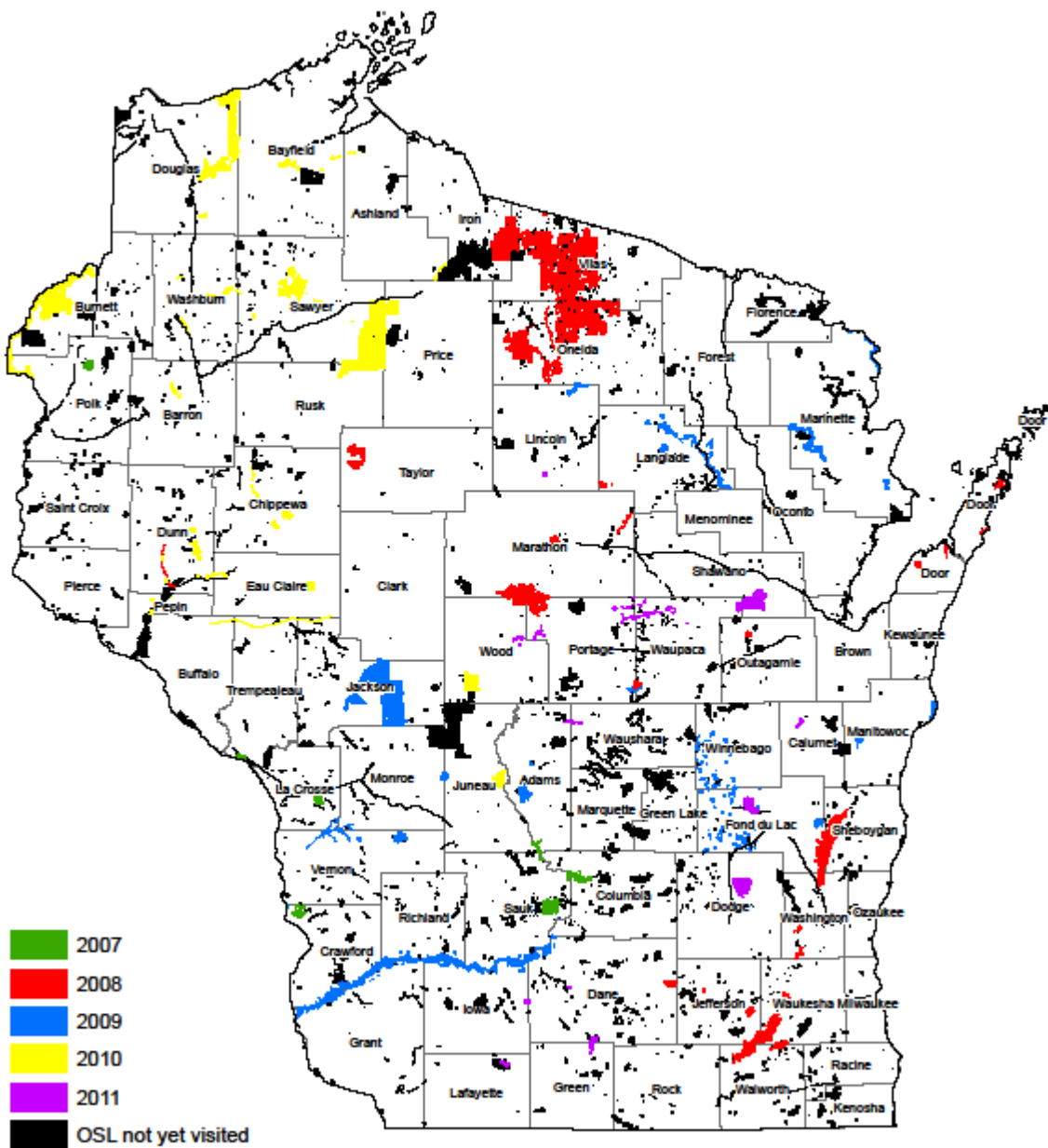
mferrucci@iforest.com

Office and Cell: 203-887-9248

Certification Audit Area - 2012



State Lands Audited 2004-2011



**In 2007, Other State Lands (OSLs) were added to the certificate. All State Forests audited in years 2004, 2005, and 2006 were re-audited in later years.*

WDNR State Lands Forest Certification Audit

DRAFT -- 2012 FSC & SFI Audit Schedule

August 13 (Monday) – August 16 (Thursday)

High Level Audit Schedule

August 10th – 12th (Fri, Sat, Sun) – Auditors arrive

August 13th (Monday) – Field Audit NHAL and Certification Kick-off at NHAL

August 14th (Tuesday) – Field Audit – 3 teams

August 15th (Wednesday) – Field Audit 3 teams

August 16 (Thursday morning) – Exit Briefing @ NER Headquarters, Green Bay

August 10th – 12th (Fri, Sat, Sun) - Auditors

Overnight Location: Boulder Bear Motor Lodge - 5437 Hwy M, Boulder Junction (715) 385-2262

August 13th (Monday)

8:00-12:15 NHAL Field Audit

8:00 am – Desk Audit, NHAL staff

9:00 am – NHAL Site visit – All Auditors

9:45 ish – 2 Audit Team – 2 Site routes

Location: NHAL – Trout lake Forestry Headquarters – 2nd Floor Conference Room
4125 County Highway M, Boulder Junction - [Google Map – Directions from hotel](#)

Auditors: Mike Ferrucci, JoAnn Hanowski, Dave Capen

Property Acres: 231,723 total (American Legion – 59,533 & Northern Highland 172,190)

Field Staff Lead: Jeff Olsen, FR-NHAL, Craig Dalton (FR), Jim Wetterau (FR), Todd Anderson (FR)

Field Staff: Steve Petersen (FR), Ryan Magana (ER), Michele Woodford (WM), Curt Wilson (FR), etc

ICIT Team etc: Mark Heyde (FR), Teague Prichard (FR), Deanna Sell (FR)

Materials: Map of site visits, List of Timber sales, TS folders

12:30 Lunch

Location: Trout Lake Forestry Headquarters – Cathedral Point Picnic

Who: ICIT, Auditors, NHAL staff (approx. 20)

Contact: Steve Petersen, Marci Jahns

1:15- 5:00 2012 Audit Kick-off Meeting and Certification CAR Review

Location: NHAL – Trout Lake Forestry Headquarters

What: Certification Kick-off and CAR Report review (*see appendix A, Agenda*)

Auditors: Mike Ferrucci, JoAnn Hanowski, Dave Capen

ICIT Team: Mark Heyde (FR), Teague Prichard (FR), Deanna Sell (FR), Randy Hoffman (ER – via phone), Craig Thompson (F&L), Jim Warren (FR)

Materials: Department Overview of Significant Changes, 2011 FSC and SFI CAR Progress Report, Master Planning Brief, Deer Brief, Staffing Brief

Logistics: Schedule and Maps
Conference Call Information: 1 (855) 947-8255, Passcode: 9680 753#

Overnight:

Location: Boulder Bear Motor Lodge - 5437 Hwy M, Boulder Junction (715) 385-2662
Auditors: Mike, JoAnn, Dave
ICIT Team: Teague, Deanna, Mark, Craig, Curt

August 14th (Tuesday) – North Team

7:00 am: Leave Boulder Junction

Auditors: Dave Capen
ICIT Team: Teague Prichard

Property #1: 9:00 to 10:30 – Pine-Popple Wild Rivers

Property Name: [Pine-Popple Wild Rivers](#)
Property Type: WR
Property Acres: 11,335
Meeting Location: Wild River Interpretive Center – 5628 Forestry Drive, Florence (715)528-5377
[Google Map – Directions from hotel](#) (2 hour drive)
Field Staff Lead: Jeff Pennucci (Lands) – Rhinelander (715) 365-8949 (office), Chuck McCullough (WM)
Field Staff: Stu Boren (FR), Craig Williams (FR), Henry Sullivan (FR)

Property #2: 11:00 to 1:00 – Spread Eagle Barrens Natural Area

Property Name: [Spread Eagle Barrens Natural Area](#)
Property Type: NA
Property Acres: 6,436
Meeting Location: Wild River Interpretive Center – 5628 Forestry Drive, Florence (715)528-5377 (the audit tour will pass back through the center on the way to Spread Eagle)
Field Staff Lead: Chuck McCullough (WM), Office: (715)623-4190 ext. 3131; Cell: (715)966-1146
Field Staff: Stu Boren (FR), Craig Williams (FR), Henry Sullivan (FR)

LUNCH : 1:00 – 1:30

Location: On the road - Niagara

Property #3: 2:00 to 4:00 – Menominee River State Park & Rec Area

Property Name: [Menominee River State Park & Recreation Area](#)
Property Type: PR
Property Acres: 4,721
Meeting Location: Pembine Ranger Station - N18225 US Highway 141, Pembine WI 54156
[Google Map – Directions from Niagara](#) (16 minute drive)
Field Staff Lead: Maggie Kailhofer (PR), David Halfmann (WM)
Field Staff: Bruce Djupstrom (FR), Cole Couvillion (FR)

Overnight:

Location: The Four Seasons Island Resort – N16800 Shoreline Drive, Pembine 54156 – (715) 324-5244
Auditors: Dave Capen **ICIT Team:** Teague Prichard

August 14th (Tuesday) – Central Team

7:00 am: Leave Boulder Junction

Auditors: JoAnn Hanowski

ICIT Team: Craig Thompson

Property #1: 8:00 to 10:15 – Thunder Lake Wildlife Area

Property Name: [Thunder Lake Wildlife Area](#)

Property Type: WM

Property Acres: 3,075

Meeting Location: Eagle River DNR Ranger Station – 1861 Hwy 45 N Eagle River 54521 (715) 479-4771
[Google Map - Directions from hotel](#) (50 minute drive)

Field Staff Lead: Jeremy Holtz (WM) - Rhinelander, Office: (715) 365-8999, Cell: (715) 889-4090

Field Staff: John Gillen (FR Rhinelander), Tim Friedrich (FR Team Leader)

Property #2: 10:45 to 12:00 – Spur Lake Natural Area

Property Name: [Spur Lake Natural Area](#)

Property Type: NA

Property Acres: 542

Meeting Location: In town of Piehl - SE Corner of Spur Lake near junction of E. Stella Lake Road and Axelson Road – [Google Map Location](#) - Lat/Long: 45.715020, -89.155211

Field Staff Lead: Jeremy Holtz (WM) - Rhinelander, Office: (715) 365-8999, Cell: (715) 889-4090

Field Staff: John Gillen (FR), Tim Friedrich (FR)

LUNCH : 12:30 – 1:00

Location: Crandon – restaurant in town

Property #3 1:15 to 3:15 – Little Rice Wildlife Area

Property Name: [Little Rice Wildlife Area](#)

Property Type: WM

Property Acres: 2,279

Meeting Location: Crandon Ranger Station - 404 N Lake St, Crandon (715) 478-3717

Field Staff Lead: Jeremy Holtz (WM) - Rhinelander, Office: (715) 365-8999, Cell: (715) 889-4090

Field Staff: Craig Williams (FR), Brian Spencer (FR)

Overnight:

Location: Waubee Lodge – 18398 Waubee Park Lane, Lakewood (715) 276-6091

[Google Map – Directions from Little Rice](#) (1 hour 15 minutes)

(SIDE TOUR: CATHEDRAL PINES)

Auditors: JoAnn Hanowski

ICIT Team: Craig Thompson

August 14th (Tuesday) – South Team

7:15 am: Leave Boulder Junction

Auditors: Mike Ferrucci
ICIT Team: Deanna Sell, Jim Warren

Property #1: 8:00 to 10:00 - Turtle Flambeau Scenic Waters Area

Property Name: [Turtle Flambeau Scenic Waters Area](#)
Property Type: WR
Property Acres: 35,574
Meeting Location: DNR Ranger Station – 5291 N. State House Circle, Mercer 54547 - (715) 476-2240
[Google Map – Directions from hotel](#) (30 minute drive)
Field Staff Lead: Chris Niehaus (Lands) – Mercer, Office: (715) 476-7846
Field Staff: Heather Berklund (FR), Jay Gallagher (FR), Colleen Matula (FR), Fred Strand (WM)

Property #2: 10:30 to 12:00 – Hay Creek-Hoffman Lake Wildlife Area

Property Name: [Hay Creek-Hoffman Lake Wildlife Area](#)
Property Type: WM
Property Acres: 13,391
Meeting Location: Shooting range at the end of Hoffman Lake Road (see attached map)
[Google Map Location](#) – Lat/Long: 45.985542, -90.353858
Field Staff Lead: Pat Beringer (WM) - Park Falls, Office: (715) 762-1340, Cell: (715) 661-2701
Field Staff: Heather Berklund (FR), Tom Onchuck (FR), Greg Mitchell (FR), Colleen Matula (FR), Jay Gallagher (FR)

LUNCH : 1:00 – 1:45

Location: Woodruff DNR Headquarters – 8770 Hwy J, Woodruff 54568 – (715) 356-5211
Field Staff Lead: Tom Shockley (FR)

Property #3: 2:00 -4:00 – Willow Flowage Scenic Waters Area

Property Name: [Willow Flowage Scenic Waters Area](#)
Property Type: WR
Property Acres: 21,229
Meeting Location: Woodruff DNR Headquarters – 8770 Hwy J, Woodruff 54568 – (715) 356-5211
Field Staff Lead: Tom Shockley (FR)
Field Staff: Jeff Olsen (FR), Steve Petersen (FR)

Overnight:

Location: Best Western Lake-Aire Motel & Resort – N11925 Cnty Rd L, Tomahawk 54487
(715) 453-5189 [Google Map – Directions from Willow Flowage](#) (40 minute drive)
Auditors: Mike Ferrucci
ICIT Team: Deanna Sell, Mark Heyde

August 15th (Wednesday) – North Team

7:30 am: Leave Pembine

Auditors: Dave Capen ICIT Team: Teague Prichard

Property #1: 8:00 to 9:30 am – Pike Wild River

Property Name: [Pike Wild River](#)
Property Type: WR
Property Acres: 4,663
Meeting Location: Driftwood Sport shop (and gas station), N 15085 US Highway 141 Amberg
[Google Map – Directions from hotel](#) – (25 minute drive)
Field Staff Lead: David Halfmann (WM) - Wausaukee, Office: (715) 856-9160, Cell: (715)927-2735
Field Staff: Joe Schwantes (FR)

Property #2: 10:00 to 11:30 – Amberg Wildlife Area

Property Name: [Amberg Wildlife Area](#)
Property Type: WM
Property Acres: 1,189
Meeting Location: The access at the dead end of Smith Rd - 0.6 miles west of Smith Rd and CTH V
[Google Map Location](#) – Lat/Long: 45.458317, -88.047513
Field Staff Lead: David Halfmann (WM) - Wausaukee, Office: (715) 856-9160, Cell: (715)927-2735
Field Staff: Joe Schwantes (FR)

LUNCH : 12:00 – 12:30

Location: On the road – Wausaukee (about 25 minute drive to Lake Noquebay meeting location)

Property #3: 1:00 to 2:00 – Lake Noquebay Wildlife Area

Property Name: [Lake Noquebay Wildlife Area](#)
Property Type: WM
Property Acres: 1,300
Meeting Location: Entrance, FR801 and Right of Way Road (southeast corner of the property)
[Google Map Location](#) – Lat/Long: 45.25693,-87.840189
Field Staff Lead: Kay Brockman-Medegas (WM), Shawano, Office: (715)526-4226, Cell: (715)853-2952
Aaron McCullough (WM), Wausaukee, Office: (715)856-9158, Cell: (715)927-2750
Field Staff: Kate Lenz (FR), Fred Freeman (FR)

Property #4: 3:00 to 4:30 – Green Bay West Shores Wildlife Area

Property Name: [Green Bay West Shores Wildlife Area](#)
Property Type: WM
Property Acres: 8,813
Meeting Location: Ellison Fields, Harbor Road – Peshtigo Harbor Unit of GBWS
Field Staff Lead: Kay Brockman-Medegas (WM), Aaron McCullough (WM)
Field Staff: Kate Lenz (FR), Fred Freeman (FR), Mike Folgert (FR)

6:30 Group Dinner at Lambeau – Curly’s Pub

Overnight:

Location: Comfort Suites – 1951 Bond Street, Green Bay (920) 499-7449
Auditors/ICIT: Dave Capen, Teague Prichard

August 15th (Wednesday) – Central Team

7:15 am: Leave Lakewood

Auditors: JoAnn Hanowski
ICIT Team: Craig Thompson

Property #1: 8:00 to 11:30 – Peshtigo River State Forest & Gov. Thompson State Park

Property Name: [Peshtigo River State Forest](#) & [Governor Thompson State Park](#)
Property Type: State Forest/State Park
Property Acres: 11,551-SF & 2,670-SP
Meeting Location: Gov. Thompson Visitor Center – N10008 Paust Lane, Crivitz 54114 - (715) 757-3965
[Google Map – Directions from Waubee Lodge](#) (40 minute drive)
Field Staff Lead: Dan Mertz (FR), Maggie Kailhofer (PR)
Field Staff: John Lubbers (FR)

LUNCH : 11:30 – 12:30

Location: Governor Thompson State Park (about 30 minute drive to Wausaukee)
Field Staff Lead: Dan Mertz (FR), John Lubbers (FR)

Property #3: 1:00 to 2:00 – Wausaukee Timber Demo Forest

Property Name: Wausaukee Timber Demo Forest
Property Type: FR
Property Acres: 40
Meeting Location: Wausaukee Ranger Station – 1025 Hwy C, Wausaukee 54177 – (715) 856-9157
Field Staff Lead: Joe Schwantes (FR)
Field Staff: Cole Couvillion (FR)

Property #4: 2:30 to 4:00 – North Branch Beaver Creek Fishery Area

Property Name: [North Branch Beaver Creek Fishery Area](#)
Property Type: FM
Property Acres: 1,159
Location: Parking Area off of Williston Springs Rd (also shown as 32nd/37th Roads on google)
[Google Map Location](#), Lat/Long: 45.193538,-88.118564
Field Staff Lead: David Halfmann (WM), Wausaukee, Office: (715) 856-9160, Cell: (715)927-2735
Field Staff: Kate Lenz (FR), Steve Kaufman (FR), Cole Couvillion (FR)

6:30 Group Dinner at Lambeau – Curly’s Pub

Overnight:

Location: Comfort Suites – 1951 Bond Street, Green Bay (920) 499-7449
Auditors: JoAnn Hanowski
ICIT Team: Craig Thompson

August 15th (Wednesday) – South Team

7:45 am: Leave Tomahawk

Auditors: Mike Ferrucci ICIT Team: Deanna Sell, Mark Heyde

Property #1: 8:00 to 9:30 – Menard Island Resource Area

Property Name: Menard Island Resource Area
Property Type: WR
Property Acres: 1,744
Meeting Location: LeMay Forestry Center - 518 W Somo Ave, Tomahawk (715) 453-2188
[Google Map – Directions from Best Western](#) (5 minute drive)
Field Staff Lead: Chuck McCullough (WM) - Antigo, Office: (715)623-4190 ext. 3131; Cell: (715)966-1146
Field Staff: Andy Shaney (FR), Mike Lietz (FR)

Property #2: 10:30 to 12:00 – Peters Marsh Wildlife Area

Property Name: [Peters Marsh Wildlife Area](#)
Property Type: WM
Property Acres: 1,681
Meeting Location: Antigo Service Center –223 E. Steinfest Road, Antigo (715) 627-4317
(Grab a sandwich at Subway for the road)
Field Staff Lead: Chuck McCullough(WM) - Antigo, Office: (715)623-4190 ext. 3131; Cell: (715)966-114
Field Staff: Terry Trapp (FR), Pam Freeman-Gillen (FR), Mike Lietz (FR)

LUNCH : 12:30 – 1:00

Location: Langlade Ranger Station – W1961 Hwy 64, White Lake (715) 882-2191
Field Staff Lead: Picking up Subway in Antigo, eating at Langlade Ranger Station

Property #3: 1:00 to 2:30 – Upper Wolf River Fishery Area

Property Name: [Upper Wolf River Fishery Area](#)
Property Type: FM
Property Acres: 8,825
Location: Langlade Ranger Station - W1961 Hwy 64, White Lake (715) 882-2191
Field Staff Lead: Gary Bartz (Lands) – Antigo, Office: (715) 623-2096 ex.3118
Field Staff: Pam Freeman Gillen (FR), Terry Trapp (FR), Mike Lietz (FR)

Property #4: 2:30 to 4:00 – Woods Flowage Fishery Area

Property Name: [Woods Flowage Fishery Area](#)
Property Type: FM
Property Acres: 1,232
Meeting Location: Intersection of Blakhawk Rd and Flak Rd in Elton.
[Google Map Location](#) – Lat/Long: 45.139612, -88.894136
Field Staff Lead: Chuck McCullough(WM) - Antigo, Office: (715)623-4190 ext. 3131; Cell: (715)966-114
Field Staff: Pam Freeman Gillen (FR), Terry Trapp (FR), Gary Bartz (Lands), Mike Lietz (FR)

6:30 Group Dinner at Lambeau – Curly’s Pub

August 16th (Thursday)

8:00-9:30 Auditor Meeting

Location: Northeast Regional Headquarters - 2984 Shawano Avenue, Green Bay – Conference Room
Who: Mike Ferrucci, JoAnn Hanowski, Dave Capen

9:30-10:30 WDNR State Lands Forest Certification Exit Report (Leadership Briefing)

Location: Northeast Regional Headquarters - 2984 Shawano Avenue, Green Bay
Who: Auditors, ICIT, DNR staff, Section Chiefs, Bureau Directors and Division Administrators
Purpose: Preliminary findings from the field audit

Conference Call Information:

1 (855) 947-8255
Passcode: 9680 753#

Appendix A.

WDNR State Lands Forest Certification Audit

2012 FSC & SFI Intro Meeting Agenda
Monday August 13 1:15 pm – 5:00 pm
NHAL State Forest Trout Lake Headquarters

- 1:15 pm Introductions
- 1:30 FSC and SFI Certification Programs and Purpose of Audit – Auditors (Ferrucci, Capen, Hanowski)
- Certification Changes, Trends, Issues and Impacts - Auditors
- 2:00 WDNR changes and Program Initiatives -
DNR, Forestry, Parks, Wildlife, Lands, Fish
- 2:15 WDNR Briefings per Request of Certifiers
Deer – 30 minutes – Kevin Wallenfang, Big Game Biologist
Master Planning - 20 minutes – Craig Thompson, Land Leader
Organizational Changes 10 minutes
- 3:15 Responses to 2011 Corrective Action Requests – FSC and SFI
- 4:00 Field Logistics for Audit
- 4:15 Selected SFI and FSC Criteria - Breakouts as needed with program and staff specialists
- 5:00pm Adjourn, travel to Boulder Bear Motor Lodge, Boulder Junction

Conference Call Information: 1 (855) 947-8255 Passcode: 9680 753#

Contacts:

Dave Capen 802-735-6899 (cell)
JoAnn Hanowski
Mike Ferrucci 203-887-9248 (cell)

Craig Anderson (PR) 608-792-0086 (cell), 608-264-8957 (office)
Craig Thompson (F&L) 608-792-0086 (cell), 608-785-1277 (office)
Deanna Sell (FR) 414-614-2951 (cell), 608-261-0754 (office)
Jeff Prey (PR) 608-520-3368 (cell), 608-266-2182 (office)
Jim Warren (FR) 608-575-3863 (cell), 608-264-8990 (office)
Mark Heyde (FR) 608-220-9780 (cell), 608-267-0565 (office)
Paul Cunningham (FM) 608-267-7502 (office)
Randy Hoffman (WM) 608-267-7758 (office)
Teague Prichard (FR) 608-628-5606 (cell), 608-264-8883 (office)

Field Staff

Aaron McCullough 715-927-2750 (cell), 715-856-9158 (office)
Andy Shaney (FR) 715-453-2188 (office)
Brian Spencer (FR) 715-365-8930 (office)
Bruce Djupstrom (FR) 715-324-5492 (office)
Chad Gottbeheit (FR) 715-856-9150 (office)
Chris Niehaus (Lands) 715-476-7846 (office)
Chuck McCullough (WM) 715-966-1146 (cell), 715-623-4190 (office)
Cole Couvillion (FR) 715-856-9152 (office)
Colleen Matula (FR) 715-274-6321 (office)
Craig Williams (FR) 715-478-4575 (office)
Dan Mertz (FR) 715-757-3965 (office)
David Halfmann (WM) 715-927-2735 (cell), 715-856-9160 (office)
Fred Freeman (FR) 715-582-5037 (office)
Fred Strand (WM) 715-372-8539 (office)
Gary Bartz (WM) 715-623-2096 (office)
Greg Mitchell (FR) 715-748-4955 (office)
Heather Berklund (FR) 715-476-3890 (office)
Henry Sullivan (FR) 715-528-4400 (office)
Jay Gallagher (FR) 715-372-8539 (office)
Jeff Olsen (FR) 715-385-3355 (office)
Jeff Pennucci (Lands) 715-365-8949 (office)
Jeremy Holtz (WM) 715-889-4090 (cell), 715-365-8999 (office)
Joe Schwantes (FR) 715-330-1591 (cell), 608-264-9217 (office)
John Gillen (FR) 715-365-2634 (office)
John Lubbers (FR) 920-662-5132 (office)
Kate Lenz (FR) 715-582-5045 (office)
Kay Brockman-Mederas 715-853-2952 (cell), 715-526-4226 (office)
Maggie Kailhofer (PR) 715-757-3979 (office)
Mike Folgert (FR) 715-582-5016 (office)
Pam Freeman Gillen (FR) 715-623-4190 (office)
Pat Beringer (WM) 715-661-2701 (cell), 715-762-1340 (office)
Steve Kaufman (FR) 715-856-9157 (office)
Stu Boren (FR) 715-528-4400 (office)
Terry Trapp (FR) 715-623-4190 (office)
Tim Friedrich (FR) 715-356-5211 (office)

Appendix II



Wisconsin DNR State Lands 2012 SFI Summary Surveillance Audit Report

Pending resolution of the Major Non-conformance The SFI Program of the Wisconsin DNR has achieved continuing conformance with the SFI Standard®, 2010-2014 Edition, according to the NSF-ISR SFIS Certification Audit Process. This report describes the 2012 Recertification Audit designed to consider the entire program and all requirements, including any changes in operations, the management review system, and efforts at continuous improvement.

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

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

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

An Overview of Forest Management on Wisconsin State Forests

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

“Wisconsin DNR lands are managed for multiple-use objectives. Along with non-timber objectives, the DNR lands are used to demonstrate various forest practices to the public, while meeting a variety of habitat objectives. Resource managers within the Department of Natural Resources use these objectives in conjunction with other demands to manage each state forest as a healthy ecosystem. Each year about 1 % of the land under DNR ownership is actively managed according to a 2007 report to the Wisconsin Legislature. In the last three years, an average of 14,985 acres were established for harvest per year. Of this, two-thirds of the harvests occur on State Forests (which constitute 1/3 of the DNR land base).

Reflecting a greater focus on non-timber objectives, other DNR land such as wildlife areas and state parks (with 2/3 of the land base) produce 1/3 of the average annual harvest acreage.

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

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

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

An Overview of Forest Management on Wisconsin State Park Lands

Source: Managing Forests on Wisconsin State Park Lands

“Overall Management Priorities

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

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

An Overview of Forest Management on Wisconsin Wildlife Areas

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

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

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

Oak and Pine Barrens

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

Southern Forests

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

Oak Savanna

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

Northern Forest

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

SFIS Recertification Audit Process

The surveillance audit was performed by NSF-ISR on August 12-16, 2012 by an audit team headed by Mike Ferrucci, Lead Auditor. The team included JoAnn Hanowski and Dr. David Capen, who also served as the FSC Lead Auditor. Audit team members fulfill the qualification criteria for conducting SFIS Certification Audits of “Section 9. SFI 2010-2014 Audit Procedures and Auditor Qualifications and Accreditation” contained in Requirements for the SFI 2010-2014 Program: Standards, Rules for Label Use, Procedures, and Guidance. The Wisconsin DNR’s management representative is Mark Heyde, Forest Certification Coordinator, Wisconsin DNR - Division of Forestry.

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

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

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

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

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

2012 Audit Findings - Conformance

Wisconsin DNR's SFI Program was found to be in overall conformance with the SFIS Standard, after resolving one non-conformance related to planning:

SFI Major CAR 2012-1

Minor Non-conformance 2011-01 was elevated to a Major Non-conformance (the 2011 Minor CAR Plan has not been fully implemented).

2011 SFI CAR 2011-3 (J0184836-3): For lands not covered by either a NR 44 compliant master plan or a landscape focused plan (e.g. Central Wisconsin Grasslands Management Plan) there is no demonstrated program for the assessment of forest cover types, age or size classes, and habitats at relevant spatial scales for the properties in the scope, or to take into account this information in multidisciplinary planning or management activities.

SFI Indicator 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.

Summary of the Department response: Future management activities taking place on all lands are discussed at annual integrated property meetings for each area or group of properties. For those without landscape level plans or NR 44 compliant master plans, foresters will assess forest cover types, age or size classes, and habitats at relevant spatial scales for the properties in the scope.

A new Interim Forest Management Plan development process is being implemented for properties that do not have current master plans. It takes advantage of two key documents, the *Ecological Landscapes Handbook* and the *Wildlife Action Plan*. In particular the Parks program has developed specific guidance for parks that is consistent with the intent of the Interim Forest Management Plan process. The assessment of forest covers types, age or size classes, and habitats at relevant spatial scales are included in the Interim Forest Management Plan development process.

In many locations audited in 2012, property managers have met informally with representatives of key bureaus (generally forestry and wildlife) to develop harvest proposals without documenting these reviews systematically. Evidence that managers have "assessed forest cover types, age or size classes, and habitats at relevant spatial scales" was limited in many cases to verbal descriptions of such meetings. The new Interim Forest Management Plan has not been used.

There had been two 2011 Minor Non-conformances regarding the ISO-requirements for eligibility for multi-site sampling; these were resolved:

Closed SFI CAR 2011-1 (J0184836-1)

Internal auditing sufficient to assess overall conformance with the SFI 2010-2014 Standard was not demonstrated for issues managed centrally.

Proposed Action: Each department program responsible for certified lands will be part of an annual internal audit. The audit will focus on those requirements that are met at the central office level. Each program will outline how they meet applicable requirements outlined in an internal audit checklist. If a department program does not meet a requirement a corrective action plan will be submitted by that program to be reviewed and approved by the department's Integrated Certification Implementation Team.

Summary of the Department response: ICIT performed a central office audit against the entire SFI standard from a central office program level. ICIT assessed whether Department systems are working, are in compliance, need corrective action, or present opportunities for improvement (OFI). The Department's management systems and implementation conform to most standards and exceed some in ICIT's view. However, OFI's were identified in these areas:

1. SFI 2.1 Program Participants shall promptly reforest after final harvest
2. SFI 2.2 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.
3. SFI 16.1 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.
4. SFI 19.1 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.

Closed SFI CAR 2011-2 (J0184836-2)

Evidence was not provided of a systematic approach to internally generated findings. The department will develop an internal auditing checklist for all central office functions. Program representatives on the Integrated Certification Implementation Team (ICIT) will conduct an internal audit of each program (forestry, fish, wildlife, lands and facilities, parks, and endangered resources). Representatives from each program will demonstrate how they fulfill applicable requirements.

Summary of the Department response: ICIT developed an internal audit format based on the SFI objectives and criteria. The team performed an internal audit in July 2012 and the findings were summarized in an internal audit report. The team adopted the County Forest internal CAR form for corrective action reporting and follow-up.

Other 2012 Findings

Exceptional Practices

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

Wisconsin DNR has developed and implements an exceptional program addressing management and protection of rivers, streams, lakes, and other water bodies and riparian zones. (SFI Indicator 3.2.1 "Program addressing management and protection of rivers, streams, lakes, and other water bodies and riparian zones.")

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

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

The program significantly exceeds the standard for **minimizing clearcut size**.

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

The Wisconsin DNR provides an **exemplary array of recreation opportunities**; forest management is implemented to enhance these in many cases, and is structured to avoid conflicts between necessary projects and recreational activities. (SFI Performance Measure 5.4 “Program Participants shall support and promote recreational opportunities for the public.”)

The Wisconsin DNR Exceeds the standard in the **identification and management of special sites**. (SFI Objective 6-Protection of Special Sites: “To manage lands that are ecologically, geologically or culturally important in a manner that takes into account their unique qualities.” SFI Performance Measure “6.1 Program Participants shall identify special sites and manage them in a manner appropriate for their unique features.”)

Wisconsin DNR makes exemplary efforts to communicating with affected indigenous peoples to identify and protect spiritually, historically, or culturally important sites. (SFI Indicator 18.2.1 “Program that includes communicating with affected indigenous peoples to enable Program Participants to ... b. identify and protect spiritually, historically, or culturally important sites...”)

Opportunities for Improvement in 2012

There was one new SFI 2010-2014 “Opportunity for Improvement”:

Internal Audit / Management review: There is an opportunity to improve the management review process to ensure that differences among the involved programs are fully accounted for. (SFI Indicator 20.1.2 “System for collecting, reviewing, and reporting information to management regarding progress in achieving SFI 2010-2014 Standard objectives and performance measures.”)

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

The next audit is scheduled for August, 2013. This will be a surveillance audit, covering a portion of the SFI Standard.

General Description of Evidence of Conformity

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

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

Summary of Evidence – Property master plans serve as management plans for the larger (Tier 1 and Tier 2) parcels. The smaller parcels are covered by agency-specific planning guidance documents, with parcel specific objectives found on-line. The entire ownership is covered by detailed forestry protocols and manuals as well as associated inventory data and WisFIRS inventory analysis and harvest scheduling software. Inventory data was up-to-date (82% within 10 years). Planning approaches vary depending on property size.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Summary of Evidence – Field observations of completed operations and policies/procedures for visual quality were assessed during the evaluation. Further maps of recreation sites,

combined with field visits, helped confirm a strong recreation program. Recreational use and esthetics were priority concerns where appropriate.

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

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

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

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

Objective 14. Legal and Regulatory Compliance -

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

Summary of Evidence – Field reviews of ongoing and completed operations were the most critical evidence.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Summary of Evidence – Recently completed property master plans were sufficient to assess the requirements. These plans describe a comprehensive public input process, comments received, and changes to plans in response to those comments where feasible. Further, the Wisconsin DNR answers to the Wisconsin Natural Resources Board, providing regular opportunities for citizen input and a long-term and very knowledgeable governing board of citizens as well.

Objective 18: Public Land Management Responsibilities -

To support and implement sustainable forest management on public lands.

Summary of Evidence – Interviews and review of documents were used to confirm the requirements. Interviewees included members of “friends” groups for state parks.

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

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

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

Summary of Evidence – Records of program reviews, agendas and notes from management review meetings, and interviews with personnel from all involved levels in the organization were assessed. The Forest Leadership Team of the Forestry Division and the Land Leadership Team of the Lands Division are the critical components of management review; minutes of meetings supplemented by interviews served to confirm compliance.

Relevance of Forestry Certification

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

1. Sustainable Forestry

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

2. Forest Productivity and Health

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

3. Protection of Water Resources

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

4. Protection of Biological Diversity

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

5. Aesthetics and Recreation

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

6. Protection of Special Sites

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

7. Responsible Fiber Sourcing Practices in North America

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

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

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

9. Legal Compliance

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

10. Research

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

11. Training and Education

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

12. Public Involvement

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

13. Transparency

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

14. Continual Improvement

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

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

For Additional Information Contact:

Mike Ferrucci
SFI Program Manager, NSF-ISR
26 Commerce Drive
North Branford, CT 06471
203-887-9248
mferrucci@iforest.com

Mark Heyde
Bureau of Forest Management
Forest Certification Coordinator
Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
608-267-0565
mark.heyde@wisconsin.gov

Appendix III



Audit Matrix

NSF-ISR SFI 2010-2014 Matrix

August 2012 Recertification

Findings and Instructions:

C	Conformance
Exr	Exceeds the Requirements
Maj	Major Non-conformance
Min	Minor Non-conformance
OFI	Opportunity for Improvement (can also be in Conformance)
NA	Not Applicable
Likely Gap *	Likely Gap Against 2010-2014 SFIS (used for scoping or baseline audits)*
Likely Conf. *	Likely Conformance With 2010-2014 SFIS (used for scoping or baseline audits)*
Auditor	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: NSF mark (logo) is not being used.

Yellow – Mike or unassigned

Objective 1. Forest Management Planning

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

	2010-2014 Requirement	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap *</u>	<u>Likely Conf. *</u>
1.1	Program Participants shall ensure that forest management plans include long-term harvest levels that are sustainable and consistent with appropriate growth-and-yield models.	MF	12						
Notes	<p>Management Plans for the tracts visited in 2012 and the “Master Plan Draft - Governor Knowles State Forest were reviewed.</p> <p>The Lands Division is working through a backlog of Master Plans. For the 2010-2014 master planning period there are 4 completed plans, 19 active plans (being worked on) and 19 scheduled. The three bureaus involved (Fisheries, Facilities and Lands, Wildlife) are increasing the priority placed on planning. Management sheets are developed for properties too small to have master plans, or where management actions are needed but the master plan has not been completed. The Interim Forest Management Plan template has been adopted and will start to be used for these interim plans. Reviewed “Interim Forest Management Plan Guidance”. See related Non-conformance under Indicator 4.1.5 below which addresses the key SFI-related planning issue (this issue is tied most closely to sub-indicator 1.1.1 h).</p> <p>Harvest levels across various types of ownership are managed through the WisFIRs system to ensure sustainable harvest levels. Harvesting decisions are driven by stand-level analysis and prescriptions adjusted to meet property-specific goals and agency mandates and guidance. State forest planning is complete and up-to-date, which is critical because state forest harvesting is somewhat more aggressive in terms of harvest levels. Planning for the properties administered within the Lands Division is not as complete, but harvest levels have been below growth and consistent with the broader range of objectives.</p>								

	2010-2014 Requirement (Performance Measures bold)	Audit or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap *</u>	<u>Likely Conf. *</u>
<i>1.1.1</i>	<p>Forest management planning at a level appropriate to the size and scale of the operation, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. a long-term resources analysis; b. a periodic or ongoing forest inventory; c. a land classification system; d. soils inventory and maps, where available; e. access to growth-and-yield modeling capabilities; f. up-to-date maps or a geographic information system; g. recommended sustainable harvest levels for areas available for harvest; and h. a review of non-timber issues (e.g. recreation, tourism, pilot projects and economic incentive programs to promote water protection, carbon storage, bioenergy feedstock production, or biological diversity conservation, or to address climate-induced ecosystem change). 	MF, JH	12						

Notes	<p>The required items a through g are included in these comprehensive forest management plans and associated supporting documentation such as the Annual Work Plans, Annual Accomplishment Reports, Manuals, and associated guidance documents for the programs. Maps and inventory data are stored and used in the GIS/database system known as WisFIRs.</p> <p>a. Management Plans for the tracts visited in 2012 were reviewed to determine that they, in conjunction with other guidance documents and assessments, comprise a long-term resource analysis. New in WisFIRs – Use of an “H” code as the objective when this is unknown for the stand and/or overall property, such as in the absence of an up-to-date master plan.</p> <p>b. Foresters inventory a portion of each forest annually using the RECON system. FIA data provide broad growth determinations.</p> <p>c. “Land Classification System” varies by plan type. For NHAL there are designations for Forest Production Management Areas, Habitat Management Area, Native Community Management Areas, Scenic Management Areas, Wild Resource Ares, Special Management Areas, and Recreation Management Areas, and State Natural Areas.</p> <p>d. GIS-layers include soils and topography.</p> <p>e. WisFIRs; see 1.1.3 and 1.1.4 below</p> <p>f. GIS contained within WisFIRs.</p> <p>g. Allowable cut determinations based on area control are included in management plans, providing a good analysis, description of methods, and strategic approaches to deal with age class imbalances. Annual tactical planning refines these harvest calculations. Also see 1.1.3 & 1.1.4 below.</p> <p>h. See related Non-conformance under Indicator 4.1.5 below which addresses the key SFI-related planning issue. Management plans cover the following non-timber issues: recreation, wildlife and biodiversity, operations, fire, pests, many others. Further, there are a variety of programs in place to understand the social impacts of management activities and consider these impacts during planning. These include Wisconsin’s Environmental Protection Act (which requires environmental assessments and, in many cases, economic impact analysis), master planning, and the Natural Resources Board’s approval process for land acquisition.</p> <p>Some aspects of the management program apply in all cases, while other aspects are modified significantly for each type of land or designated land management agency. Reviewed Memo dated November 9, 2011, TO: Park Management Team; FROM: Dan Schuller; SUBJECT: Guidance for timber sales in the WSPS, which showed how the state mandates for inventory, planning, and harvesting are appropriately implemented on parks to ensure that the timber harvesting program is consistent with master plans for parks which have them.</p>																		
	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th data-bbox="254 1036 1037 1117">2010-2014 Requirement</th> <th data-bbox="1037 1036 1136 1117">Audit -or</th> <th data-bbox="1136 1036 1234 1117"><u>C</u></th> <th data-bbox="1234 1036 1333 1117"><u>EXR</u></th> <th data-bbox="1333 1036 1432 1117"><u>Maj</u></th> <th data-bbox="1432 1036 1530 1117"><u>Min</u></th> <th data-bbox="1530 1036 1629 1117"><u>OFI</u></th> <th data-bbox="1629 1036 1728 1117"><u>Likely Gap *</u></th> <th data-bbox="1728 1036 1858 1117"><u>Likely Conf. *</u></th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td data-bbox="142 1117 254 1203">1.1.2</td> <td data-bbox="254 1117 1037 1203">Documentation of annual harvest trends in relation to the sustainable forest management plan in a manner appropriate to document past and future activities.</td> <td data-bbox="1037 1117 1136 1203">MF</td> <td data-bbox="1136 1117 1234 1203">12</td> <td data-bbox="1234 1117 1333 1203"></td> <td data-bbox="1333 1117 1432 1203"></td> <td data-bbox="1432 1117 1530 1203"></td> <td data-bbox="1530 1117 1728 1203"></td> <td data-bbox="1728 1117 1858 1203"></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	2010-2014 Requirement	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap *</u>	<u>Likely Conf. *</u>	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.	MF	12					
2010-2014 Requirement	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap *</u>	<u>Likely Conf. *</u>											
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.	MF	12																

<i>Notes</i>	Year	Cd Equiv	Acres Established	Acre Goal (15 yr average)							
	2009	219123	17213	25293							
	2010	309886	18331	25293							
	2011	284785	19365	25293							
<p>Discussed trends in acres established, which are 20% below 15 year average acre goal. The target annual harvest level for state lands is calculated by taking a WisFIRS 15 year average for all timber types (stands scheduled) as a base. The base is increased to account for backlog practices. The total backlog is smoothed over the 15 year period as well. We assume that the target will not be reached because some practices will be deferred based on current stand conditions not matching the projected conditions.</p> <p>Harvest levels over the past four years have been increased to more nearly match growth and harvest plans in response to directives from the state legislature and reallocation of resources (Act 166). The direction is to set up for sale 90 to 110 percent of the acres designated for sale. An effort continues to accurately identify all “deferred” acres; this is important because many of the properties administered within the Lands Division may have a clear forestry prescription indicated, but may not have sufficiently clear planning direction to allow the prescription to proceed at this time.</p> <p>Each harvest is documented on a Form 2460-001 “Timber Sale Notice and Cutting Report” and this information is compiled into a database. WisFIRS allows managers to easily develop reports and graphs by cover type or other sorts, at the stand, compartment, or forest level, or statewide.</p> <p>Master plan monitoring involves any property which has a modern master plan that has been in place for at least one year. Confirmed that Northern Highland State Forest prepares an annual monitoring report which compares accomplishments to objectives, forest-wide, at the management area level, and for other resource management issues. Harvesting accomplishments are included. Monitoring reports are available on the WDNR web site. http://dnr.wi.gov/master_planning/lfmonitoring.html</p>											
	2010-2014 Requirement			Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap *</u>	<u>Likely Conf. *</u>
1.1.3	A forest inventory system and a method to calculate growth and yield.			MF	12						
<i>Notes</i>	<p>WISFIRs program is used each year to determine harvest levels (acres) based on the most recent inventory information. Confirmed a limited portion of the inventory data and its currency by review of several inventory reports generated by the WISFIRs system. Basal area growth rates are used to estimate the number of years it will take to advance treated (thinned or CC) stands to the next treatment target date. FIA data are reviewed to estimate growth, but the system is driven by stand-by-stand assessments completed immediate prior to treatment, not growth estimates.</p> <p>“A base level report is being developed for State Forests based on new continuous forest inventory (CFI) data (1st 5 year measurement cycle); growth and removal data will be available after plot re- measurement... Continuous forest inventory is being implemented for state forests; and FIA data is examined for net growth vs. removals issues.” Source: Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources Forest Certification Internal Audit (SFI Indicators) July 2012</p> <p>“...harvests on some properties have the specific objective of ecological restoration and creation of ecological reference areas, particularly for the creation of savanna habitat. Restoration harvests have the potential to skew growth and removal ratios, because in some cases the restoration is to a non-forest type or condition.” Source: Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources Forest Certification Internal Audit (SFI Indicators) July 2012</p>										

	2010-2014 Requirement	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap *</u>	<u>Likely Conf. *</u>
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.).	MF	12						
Notes	<p>Auditor reviewed a summary of recon status, which helped confirm the fact that RECON inventory updates have been a very high priority, based on a law passed by the Wisconsin legislature. The inventory is managed in a state-wide database (WisFIRs) used to develop harvest schedules (see 1.1.2 above). Forest RECON Status Print Date: 8/23/12, Report 114 (43 pages) showed that 82% of the lands have inventory data that is less than 10 years old, and that most of the older data is for non-forested acres (Total 1,560,117 acres, 964,544 Forested acres; 1,275,719 acres inventory less than 3 years old)</p> <p>Report from WISFIRs for EXAMPLES showed that inventory and reconnaissance data was less than 10 years old for 82% of the acres. All foresters have a priority goal to update the inventory on at least 20% of their older inventory data (defined as more than 20 years old) each year so that the inventory data are up-to-date within 5 years; many foresters are moving to update the data more rapidly.</p> <p>15-year harvest schedules (re-run each year) document planned future activities for parcels larger than 400 acres. For smaller properties the “foresters’ call” or year of next activity is used to develop a treatment schedule. Both types of harvest schedules are presented to an IDT each year at the annual property meeting.</p>								

	2010-2014 Requirement	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap *</u>	<u>Likely Conf. *</u>
1.1.5	Documentation of forest practices (e.g., planting, fertilization, and thinning) consistent with assumptions in harvest plans.	MF	12						
Notes	<p>There is no allowable cut effect; assumptions include basal area growth rates for northern hardwood stands managed using the selection system, age to maturity following Aspen and Jack Pine clearcuts, thinning intervals for Red pine, and time needed for other regenerated stands to require the next treatment. Thinning and planting would be the “driving” treatments; these are well documented. When there is a delay in thinning (uncommon) or other anticipated treatment the overall harvest schedules are adjusted when the 15-year harvest schedule is re-run each year.</p> <p>The WisFIRs program is used each year to determine harvest levels (acres) based on the most recent inventory information. Key assumptions in the area-based harvest plans are that stands receiving regeneration treatments will be monitored and that regeneration challenges will be addressed, that thinned stands will respond by growing at a rate that justifies the planned re-entry cycle, and that the overall forest will remain healthy and continue to develop and grow in predictable ways. These assumptions are clearly realistic (being met) based in large part by the sustained efforts of dedicated professional foresters supported by specialists (notably DNR biologists) and working with Wisconsin’s renowned loggers.</p>								

Objective 2. Forest Productivity.

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

	2010-2014 Requirement	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap *</u>	<u>Likely Conf. *</u>
2.1	Program Participants shall promptly reforest after final harvest.		12						
<i>Notes</i>	See indicators below.								

	2010-2014 Requirement	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap *</u>	<u>Likely Conf. *</u>
2.1.1	Designation of all harvest areas for either natural regeneration or by planting.	MF	12						
<i>Notes</i>	All harvest plans, documented on the 2460 form, include a narrative section which describes in detail the silvicultural practices prescribed including the method of regeneration. Planting is generally restricted to a modest number of timber types including: Jack Pine, White Pine, Red Pine, and occasionally mixed conifer. Aspen and northern hardwood types are regenerated naturally, and mixed conifer types can be in many cases.								

	2010-2014 Requirement	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap *</u>	<u>Likely Conf. *</u>
2.1.2	Reforestation, unless delayed for site-specific environmental or forest health considerations or legal requirements, through planting within two years or two planting seasons, or by planned natural regeneration methods within five years.	MF	12						
<i>Notes</i>	Confirmed by field observations; no observed regeneration delays in Aspen or pine types, and hardwood types reviewed by the audit team appear to be developing as would be expected. Foresters can, and often do, flag these harvests for review 4-6 years following harvest. Hardwood stands are more challenging to assess, but appear to have adequate regeneration in most gaps and within the matrix areas.								

	2010-2014 Requirement	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap *</u>	<u>Likely Conf. *</u>
2.1.3	Clear criteria to judge adequate regeneration and appropriate actions to correct understocked areas and achieve acceptable species composition and stocking rates for both planting and natural regeneration.	MF	12						

<i>Notes</i>	<p>Foresters on the N.H.A.L. State Forest and elsewhere report challenges regenerating White Birch, Paper Birch, and Oak. N.H.A.L implements protocols for monitoring the planting sites at 1, 2, 3, 5, 7, and 10 years following planting. For natural regeneration the silviculture specialist does a visual inspection, supplemented by plots if needed. The plots can be positioned informally or through WisFIRs.</p> <p>Most planting at N.H.A.L. currently is for Jack Pine, which is challenging to regenerate naturally. After clearcuts of J.P. & chemical site preparation sites are disk-trenched and then planted.</p> <p>Criteria for regeneration are provided in the Silviculture handbook. DNR Foresters are instructed to code the following items if they believe that natural regeneration may not be successful. This is important in light of expected trends in deer populations and in regions of the state that have been known to have challenges with regeneration. This issue should be reconsidered in the 2013 field audits.</p>
--------------	--

	2010-2014 Requirement	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap *</u>	<u>Likely Conf. *</u>
2.1.4	Minimized plantings of exotic tree species, and research documentation that exotic tree species, planted operationally, pose minimal risk.	MF	12						
<i>Notes</i>	Exotic tree species are not planted.								

	2010-2014 Requirement	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap *</u>	<u>Likely Conf. *</u>
2.1.5	Protection of desirable or planned advanced natural regeneration during harvest.	MF	12						
<i>Notes</i>	Confirmed by field observations. Much of the harvesting is done by experienced loggers using mechanized harvesting equipment. Felling of selected timber is mostly by processors, although hand-felling is not uncommon for the largest trees. Workers doing hand felling have chain saw training and, judging from results of completed harvests, appear to be proficient with directional felling techniques. In some cases sales are set up with requirements for fixed-head processors, allowing the trees to be moved away from the advanced natural regeneration before they are allowed to fall to the ground. Yarding (forwarding) trails are planned, well-spaced, and reasonably narrow, further limiting damage to regeneration. Some sales contract restricts pole skidding or have winter-only restrictions to help protect natural regeneration from yarding damage.								

	2010-2014 Requirement	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap *</u>	<u>Likely Conf. *</u>
2.1.6	Planting programs that consider potential ecological impacts of a different species or species mix from that which was harvested.	MF	12						
<i>Notes</i>	Most planting is oriented to replanting similar species that were harvested. When changes are made they are based on assessments of site-level and landscape conditions, with decisions made in an interdisciplinary planning process. Foresters assess each site using the Kotar classification system and include the "Habitat Classification" code in the "Ecological Considerations" section of the 2460-001A Timber Sale Notice and Cutting Report".								

	2010-2014 Requirement	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap *</u>	<u>Likely Conf. *</u>
2.1.7	Afforestation programs that consider potential ecological impacts of the selection and planting of tree species in non-forested landscapes.		NA						
<i>Notes</i>	Interviews and management plans suggest that no afforestation is being conducted.								

	2010-2014 Requirement	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap *</u>	<u>Likely Conf. *</u>
2.2	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.	MF	12						
<i>Notes</i>	Most chemical use involves efforts to control aggressive, invasive exotic plants. Also see indicators below.								

	2010-2014 Requirement	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap *</u>	<u>Likely Conf. *</u>
2.2.1	Minimized chemical use required to achieve management objectives.	MF	12						
<i>Notes</i>	<p>“Chemical Use Report 2011-2012 with Applications”</p> <p>Acres of pesticides applied in the past year were provided by WiDNR in a Pesticide Use Table which covered the following information: Site County Region Program, Chemical(s) and Amount(s) Used, Area Treated. The total acres treated are low as a proportion of the lands in the program over the past 12 months.</p>								

	2010-2014 Requirement	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap *</u>	<u>Likely Conf. *</u>
2.2.2	Use of least-toxic and narrowest-spectrum pesticides necessary to achieve management objectives.	MF	12						

Notes	<p>The most commonly-used herbicides on these lands over the past 12 months:</p> <p>Glyphosate: applied for Trail rehabilitation/ control of invasives, Conifer Release, and site preparation. Glyphosate is a low toxicity herbicide with no soil activity that works by direct contact. While Glyphosate is somewhat broad spectrum it is being used at low rates and in ways that are consistent with the requirement.</p> <p>Oust XP (Sulfometuron methyl) is used for control of invasive plants (Garlic Mustard) and occasionally for site prep for conifer plantations. Accord with Oust for forestry.</p> <p>Triclopyr (trade name Garlon, Element 4, others, often with 2,4-D ester) for control of woody plants and brush, or for control of weeds brush roadside settings; kills hardwoods and leaves grass and conifers; low toxicity, relatively fast breakdown in soil and rapid breakdown in water</p> <p>Escort and other trade names (Metsulfuron) – “Low toxicity, however short but very active residue, apply with extreme care, works at very low rates. Kills ferns.”</p> <p>Imazapyr (Habitat for aquatic use):</p> <p>Milestone: “aminopyralid, a new pyridine carboxylic acid herbicide ... does not require a special license for purchase or application ... registered under the EPA’s Reduced Risk Pesticide initiative” http://www.dowagro.com/range/resource/milestone_faq.htm</p> <p>Cellutreat (Disodium Octahorate) is a fungicide increasingly being used for control of Annosum in thinned pine stands.</p>
--------------	---

	2010-2014 Requirement	Audit -or	C	EXR	Maj	Min	OFI	Likely Gap *	Likely Conf. *
2.2.3	Use of pesticides registered for the intended use and applied in accordance with label requirements.	MF	12						
Notes	Interviews and review of documents provided evidence that this requirement was met. The Pesticide Use Table was reviewed and the chemicals used match the treatment objectives.								

	2010-2014 Requirement	Audit -or	C	EXR	Maj	Min	OFI	Likely Gap *	Likely Conf. *
2.2.4	Use of integrated pest management where feasible.	MF	12						

Notes	<p>IPM is the approach taken in this program, as documented in the plans: “Integrated pest management for the purpose of this Plan, is defined as follows: The maintenance of destructive agents, including insects, at tolerable levels, by the planned use of a variety of preventive, suppressive, or regulatory tactics and strategies that are ecologically and economically efficient and socially acceptable.”</p> <p>Stands are regularly assessed formally (RECON) and informally for presence of insects or diseases, and treatments are applied in a timely manner before outbreaks widen. The initial treatment approach is commonly salvage or sanitation.</p> <p>Forest management, through stocking control and use of moderately short rotations, is designed to maintaining healthy stands so as to minimize the need for chemical treatments. Stands visited were generally healthy and vigorous. Chemicals are only applied to address problems that can’t be resolved in other ways. For example release using brush saws is considered before chemical release is prescribed.</p>
--------------	--

	2010-2014 Requirement	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap *</u>	<u>Likely Conf. *</u>
2.2.5	Supervision of forest chemical applications by state- or provincial-trained or certified applicators.	MF	12						
Notes	<p>DNR personnel interviewed by the Lead Auditor (South team) interviewed personnel involved in chemical applications. They provided evidence as to how this requirement is met, including documentation of certification (cards) and use of certified contractors.</p> <p>Interviewed George Swanson, Future Forests, who was referred by Paul Schultz, NHAL. He confirmed that only licensed personnel are allowed to mix or apply chemicals or to be present when they are applied. See detailed interview information under SFI Indicator 2.2.6 below.</p>								

	2010-2014 Requirement	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap *</u>	<u>Likely Conf. *</u>
2.2.6	<p>Use of management practices appropriate to the situation, for example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. notification of adjoining landowners or nearby residents concerning applications and chemicals used; b. appropriate multilingual signs or oral warnings; c. control of public road access during and immediately after applications; d. designation of streamside and other needed buffer strips; e. use of positive shutoff and minimal-drift spray valves; f. aerial application of forest chemicals parallel to buffer zones to minimize drift; g. monitoring of water quality or safeguards to ensure proper equipment use and protection of streams, lakes and other water bodies; h. appropriate storage of chemicals; i. filing of required state or provincial reports; and/or j. use of methods to ensure protection of threatened and endangered species. 	MF	12						

Notes	<p>Many of these techniques are required by law or regulation, and/or are specified in contracts for treatment. For example, for the chemical treatments on the NHAL in 2011 conducted by contractor George Swanson, Future Forests, the contract specifies provisions for strict adherence to the label, uniform application, no application under adverse weather, safety equipment use, following all laws and regulations, and insurance.</p> <p>Interviewed George Swanson, Future Forests; applied in 6 areas on NHAL, per Paul Schultz. Interview information: PPE used per label use, Garlon4 has the highest level of PPE including goggles; some products have wetlands label and some don't, so they look for surface water and wetlands indicators, and he double-checks the planning work done by the foresters; GPS system to ensure accurate application, and records all application of herbicides; records kept for 2 years; signs are posted by the NHAL foresters to be more certain that all types of trails are posted; no storage on WDNR lands;</p> <p>Resolved OFI 2011.1 - There was an opportunity to improve the consistent use of record-keeping systems designed to track pesticide use. Records requested in the 2012 audit appeared complete.</p>
--------------	---

	2010-2014 Requirement	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap *</u>	<u>Likely Conf. *</u>
2.3	Program Participants shall implement forest management practices to protect and maintain forest and soil productivity.	MF	12						
Notes	See indicators below.								

	2010-2014 Requirement	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap *</u>	<u>Likely Conf. *</u>
2.3.1	Use of soils maps where available.	MF	12						
Notes	Soil maps are contained in the GIS and are used in planning timber sales and other treatments. Foresters demonstrated knowledge of the soils in their units. Soils information is included in the sale narratives.								

	2010-2014 Requirement	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap *</u>	<u>Likely Conf. *</u>
2.3.2	Process to identify soils vulnerable to compaction, and use of appropriate methods to avoid excessive soil disturbance.	MF	12						

Notes	Foresters use soil and topographic maps, habitat type classifications, and/or field reviews as appropriate to identify soils vulnerable to compaction and use a variety of methods to avoid excessive soil disturbance, including designation of harvesting only with frozen ground or very dry conditions for all or a portion of a harvest area. Review of logging contracts, sale narratives, prospectuses, etc. document these measures. Confirmed by field observations the use of appropriate methods to avoid excessive soil disturbance, as soils in post-harvest stands showed limited and reasonable levels of soil compaction and disturbance.								
--------------	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

	2010-2014 Requirement	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap *</u>	<u>Likely Conf. *</u>
2.3.3	Use of erosion control measures to <i>minimize</i> the loss of soil and site productivity.	MF	12						
Notes	Most sites visited were level or gently-sloping and well-drained; where sites had slopes and erosion potential water bars, dispersed slash, and seasonal restrictions appear to be minimizing soil erosion.								

	2010-2014 Requirement	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap *</u>	<u>Likely Conf. *</u>
2.3.4	Post-harvest conditions conducive to maintaining site productivity (e.g. limited rutting, retained down woody debris, minimized skid trails).	MF	12						
Notes	Confirmed by field observations.								

	2010-2014 Requirement	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap *</u>	<u>Likely Conf. *</u>
2.3.5	Retention of vigorous trees during partial harvesting, consistent with scientific silvicultural standards for the area.	MF	12						
Notes	Field observations confirmed the retention of vigorous trees and the appropriate application of silviculture guidelines for removal of least vigorous and poorest quality trees and retention of the trees best adapted to the site. Foresters consistently emphasized the retention of the most vigorous trees when marking stands; results of partial harvests were very good.								

	2010-2014 Requirement	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap *</u>	<u>Likely Conf. *</u>
2.3.6	Criteria that address harvesting and site preparation to protect soil productivity.	MF	12						

<i>Notes</i>	Wisconsin State BMPs for Water Quality (avoid excessive rutting) and Wisconsin DNR and/or individual county policies (defining excessive rutting) provide these criteria. Confirmed that “excessive rutting” definitions are in recent timber sale contracts that were reviewed.								
--------------	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

	2010-2014 Requirement	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap *</u>	<u>Likely Conf. *</u>
2.3.7	Road construction and skidding layout to minimize impacts to soil productivity and water quality.	MF	12						
<i>Notes</i>	<p>There is little construction of new permanent roads. Skid roads and trails on sales observed were planned in advance, with efforts to locate the main trails in the most appropriate locations and to space secondary trails widely to minimize impacts to soils and to maintain maximum practical distances from wetlands and watercourses to allow for natural filtering for any erosion that might occur.</p> <p>OFI 2011.2 - There was an opportunity to improve the use of the system to document road conditions and planning to address these. This issue was not considered a problem in the 2012 audit.</p>								

	2010-2014 Requirement	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap *</u>	<u>Likely Conf. *</u>
2.4	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.	MF		12					
<i>Notes</i>	<u>Management efforts and results in terms of forest health are exceptional.</u> See indicators below.								

	2010-2014 Requirement	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap *</u>	<u>Likely Conf. *</u>
2.4.1	Program to protect forests from damaging agents.	MF	12						
<i>Notes</i>	<p>Wisconsin DNR employs pest control specialists and makes their services readily available to the field units.</p> <p>Pest updates published quarterly: http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/ForestHealth/Publications.html</p> <p>Foresters interviewed were aware of forest pests, including new or emerging threats, and understand pest control and/or sanitation/salvage options. One mechanism for ensuring awareness involves quarterly pest bulletins which are sent out in some regions.</p>								

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

2.4.2	Management to promote healthy and productive forest conditions to minimize susceptibility to damaging agents.	MF	12						
Notes	Rotations are set short enough to prevent many pest problems (for example Jack Pine rotations of 50 years or Aspen rotations between 40 and 50 years). Forest management, through stocking control and use of moderately short rotations, is designed to maintaining healthy stands. Planting and partial harvest systems consider soil/site conditions before making decisions as to which species to plant or to favor in partial harvests.								

	2010-2014 Requirement	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap *</u>	<u>Likely Conf. *</u>
2.4.3	Participation in, and support of, fire and pest prevention and control programs.	MF	12						

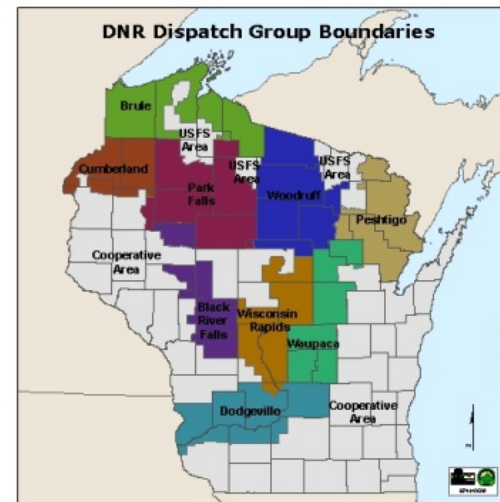
Notes Summary of the fire and pest programs provided by DNR: County Forests receive forest health reports generated by WDNR Forest Health Staff link to website of annual and monthly reports: <http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/ForestHealth/Publications.html>. Additionally, county foresters can work directly with DNR forest health staff to diagnosis and treat forest health concerns.

Property managers and foresters 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>

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 (see map below)	YTD Fires	YTD Acres Burned
Black River Falls	115	268.737
Brule	60	109.87
Cumberland	59	75.85
Dodgeville	179	340.47
Park Falls	91	81.82
Peshtigo	131	216.64
Waupaca	180	304.374
Wisconsin Rapids	229	385.95
Woodruff	104	116.02
Totals for calendar year:	1148	1899.731



	2010-2014 Requirement	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap *</u>	<u>Likely Conf. *</u>
2.5	Program Participants that deploy improved planting stock, including varietal seedlings, shall use sound scientific methods.	MF	12						
<i>Notes</i>	See indicator below.								

	2010-2014 Requirement	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap *</u>	<u>Likely Conf. *</u>
2.5.1	Program for appropriate research, testing, evaluation and deployment of improved planting stock, including varietal seedlings.	MF	12						
<i>Notes</i>	All units obtain seedlings from state nursery. Jim Storandt, Wisconsin Rapids Nursery Superintendent, provided the annual Nursery Program/Tree Improvement report. Reviewed “Wisconsin’s Reforestation Programs - 2011 Annual Report” which shows an appropriate program for improved planting stock. Specialists and researchers are involved in the tree improvement program, and plantings of improved stock are tracked.								

Objective 3. Protection and Maintenance of Water Resources

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

	2010-2014 Requirement	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap *</u>	<u>Likely Conf. *</u>
3.1	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.	MF	12						
<i>Notes</i>	See indicators below.								

	2010-2014 Requirement	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap *</u>	<u>Likely Conf. *</u>
3.1.1	Program to implement state or provincial best management practices during all phases of management activities.	MF	12						

<i>Notes</i>	A variety of forms and systems are used to manage the harvesting process from planning through final inspection and sale closeout, including pre-harvest contractor meetings and interim inspection forms. BMPs are covered within many of these documents and are required by the logging contract. All jobs are planned and supervised by licensed foresters, and operated by trained loggers. BMPs are considered in the roads and trails programs as well.								
--------------	---	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

	2010-2014 Requirement	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap *</u>	<u>Likely Conf. *</u>
3.1.2	Contract provisions that specify conformance to best management practices.	MF	12						
<i>Notes</i>	Contract provisions that specify conformance to best management practices were found in the timber sale contracts in all locations visited.								

	2010-2014 Requirement	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap *</u>	<u>Likely Conf. *</u>
3.1.3	Plans that address wet-weather events (e.g. forest inventory systems, wet-weather tracts, definitions of acceptable operating conditions).	MF	12						
<i>Notes</i>	Confirmed by interviews with foresters and review of records that timber harvest planning considers weather events, with some sites on dry sands intended for the wet time of year, other sites identified for only dry weather, and other sites only for frozen ground.								

	2010-2014 Requirement	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap *</u>	<u>Likely Conf. *</u>
3.1.4	Monitoring of overall best management practices implementation.	MF	12						
<i>Notes</i>	BMPs monitored by sale administration foresters, who ensure that provisions of contracts and BMPs are applied. Every 2 to 4 years the WDNR conducts a systematic assessment of BMP compliance on public lands.								

	2010-2014 Requirement	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap *</u>	<u>Likely Conf. *</u>
3.2	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.	MF	12						

<i>Notes</i>	See indicators below.
--------------	-----------------------

	2010-2014 Requirement	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap *</u>	<u>Likely Conf. *</u>
3.2.1	Program addressing management and protection of rivers, streams, lakes, and other water bodies and riparian zones.	MF, JH		12					
<i>Notes</i>	<p><u>Wisconsin DNR has developed and implements an exceptional program addressing management and protection of rivers, streams, lakes, and other water bodies and riparian zones.</u></p> <p>Confirmed that this program continues to operate effectively by reviews of completed and partially completed timber harvests and road and trail improvement efforts. Water quality considerations including lakes or rivers potentially affected by the harvest are documented for each proposed harvest on a Form 2460-001 “Timber Sale Notice and Cutting Report” and this information is reflected in the harvesting requirements within the timber sale contracts. Sale and/or harvest unit boundaries are designed to avoid or buffer wetlands, stream, lakes, and other water bodies. Riparian buffers associated with harvests are shown on maps and marked on the ground.</p>								

	2010-2014 Requirement	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap *</u>	<u>Likely Conf. *</u>
3.2.2	Mapping of rivers, streams, lakes, and other water bodies as specified in state or provincial best management practices and, where appropriate, identification on the ground.	MF, JH	12						
<i>Notes</i>	Streams, lakes and other water bodies and riparian zones are mapped, and are marked on the ground (red paint on trees) near harvests as appropriate.								

	2010-2014 Requirement	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap *</u>	<u>Likely Conf. *</u>
3.2.3	Implementation of plans to manage or protect rivers, streams, lakes, and other water bodies.	MF, JH	12						
<i>Notes</i>	All jobs are planned and supervised by licensed foresters, and operated by trained loggers. Interviews and field observations confirmed that protection of rivers, streams, lakes, and other water bodies is of utmost concern.								

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

3.2.4	Identification and protection of non-forested wetlands, including bogs, fens and marshes, and vernal pools of ecological significance.	JH, MF	12						
Notes	<p>Confirmed by field observations that non-forested wetlands are protected by excluding them from sales where possible, and by buffering them using special colors of paint to indicate “no harvest” or “no equipment”, or by not marking any trees for harvest. Very small non-forested wetlands are generally protected; loggers try to avoid these, and foresters work to communicate their locations, but some are entered on occasion. Many sites with significant areas of included wetlands (forested and/or non-forested) are designated for winter harvest only.</p> <p>Revisions to the Wisconsin Best Management Practices took effect January 1, 2011; these specify additional protection for all wetlands, particularly seasonal wetlands, many of which are small but some of which are ecologically significant; foresters and loggers are aware of these provisions and work to implement them.</p> <p>Confirmed from field audits that foresters are knowledgeable of the BMP requirements to protect these wetland elements and are doing an excellent job of implementing them on harvest sites.</p>								

	2010-2014 Requirement	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap *</u>	<u>Likely Conf. *</u>
3.2.5	Where regulations or best management practices do not currently exist to protect riparian areas, use of experts to identify appropriate protection measures.	NA							
Notes	NA – BMPs are in place in 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.

	2010-2014 Requirement	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap *</u>	<u>Likely Conf. *</u>
4.1	Program Participants shall have programs to promote biological diversity at stand- and landscape-levels.	JH	12						
Notes	See indicators below.								

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

4.1.1	Program to promote the conservation of native biological diversity, including species, wildlife habitats and ecological community types.	JH	12						
Notes	The State has a Wildlife Action Plan, a large number of SNA's (over 600), and HCVF habitats and forests. Wildlife biologists work with the foresters to insure that these programs are recognized and implemented on State lands.								

	2010-2014 Requirement	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap *</u>	<u>Likely Conf. *</u>
4.1.2	Program to protect threatened and endangered species.	JH	12						
Notes	See indicator 4.1.2 below.								

	2010-2014 Requirement	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap *</u>	<u>Likely Conf. *</u>
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.	JH	12						
Notes	The Wisconsin Natural Heritage Inventory (NHI) is checked prior to establishing all timber harvests. Documentation of an NHI screening appears on the timber sale cutting notice (form 2460). The species and communities included in the NHI database include those identified by endangered resources staff as threatened, endangered, and special concern and cover those that are considered imperiled and critically imperiled. If an NHI element is present within one mile of the harvest area a biologist is consulted to review the harvest plan and determine whether management objectives will negatively affect the NHI element. In addition, properties complete a biotic inventory or rapid ecological assessment prior to starting a master plan. The new template for interim forest management plans have elements for exception conservation values and timber sale include narratives in regional and ecological considerations, referring ecological landscape handbook and WAP								

	2010-2014 Requirement	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap *</u>	<u>Likely Conf. *</u>
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.	JH	12						

<i>Notes</i>	<p>Excellent examples of the application of State wide silvicultural guidelines for retaining structural diversity in even-aged management systems were observed in the 2012 field audit. Based on recent revisions to the wildlife chapter in the Silviculture Manual foresters are marking more leave trees (individual) and painting off more pockets or clumps of leave trees, especially around wetlands. We observed very careful protection of coarse woody debris on a harvest site within an SNA.</p> <p>The definition of Legacy trees is working its way into the silviculture handbook. Staff have knowledge of the new legacy definition and guidance for identification and protection. The new provisions, which they are using already, require that legacy trees be described in the 2460 narrative and then indicated on the GIS (WisFIRs).</p>
--------------	---

	2010-2014 Requirement	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap *</u>	<u>Likely Conf. *</u>
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.	JH, DC, MF			12				
<i>Notes</i>	<p><u>Minor Non-conformance 2011-01 was elevated to a Major Non-conformance (the 2011 Minor CAR Plan has not been fully implemented).</u> Minor Non-conformance from 2011 audit was not fully addressed. As such, this finding must be elevated to a Major Non-conformance.</p> <p>For lands not covered by either a NR 44-compliant master plan or a landscape focused plan (e.g. Central Wisconsin Grasslands Management Plan) there is no consistent program for the assessment of forest cover types, age or size classes, and habitats at relevant spatial scales for the properties in the scope, or to take into account this information in multidisciplinary planning or management activities.</p> <p>Property managers have met informally with representatives of key bureaus (generally forestry and wildlife) to develop harvest proposals without documenting these reviews systematically. In many locations audited in 2012 which lack current master plans (defined above in the Minor Non-conformance), evidence that managers have “assessed forest cover types, age or size classes, and habitats at relevant spatial scales” was limited in many cases to verbal descriptions of such meetings. The new Interim Forest Management Plan has not been used. The 2011 Minor CAR Plan has not been fully implemented.</p> <p>Forest cover types, age classes and habitats are identified during the master planning stage for individual State Forests and landscape information can be obtained from the WAP. The NHAL master plan quantifies current and desired future conditions of habitat types on its properties. It also provides for</p>								

	2010-2014 Requirement	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap *</u>	<u>Likely Conf. *</u>
4.1.6	Support of and participation in plans or programs for the conservation of old-growth forests in the region of ownership.	JH	12						
<i>Notes</i>	<p>The State protects stands that have been identified as old-growth from harvest by including a Z code in WisFIRS. State personnel have been active in programs that identify and protect all known old growth stands in the State.</p>								

	2010-2014 Requirement	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap *</u>	<u>Likely Conf. *</u>
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.	JH, MF	12						
<i>Notes</i>	<p>DNR has State guidelines that limit the introduction and spread of both aquatic and terrestrial invasive species in forest stands, along waterways and trails. Appropriate actions to remove invasive species with pesticides are employed as well as actions to prevent the spread of invasive species (cleaning equipment etc.) DNR also uses fire and mowing to prevent the spread of invasive species. Significant progress was observed during the 2012 audit, and the program is beginning to have an impact on a difficult problem. Most of the areas visited in 2012 had known and gps'd locations of invasive species and plans to control spread.</p> <p>“Property Managers Handbook” Section 6.8.11 covers invasive species, providing background on the issues, relevant laws, and guidance for control strategies and methods.</p> <p>Resolved OFI 2011.3 - There was an opportunity to improve efforts to limit the impact and spread of invasive exotic plants in parks. Efforts to address invasive exotic plants have ramped up. The issue should be revisited during the 2013 audit.</p>								

	2010-2014 Requirement	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap *</u>	<u>Likely Conf. *</u>
4.1.8	Program to incorporate the role of prescribed or natural fire where appropriate.	JH	12						
<i>Notes</i>	DNR has an active program to use prescribed fire to maintain open areas as open (e.g. barrens and wetlands) and have occasionally used stand maintenance fires to control competition.								

	2010-2014 Requirement	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap *</u>	<u>Likely Conf. *</u>
4.2	Program Participants shall apply knowledge gained through research, science, technology and field experience to manage wildlife habitat and contribute to the conservation of biological diversity.	JH	12						
<i>Notes</i>	See indicators below.								

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

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.	JH	12						
<i>Notes</i>	WIDNR has an extensive SNA program and a program to classify HCVF. They work with the USFS, TNC and the Counties to collect and assess regional locations for HCVF.								

	2010-2014 Requirement	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap *</u>	<u>Likely Conf. *</u>
4.2.2	A methodology to incorporate research results and field applications of biodiversity and ecosystem research into forest management decisions.	JH	12						
<i>Notes</i>	Wisconsin DNR incorporated research results and ecosystem research information when they developed the WAP. This document is widely used in making forest management decisions. Newly written management plans for some species of conservation need, the golden-winged warbler and American woodcock are available and more species specific management plans are being written. Specialists are available to provide information about wildlife and biodiversity issues, including field biologists, regionally-located ecologists, and other specialists based in Madison. Many of these specialists have published, and most are very conversant in current scientific knowledge.								

Objective 5. Management of Visual Quality and Recreational Benefits.

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

	2010-2014 Requirement	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap *</u>	<u>Likely Conf. *</u>
5.1	Program Participants shall manage the impact of harvesting on visual quality.	MF	12						
<i>Notes</i>	See indicators below.								

	2010-2014 Requirement	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap *</u>	<u>Likely Conf. *</u>
5.1.1	Program to address visual quality management.	MF, JH	12						
<i>Notes</i>	See indicators below.								

	2010-2014 Requirement	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap *</u>	<u>Likely Conf. *</u>
5.1.2	Incorporation of aesthetic considerations in harvesting, road, landing design and management, and other management activities where visual impacts are a concern.	MF, JH	12						
<i>Notes</i>	Efforts to manage visual impacts of harvests were confirmed by field observations and discussions with foresters. These efforts were focused on public roads, lakes, and concentrated recreation facilities. Logging contracts are written to ensure that slash is removed from trails on a daily basis.								

	2010-2014 Requirement	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap *</u>	<u>Likely Conf. *</u>
5.2	Program Participants shall manage the size, shape and placement of clearcut harvests.	MF	12						
<i>Notes</i>	Clearcutting is restricted to forest types that require this method for regeneration, and these treatments are carefully planned to reduce impacts to other resource values including aesthetics. See also indicators below.								

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

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.	MF		12					
Notes	<u>The program significantly exceeds the standard for minimizing clearcut size.</u> Confirmed by field observations that most clearcuts are small; records indicate an average of 9 to 19 acres in recent years.								

	2010-2014 Requirement	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap *</u>	<u>Likely Conf. *</u>
5.2.2	Documentation through internal records of clearcut size and the process for calculating average size.	MF	12						
Notes	9.8 acres average clear-cut size in 2011. 18.95 acres average clearcut size in 2010.								

	2010-2014 Requirement	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap *</u>	<u>Likely Conf. *</u>
5.3	Program Participants shall adopt a green-up requirement or alternative methods that provide for visual quality.	MF	12						
Notes	Foresters plan all harvests, and consider green-up and adjacency in planning. Some sale narratives describe efforts to address visual quality. Green up requirements can hinder efforts to deal with needed adjustments to age-class distribution, notably when dealing with legacy stands of aspen which may cover hundreds of acres with the same or close ages.								

	2010-2014 Requirement	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap *</u>	<u>Likely Conf. *</u>
5.3.1	Program implementing the green-up requirement or alternative methods.	MF	12						
Notes	Foresters plan all harvests, and consider green-up and adjacency in planning. GIS and inventory information are used in this planning. Some sale narratives describe efforts to address visual quality.								

	2010-2014 Requirement	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap *</u>	<u>Likely Conf. *</u>
5.3.2	Harvest area tracking system to demonstrate conformance with the green-up requirement or alternative methods.	MF	12						

<i>Notes</i>	Sale maps and GIS; review of adjacent stands during sale set up.								
--------------	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

	2010-2014 Requirement	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap *</u>	<u>Likely Conf. *</u>
5.3.3	Trees in clearcut harvest areas are at least 3 years old or 5 feet (1.5 meters) high at the desired level of stocking before adjacent areas are clearcut, or as appropriate to address operational and economic considerations, alternative methods to reach the performance measure are utilized by the Program Participant.	MF	12						
<i>Notes</i>	Confirmed by field observations; no adjacent clearcuts were seen.								

	2010-2014 Requirement	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap *</u>	<u>Likely Conf. *</u>
5.4	Program Participants shall support and promote recreational opportunities for the public.	Team		12					
<i>Notes</i>	<u>The Wisconsin DNR provides an exemplary array of recreation opportunities; forest management is implemented to enhance these in many cases, and is structured to avoid conflicts between necessary projects and recreational activities.</u>								

	2010-2014 Requirement	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap *</u>	<u>Likely Conf. *</u>
5.4.1	Provide recreational opportunities for the public, where consistent with forest management objectives.	Team		12					
<i>Notes</i>	Wisconsin’s public forests provide an exceptionally expansive and diverse range of recreation opportunities, and the state lands within this scope contribute to this diversity, with some areas of “specialization”. Facilities include picnic areas, swimming beaches, boat launches, fishing docks, campgrounds, historic sites with interpretive signs, and the following types of trails: nature or interpretive, hiking, biking, cross-country skiing facilities, snowmobile, dog sled, horse, ATV and UTV, horse-riding. The extensive recreational trail system is in very good condition.								

Objective 6. Protection of Special Sites.

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

	2010-2014 Requirement	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap *</u>	<u>Likely Conf. *</u>
6.1	Program Participants shall identify special sites and manage them in a manner appropriate for their unique features.	MF, JH		12					
<i>Notes</i>	<u>WiDNR Exceeds the standard in the identification and management of special sites.</u> See indicators below.								

	2010-2014 Requirement	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap *</u>	<u>Likely Conf. *</u>
6.1.1	Use of information such as existing natural heritage data, expert advice or stakeholder consultation in identifying or selecting special sites for protection.	MF, JH	12						
<i>Notes</i>	Field audits confirmed that relevant data bases for these elements were used with the check box on the 2460. When a “hit” came up on a proposed sale, the forester contacted the biologist who would provide forest management guidelines to protect the species. Cultural resources sites were protected with a similar program that housed these data.								

	2010-2014 Requirement	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap *</u>	<u>Likely Conf. *</u>
6.1.2	Appropriate mapping, cataloging and management of identified special sites.	JH, MF	12						
<i>Notes</i>	Data bases for cultural and biotic special sites are maintained and updated periodically. Appropriate management practices are employed to protect these sites, but for many sites, the exact location is not revealed. This is especially done for endangered resources and special sites that have cultural significance.								

Objective 7. Efficient Use of Forest Resources.

To promote the efficient use of forest resources.

	2010-2014 Requirement	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap *</u>	<u>Likely Conf. *</u>
<i>7.1</i>	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.	Team	12						
<i>Notes</i>	See indicators below.								

	2010-2014 Requirement	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap *</u>	<u>Likely Conf. *</u>
<i>7.1.1</i>	Program or monitoring system to ensure efficient utilization, which may include provisions to ensure: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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; b. training or incentives to encourage loggers to enhance utilization; c. cooperation with mill managers for better utilization of species and low-grade material; d. exploration of markets for underutilized species and low-grade wood and alternative markets (e.g. bioenergy markets); or e. periodic inspections and reports noting utilization and product separation. 	Team	12						
<i>Notes</i>	<p>Timber sale contracts include utilization clauses (for example ... uses 4-inch tip for cordwood, 8-inch for softwood sawtimber and 10-inches for hardwood timber). When foresters inspect harvests they consider utilization issues; some of the harvest notes included utilization comments.</p> <p>Utilization in sites the team visited was observed to be good, with foresters checking and enforcing utilization standards. Markets exist for nearly all species and grades of wood grown on county forests. Exceptions are generally limited to less common, and less-commonly harvest species (for example white cedar). New markets are emerging (biomass or wood energy for example) and the Wisconsin DNR works to encourage this trend.</p> <p>Confirmed by field observations, supplemented by interviews, that utilization goals are tempered by requirements to leave some woody debris.</p> <p>Wisconsin’s Forestland Woody Biomass Harvesting Guidelines WI DNR Pub-FR-435-09 are the basis for CWD retention in biomass harvests.</p>								

Objectives 8 through 13 are not applicable.

Objective 14. Legal and Regulatory Compliance.

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

	2010-2014 Requirement	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap *</u>	<u>Likely Conf. *</u>
14.1	Program Participants shall take appropriate steps to comply with applicable federal, provincial, state and local forestry and related social and environmental laws and regulations.	MF	12						
Notes	See indicators below.								

	2010-2014 Requirement	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap *</u>	<u>Likely Conf. *</u>
14.1.1	Access to relevant laws and regulations in appropriate locations.	MF	12						
Notes	<p>Staff has access to relevant laws, including state statutes and administrative codes using the internet. The Department maintains an intranet that houses manual codes and handbooks for all Department programs. A list of applicable laws and regulations was updated in 2011 and is maintained in the Division of Forestry's <i>Forest Management Guidelines</i> publication, Appendix D.</p> <p>At one time there was a summary of applicable laws and regulations, but this may no longer be maintained.</p>								

	2010-2014 Requirement	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap *</u>	<u>Likely Conf. *</u>
14.1.2	System to achieve compliance with applicable federal, provincial, state or local laws and regulations.	MF	12						
Notes	<p>Professional foresters plan all projects, often with review by specialists from other disciplines. Regulations and laws are part of the professional training of these planners/reviewers.</p> <p>Experienced foresters employed by WDNR review and approve most projects, and legal/regulatory compliance is part of these reviews.</p>								

	2010-2014 Requirement	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap *</u>	<u>Likely Conf. *</u>
14.1.3	Demonstration of commitment to legal compliance through available regulatory action information.	MF	12						

<i>Notes</i>	No legal compliance issues over the past 12 months for state lands.								
--------------	---	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

	2010-2014 Requirement	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap *</u>	<u>Likely Conf. *</u>
<i>14.2</i>	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.	MF	12						
<i>Notes</i>	See indicators below.								

	2010-2014 Requirement	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap *</u>	<u>Likely Conf. *</u>
<i>14.2.1</i>	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.	MF	12						
<i>Notes</i>	Such policies are in place and followed. WDNR employees interviewed described regular training on many of these topics; new hires also report such training.								

	2010-2014 Requirement	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap *</u>	<u>Likely Conf. *</u>
<i>14.2.2</i>	Forestry enterprises will respect the rights of workers and labor representatives in a manner that encompasses the intent of the International Labor Organization (ILO) core conventions.	MF	12						
<i>Notes</i>	If any ILO-related complaints are received the program needs to notify NSF, who must pass these along to SFI Inc. There have been no ILO-related complaints on state lands.								

Objective 15. Forestry Research, Science, and Technology.

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

	2010-2014 Requirement	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap *</u>	<u>Likely Conf. *</u>
<i>15.1</i>	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.	MF	12						
<i>Notes</i>	See indicators below.								

	2010-2014 Requirement	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap *</u>	<u>Likely Conf. *</u>
<i>15.1.1</i>	Financial or in-kind support of research to address questions of relevance in the region of operations. The research shall include some of the following issues: a. forest health, productivity, and ecosystem functions; b. chemical efficiency, use rate and integrated pest management; c. water quality and/or effectiveness of best management practices including effectiveness of water quality and best management practices for protecting the quality, diversity and distributions of fish and wildlife habitats; d. wildlife management at stand- and landscape-levels; e. conservation of biological diversity; f. ecological impacts of bioenergy feedstock removals on productivity, wildlife habitat, water quality and other ecosystem functions; g. climate change research for both adaptation and mitigation; h. social issues; i. forest operations efficiencies and economics; j. energy efficiency; k. life cycle assessment; l. avoidance of illegal logging; and m. avoidance of controversial sources.	MF	12						
<i>Notes</i>	WDNR funds research on a broad range of issues including the indicators listed above. Funding is both internal and external. The audit team learned that a deer enclosure experiment will be initiated 2011 by forestry research. SFI Progress Report shows funding for research as follows: \$464,101 Internal \$158,331 External: Forest Health and Productivity \$464,101 Internal \$158,331 External: Water Quality \$464,101 Internal \$158,331 External: Wildlife and Fish \$464,101 Internal \$158,331 External: Landscape/Ecosystem Management and Biodiversity								

	2010-2014 Requirement	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap *</u>	<u>Likely Conf. *</u>
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>	NA – “A review of Wisconsin’s Reforestation Programs, 2011 Annual Report” showed that conventional tree improvement is employed. For example “Seed orchards are the primary mechanism used to produce genetically-improved seed in quantities large enough to support nursery production.”								

	2010-2014 Requirement	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap *</u>	<u>Likely Conf. *</u>
15.2	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.	MF	12						
<i>Notes</i>	See indicator below.								

	2010-2014 Requirement	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap *</u>	<u>Likely Conf. *</u>
15.2.1	Participation, individually and/or through cooperative efforts involving SFI Implementation Committees and/or associations at the national, state, provincial or regional level, in the development or use of some of the following: a. regeneration assessments; b. growth and drain assessments; c. best management practices implementation and conformance; d. biodiversity conservation information for family forest owners; and e. social, cultural or economic benefit assessments.	MF	12						

Notes	<p>a. Regeneration Assessments: Wisconsin DNR is funding enhanced FIA-type continuous forest inventory across the state; regeneration data is obtained during the field measurement phase.</p> <p>b. Growth and Drain Assessment: Wisconsin DNR is funding enhanced FIA-type continuous forest inventory across the state; growth data is obtained during the field measurement phase.</p> <p>c. Best Management Practices Implementation and Conformance: WDNR periodically conducts an assessment of BMP compliance in forest harvesting throughout Wisconsin; the next such study will focus on county and state lands and will be conducted in the fall of 2013. Confirmed minutes of the “BMP Advisory Committee”.</p> <p>d. WDNR provides landowner direct assistance through its “Private Forestry” program; also Wisconsin Extension.</p> <p>e. WDNR has completed social, cultural and economic assessments at a broad landscape level as part of its Wisconsin Ecological Landscapes publication (in press). Also: “A few years back (Wisconsin DNR) contracted with the UW Population lab to produce a Statewide series of 10 regional profiles to be used for master planning that offer a profile of demographic, economic, land use, and recreational contexts.”</p>
--------------	--

	2010-2014 Requirement	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap *</u>	<u>Likely Conf. *</u>
15.3	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.	MF	12						
Notes	See indicators below.								

	2010-2014 Requirement	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap *</u>	<u>Likely Conf. *</u>
15.3.1	Where available, monitor information generated from regional climate models on long-term forest health, productivity and economic viability.	JH, MF	12						
Notes	<p>How are updates provided to the field? WICCI – Forestry track. Staff sent report. Climate discussed in RPA of master plan.</p> <p>Models for northern Wisconsin are suggesting warmer, wetter conditions, longer growing seasons, different timing of precipitation with less soil moisture during growing seasons; and species range shifts. Stressed tree species are expected to undergo further stress; for example birch, hemlock. There are likely to be more issues with insects and invasive species.</p> <p>Participation in the “Shared Landscapes Initiative Adaptation Demonstration” in which Wisconsin DNR is “engaging in conversation about forest management and a changing climate”.</p>								

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

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.	JH	12						
<i>Notes</i>	Most professional staff member interviewed were able to demonstrate awareness of such wildlife impacts.								

Objective 16. Training and Education.

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

	2010-2014 Requirement	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap *</u>	<u>Likely Conf. *</u>
16.1	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.	MF	12						
<i>Notes</i>	See indicators below.								

	2010-2014 Requirement	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap *</u>	<u>Likely Conf. *</u>
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.	MF	12						
<i>Notes</i>	The commitment to the SFI 2010-2014 Standard is communicated throughout the organizations via the WDNR – Public Lands Handbook pages 290-11 through 290-13.								

	2010-2014 Requirement	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap *</u>	<u>Likely Conf. *</u>
16.1.2	Assignment and understanding of roles and responsibilities for achieving SFI 2010-2014 Standard objectives.	MF	12						
<i>Notes</i>	An ICIT team composed of members of both Forestry and Lands Divisions, with representatives of all of the bureaus involved, helps ensure that roles are understood. Every state employee involved in the audit clearly understood their certification responsibilities.								

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

16.1.3	Staff education and training sufficient to their roles and responsibilities.	MF	12						
Notes	Lead auditor requested evidence of the education and training for selected WDNR personnel across the range of agencies who were involved in the audit. Training records indicated that employees obtain varied training, ranging from agency-provided meetings up to major conferences and even college-level courses. Interviews with professional staff showed most had 4-year degrees and many have advanced degrees in relevant natural resources fields.								

	2010-2014 Requirement	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap *</u>	<u>Likely Conf. *</u>
16.1.4	Contractor education and training sufficient to their roles and responsibilities.	MF	12						
Notes	Confirmed that logger training requirements are in timber sale contracts by reviewing a sample of contracts for sales visited by audit team. The Wisconsin FISTA (SFI-recognized) training credential is specified. Interviews with loggers during field audits confirmed this training and their understanding of the issues involved in the harvests being conducted. Logger training certificates or training status are checked/confirmed for each logging contractor on county forest harvest sites. Foresters communicate with FISTA to check on the status of contractors by name. Contractors who conduct pesticide application must be Wisconsin Certified Pesticide Applicators. Confirmed (see above).								

	2010-2014 Requirement	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap *</u>	<u>Likely Conf. *</u>
16.1.5	Forestry enterprises shall have a program for the use of certified logging professionals (where available) and qualified logging professionals.	MF	12						
Notes	Confirmed by interviews that Wisconsin DNR contributes to the Master Logger program buy paying for ½ of the cost of enrollment and recertification of members. Confirmed that logger training requirements are in timber sale contracts by reviewing a sample of contracts for sales visited by audit team. The Wisconsin FISTA (SFI-recognized as qualified) training credential is specified, with some loggers interviewed also having the Wisconsin Master Logger (certified and SFI-recognized).								

	2010-2014 Requirement	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap *</u>	<u>Likely Conf. *</u>
16.2	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.	MF	12						

Notes	<p>Confirmed by interviews that Wisconsin DNR contributes to the Master Logger program buy paying for ½ of the cost of enrollment and recertification of members.</p> <p>A group within DNR is working to identify additional ways to promote/incentivize participation in the Master logger program.</p>
--------------	---

	2010-2014 Requirement	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap *</u>	<u>Likely Conf. *</u>
16.2.1	<p>Participation in or support of SFI Implementation Committees to establish criteria and identify delivery mechanisms for wood producers’ training courses that address:</p> <p>a. awareness of sustainable forestry principles and the SFI program; b. best management practices, including streamside management and road construction, maintenance and retirement; c. reforestation, invasive exotic plants and animals, forest resource conservation, aesthetics, and special sites; d. awareness of responsibilities under the U.S. Endangered Species Act, the Canadian Species at Risk Act, and other measures to protect wildlife habitat (e.g. Forests with Exceptional Conservation Value); e. logging safety; f. U.S. Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) regulations, wage and hour rules, and other provincial, state and local employment laws; g. transportation issues; h. business management; i. public policy and outreach; and j. awareness of emerging technologies.</p>	MF	12						
Notes	Carmen Hardin, WDNR Forest Hydrologist, developed training materials “Forestry BMPs for Water Quality” and provides the BMP training throughout the state. Also see Performance Measure 16.2 above.								

	2010-2014 Requirement	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap *</u>	<u>Likely Conf. *</u>
16.2.2	Participation in or support of SFI Implementation Committees to establish criteria for recognition of logger certification programs, where they exist, that include: a. completion of SFI Implementation Committee recognized logger training programs and meeting continuing education requirements of the training program; b. independent in-the-forest verification of conformance with the logger certification program standards; c. compliance with all applicable laws and regulations including responsibilities under the U.S. Endangered Species Act, the Canadian Species at Risk Act and other measures to protect wildlife habitat; d. use of best management practices to protect water quality; e. logging safety; f. compliance with acceptable silviculture and utilization standards; g. aesthetic management techniques employed where applicable; and h. adherence to a management or harvest plan that is site specific and agreed to by the forest landowner.	MF	12						
<i>Notes</i>	See Performance Measure 16.2 above.								

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.

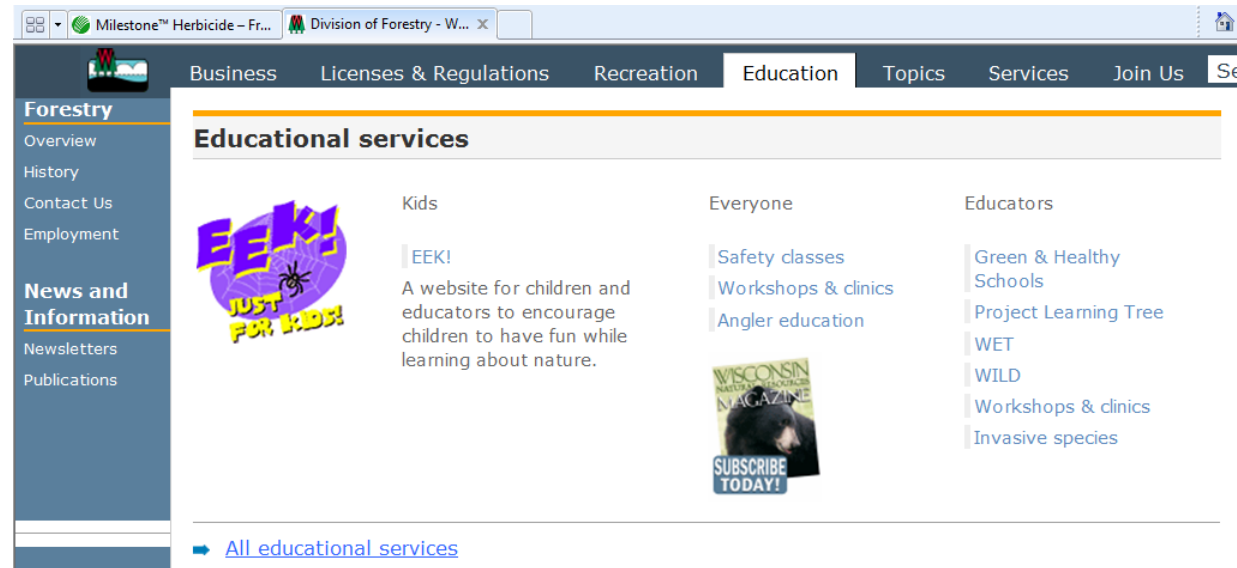
	2010-2014 Requirement	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap *</u>	<u>Likely Conf. *</u>
17.1	Program Participants shall support and promote efforts by consulting foresters, state, provincial and federal agencies, state or local groups, professional societies, conservation 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.	MF	12						
<i>Notes</i>	See indicators below.								

	2010-2014 Requirement	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap *</u>	<u>Likely Conf. *</u>
17.1.1	Support, including financial, for efforts of SFI Implementation Committees.	MF	12						
<i>Notes</i>	<p>Both WDNR and WCFA contribute to the SIC through their time and participation. Mark Heyde, WDNR Forest Certification Specialist and Jane Severt, WCFA Executive Director are on the SIC, and the WDNR has been an active participant for many years.</p> <p>Information from the 2011 SFI Progress Report shows funding of \$40,000 to SFI, Inc. Neither organization pays an annual fee to the SIC. WDNR's participation and MLC Scholarship support are valued at approximately \$40,000 annually. WDNR does partner in many of the efforts supported by the SIC including Wisconsin Tree Farm system, Wisconsin Family Forests, and LEAF.</p> <p>2011 SFI Report: "Participation by Mark Heyde, WDNR Forest Certification Specialist, Jane Severt, WCFA Executive Director who sit on the SIC. In addition, Bob Mather, WDNR Forest Management Bureau Director, is part of the Inconsistent Practices review coordinated by SIC and serves on the Master Logger Certifying Board. "</p>								

	2010-2014 Requirement	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap *</u>	<u>Likely Conf. *</u>
17.1.2	Support for the development of educational materials for use with forest landowners (e.g. information packets, websites, newsletters, workshops, tours, etc.).	MF	12						

Notes

Wisconsin DNR has a significant forestry extension program that provides such materials and information throughout the state:
<http://dnr.wi.gov/forestry/>



	2010-2014 Requirement	Audit -or	C	EXR	Maj	Min	OFI	Likely Gap *	Likely Conf. *
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.	MF	12						
Notes	This requirement is met by the Wisconsin DNR through its extension and private forestry programs (see Indicator 17.1.2 above). Support for the Wisconsin SFI Implementation Committee also contributes to a finding of conformance.								

	2010-2014 Requirement	Audit -or	C	EXR	Maj	Min	OFI	Likely Gap *	Likely Conf. *
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.	MF	12						

<i>Notes</i>	Wisconsin DNR supports the all of the above listed 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.
--------------	---

	2010-2014 Requirement	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap *</u>	<u>Likely Conf. *</u>
<i>17.1.5</i>	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.	JH, MF	12						
<i>Notes</i>	<p>Confirmed awareness and use of the Wisconsin Wildlife Action Plan (http://dnr.wi.gov/org/land/er/WWAP) which analyzed the status of 556 native vertebrate species and identified 84 birds, 30 fish, 24 reptiles & amphibians, 14 mammals and 530 invertebrates as SGCN. In addition, it identified the habitats they are associated with (Natural communities), where they occur in Wisconsin (ecological landscapes) and the priorities for management (conservation actions and conservation opportunity areas or COAs). Efforts are made to consider the COA goals during planning. However there are other aspects of this SFI Indicator that would not be expected to be identified in the COA process that are not being systematically addressed. Consideration of habitats at the landscape scale (beyond stands or parcels) and use of this information in planning one key task during annual integrated property meetings, documented by the new Interim Forest Management Plan process.</p> <p>The new Interim Forest Management Plan has not been used. See SFI Indicator 4.1.5 above which further describes the program being rolled out, which will improve conformance with this indicator.</p>								

	2010-2014 Requirement	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap *</u>	<u>Likely Conf. *</u>
<i>17.2</i>	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.	MF	12						
<i>Notes</i>	See indicators below.								

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

17.2.1	Periodic educational opportunities promoting sustainable forestry, such as a. field tours, seminars, websites, webinars or workshops; b. educational trips; c. self-guided forest management trails; d. publication of articles, educational pamphlets or newsletters; or e. support for state, provincial, and local forestry organizations and soil and water conservation districts.	MF	12						
Notes	Wisconsin DNR has an extensive program of outreach and landowner education. Confirmed by looking at the various web pages that provide information and which promote workshops, conferences, etc.								

	2010-2014 Requirement	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap *</u>	<u>Likely Conf. *</u>
17.3	Program Participants shall establish, at the state, provincial, or other appropriate levels, procedures to address concerns raised by loggers, consulting foresters, employees, unions, the public or other Program Participants regarding practices that appear inconsistent with the SFI Standard principles and objectives.	MF	12						
Notes	See indicators below.								

	2010-2014 Requirement	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap *</u>	<u>Likely Conf. *</u>
17.3.1	Support for SFI Implementation Committees (e.g. toll free numbers and other efforts) to address concerns about apparent nonconforming practices.	MF	12						
Notes	Support for SFI Implementation Committee is provided elsewhere in this report. Bob Mather, WDNR Forest Management Bureau Director, is part of the Inconsistent Practices review coordinated by SIC.								

	2010-2014 Requirement	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap *</u>	<u>Likely Conf. *</u>
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.	MF	12						
Notes	Accomplished through Wisconsin SFI Implementation Committee.								

Objective 18. Public Land Management Responsibilities.

To promote and implement sustainable forest management on public lands.

	2010-2014 Requirement	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap *</u>	<u>Likely Conf. *</u>
<i>18.1</i>	Program Participants with forest management responsibilities on public lands shall participate in the development of public land planning and management processes.	MF	12						
<i>Notes</i>	See indicators below.								

	2010-2014 Requirement	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap *</u>	<u>Likely Conf. *</u>
<i>18.1.1</i>	Involvement in public land planning and management activities with appropriate governmental entities and the public.	MF	12						
<i>Notes</i>	Public input opportunities during master planning are superb. Planning decisions made during routine planning are less accessible. Of concern is the fact that the new Interim Forest Management Plan development process is not operating, and that during the ramp up to this process efforts to give public notice of plans may have decreased or are somewhat ad hoc. When the process becomes operational again the intent is to conduct open house meetings for a property, or group of properties, where the results from the Integrated Team meetings are presented to the public. The department is moving to formalize a process for public input into the IFMP development process as well as annual property level work plans								

	2010-2014 Requirement	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap *</u>	<u>Likely Conf. *</u>
<i>18.1.2</i>	Appropriate contact with local stakeholders over forest management issues through state, provincial, federal or independent collaboration.	Team	12						
<i>Notes</i>	See 18.1.1 above.								

	2010-2014 Requirement	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap *</u>	<u>Likely Conf. *</u>
<i>18.2</i>	Program Participants with forest management responsibilities on public lands shall confer with affected indigenous peoples.	MF	12						

<i>Notes</i>	See indicators below.
--------------	-----------------------

	2010-2014 Requirement	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap *</u>	<u>Likely Conf. *</u>
18.2.1	Program that includes communicating with affected indigenous peoples to enable Program Participants to: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. understand and respect traditional forest-related knowledge; b. identify and protect spiritually, historically, or culturally important sites; and 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. 	MF		12					
<i>Notes</i>	<p><u>Wisconsin DNR makes exemplary efforts to communicating with affected indigenous peoples to identify and protect spiritually, historically, or culturally important sites.</u></p> <p>Jim Warren, Section Chief, serves as the overall tribal contact for the Forestry Division. Some tribes do engage regularly; most are reluctant to engage or to provide comments, even when offered repeated opportunities. Some areas of cooperation have included issues of fisheries and wolves.</p> <p>DNR maintains tribal liaisons which serve as a single point of contact for specific tribes to the DNR. When topics that affect tribes arise these liaisons work with their tribal contacts to share information and gather feedback. Additionally, individual managers often maintain their own contacts with tribes that are affected by their management and who may have ties to the lands which they manage. For example NHAL sends pre-sale package to GLIFWIC and Lac de Flambeau and consult with the tribe on road closures; the NHAL Superintendent's contact is the tribal natural resources officer.</p> <p>On the Northern Highland-American Legion State Forest (NHAL) tribes harvest wild plants on the forest; tribes have a system to track volumes and report volumes to the NHAL. Items removed included balsam boughs, birch bark, princess pine, lodge poles, firewood, and maple sap.</p> <p>Special sites: Occasionally the tribe will ask the managers to avoid a particular site.</p>								

Objective 19. Communications and Public Reporting.

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

	2010-2014 Requirement	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap *</u>	<u>Likely Conf. *</u>
19.1	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.	MF	12						
Notes	See indicators below.								

	2010-2014 Requirement	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap *</u>	<u>Likely Conf. *</u>
19.1.1	The summary audit report submitted by the <i>Program Participant</i> (one copy must be in English), shall include, at a minimum, a. a description of the audit process, <i>objectives</i> and scope; b. a description of substitute <i>indicators</i> , if any, used in the audit and a rationale for each; c. the name of <i>Program Participant</i> that was audited, including its SFI representative; d. a general description of the <i>Program Participant's</i> forestland and manufacturing operations included in the audit; 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>); f. the dates the certification was conducted and completed; 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 h. the certification decision.	MF	12						
Notes	NSF Lead Auditor prepared the summary report in 2011 and will do so again for the 2012 surveillance audit. These reports include the required information.								

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

19.2	Program Participants shall report annually to SFI Inc. on their conformance with the SFI 2010-2014 Standard.	MF	12						
<i>Notes</i>	See indicators below.								

	2010-2014 Requirement	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap *</u>	<u>Likely Conf. *</u>
19.2.1	Prompt response to the SFI annual progress report.	MF	12						
<i>Notes</i>	Reviewed copy of report submitted spring 2012 and confirmed with Rachel Dierolf of SFI, Inc. that this report was submitted in advance of the deadline.								

	2010-2014 Requirement	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap *</u>	<u>Likely Conf. *</u>
19.2.2	Recordkeeping for all the categories of information needed for SFI annual progress reports.	MF	12						
<i>Notes</i>	WisFIRs system tracks all harvests; other systems are used to track contributions, etc. Review of documents associated with selected field sites helped audit team assess recordkeeping.								

	2010-2014 Requirement	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap *</u>	<u>Likely Conf. *</u>
19.2.3	Maintenance of copies of past reports to document progress and improvements to demonstrate conformance to the SFI 2010-2014 Standard.	MF	12						
<i>Notes</i>	Mark Heyde- WDNR Certification Specialist maintains copies of past reports								

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.

	2010-2014 Requirement	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap *</u>	<u>Likely Conf. *</u>
<i>20.1</i>	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.	MF	12						
<i>Notes</i>	See indicators below.								

	2010-2014 Requirement	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap *</u>	<u>Likely Conf. *</u>
<i>20.1.1</i>	System to review commitments, programs and procedures to evaluate effectiveness.	MF	12						
<i>Notes</i>	<p>Team leaders and Area Foresters and other supervisors work closely with field personnel to ensure that actions meet program guidance, manual codes, scientific principles, and legal requirements, all of which are consistent with the SFI requirements. Most projects require review and sign-off by at least one such supervisory personnel. Interviews confirmed that such managers conduct regular field reviews as well.</p> <p>The various agencies within the scope have established monitoring and reporting protocols that comprise an important foundation for the overall system. Example from Parks Bureau: “Wisconsin State Park System - 2011-2016 Wisconsin Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan: The Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) is done every five years is to identify essential and contemporary issues that affect the future of outdoor recreation in Wisconsin. The 2011-2016 SCORP will build upon President Obama’s America’s Great Outdoors Initiative for the 21st Century to include appropriate management recommendations that serve as proactive approaches to address critical issues identified in the process. The 2011-2016 SCORP was completed in August 2012.”</p> <p>Also: “A few years back Wisconsin DNR contracted with the UW Population lab to produce a Statewide series of 10 regional profiles to be used for master planning that offer a profile of demographic, economic, land use, and recreational contexts.”</p> <p>From 2011 audit report: “...For example for the Fisheries Bureau: the 2010 Wisconsin Water Quality Report to Congress, which summarizes the status of rivers, streams, lakes, wetlands etc and the dependent biotic organisms; Expenditures of Inland Water Trout Stamp Revenues FY 2008-2010; Wisconsin 2010 Consolidated Assessment and Listing Methodology (CWA 305(b) 314, and 303(d)). The Wildlife Bureau has similar reporting requirements.” These types of program reviews continue.</p>								

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

20.1.2	System for collecting, reviewing, and reporting information to management regarding progress in achieving SFI 2010-2014 Standard objectives and performance measures.	MF	12				12		
Notes	<p><u>There is an opportunity to improve the management review process to ensure that differences among the involved programs are fully accounted for.</u></p> <p>A process is in place for master plan monitoring and reporting using a reporting template. This is intended for any property which has a modern master plan that has been in place for at least one year. Copies are sent to central office and are also readily available on the public internet.</p> <p>Integrated Team meetings are held for the range of properties and include employees from across programs. These are internal meetings and do not involve public participation. Objectives for these meetings are: Ensure an integrated approach to managing all properties, Develop an annual work plan for the property(s). There is a document “Annual Property Management Meetings – expectations, discussions, results, reporting” providing direction for how these meetings are to be held. Monitor and report progress on prior work plans and toward implementing master plan recommendations.</p> <p>A formal internal audit program is also in place, with a focus on SFI requirements managed centrally; all involved bureaus are audited, with the report reviewed by the management team. “ICIT performed a central office audit against the entire SFI standard from a central office program level. ICIT assessed whether Department systems are working, are in compliance, need corrective action, or present opportunities for improvement.” The Integrated Certification Implementation Team (ICIT) is also involved in reviews and implementation of corrective actions: “ICIT has had several meetings over the course of the last year to respond to Corrective Action Requests (CARs) and observations from the SFI and FSC 2011 audit reports.” Source: Annual Management Review of DNR Implementation of the SFI 2010-2014 Standard and the FSC US Standard</p>								

	2010-2014 Requirement	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap *</u>	<u>Likely Conf. *</u>
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.	MF	12						
Notes	<p>Annual Management Review of the State Lands Certification program was held 8/6/12. Attendees included Paul DeLong – WI Chief State Forester, Kurt Thiede – Division of Land Administrator, Mark Heyde – WDNR Forest Certification Specialist, Craig Thompson – District Land Manager, Teague Prichard – State Lands Specialist, Deanna Sell – State Forest Operations Specialist, Randy Hoffman – Endangered Resource Leader, Alan Crossley – Wildlife Management Leader and Kate Fitzgerald – Facilities and Lands Section Chief.</p> <p>The Annual Management Review Agenda included a review of response to all CAR/OFIs and a review of the upcoming audit schedule. A 5-page background memo (supported by 27 pages of supplemental information) from the Integrated Certification Implementation Team (ICIT) and Mark Heyde, Forest Certification Coordinator and sent to Paul DeLong, Forestry Division Administrator and Kurt Thiede, Lands Division Administrator titled “Annual Management Review of DNR Implementation of the SFI 2010-2014 Standard and the FSC US Standard” summarized the program, the internal audits, and internal and third-party findings across the entire program.</p>								

Multi-site Certification – Two Options

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

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

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

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

General Eligibility Criteria:

A legal or contractual link shall exist between all sites.

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

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

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

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

Yes No Evidence See item above; harvest-related approaches are identical; varied agency goals and legal mandates are accommodated within a consistent framework.

Central Function Requirements:

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

Yes No Evidence Commitments are clearly stated and documented in official memo's or orders.

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

Yes No Evidence Guidance flows through various channels, with the Forest Certification

Implementation Team being the key approach for certification-related issues. The WDNR has a rich set of manuals and procedures. Field units know what they need to do.

Maintain the organizational or contractual connection with all sites covered by the multisite Organization including the right of the Central Function to exclude any site from participation In the certification in case of serious non-conformities with the relevant standard.
 Yes No Evidence WDNR has the legal authority to exclude sites/agencies as needed.

Keep a register of all the sites of the multi-site organization, including (for SFI 2010-2014 Standard) the forest area associated with each participating site.
 Yes No Evidence Scope statement lists land categories included and excluded.

Maintain an internal audit or monitoring program sufficient to provide annual performance data on overall organizational conformance with the relevant standard.
 Yes No Evidence An internal audit program was implemented, using a checklist of SFI requirements, to ascertain performance of the programs involved. Further evidence (source response to CAR):

“As noted in the response to SFI CAR J0184836-1, ICIT developed an internal monitoring process that seemed to work very well. ICIT recommends adopting this internal monitoring process as part of its regular operations...

ICIT Annual Meeting to Evaluate Compliance with Forest Certification Stands

Annually, a meeting will be held by ICIT to evaluate the degree to which all programs are meeting compliance with Forest Certification Standards. The internal review will evaluate objectives, performance measures and indicators appropriate at a central office role and function. ICIT may choose to focus on a sub-set of indicators, aligned with emerging or priority issues the Department has identified.

SFI main objectives and performance measures are the main focus for the internal certification audit. The indicators included in the SFI Standard have been summarized for use as a reference during the internal audit procedure as they pertain to central office functions. The SFI indicators will be referenced when more clarification is needed when discussing the SFI performance measures.

During the internal review, ICIT will determine how programs are complying with SFI objectives at the central office level. Discussion between ICIT members will identify the Department’s conformance with the SFI objectives and performance measures, or if ICIT needs to issue an Opportunity for Improvement (OFI), or Corrective Action Request (CAR). A written report of ICIT’s annual internal review will be sent to the Land and Forestry Leadership Teams. The report will identify program elements with potential gaps to comply with 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 Internal audits and long-standing periodic and annual monitoring procedures (BMPs, 2460 forms, review and sign-off on major projects, etc) clearly meet the requirements

Closed SFI CAR 2011-1 (J0184836-1)
In the 2011 audit internal auditing sufficient to assess overall conformance with the SFI 2010-2014 Standard had not been demonstrated for issues managed centrally. The department has developed and used an internal auditing checklist for all central office functions. Program representatives on the Integrated Certification Implementation Team (ICIT) conducted an internal audit of each program (forestry, fish, wildlife, lands and facilities, parks, and endangered resources) during which representatives from each program demonstrated how they fulfill applicable requirements. The checklist is “based on the SFI objectives and criteria. The team performed an internal audit in July 2012 and the findings were summarized in an internal audit report.”

Operate a review of the conformity of sites based on results of internal audit and/or monitoring data sufficient to assess Organizational performance as a whole rather than at the individual site level.
 Yes No Evidence Management review agenda and results (see Objective 20 above) and ICIT meetings.

Establish corrective and preventive measures if required and evaluate the effectiveness of corrective actions taken.
 Yes No Evidence Four internal audit findings are reported in the management review report.

Closed SFI CAR 2011-2 (J0184836-2)

Evidence had not been provided of a systematic approach to internally generated findings. The department has developed and used an internal auditing checklist for all central office functions. Program representatives on the Integrated Certification Implementation Team (ICIT) conducted an internal audit of each program (forestry, fish, wildlife, lands and facilities, parks, and endangered resources) during which representatives from each program demonstrated how they fulfill applicable requirements. The checklist is “based on the SFI objectives and criteria. The team performed an internal audit in July 2012 and the findings were summarized in an internal audit report. The team adopted the County Forest internal CAR form for corrective action reporting and follow-up”.

OFI’s were identified in these areas:

1. SFI 2.1 Program Participants shall promptly reforest after final harvest
2. SFI 2.2 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.
3. SFI 16.1 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.
4. SFI 19.1 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.

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

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

Individual Site Functions and Responsibilities

Sites implement and maintain the requirements of the relevant standard.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

N.A. – remaining portion of this checklist deleted

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

End of Multi-site Checklists

Appendix IV



Site Visit Notes and Participants

Participants

Opening Meeting – Monday August 13, 2012

Mike Ferrucci, Lead Auditor
Dave Capen, Auditor (and FSC Lead)
JoAnn Hanowski, Auditor
Mark Heyde, Division of Forestry, Forest Certification Coordinator, WDNR
Curt Wilson, DNR Northeast District Forester
Teague Prichard, DNR State Forest Planner
Amy Mercer, DNR State Forest Planner
Deanna Sell, State Forest Operations
Carmen Hardin, DNR Forest Hydrologist, Rhinelander
Michelle Woodford, DNR Wildlife Manager (Biologist)
Ryan Magana, DNR Endangered Resources Ecologist
Ron Eckstein, Wildlife Volunteer (Biologist)
Steve Petersen, NHAL Superintendent
Jeff Olsen, WDNR, NHAL Forestry Team Leader
Karl Martin, Section Chief, Science Services
Craig Thompson, Bureau of Endangered Resources

By phone:

Steve Miller, Lands and Facilities Bureau Director
Jeff Pritzl, Wildlife Supervisor, Northeast District
Sanjay Olson, Division of Lands Deputy Division Administrator
Randy Hoffman, Endangered Resources, State Natural Area Coordinator
Rebecca Schroeder, Endangered Resources Section Chief
Darrell Zastrow, Division of Forestry Deputy Division Administrator
Robert (Bob) Mather, Bureau of Forest Management Director
Kevin Wallenfang, Bureau of Wildlife, Big Game Biologist

N.H.A.L. Field Tour– Monday August 13, 2012

Mike Ferrucci, Lead Auditor
Dr. David Capen, Auditor (and FSC Lead)
JoAnn Hanowski, Auditor
Mark Heyde, Division of Forestry, Forest Certification Coordinator, DNR
Teague Prichard, DNR State Forest Planner
Amy Mercer, DNR State Forest Planner

Deanna Sell, State Forest Operations
Carmen Hardin, DNR Forest Hydrologist, Rhinelander
Michelle Woodford, DNR Wildlife Manager (Biologist)
Ryan Magana, DNR Endangered Resources Ecologist
Ron Eckstein, Wildlife Volunteer (Biologist)
Curt Wilson, DNR Northeast Regional Supervisor
Steve Petersen, NHAL Superintendent
Jeff Olsen, WDNR, NHAL Forestry Team Leader
Chase Christopherson, DNR Forester, Trout Lake
Adam Wallace, DNR Forester, Trout Lake
Todd Anderson, DNR Forester, Trout Lake
Jim Wetterau, DNR Forester, Woodruff
Craig Dalton, DNR Forester, Woodruff
Paul Schultz, DNR Forester, Woodruff

14 August—Thunder Lake Wildlife Area, Spur Lake SNA

JoAnn Hanowski, auditor
Craig Thompson, Bureau of Lands
Jeremy Holtz, Bureau of Wildlife, Rhinelander
John Gillen, Forestry, Rhinelander
Tim Friedrich, Forestry Team Leader
Ron Eckstein, Bureau of Wildlife, Retired
Curt Wilson Northeast Region Supervisor

14 August—Little Rice Wildlife Area

JoAnn Hanowski, auditor
Craig Thompson, Bureau of Lands
Jeremy Holtz, Bureau of Wildlife, Rhinelander
John Gillen, Forestry, Rhinelander
Craig Williams, Forestry,
Brian Spencer, Forestry
Tim Friedrich, Forestry Team Leader
Ron Eckstein, Bureau of Wildlife, Retired
Curt Wilson Northeast Region Supervisor

14 August-- Pine-Popple Wild River and Spread Eagle Barrens Natural Area

Stu Boren, DNR Forester
Henry Sullivan, DNR Forester
Jeff Pennucci, DNR Northern Region Lands Supervisor
Chuck McCullough, DNR Wildlife Supervisor, Antigo
Anna Jahns, DNR Wildlife Technician, Invasive plants
Teague Prichard, DNR State Forest Planner
Amy Mercer, DNR State Forest Planner
Dave Capen, Auditor

14 August—Menominee River State Park & Recreation Area

Cole Couvillion, DNR Forestry Team Leader
Craig Williams (FR)
Maggie Kailhofer, Parks Superintendent
Dave Halfmann, DNR Wildlife
Bruce Djupstrom, DNR Forester
Teague Prichard, DNR State Forest Planner
Amy Mercer, DNR State Forest Planner
Dave Capen, Auditor

14 August, Turtle Flambeau Scenic Waters Area

Chris Niehaus, Bureau of Lands
Heather Berklund, DNR Forester
Jay Gallagher, Forestry Team Leader
Colleen Matula, Forestry Ecologist
Fred Strand, DNR Wildlife Supervisor
Jim Warren, Public and Private Forestry Section Chief
Mark Heyde, Forestry Certification Coordinator
Deanna Sell, State Forest Operations
Mike Ferrucci, Auditor

14 August, Hay Creek-Hoffman Lake Wildlife Area

Chris Niehaus, Bureau of Lands
Heather Berklund, DNR Forester
Jay Gallagher, Forestry Team Leader
Colleen Matula, Forestry Ecologist
Fred Strand, DNR Wildlife Supervisor
Tom Onchuck, DNR Forester
Greg Mitchell – Forestry Team Leader
Jim Warren, Public and Private Forestry Section Chief
Deanna Sell, State Forest Operations
Mike Ferrucci, Auditor

14 August, Willow Flowage Scenic Waters Area

Tom Shockley, DNR Forester
Jeff Olsen, NHAL Forestry Team Leader
Michelle Woodford, DNR Wildlife Manager
Jim Warren, Public and Private Forestry Section Chief
Deanna Sell, State Forest Operations
Mike Ferrucci, Auditor

15 August, Peshtigo River State Forest, Governor Thompson State Park

JoAnn Hanowski, auditor
Craig Thompson, Bureau of Lands
Dan Mertz, Forestry
Maggie Kailhofer, Parks and Recreation
John Lubbers, Forestry

Chris Duncan, Forestry
Steve Kaufman, MFL,
McKenzie Siglinsky, Forestry
Mike Folgert, Forestry

15 August, Wausaukee Timber Demonstration Forest

JoAnn Hanowski, Auditor,
Craig Thompson, Bureau of Lands
Joe Schwantes, Forestry
Cole Couvillion, Forestry

15 August, North Branch Beaver Creek Fishery Area

JoAnn Hanowski, Auditor,
Craig Thompson, Bureau of Lands
Joe Schwantes, Forestry
Cole Couvillion, Forestry
Kate Lenz, Forestry
Steve Kaufman, Forestry

15 August, Pike Wild River and Amberg Wildlife Area

Dave Halfmann, DNR Wildlife
Joe Schwantes, DNR Forest Specialist
Amy Mercer, DNR State Forest Planner
Dave Capen, Auditor
Teague Prichard, DNR State Forest Planner

15 August, Lake Noquebay Wildlife Area and Green Bay Shores Wildlife Area

Kay Brockman-Medegas, DNR Wildlife
Aaron McCollough, DNR Wildlife
Kate Lenz, DNR Forester
Fred Freeman, DNR Forester
Amy Mercer, DNR State Forest Planner
Dave Capen, Auditor
Teague Prichard, DNR State Forest Planner

15 August –

Menard Island Resource Area, Peters Marsh WA, Upper Wolf River FA, Woods Flowage FA

Chuck McCullough
Andy Shaney
Mike Lietz
Terry Trapp
Pam Freeman-Gillen
Gary Bartz

Deanna Sell, State Forest Operations
Mark Heyde, Forestry Certification Coordinator
Mike Ferrucci, Auditor

16 August , Closing Meeting, Northeast District Office, Green Bay

Mike Ferrucci, Lead Auditor
Dave Capen, Auditor (and FSC Lead)
JoAnn Hanowski, Auditor
Mark Heyde, Division of Forestry, Forest Certification Coordinator
Teague Prichard, DNR State Forest Planner
Amy Mercer, DNR State Forest Planner
Deanna Sell, State Forest Operations
Craig Thompson, Endangered Resources
Randy Hoffman, Endangered Resources
Jean Romback-Bartels, Customer and Employee Services Division Director
Tim Mella, Bureau of Lands

By phone:

Steve Miller, Lands and Facilities Bureau Director
Sanjay Olson, Division of Lands Deputy Division Administrator
Rebecca Schroeder, Endangered Resources Section Chief
Darrell Zastrow, Division of Forestry Deputy Division Administrator
Bob Mather, Director, Bureau of Forest Management
Jeff Pritzl, DNR Wildlife
Bill Vander Zouwen, DNR Wildlife
JoAnn Farnsworth, DNR Wildlife
Kurt Theide, Division of Lands Administrator
Jeff Prey, Bureau of Lands
Joe Schwantes, Forestry
Wendy McCown, Forestry Business Services Director
Jim Warren, Public and Private Forestry Section Chief

Site Notes

August 13th (Monday)

8:00-12:15 **NHAL Field Audit**

Auditors: Mike Ferrucci, JoAnn Hanowski, Dave Capen

Property Acres: 231,723 total (American Legion – 59,533 & Northern Highland 172,190)

Northern Highlands American Legion State Forest Sites:

Ferrucci:

Site 1, Bear Springs, Tract 7-09, Sale 836 H: 293 acre Mixed Upland Types, varied prescriptions: 303 acres of regeneration harvest (e.g., aspen, birch) and a smaller regeneration harvest in swamp conifer. ; Actively being harvested; interviewed Jesse Glenzer, Contractor for Futurewood. Documentation: Pre-planning narrative, 2460-Timbersale Cutting Notice and Report with Narrative, Timbersale Contractor Checklist, Pre-Sale Meeting, Harvest Inspection Record. Adequate green tree retention was left including snags, oak and super canopy red and white pine. The operator did a good job of putting slash on hilly skid trails to prevent rutting.

Site 2, Punch Lake Timbersale, Tract 30-10, Sale 893H: A 240 acre block was harvested in 8 different stands. Five different management strategies were used depending on habitat type and “lake zone”. Overstory removal (shelterwood system first cut 2004) with retention was the focus of the site visit, as well as the buffers. Ample, diverse regeneration and good green tree retention were observed including oak, red and white pine and some paper birch. The RMZ along Punch Lake was red-lined and had a lighter over-story removal than the adjacent upland. A large buffer adjoining Little Rock Lake research site and secondary buffers of partial harvest treatments were confirmed. Additional documentation (beyond list for Site 1 above) Compartments 184H and 185H map and stand information, confirmed that recon information was updated to reflect sale completion.

Site 3, Manitowish River Tract 8-12, Sale 941H:

This 44 acre harvest site included an even-aged harvest of aspen (40 acres) and a 4 acre RMZ along the Manitowish River (a Scenic River) that will be managed for older stand characteristics (area zoned for Special Aquatic Native Community Management). This area had adequate regeneration of a variety of tree species. Wildlife and the regional ecologist helped with the planning and marking (green trees) on this site. Also reviewed a small section strip cut tamarack/black spruce.

The largest area is zoned Forest Production Management; this area had retained all long-lived species. Forester carries green paint to mark retention. Confirmed good visual management along Street Lake Lane (town road).

Site 4, Tract 32-11 Nichols Lake Picnic Area: This sale included 170 acres in several stands with both pine thinning and aspen/oak/hardwood regeneration harvest prescriptions. A linear area along the road was painted but not yet harvested. The goal is to remove aspen, oak and hardwood and leave the conifer species. These road buffers were not treated in the last rotation of harvests here.

Site 5: Plantation South of Boulder Junction – Jack Pine clearcut, site preparation, planting, and monitoring. Also fire break to protect town in case of fire in Jack Pine.

Capen:

Tract 17-06, Lake Laura Old-growth Research Site—This was one of several experimental harvests conducted in late successional stands with the objective of accelerating the stand structure to mimic old-growth. This site is in northern hardwoods and involved several treatments: 35-foot , 60-foot, and 80-foot gaps with varying amounts of debris and scarification . Snags and DWD were created during the 2008 “harvest.” Deer exclosures were built; impacts on soil structure from earthworm are documented.

Tract 35-09, Lost Canoe Lake Sale—Late successional stands of oak, white pine, maple, aspen, and white birch. Silvicultural objective is to maintain and enhance the types and leave the components of old-growth forest intact. Old trees were retained; abundant woody debris left on site; 400-foot no-cut zone around a “wild lake.”

Tract 7-09, Bear Springs--This was a large sale (321 acres) that had a prescription for 303 acres of regeneration harvest (e.g., aspen, birch) and a smaller regeneration harvest in swamp conifer. Adequate green tree retention was left including snags, oak and super canopy red and white pine. The operator did a good job of putting slash on hilly skid trails to prevent rutting.

Tract 30-10, Punch Lake--A 240 acre block was harvested in 8 different stands. Five different management strategies were used depending on habitat type and "lake zone". Good green tree retention was observed including oak, red and white pine and some paper birch. The RMZ along Punch Lake was red-lined and had a lighter over-story removal than the adjacent upland.

Tract 8-12, Manitowish River--This 44 acre harvest site included an even-aged harvest of aspen (40 acres) and a 4 acre RMZ along the Manitowish River (a Scenic River) that will be managed for older stand characteristics. This area had adequate regeneration of a variety of tree species. Wildlife and the regional ecologist helped with the planning and marking (green trees) on this site.

Tract 32-11, Nichols Lake--This sale included 170 acres in several stands and had both pine thinning and aspen/oak/hardwood regeneration harvest prescriptions. A linear area along the road was painted but not yet harvested. The goal is to remove aspen, oak and hardwood and leave the conifer species. These road buffers were not treated in the last rotation of stands in this area.

August 14th (Tuesday) – North Team

Auditors: Dave Capen
ICIT Team: Teague Prichard

Property #1: 9:00 to 10:30 – Pine-Popple Wild Rivers

Property Name: [Pine-Popple Wild Rivers](#)
Property Type: WR
Property Acres: 11,335
Meeting Location: Wild River Interpretive Center – 5628 Forestry Drive, Florence (715)528-5377
[Google Map – Directions from hotel](#) (2 hour drive)
Field Staff Lead: Jeff Pennucci (Lands) – Rhinelander (715) 365-8949 (office), Chuck McCullough (WM)
Field Staff: Stu Boren (FR), Craig Williams (FR), Henry Sullivan (FR)

Pine-Popples Wild Rivers, Savage Lake Timber Sale—This was a northern hardwood type where a recent timber sale had been marked with the objective of long-term development and maintenance of old forest attributes. Although not a formal research project, monitoring is detailed, including deer exclosures. A second site on the same property (formerly owned by Goodman Timber), has been marked with similar objectives.

Property #2: 11:00 to 1:00 – Spread Eagle Barrens Natural Area

Property Name: [Spread Eagle Barrens Natural Area](#)
Property Type: NA
Property Acres: 6,436
Meeting Location: Wild River Interpretive Center – 5628 Forestry Drive, Florence (715)528-5377 (the audit tour will pass back through the center on the way to Spread Eagle)
Field Staff Lead: Chuck McCullough (WM), Office: (715)623-4190 ext. 3131; Cell: (715)966-1146
Field Staff: Stu Boren (FR), Craig Williams (FR), Henry Sullivan (FR)

Spread Eagle Barrens State Natural Area—This was an unusual field visit in that forest stands are being removed as part of a project to convert the area to pine barrens and bracken grasslands, rare community types. Results to date have been excellent. Controlled burning has been used to maintain areas already in barrens conditions. Numerous birds are found here because of the habitat created; berry picking is popular among the public. Some ATV damage was observed, but enforcement has largely prevented such damage. Management plan was approved in 1995.

Property #3: 2:00 to 4:00 – Menominee River State Park & Rec Area

Property Name: [Menominee River State Park & Recreation Area](#)
Property Type: PR
Property Acres: 4,721
Meeting Location: Pembine Ranger Station - N18225 US Highway 141, Pembine WI 54156
[Google Map – Directions from Niagara](#) (16 minute drive)
Field Staff Lead: Maggie Kailhofer (PR), David Halfmann (WM)
Field Staff: Bruce Djupstrom (FR), Cole Couvillion (FR)

Menominee River State Park and Recreational Area, Tract 03-11—This was a 70-acre stand of mature white and red pine, and oak, that had been marked for a light selection harvest intended to promote characteristics of an old-growth stand. The advertised harvest did not sell, however, because of low volume. Another attempt is planned, to include a nearby plantation-like stand of red pine. Form 2460 noted a recommendation to wash all harvesting equipment to prevent further intrusions of spotted knapweed. Treatment of conifer stumps with sporax is required.

August 14th (Tuesday) – Central Team

Auditors: JoAnn Hanowski ICIT Team: Craig Thompson

Property #1: 8:00 to 10:15 – Thunder Lake Wildlife Area

Property Type: WM **Property Acres:** 3,075
Meeting Location: Eagle River DNR Ranger Station – 1861 Hwy 45 N Eagle River 54521 (715) 479-4771
[Google Map - Directions from hotel](#) (50 minute drive)
Field Staff Lead: Jeremy Holtz (WM) - Rhinelander, Office: (715) 365-8999, Cell: (715) 889-4090
Field Staff: John Gillen (FR Rhinelander), Tim Friedrich (FR Team Leader)

Thunder Lake Wildlife Area--This 3070 acre property is actively managed for open wetland habitat by burning, cutting or shearing woody vegetation (about 1000 acres), active forest management for various age classes of tamarack and black spruce (about 1000 acres), and the remaining 1000 acres are managed as the Rice Lake State Natural Area. The most recent burn was conducted in 2010 as a joint effort between wildlife and forestry. The SNA is managed for wild rice primarily by controlling water depth in the lake and by managing beaver populations. The master plan for the property is from 1980 and it is currently not in the queue for master plan updates.

Property #2: 10:45 to 12:00 – Spur Lake Natural Area

Property Type: NA **Property Acres:** 542
Meeting Location: In town of Piehl - SE Corner of Spur Lake near junction of E. Stella Lake Road and Axelson Road – [Google Map Location](#) - Lat/Long: 45.715020, -89.155211
Field Staff Lead: Jeremy Holtz (WM) - Rhinelander, Office: (715) 365-8999, Cell: (715) 889-4090
Field Staff: John Gillen (FR), Tim Friedrich (FR)

Spur Lake SNA--This SNA was originally designated to provide a representative of an undeveloped wild rice lake. However, mild winters over the past several years have favored the development of water lilies and they have taken over as the main vegetation type on this shallow lake. The last harvest of rice was in 2002 and the Mole Lake Tribe may be interested in performing some rice restoration work on the lake.

Spur Lake SNA timber harvest--This harvest within the SNA boundary on 46 acres of “old forest” was conducted to promote a multi-age old forest condition. Gaps for harvesting were identified with yellow paint and the logger was instructed to harvest all trees greater than 1” diameter within the gap. Merchantable aspen, white birch and balsam fir were harvested, but many old aspen trees were green painted and retained. The operator was also instructed to avoid damage to coarse woody debris on the site. Good looking site.

Property #3 1:15 to 3:15 – Little Rice Wildlife Area

Property Type: WM **Property Acres:** 2,279
Meeting Location: Crandon Ranger Station - 404 N Lake St, Crandon (715) 478-3717
Field Staff Lead: Jeremy Holtz (WM) - Rhinelander, Office: (715) 365-8999, Cell: (715) 889-4090
Field Staff: Craig Williams (FR), Brian Spencer (FR)

Little Rice Wildlife Area--The overall goal of this property is for wildlife management. The property is a major wild rice resource that was created by a dam on the Wolf River. It is also prime habitat for several non-game species (trumpeter swan, bald eagle, osprey) and an important migratory bird stop. About 280 acres of forest have been harvested since 1974 on a property that has a 1982 master plan which is not in the queue for update.

Pancake Point Timber Sale--Block 6 was a typical northern hardwood management prescription. Some green trees were painted for retention and the goal was to create 40-50 ft tree gaps with the harvest. The site was harvested in the winter of 2011. Block 5 was an aspen regeneration harvest and the prescription required that several large white pines be retained on the site. One of these pines has an active bald eagle nest (after the harvest). Larger than required riparian buffers were left along the lake and wetland areas. Block 4 was also an aspen regeneration harvest. There were a few clumps of large aspen left on the site which looked good.

August 14th (Tuesday) – South Team

Auditors: Mike Ferrucci
ICIT Team: Deanna Sell, Jim Warren

Property #1: 8:00 to 10:00 - Turtle Flambeau Scenic Waters Area

Property Name: [Turtle Flambeau Scenic Waters Area](#)
Property Type: WR
Property Acres: 35,574
Meeting Location: DNR Ranger Station – 5291 N. State House Circle, Mercer 54547 - (715) 476-2240
[Google Map – Directions from hotel](#) (30 minute drive)
Field Staff Lead: Chris Niehaus (Lands) – Mercer, Office: (715) 476-7846
Field Staff: Heather Berklund (FR), Jay Gallagher (FR), Colleen Matula (FR), Fred Strand (WM)

Site 1 Prairie Management Demonstration Area: long-term burn program, reviewed 3 units burned in 2012, met objectives, Little Bluestem doing well, treating for spotted Knapweed (Milestone) Christine Niehaus License 019797 thru 5-31-2014; wild rice planted several years ago doing well, observed Trumpeter Swan nesting pair with 7 young; Mecca Trail system for XC skiing, hiking, biking.

Site 2 Sale 180, Tract 1210: Tornado of 2010 Salvage, interviewed Ken Meyer, Springstead Logging, finishing today, trained and understands BMPs, rutting standard, attention to safety, Getting ready to move out. Retention included scattered trees (species designated) smaller pockets, and bigger areas on edges left uncut. Timber Sale Inspection Form 2460-2 7 pages of detailed notes. Contract amendment approval paperwork; forester sold one block and then set up and got approval for additional blocks of salvage harvesting work.

Stop 3 Sale 180, Tract 1210: Same sale, separate block; very good utilization and retention.

Site 4 Tract 111, Sale 190: Salvage in portions, also marked hardwood area.

Property #2: 10:30 to 12:00 – Hay Creek-Hoffman Lake Wildlife Area

Property Name: [Hay Creek-Hoffman Lake Wildlife Area](#)
Property Type: WM
Property Acres: 13,391
Meeting Location: Shooting range at the end of Hoffman Lake Road (see attached map)
[Google Map Location](#) – Lat/Long: 45.985542, -90.353858

Field Staff Lead: Pat Beringer (WM) - Park Falls, Office: (715) 762-1340, Cell: (715) 661-2701
Field Staff: Heather Berklund (FR), Tom Onchuck (FR), Greg Mitchell (FR), Colleen Matula (FR), Jay Gallagher (FR)

Site 1: Observed several hunter walking trails (there are 18 of these, all gated); trails are mowed on 3-year rotation; formerly had shorter rotation for mowing these trails and roadsides

Stop 2, ad hoc: Northern Hardwood cut 5 years ago, discussed deer populations which are slightly below goal; advanced regeneration looks good, with minimal deer damage

Stop 3, ad hoc: Aspen clearcut with retention cut 2007, ample regeneration, Aspen management for game is key focus for entire property

Site 4, Tract 112: Set up, not cut, 2 treatments: Hardwood selection 9 acres in a young, even-aged stand; discussed BA reduction, crop-tree management (challenging in stand that has so many poor-quality trees); 32 acres of Aspen clearcut, with careful attention to cut block layout for wetlands, goal to enter some Aspen early (this harvest) to break up large blocks of Aspen

Site 5, Hoffman Lake Road: State maintained forest road, gravel surface, crown, ditches in places, cross drains, very good condition.

Site 6, Flowage Dam: Created the lake/ flowage; provides habitat.

Property #3: 2:00 -4:00 – Willow Flowage Scenic Waters Area

Property Name: [Willow Flowage Scenic Waters Area](#)
Property Type: WR
Property Acres: 21,229
Meeting Location: Woodruff DNR Headquarters – 8770 Hwy J, Woodruff 54568 – (715) 356-5211
Field Staff Lead: Tom Shockley (FR)
Field Staff: Jeff Olsen (FR), Steve Petersen (FR)

Site 1, 930: Sale set up in 2007 but cut in 2011. Viewed from woods roads and ATV trail. Typical sale for this property (General forest management emphasizes visual; goal is to promote “natural-looking” harvest practices) with much retention and excellent attention to aesthetics. Forester includes seasonal restrictions for any NHI “hits” as required (for example for rare turtles).

Site 2, 941: 72 acres Aspen CC with significant retention (criticized by industry). Aspen was defoliated 3 successive years by tent caterpillars.

Site 3, Dam/Flowage/Boat Landing/Nature Center – viewed from vehicles

Site 4, 940: Nearly complete harvest mostly Aspen clearcut, small areas of red pine thinning and some Jack Pine clearcut areas. Staggered block management is employed to break up a very large Aspen stand, alternating blocks cut 6 years apart. Forester is closely monitoring Aspen health. Discussed soil habitat classification (PARVA).

August 15th (Wednesday) – South Team

Auditors: Mike Ferrucci
ICIT Team: Deanna Sell, Mark Heyde

Property #1: 8:00 to 9:30 – Menard Island Resource Area

Property Name: Menard Island Resource Area
Property Type: WR
Property Acres: 1,744

Meeting Location: LeMay Forestry Center - 518 W Somo Ave, Tomahawk (715) 453-2188
[Google Map – Directions from Best Western](#) (5 minute drive)
Field Staff Lead: Chuck McCullough (WM) - Antigo, Office: (715)623-4190 ext. 3131; Cell: (715)966-1146
Field Staff: Andy Shaney (FR), Mike Lietz (FR)

Original, core holding was Menard Island, with significant expansions 15 years ago part of “the great addition” led by Gov. Thompson. Management goals Wisconsin River conservation, recreation, and game hunting for early successional species. No Master Plan; instead Feasibility Study and Environmental Analysis of Menard Island Resource Area Expansion (probably not meeting FSC requirements); Tier 2 Master Planning expected in 3-4 or more years. Forester and property manager (wildlife) and fisheries meet to review all harvest plans, and consider issues at larger spatial scales: Aspen age-class imbalance, role of this property (river corridor) in landscape, heavy harvesting of surrounding industrial lands. SFI planning requirements are met.

Site 1, Tract MI 11-10Rollies Road Sale: 62 acre harvest, mostly Aspen regeneration with coppice retention; stands here are on poor Aspen sites, but goal is to regenerate aspen with modest increase in other species as part of the regional effort towards young forest management (10-15-acre cut blocks at 10-year intervals). Various forest health issues cause stands to start breaking up at age 35 to 40. Retention of some marked aspen, all white pine and most red pine (thinning); some clumped retention; loggers will strive to avoid damage to scattered understory spruce and fir.

Property #2: 10:30 to 12:00 – Peters Marsh Wildlife Area

Property Name: [Peters Marsh Wildlife Area](#)
Property Type: WM
Property Acres: 1,681
Meeting Location: Antigo Service Center –223 E. Steinfest Road, Antigo (715) 627-4317
Field Staff Lead: Chuck McCullough(WM) - Antigo, Office: (715)623-4190 ext. 3131; Cell: (715)966-114
Field Staff: (FR), Pam Freeman-Gillen (FR), Mike Lietz (FR)

Wildlife Property with goals for game habitat and fishing (stream and spring-fed ponds). Marsh has dried up, is burned to control brush; grassland managed for warm-season grasses. Aspen managed for small patch sizes. Hunting for grouse, woodcock, deer, turkey. Management plan 30-years old. Managers have consulted regional ecologist, and are aware of COAs. The last Lincoln-Langlade County Integrated Property Managers Meeting was February of 2011 otherwise same informal planning as described elsewhere (emails or conversations).

Site 1: Jack Pine planting on former farmland

Site 2, Job 10-11: Completed coppice with reserves for Aspen regeneration, with two small pockets of selection harvests in hardwood. Good retention including thinned “reserve” patch stands within matrix of Aspen. The result was deemed to be good habitat for Golden-winged warbler. The main skid road was rutted for an extensive length, but within guidelines. There was some very minor surface erosion, but road is re-vegetating.

Property #3: 1:00 to 2:30 – Upper Wolf River Fishery Area

Property Name: [Upper Wolf River Fishery Area](#)
Property Type: FM **Property Acres:** 8,825
Location: Langlade Ranger Station - W1961 Hwy 64, White Lake (715) 882-2191
Field Staff Lead: Gary Bartz (Lands) – Antigo, Office: (715) 623-2096 ex.3118
Field Staff: Pam Freeman Gillen (FR), Gary Bartz (Facilities and Lands), Mike Lietz (FR)

Master Plan November 1979, update Tier 2 set for about 2015. This unit’s purpose is to protect the main stem and tributaries, including spring ponds, of the Wolf River. Fisheries’ focus is on shoreland protection for cold-water management, achieved mostly via a 300-foot buffer (closer when non-native plantations are being harvested in a conversion program). Management practices on upland areas are based on agreement between wildlife and forestry, and are game-oriented, consistent with a working forest approach. Strategies: Aspen – keep in aspen, and for marginal aspen mixtures attempt to increase aspens component; N. Hardwood – selection system, some big-tree management; Cedar – most located in wetlands or scenic areas, so hands-off, though foresters have some concern

about the long-term fate of cedar. Management issues: many parcels have no access for management; land control challenges, but active efforts to locate and mark boundaries; recreation management, including proximity to the Wolf River State Trail which does allow ATV use (wildlife does not); age of plan.

Site 1, 3410: Aspen and mixed species clearcut with standards, 14 acres, not yet harvested. Location near Hunting River, tributary to the Wolf River.

Site 2, Sale 3410-6-12, Tract 6-12: Sold, uncut conifer plantations. 9 acres red pine crown thinning, will continue to thin leaving some very large pine but allowing stand to convert to hardwoods and white pine. Forester used Kotar habitat classification to confirm this long-term plan. 7 acres white spruce and 5 acres Norway spruce also to be thinned (row and free, respectively). Timber sale contract contained all required elements.

Site 3, Sale 7-12: 55 acre selection in Mixed Northern Hardwood with removal of all Aspen. Stand is dense, even-aged, with limited opportunities for gaps. Made gaps near oak trees and expanded openings where past salvage had opened stand. Discussed regeneration, will track following harvest. Deer target is 20/square mile, and managers report some impact on regeneration. Sale boundaries are 300 feet from the Wolf River.

Site 4, Wolf River Trail: State-owned, managed by Langlade County, with more development to be done; currently great for snowmobiles. Wolf River Trestle represents a significant investment in infrastructure.

Property #4: 2:30 to 4:00 – Woods Flowage Fishery Area

Property Name: [Woods Flowage Fishery Area](#)

Property Type: FM

Property Acres: 1,232

Meeting Location: Intersection of Blakhawk Rd and Flak Rd in Elton.

[Google Map Location](#) – Lat/Long: 45.139612, -88.894136

Field Staff Lead: Chuck McCullough(WM) - Antigo, Office: (715)623-4190 ext. 3131; Cell: (715)966-114

Field Staff: Pam Freeman Gillen (FR), Gary Bartz (Lands), Mike Lietz (FR)

Site 1: Dredge operation to restore trout habitat by removing silt from the bottom of a cold-water, spring-fed pond. Second season of operation; significant investment by Trout Unlimited.

Ron Plank, LTE Fisheries, Assistant Dredge Operator

Jeff Reissmann, DNR Fisheries, Equipment Operator

Boat tour of pond, dredging site, interviewed operators to understand operation; confirmed safety training.

August 15th (Wednesday) – North Team

Auditors: Dave Capen
ICIT Team: Teague Prichard

Property #1: 8:00 to 9:30 am – Pike Wild River

Property Name: [Pike Wild River](#)
Property Type: WR
Property Acres: 4,663
Meeting Location: Driftwood Sport shop (and gas station), N 15085 US Highway 141 Amberg
[Google Map – Directions from hotel](#) – (25 minute drive)
Field Staff Lead: David Halfmann (WM) - Wausaukee, Office: (715) 856-9160, Cell: (715)927-2735
Field Staff: Joe Schwantes (FR)

Pike Wild River—Numerous parcels along the North and South Branch of the Pike River. Management focuses on riparian habitat and wild river recreational activities. Restoration of riparian habitat is a key activity.

Tract 03-10—Small, patch cuts, with 150-foot no-cut zone along river and 150-400-foot zone for careful, aesthetics management. Sandy areas managed for wood turtle nesting.

Tract 6-10—This was a mixed species stand marked for selective harvest; deer browsing was evident and Penn sedge was common. Boundary with private owner was clearly marked. Advanced regeneration was well established.

Reclamation site—This was a 40-acre purchase from a private owner. A cabin, shed and old car were removed from the site, and native vegetation has been restored.

Newly purchased site targeted for reclamation—A house, shed, and guest house will be removed from the site (as much as possible sold at auction); paved driveway will be removed; and trees will be planted.

Property #2: 10:00 to 11:30 – Amberg Wildlife Area

Property Name: [Amberg Wildlife Area](#)
Property Type: WM
Property Acres: 1,189
Meeting Location: The access at the dead end of Smith Rd - 0.6 miles west of Smith Rd and CTH V
[Google Map Location](#) – Lat/Long: 45.458317, -88.047513
Field Staff Lead: David Halfmann (WM) - Wausaukee, Office: (715) 856-9160, Cell: (715)927-2735
Field Staff: Joe Schwantes (FR)

Amberg Wildlife Area—This was a visit to a 1200-acre wildlife area (1982 Master Plan), originally purchased as a deer yard. The area is 57% white cedar and still functions as winter deer cover; no harvesting has been done to maintain the cedar. Aspen and red pine are other major types on the area. Openings have been maintained by burning. Insects were released in 2007 for control of spotted knapweed, and are still effective.

Property #3: 1:00 to 2:00 – Lake Noquebay Wildlife Area

Property Name: [Lake Noquebay Wildlife Area](#)
Property Type: WM
Property Acres: 1,300
Meeting Location: Entrance, FR801 and Right of Way Road (southeast corner of the property)
[Google Map Location](#) – Lat/Long: 45.25693,-87.840189
Field Staff Lead: Kay Brockman-Medegas (WM), Shawano, Office: (715)526-4226, Cell: (715)853-2952
Aaron McCullough (WM), Wausaukee, Office: (715)856-9158, Cell: (715)927-2750
Field Staff: Kate Lenz (FR), Fred Freeman (FR)

Lake Noquebay Wildlife Area—This was a 1300-acre wildlife management area, with extensive sedge meadows, managed as an SNA. Visited one forested site where a mixed stand of aspen, red maple, and mixed hardwoods has been marked for harvest. The objective is to maintain the stand composition with increased age-class diversity.

Property #4: 3:00 to 4:30 – Green Bay West Shores Wildlife Area

Property Name: [Green Bay West Shores Wildlife Area](#)
Property Type: WM
Property Acres: 8,813
Meeting Location: Ellison Fields, Harbor Road – Peshtigo Harbor Unit of GBWS
Field Staff Lead: Kay Brockman-Medegas (WM), Aaron McCullough (WM)
Field Staff: Kate Lenz (FR), Fred Freeman (FR), Mike Folgert (FR)

Green Bay Shores Wildlife Area—This visit was to the Peshtigo Harbor Unit. The entire management area is part of a Global Conservation Opportunity Area on the shores of Lake Michigan. Master planning is in progress. The field visit featured a stop in an old-growth forest, part of an SNA; a field of bluestem grass, burned in spring 2012; and a forest stand marked for harvest where a plan is in place to cut and herbicide shiny buckthorn in the understory. Two more sites were visited briefly, both forest stands marked for harvest, with the objective of creating early successional habitat for wildlife, while retaining patches of older trees.

August 15th (Wednesday) – Central Team

Auditors: JoAnn Hanowski
ICIT Team: Craig Thompson

Property #1: 8:00 to 11:30 – Peshtigo River State Forest & Gov. Thompson State Park

Property Name: [Peshtigo River State Forest](#) & [Governor Thompson State Park](#)
Property Type: State Forest/State Park
Property Acres: 11,551-SF & 2,670-SP
Meeting Location: Gov. Thompson Visitor Center – N10008 Paust Lane, Crivitz 54114 - (715) 757-3965
[Google Map – Directions from Waubesa Lodge](#) (40 minute drive)
Field Staff Lead: Dan Mertz (FR), Maggie Kailhofer (PR)
Field Staff: John Lubbers (FR)

Peshtigo River State Forest and Governor Thompson State Park--The State Forest is operating from a 2007 Master plan and includes 9000 acres. The majority of the forest habitat in the Park is pin oak, aspen and pine plantation. FERC regulates that a 200 ft buffer is left uncut along the Peshtigo River. The Park has a 2004 Master Plan and provides a variety of recreational opportunities including camping, hiking and water sports. A major goal in the Park is to control populations and spread of invasive species.

Western Oak Sale--This 40-acre aspen regeneration harvest lies within the Park boundary (one stand of five that will be harvested). The sale has been marked, but not harvested. Some green trees were marked as well as a red line around a swamp hardwood stand and along a trout stream.

Western Oak Sale--This stand was damaged by a tornado in 2007 and a portion was salvaged harvested in 2008. The harvest prescription was to harvest all trees except white oak, red and white pine, spruce and green marked trees. There was some good advanced regeneration present in the area harvested in 2008.

Mayor Sale 3810-10--This 141-acre sale included an intermediate thinning in a red pine plantation and a 44 regeneration harvest in a declining scrub oak stand (1/3 of the oak was dead). The regeneration harvest was established prior to the green tree retention guidelines and no snags were left on the site. This area is near the Peshtigo River and conservation of wood turtles is a concern here. Staff consulted with an ecologist prior to harvest to determine best management for the turtle. The red pine thinning included a treatment for annosum that was done by a consulting forester. The long term goal in this stand is to promote pine habitat.

Bisjak Lane--This 159-acre sale area was marked but not harvested. We walked into the area (19 acres) where a shelterwood harvest of red oak was set up. The goal is to retain a 60% crown closure and to regenerate the red oak. This species has been hard to regenerate due to competition with red maple and deer browse.

Property #3: 1:00 to 2:00 – Wausaukee Timber Demo Forest

Property Name: Wausaukee Timber Demo Forest
Property Type: FR
Property Acres: 40
Meeting Location: Wausaukee Ranger Station – 1025 Hwy C, Wausaukee 54177 – (715) 856-9157
Field Staff Lead: Joe Schwantes (FR)
Field Staff: Cole Couvillion (FR)

Wausaukee Timber Demo Forest--This 40-acre site was acquired from the Federal Government in 1908 and was mostly a pole size stand of mixed pine originating from the 1871 Peshtigo Fire. It was used as demonstration forest in 1945 and several improvement cuts were conducted through 1962. A timber sale has been set up on this property but not yet harvested. Two overstory removal patches of about 5 acres were established, the red pine plantation will be thinned and the remaining areas will receive a thin from below treatment. The goal is to maintain a multi-aged white/red pine stand.

Property #4: 2:30 to 4:00 – North Branch Beaver Creek Fishery Area

Property Name: [North Branch Beaver Creek Fishery Area](#)
Property Type: FM
Property Acres: 1,159
Location: Parking Area off of Williston Springs Rd (also shown as 32nd/37th Roads on google) [Google Map Location](#), Lat/Long: 45.193538,-88.118564
Field Staff Lead: David Halfmann (WM), Wausaukee, Office: (715) 856-9160, Cell: (715)927-2735
Field Staff: Kate Lenz (FR), Steve Kaufman (FR), Cole Couvillion (FR)

Beaver Creek 33rd Road Sale--This sale was established to regenerate mature stands of red maple and aspen. The forester worked with fisheries to protect this watershed for fisheries resources. Precautions included leaving a 200ft no harvest, no equipment buffer along Beaver Creek and 100ft on the tributaries. The harvest will follow green tree retention guidelines and a target of 30ba post/harvest.

Parking Lot Sale--This sale includes 5 stands with a variety of silvicultural prescriptions. We visited the stand that will receive a regeneration harvest (scrub oak, aspen, jack pine). The sale was marked but not harvested. There was an archeological relic on this site that will be protected by harvesting on frozen ground only. Many green trees were painted on this site.

Appendix V



SFI Reporting Form Changes

Two changes:

1. Contact:

Mark A. Heyde

Forest Certification Coordinator

Bureau of Forest Management

Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources

phone: (608) 267-0565

cell: (608) 220-9780

e-mail: mark.heyde@wisconsin.gov

2. See revised scope statement on page 1 of this report.