

Wisconsin DNR State Lands

101 South Webster Street
Madison, WI 53703

SFI 2015-2019 Standards and Rules®
Section 2: Forest Management Standard

2019 Surveillance Audit



NSF Forestry Program Audit Report

A. Certificate Holder

Wisconsin DNR State Lands

NSF Customer Number

1Y941

Contact Information (Name, Title, Phone & Email)

Mark A. Heyde

Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources

Phone: (608) 220-9780

Mark.Heyde@wisconsin.gov

B. Scope of Certification

Forest management operations on approximately 1,543,367 acres of WI State Lands. The SFI Standard certification number is NSF-SFI-FM-1Y941.

Locations Included in the Certification

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 37,798 acres) are 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
- State Trails Cooperatively Managed by Others (planning and management authority given to others by MOU; primarily counties).

C. Audit Team

Norman Boatwright, NSF SFI Lead Auditor, Beth Jacqmain, SCS FSC Lead Auditor and Shannon Wilks, Team Auditor

Audit Dates

August 20-23, 2019

D. Significant Changes to Operations or to the Standard(s)

The WIDNR has basically completed the process of conducting a major realignment. “As alignment implementation proceeds many staff are taking on new responsibilities or moving to entirely new positions. Some confusion as to responsibilities is normal and supervisors are working closely with staff to clarify responsibilities, identify training needs, and assure that gaps are filled. Assuring conformance to forest certification standards remains a priority in the newly aligned organization.”

E. Audit Results

No nonconformities or opportunities for improvement were identified.

There was an opportunity for improvement identified.

1.1.5 There is an opportunity to improve documentation of forest practices (e.g., planting, fertilization and thinning) consistent with assumptions in harvest plans.

There was/were minor nonconformity(ies) identified.

[Summary]

There was/were major nonconformity(ies) identified.

[Summary]

Issues identified at previous audits reviewed for continued conformance.

Minor CAR 980176 15.1.1 *System to review commitments, programs and procedures to evaluate effectiveness.*

Finding: The FME is not consistently completing its monitoring protocol for documenting the degree to which the objectives stated in the Master Plans are being fulfilled, as well as significant deviations from these plans. Per review of publicly available monitoring reports, several are years behind (<https://dnr.wi.gov/topic/lands/masterplanning/MPReports.html>). For years during which Master Plans were under revision, for some state forests and natural areas, the webpage states “N/A” or “In active master planning process”. For other years, there is a blank space for monitoring reports. Monitoring reports are currently published annually. Per interviews with FME staff, monitoring protocols are under revision and being consolidated.

Approved Corrective Action: The DNR Integrated Certification Implementation Team (ICIT) will work with both the Forestry and Fish, Wildlife and Parks divisions to outline the work that needs to be completed to revise monitoring and reporting protocols. The divisions will make the appropriate assignments to assure that this work is completed. Staff will be informed about the new procedures prior to an internal March 31 master planning reporting deadline.

Resolution: Confirmed by review of the Master Plan and Monitoring Interim Plan and Actions document that the department established an interdisciplinary team to evaluate current monitoring systems and make recommendations. This CAR is closed.

Major CAR 980175 CI 3.1.3 *Monitoring of overall best management practices implementation.*

Finding: In the event of a hazardous material spill, at the White River Fishery Area in Bayfield County, the FME did not immediately contain the material and engage qualified personnel to perform the appropriate removal and remediation on site, as required by applicable law and regulations.

The hydraulic spill observed was roughly eight-square-feet in size and, per interviews with the BMP forester, the affected material should have been removed and disposed of at a specialized waste facility. Several staff interviewed did not recognize the presence of the spill.

Approved Corrective Action: A training session for BMPs was held on site with local DNR staff responsible for the management of the White River Fisheries Area (FA) including spill response and trail rehabilitation including the shaping of trails, broad-based dips, water bars and seeding and soil stabilization.

Resolution: This CAR was closed in 2018 and continued implementation of the corrective action plan reviewed during the 2019 audit. In addition to the actions that the FME has described, the FME provided a copy of the memo

on spills kits signed by the Bureau Director of Forestry Field Operations and sent to Forestry Area Leaders and Team Leaders on November 5, 2018, which ensures that the memo has taken effect per the FME's internal procedures. The additional review in meetings and the article in the ForesTREEporter will reinforce the ideas included in the memo.

Yes No N/A (not using)

All logos and/or labels, including ANSI, ANAB, SFI, PEFC, ATFS, etc., are utilized correctly in accordance with NSF SOP 14680 and SOP 4876. If answering "No", a finding of nonconformity should be issued.

For Recertification Audits:

Auditors are required to review the reports from all audits in the current certification period, starting with the certification or recertification audit and including all surveillance or other audits. The auditor shall consider the performance of the program over the cycle through a review of internal audits, management reviews, corrective actions, continual improvement, and NSF audit findings, to determine if there is evidence of:

- An effective interaction between all parts of the program and its overall effectiveness?
- An overall effectiveness of the system in its entirety in light of internal and external changes?
- A demonstrated commitment by top management to maintain the effectiveness and improvement of the system to enhance overall performance?
- Continual improvement over the cycle?
- The program contributing to the achievement of the client's policy and objectives, and the intended results?
- Repeated audit findings during the audit cycle that would indicate systemic issues?

Answer: NA.

F. Appendices

- Appendix 1: Audit Notification Letter and Audit Schedule
- Appendix 2: SFI Forest Management Public Summary Report
- Appendix 3: SFI Forest Management Audit Checklist and Site Visit Notes
- Appendix 4: Meeting Attendance



Appendix 1
Audit Notification Letter and Audit Schedule



Audit Notification Letter

Mark A. Heyde
Forest Certification Coordinator
Public and Private Forestry Section
Bureau of Forest Management
Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
phone: (608) 267-0565
cell: (608) 220-9780
Mark.Heyde@wisconsin.gov

August 13, 2019

Re: Confirmation of 2019 SFI Standard Surveillance Audit

Dear Mark,

As we have discussed, we are scheduled to conduct the Surveillance Audit of the WIDNR State Lands Tuesday through Friday August 20-23, 2019. This is a partial review of your SFI Program to confirm that it continues to be in conformance with the SFI Standard and that continual improvement is being made.

The audit team will consist of me as SFI Lead Auditor, Beth Jacquain as the FSC Lead Auditor and Shannon Wilks as Team Auditor.

During the audit we will:

1. Review progress on achieving SFI objectives and performance measures and the results of the management review of your SFI Program;
2. Review selected components of your SFI program;
3. Verify effective implementation of any corrective action plans from the previous NSF audit;
4. Review logo and/or label use;
5. Confirm public availability of public reports; and
6. Evaluate the effectiveness of planned activities aimed at continual improvement of your SFI Program.

You will be audited to the 2015-2019 SFI Standards and Rules®, Section 2.

We have worked together to develop the following schedule. The schedule can be adapted either in advance or on-site to accommodate any special circumstances.

I look forward to visiting you and evaluating continual improvement in your SFI Program. If you have any questions regarding this planned audit, please call me at 843.229.1851.

Sincerely yours,

Norman I. Boatwright, III

Norman I. Boatwright, III
Lead Auditor, NSF



WDNR State Lands Forest Certification Audit 2019 FSC & SFI Audit Schedule - Dodgeville Area August 20 (Tuesday) – August 23 (Friday)

High Level Audit Schedule		Daily Site Count
Monday	Travel day – Auditors arrive in Madison, WI	
Tuesday AM	Kick-off meeting in Madison, WI	3 auditors at kick-off site
Tuesday PM	Field Audit (3 Separate Teams)	5 sites per team (15 total)
Wednesday	Field Audit (3 Separate Teams)	8 sites per team (24 total)
Thursday	Field Audit (3 Separate Teams)	8 sites per team (24 total)
Friday	Auditor Time / Desk Audit / Closing Meeting	64 Total Sites

Travel Accommodations for the week of August 19th – 23rd

Hotel Reservations confirmed

Monday, August 19th	Thursday, August 22nd
Wyndham Garden (airport shuttle provided) AC Marriott	
2969 Cahill Main	One North Webster St.
Fitchburg WI 53711	Madison, WI 53703

Auditors: Beth Jacquain (FSC Lead) and Norman Boatwright SFI Lead)

SW Team #1 Route 1 Tuesday, August 20th and Wednesday, August 21st

Round Barn Lodge 2 rooms reserved
 E4830 US-14
 Spring Green, WI 53588
 Driver Assigned to this Route: Chrissy Shaw (608) 485-0784

Eastern Team #2 Route 2 Tuesday, August 20th and Wednesday, August 21st

Best Western 3 rooms reserved
 2701 Cty Rd. CX
 Portage, WI 53901
 Driver Assigned to this Route: Mark Heyde (608) 220-9780

SE Team #3 Route 3 Tuesday, August 20th and Wednesday, August 21st

Holiday Inn Express 3 rooms reserved
 3030 Golf Rd.
 Delafield, WI 53018
 Driver Assigned to this Route: Doug Brown (715) 966-0157

Lunches, water and other break items will be provided each field day with the assigned Drivers.
 Lunch and other items provided for all, as listed on this schedule.



Tuesday, August 20 (Kick-off Meeting, 13 sites)

8:00-11:00 Certification Kick-off Meeting

Location: Bluff/Drumlin Conference Room

SCR Fitchburg Service Center

Fitchburg, WI 53711

608-225-3408 (Sadie Brown's Cell Phone)

Auditors: Norman Boatwright, Beth Jacqmain

DNR Staff: Teague Prichard, Doug Brown, Mark Heyde,

11:00 Depart for Lunch/First Site Visit (ALL together)

Auditors: Norman Boatwright, Beth Jacqmain

DNR Staff: Teague Prichard, Doug Brown, Mark Heyde, Sadie Brown, Mike Finlay, Rebecca Mouw, Chrissy Shaw, Cody Didier, Nate Fayram, Kristine Buchholtz

Vehicles Needed: 3 Lunches Needed: 15

Savanna Sale All Auditors Field Site (1 site)

GPS Coordinates: 42.901027, -89.703092

Property Manager: Nate Fayram

Forester: Cody Didier

1:00 - 5:30 SW Team Route 1, Day 1 (at least 5 additional sites)

Auditor: Shannon Wilks

Additional DNR Staff: Mike Finlay

- Campground Salvage Sale, Nelson Dewy State Park Sale (GPS: 42.731641, -91.016934)
 - Property Manager: Chad Breuer
 - Forester: Tom Hill
- Back Forty 23, Nelson Dewy State Park (GPS: 42.731641, -91.016934)
 - Property Manager: Chad Breuer
 - Forester: Tom Hill
- Basswood Bluff (Lakeside) Sale, Blackhawk Lake (Mandatory) (GPS: 43.026199, -90.275895)
 - Property Manager: Travis Anderson
 - Forester: Tom Hill
- Sunny Ridge Sale, Blackhawk Lake (GPS: 43.026199, -90.275895)
 - Property Manager: Travis Anderson
 - Forester: Tom Hill
- Patch Cuts/ Walnut Salvage Sale, James J Rule Timber Demo Forest (GPS: 43.004192, -90.250587)
 - Property Manager: Tom Hill
 - Forester: Tom Hill
- Avoca Pine/ Lemanski Sale, Lower Wisconsin State Riverway (GPS: 43.187252, -90.361896)
 - Property Manager: Matt Seguin
 - Forester: Scott Lancaster



1:00 - 5:30 Eastern Team Route 2, Day 1 (at least 5 additional sites)

Auditor: Norman Boatwright

Additional DNR Staff: Mark Heyde

- Tower Road Sale, Devil's Lake State Park, Tower Road, Baraboo, WI (GPS: 43.43287, -89.66837)
 - Property Manager: Steve Schmelzer
 - Forester: Nick Morehouse
- Dore Road West Sale, Dell Creek Wildlife Area, 3927-3780 Dore Rd. Lyndon Station, WI (GPS: 43.64621, -89.95007)
 - Property Manager: Nancy Frost
 - Forester: Melissa Gillaume Cappaert
- Dore Road East Sale, Dell Creek Wildlife Area, 3927-3780 Dore Rd. Lyndon Station, WI (GPS: 43.64460, -89.94478)
 - Property Manager: Nancy Frost
 - Forester: Melissa Gillaume Cappaert
- Adamski Sale, Dell Creek Wildlife Area (Mandatory Site), Adamske Rd. Wisconsin Dells, WI (GPS: 43.62493, -89.91285)
 - Property Manager: Nancy Frost
 - Forester: Nick Morehouse
- Northwest Sale, Mirror Lake State Park, E9724 Scott Ln. Wisconsin Dells, WI (GPS: 43.57970, -89.83356)
 - Property Manager: Ryder Will
 - Forester: Melissa Gillaume Cappaert

1:00 - 5:30 Eastern Team Route 3, Day 1 (at least 5 additional sites)

Auditor: Beth Jacqmain

Additional DNR Staff: Doug Brown

- Hi-Lo and P Sale, Kettle Moraine SF Southern Unit, 8201 Hi Lo Rd. Whitewater, WI 53190 (GPS: 42.793, -88.689)
 - Property Manager: Anne Korman
 - Forester: Mike Sieger, Nick Koltz
- East Whitewater Sale, Kettle Moraine SF Southern Unit (Mandatory), 7817 McCabe Rd, Whitewater, WI 53190 (GPS: 42.781, -88.662)
 - Property Manager: Anne Korman
 - Forester: Mike Sieger, Nick Koltz
- Bluff West Sale, Kettle Moraine SF Southern Unit, W6260 Bluff Rd. Whitewater, WI 53190 (GPS: 42.834, -88.609)
 - Property Manager: Anne Korman
 - Forester: Mike Sieger, Nick Koltz
- Young Tam Locust Sale, Kettle Moraine SF Southern Unit, N186 Tamarack Rd. Palmyra, WI 53156 (GPS: 42.844, -88.58)
 - Property Manager: Anne Korman
 - Forester: Mike Sieger, Nick Koltz
- Highway 67 and ZZ Sale, Kettle Moraine SF Southern Unit, W35959 County Rd ZZ North Prairie, WI 53153 (GPS: 42.936, -88.465)
 - Property Manager: Anne Korman
 - Forester: Mike Sieger, Nick Koltz



Wednesday, August 21 (3 Routes, 25 Sites Total)

SW Team Route 1, Day 2 (at least 8 sites today)

Auditor: Shannon Wilks

Additional DNR Staff: Chrissy Shaw, Mike Finlay

- Rush Creek Walnut Sale, Rush Creek (Mandatory) (GPS: 43.374464, -91.136590)
 - Property Manager: Armund Bartz
 - Forester: Rebecca Vasquez
- Onstine Hill/ Blowdown Sale, Kickapoo Wildlife Area (Mandatory) (GPS: 43.118872, -90.886272)
 - Property Manager: Dan Goltz
 - Forester: Rebecca Vasquez
- Dittman Hill Sale, Kickapoo Wildlife Area (GPS: 43.098950, -90.879267)
 - Property Manager: Dan Goltz
 - Forester: Rebecca Vasquez
- Big Rock Sale, Lower Wisconsin State Riverway (GPS: 43.035859, -90.956598)
 - Property Manager: Matt Seguin
 - Forester: Tom Hill
- Dogs Tail Sale, Lower Wisconsin State Riverway (GPS: 43.040545, -90.938856)
 - Property Manager: Matt Seguin
 - Forester: Tom Hill
- Baxter Lane Sale, Lower Wisconsin State Riverway (GPS: 43.054942, -90.881954)
 - Property Manager: Matt Seguin
 - Forester: Mike Finlay
- Stonefarm Sale, Lower Wisconsin State Riverway (GPS: 43.190679, -90.664996)
 - Property Manager: Matt Seguin
 - Forester: Mike Finlay
- Bud Sale, Lower Wisconsin State Riverway (GPS: 43.209746, -90.404968)
 - Property Manager: Matt Seguin
 - Forester: Chrissy Shaw

Eastern Team Route 2, Day 2 (9 sites today)

Auditor: Norman Boatwright

Additional DNR Staff: Mark Heyde

- Heat Stroke Sale, Pine Island Wildlife Area, Levee Rd. Portage, WI (GPS: 43.533199, -89.538792)
 - Property Manager: Andy Paulios (Sara Kehrli)
 - Forester: Bruce Henderson, Dylan Bell
- Stolen Flag Sale, Pine Island Wildlife Area (Mandatory), N. Heln Rd. Baraboo, WI (GPS: 43.552336, -89.624319)
 - Property Manager: Andy Paulios (Sara Kehrli)
 - Forester: Bruce Henderson, Dylan Bell
- HWY CS Sale, Rowan Creek Fishery Area, County Rd. CS Poynette, WI (GPS: 43.381005, -89.414837)
 - Property Manager: Nathan Nye (608) 635-5143
 - Forester: Bruce Henderson, Dylan Bell
- Sentinel Timber Sale, Rowan Creek Fishery Area (Mandatory), Tomlinson Rd. Poynette, WI (GPS: 43.386277, -89.382656)
 - Property Manager: Nathan Nye (608) 635-5143
 - Forester: Bruce Henderson, Dylan Bell
- Rocky Run Resinosa Sale, Rocky Run Creek Fishery Area (Mandatory), Morse Rd. Poynette, WI (GPS: 43.450188, -89.388343)

- Property Manager: Nathan Nye (608) 635-5143
- Forester: Bruce Henderson, Dylan Bell
- Rocky Run Resinosa SNA Sale, Rocky Run State Natural Area, Dunning Rd. Poynette, WI (GPS: 43.455875, -89.371025)
 - Property Manager: Nathan Nye (608) 635-5143
 - Forester: Bruce Henderson, Dylan Bell
- Half Day Sale, Peter Helland Wildlife Area, County Road P Cambria, WI (GPS: 43.534922, -89.217152)
 - Property Manager: Andy Paulios (Sara Kehrli)
 - Forester: Bruce Henderson, Dylan Bell
- Wolfgam Road Sale, Swan Lake Wildlife Area, County Road P Pardeeville, WI (GPS: 43.519140, -89.393037)
 - Property Manager: Andy Paulios (Sara Kehrli)
 - Forester: Bruce Henderson, Dylan Bell
- Dead Buck Timber Sale, Peter Helland Wildlife Area (Mandatory), Sawyer Rd. Cambria, WI 53923 (GPS: 43.521203, -89.191797)
 - Property Manager: Andy Paulios (Sara Kehrli)
 - Forester: Bruce Henderson, Dylan Bell

SE Team Route 3, Day 2 (8 sites today)

Auditors Beth Jacqmain

Additional DNR Staff: Doug Brown

- Tichigan Bridge Sale, Tichigan Wildlife Area (Mandatory) (GPS: 42.82, -88.231)
 - Property Manager: Marty Johnson
 - Forester: Nick Koltz (Mike Sieger)
- Muskego Dam Road Sale, Big Muskego Lake Wildlife Area, Kelsey Dr. Muskego, WI 53150 (GPS: 42.845, -88.147)
 - Property Manager: Nathan Holoubek
 - Forester: Nick Koltz (Mike Sieger)
- Honey Creek Highway EE Sale, Honey Creek Wildlife Area (Mandatory), 32900-33798 County Rd. FF Burlington, WI (GPS: 42.723, -88.275)
 - Property Manager: Marty Johnson
 - Forester: Nick Koltz (Mike Sieger)
- Tichigan and Honey Creek Pine Thin Sale, Honey Creek Wildlife Area, County DD, Burlington, WI (GPS: 42.71, -88.32)
 - Property Manager: Marty Johnson
 - Forester: Nick Koltz (Mike Sieger)
- Dufflin 12 Sale, Kettle Moraine SF Southern Unit, N8548 Dufflin Rd. Whitewater, WI (GPS: 42.8, -88.62)
 - Property Manager: Anne Korman
 - Forester: Nick Koltz (Mike Sieger)
- Highway H North Sale, Kettle Moraine SF Southern Unit, Kettle Moraine Scenic Dr. Whitewater, WI (GPS: 42.834, -88.602)
 - Property Manager: Anne Korman
 - Forester: Nick Koltz (Mike Sieger)
- Eagle 8910 Sale, Kettle Moraine SF Southern Unit, Township Road X, Eagle, WI (GPS: 42.916, -88.467)
 - Property Manager: Anne Korman
 - Forester: Nick Koltz (Mike Sieger)
- Main Pinewoods #4 Sale, Kettle Moraine SF Southern Unit (GPS: 42.959, -88.449)
 - Property Manager: Anne Korman
 - Forester: Nick Koltz (Mike Sieger)



Thursday, August 22 (3 Routes, 24 Sites Total)

SW Team Route 1, Day 3 (8 sites today)

Auditors Shannon Wilks

Additional DNR Staff: Chrissy Shaw, Mike Finlay

- Bogenschneider Sale, Lower Wisconsin State Riverway (GPS: 43.15822, -90.101207)
 - Property Manager: Matt Seguin
 - Forester: Scott Lancaster
- Disturbance 42 Sale, Love Creek Fishery Area (GPS: 43.020490, -89.996393)
 - Property Manager: Justin Haugland
 - Forester: Tom Hill
- Conservation Road Sale, Lower Wisconsin State Riverway (GPS: 43.234433, -89.801463)
 - Property Manager: Matt Seguin
 - Forester: Scott Lancaster
- Mazo Oak Barrens Pine Removal Sale, Lower Wisconsin State Riverway (GPS: 43.240895, -89.746261)
 - Property Manager: Matt Seguin
 - Forester: Scott Lancaster
- Little Blue Sale, Lower Wisconsin State Riverway (GPS: 43.216123, -89.848658)
 - Property Manager: Matt Seguin
 - Forester: Scott Lancaster
- Highway 60 Sale, Lower Wisconsin State Riverway (GPS: 43.199043, -89.953430)
 - Property Manager: Matt Seguin
 - Forester: Scott Lancaster
- Bakkens East Sale, Lower Wisconsin State Riverway (GPS: 43.179337, -90.138787)
 - Property Manager: Matt Seguin
 - Forester: Scott Lancaster
- Monument Oak Sale, Lower Wisconsin State Riverway (GPS: 43.175553, -90.120719)
 - Property Manager: Matt Seguin
 - Forester: Scott Lancaster

Eastern Team Route 2, Day 3 (7 sites today)

Auditors Norman Boatwright

Additional DNR Staff: Mark Heyde

- Horicon South Sale, Horicon Wildlife Area, N Palmatory St. Horicon, WI (GPS: 43.464061, -88.622862)
 - Property Manager: Paul Samerdyke
 - Forester: Bruce Henderson, Dylan Bell
- Greenhead Road Ash Sale, Horicon Wildlife Area (Mandatory), 8600 Green Head Rd. Mayville, WI (GPS: 43.500501, -88.591053)
 - Property Manager: Paul Samerdyke
 - Forester: Bruce Henderson, Dylan Bell
- Jefferson Road Sale, Dodge County Gift Lands, W1673 Pond Rd. Rubicon, WI (GPS: 43.308468, -88.479279)
 - Property Manager: Paul Samerdyke
 - Forester: Bruce Henderson, Dylan Bell
- Plato Road Sale, Mud Lake Wildlife Area (Mandatory), 2498 Plato Rd. Reedsville, WI (GPS: 43.285297, -88.837012)
 - Property Manager: Paul Samerdyke
 - Forester: Bruce Henderson, Dylan Bell

- Double Cat Sale, Mud Lake Wildlife Area, N2799 County Rd K, Watertown, WI (GPS: 43.295997, -88.783943)
 - Property Manager: Paul Samerdyke
 - Forester: Bruce Henderson, Dylan Bell
- Highway Q Sale, Mud Lake Wildlife Area, 8903 County Rd Q, Watertown, WI (GPS: 43.24134, -88.836791)
 - Property Manager: Paul Samerdyke
 - Forester: Bruce Henderson, Dylan Bell
- Golden Road Timber Sale, Mud Lake Wildlife Area (Mandatory), Mud Lake, WI (GPS: 43.229857, -88.872847)
 - Property Manager: Paul Samerdyke
 - Forester: Bruce Henderson, Dylan Bell

SE Team Route 3, Day 3 (8 sites today)

Auditors Beth Jacquain

Additional DNR Staff: Doug Brown

- Highway LO Pine Sale, S100W31365 County Rd LO, Mukwonago, WI 53719 (GPS: 42.862, -88.37)
 - Property Manager: Nathan Holoubek
 - Forester: Nick Koltz (Mike Sieger)
- McMiller Front Stand Sale, Kettle Moraine SF Southern Unit, 38905-38801 County Rd. NN, Eagle, WI (GPS: 42.856, -88.52)
 - Property Manager: Anne Korman
 - Forester: Nick Koltz (Mike Sieger)
- South Tamarack Sale, Kettle Moraine SF Southern Unit (GPS: 42.839, -88.585)
 - Property Manager: Anne Korman
 - Forester: Nick Koltz (Mike Sieger)
- Lima Bur Oak Restoration Sale, Lima Marsh – Storrs Lake Wildlife Area, Lima, WI (GPS: 42.8382988, -88.828585)
 - Property Manager: Jason Cotter
 - Forester: Nick Koltz
- Storrs Lake Oak Sale, Lima Marsh – Storrs Lake Wildlife Area, 1444-5966 E Storrs Lake Rd., Milton, WI (GPS: 42.779311, -88.917808)
 - Property Manager: Jason Cotter
 - Forester: Nick Koltz
- Hook Lake Timber Sale Bad Fish Creek Unit, Badfish Creek Wildlife Area, Rutland, WI (GPS: 42.871764, -89.266693)
 - Property Manager: Julie Widholm
 - Forester: Zach Hylinski
- Hook Lake Timber Sale Anthony Branch Unit, Dane County Stream Bank (GPS: 42.890413, -89.340924)
 - Property Manager: Julie Widholm
 - Forester: Zach Hylinski
- Hook Lake Timber Sale Hook Lake Unit, Hook Lake Wildlife Area, Flying Acre Dr., Oregon, WI 53575 (GPS: 42.944065, -89.324784)
 - Property Manager: Julie Widholm
 - Forester: Zach Hylinski



Contacts: (cell numbers unless otherwise noted)

Travis Anderson	608-279-1511
Armund Bartz	319-327-1295
Dylan Bell	608-547-2135
Chad Breuer	608-723-9699
Doug Brown	715-966-0157 – Driver for SE Route #3
Sadie Brown	608-225-3408
Jason Cotter	262-894-3241
Cody Didier	608-574-6878
Nate Fayram	608-438-4229
Mike Finlay	608-434-2146
Nancy Frost	608-225-7362
Melissa GillaumeCappaert	608-432-6304
Dan Goltz	608-485-0876
Justin Haglund	608-341-9465
Bruce Henderson	608-635-8121
Mark Heyde	608-220-9780 – Driver for Eastern Route #2
Tom Hill	608-574-0859
Nathan Holoubek	608-289-1689
Zach Hylinski	608-225-4076
Marty Johnson	262-945-9461
Nick Koltz	608-295-0497
Anne Korman	414-303-0148
Scott Lancaster	608-963-7727
Nick Morehouse	608-235-5685
Rebecca Mouw	608-438-8022
Nathan Nye	608-635-5143
Andy Paulios	608-534-0092
Teague Prichard	608-628-5606
Paul Samerdyke	920-763-6405
Steve Schmelzer	608-963-0199
Matt Seguin	608-558-5139
Chrissy Shaw	608-485-0784 – Driver for SW Route #1
Rebecca Vasquez	608-606-6180
Julie Widholm	608-516-3895
Ryder Will	608-963-3225



Appendix 2
SFI Forest Management Public Summary Report

Wisconsin DNR State Lands 2019 SFI Public Summary Surveillance Audit Report

Introduction

The SFI Program of the Wisconsin DNR has achieved continuing conformance with the SFI 2015-2019 Standards and Rules[®], Section 2, according to the NSF SFI FM Certification Audit Process. This report describes the 2019 annual Surveillance Audit designed to consider all of the applicable program and 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-SFI-FM-1Y941). In 2009, the scope of the Wisconsin SFI Program was expanded, and the program was recertified including programs for the management of several categories of state lands beyond state forests, such as parks, wildlife lands, and other categories of generally forested lands. DNR land included in the project includes approximately 1,543,367 acres. 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 recertified to the SFI 2010-2014 Standard in 2012 and recertified to the SFI 2015-2019 Standards and Rules[®], Section 2 in 2015 and 2018 (an out-of-phase audit to align with the FSC FM audit cycle).

An Overview of WIDNR Realignment

Source: <http://dnr.wi.gov/news/releases/article/?id=4135>

“DNR started the strategic alignment effort in July 2015 to prioritize core work and align the department's functions and organizational structure with available resources. The effort was launched against the backdrop of a growing workload and a constrained fiscal outlook. The implementation will be accomplished in phases with final changes anticipated by early 2018.

While the effort will result in improved service delivery and enhanced integration of department resources, it will require changes in job descriptions for some employees. The alignment will not result in an overall reduction in the number of jobs at DNR.

Following are a few key points regarding the overall agency and some specific program-level changes:

- DNR's mission is not changing and the alignment effort will not weaken environmental or conservation standards. Instead, the effort is intended to maximize how we use the staff resources we have available, working with our partners to accomplish our mission.
- The alignment effort will involve significant changes for approximately 5 percent of the department's 2,549 full-time employees. These changes may include changes to position descriptions, differences in reporting structure or changes in division assignments resulting from the transformation of seven operational units to five: Forestry; Fish, Wildlife and Parks; Environmental Management; Internal Services; and External Services.
- Other employees may see lesser changes to their position descriptions or program structures. A majority of employees will see no change.
- Responsibility for staff with law enforcement authority will be shifted to the Bureau of Law Enforcement. Law enforcement specialization will improve consistency in delivery of services and administrative efficiencies with hiring, training and policy development.
- The Fish, Wildlife and Parks Division will manage all property management staff and functions. As a result of the changes, Fish, Wildlife and Parks will provide better customer experiences at state properties and more effectively deploy staff and equipment to perform needed habitat work.
- Also, the department's 19 researchers now located in the Bureau of Science Services will join other scientists within programs as well as a new Office of Applied Science within the Fish, Wildlife and Parks Division to ensure management decisions are informed by the best available science.”

Observations and interviews determined the realignment process is fully implemented from a staffing perspective while management responsibilities for certain activities are still being discussed.

Forest Management on Wisconsin State Forests

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. In recent years the average annual harvest has been budgeted at 18,000 acres. This a very conservative number and is based on area regulation. A majority 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, a majority 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. The remaining stands that are actively managed are harvested using regeneration techniques. After harvest these stands are either replanted or regenerate naturally and 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 final harvest, final harvests 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.

Forest Management on Wisconsin State Park Lands

Source: Managing Forests on Wisconsin State Park Lands 2010

Background

From: Wisconsin State Park System *WISCONSIN STATE PARK SYSTEM 2015-2020 STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS • MARCH 2015 2015-2020 Strategic Directions*

"The Wisconsin State Park System is comprised of 110 parks, recreation areas, southern forests and state trails that encompass more than 150,000 acres. Each year, these properties offer the 14 million visitors diverse opportunities for recreation, education and rejuvenation. With over 5,000 campsites, numerous lakes, rivers and recreation trails it enables the public to access Wisconsin's natural and cultural wonders. The public recognizes the Wisconsin State Park System as a place to enjoy sustainable outdoor recreation in secure surroundings. Its services and amenities enhance visitors' experiences of the unique destinations that are key components of the multi-billion dollar state tourism economy.

The Wisconsin State Park System is a leader in protecting ecological landscapes and providing nature based outdoor recreation. It provides opportunities for current and future generations to explore, enjoy, and learn about Wisconsin's natural and cultural resources. Wisconsin State Park System employees and partners deliver to its customers a high standard of recreational services, education and natural resource stewardship. We have a broad, fair, flexible, and adequate base of financial support".

Overall Management Priorities

The strategic direction document referenced above set out five strategic directions and associated goals that will serve as the template for the Wisconsin State Park System to the year 2020:

Strategic Direction: Provide Quality Outdoor Recreation Opportunities and Settings

Goal 1: Operate, maintain, and enhance park resources and services to meet visitor needs and enrich the Wisconsin State Parks' experience.

Goal 2: Ensure that quality outdoor recreation settings are provided by using informed decisions, transparent planning and accurate information.

Goal 3: Strategically pursue new park lands and facilities to meet current and future demand while taking into account available financial resources.

Goal 4: Continue to support and promote a statewide interconnected trails network.

Goal 5: Promote participation in Wisconsin's outdoor recreation opportunities that recognize changing demographics.

Strategic Direction: Conserve, Manage, and Interpret Natural, Cultural, and Scenic Resources

Goal 1: Continue to inventory, monitor and protect natural, cultural, and scenic resources.

Goal 2: Manage vegetation through silviculture and other practices within designated use areas to promote a high-quality recreation experience.

Goal 3: Establish and integrate safeguards to best manage sensitive natural and cultural resources.

Goal 4: Provide creative interpretive and environmental education opportunities that expand public awareness and appreciation of important park resources and issues by reviewing and updating the Statewide Interpretive Plan and establish property interpretive goals that clearly define the interpretive niche of each Wisconsin State Park System property.

Strategic Direction: Strengthen the Wisconsin State Park System Financial Condition

Goal 1: Identify technology efficiencies that improve customer satisfaction and provide cost savings.

Goal 2: Explore strategies to secure sustainable revenue sources.

Goal 3: Continue the development of a long-term capital improvement and replacement strategy for park and trail infrastructure.

Goal 4: Effectively market and expand awareness of the Wisconsin State Park System.

Strategic Direction: Build and Strengthen Outreach and Partnerships

Goal 1: Establish and cultivate Wisconsin State Park System champions and advocates, including individuals, communities, private and non-profit organizations, government entities, and user groups.

Goal 2: Effectively utilize "friends" groups, NCO's, recreation partners and volunteers by promoting and expanding opportunities that leverage and enhance on-the-ground park, trail, and program resources.

Goal 3: Seek new and creative partnerships with nontraditional organizations, such as public health organizations, land trusts and private corporations to promote healthy activities, leverage resources, support development projects and promote our parks and trails system

Forest Management on Wisconsin Wildlife Areas

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. These include hunting, fishing, trapping, hiking and nature study. Edible fruits, edible nuts, wild mushrooms, wild asparagus and watercress may be removed by hand without a permit for the purpose of personal consumption by the collector. Dog training or trialing (hunting dog competitions) may be allowed by permit. A limited number of properties allow additional outdoor recreation at designated locations; like camping, bicycling, horseback riding and snowmobiling.

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 requires that the existing scattered sites be protected and connected. 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.

Forest Management on State Natural Areas

Establishment: The process to establish a SNA begins with the evaluation of a site identified through field inventories conducted by DNR ecologists. Assessments take into account a site's overall quality and diversity, extent of past disturbance, long-term viability, context within the greater landscape, and rarity of features on local and global scales. Sites are considered for potential SNA designation in one or more of the following categories:

- Outstanding natural community;
- Critical habitat for rare species;
- Ecological benchmark area;
- Significant geological or archaeological feature; and/or
- Exceptional site for natural area research and education.

Protection: The SNA Program owes much of its success to agreements with partners like The Nature Conservancy, USDA Forest Service, National Park Service, conservation organizations and county governments. High priority sites on private land are often acquired by partners and help fill gaps in the natural area system.

Site protection is accomplished by several means, including land acquisition from willing sellers, donations, conservation easements and cooperative agreements. Sites on existing DNR-owned lands, such as state parks and wildlife areas, are established through the master planning process. Areas owned by other government agencies, educational institutions and private conservation organizations are brought into the natural area system by formal agreements between the DNR and the landowner.

Once secured by purchase or agreement, sites are formally "designated" as SNAs and become part of the natural area system. Designation confers a significant level of land protection through state statutes, administrative rules, and guidelines. A higher level of protection is afforded by legal "dedication" of SNAs through Articles of Dedication, a special kind of perpetual conservation easement.

Management: Land stewardship is guided by principles of ecosystem management. For some SNAs, the best management prescription is to "let nature take its course" and allow natural processes and their subsequent effects, to proceed without constraint. However, some processes, such as the encroachment of woody vegetation and the spread of invasive and exotic plant species, threaten the biological integrity of many SNAs. These sites require hands-on management and, in some cases, the reintroduction of natural functions -- such as prairie fire -- that are essentially absent from the landscape.

Planning and Inventory

Master plans establish the level and type of public uses permitted, details the authorized resource management and the facility development, and acts as a blueprint for the property, providing for consistent, long-term management, regardless of personnel changes. Plan amendments and variances are considered part of an approved plan. Plan amendments and variances authorize changes to the originally approved plan, add clarity and/or include elements not originally addressed in the plan. Master planning is an on-going process with approximately 66% of lands under certification with an approved master plan. Interim forest management plans are developed for management activities on properties that don't have an approved master plan.

The Wisconsin Continuous Forest Inventory (WisCFI) collects and reports on the condition of Wisconsin's state forests in a statistically sound manner. The data is collected from a system of permanent plots to track forest conditions on an annual basis. WisCFI provides unbiased and reliable information at the property level with the ability to compare to regional trends (such as Forest Inventory and Analysis [exit DNR]). The data can also be used to assist state forest planning, management and monitoring.

The information collected in WisCFI can be used to track the status and trends in forest extent, cover, volume, growth, mortality, removals, habitat and overall health.

WisCFI uses a plot system for collecting data. The plots are placed at a density of approximately one plot per 200 acres of state forest land. Each year one-fifth of the plots--called a panel--are sampled for data collection. WisCFI's data collection process began in 2007 and 2011 marked the end of the first complete cycle of data collection for all five panels. In 2012, the same plots from the first panel were re-sampled and each successive year the next panel will be re-sampled. By re-sampling the plots, data is collected on tree growth, mortality and removals, among other things.

DNR uses Area Regulation to determine the annual allowable harvest acreage.

The US Forest Service's FIA plots system is used to provide growth data; for the state forest system there are additional plots which provide for more detailed analysis and more precise information. Report shares data about state forests: The baseline report for the first five years of the Continuous Forest Inventory highlights the conditions of ten Wisconsin DNR state forests based on a plot inventory system, similar to the USDA Forest Service's Forest Inventory and Analysis (FIA) program. The CFI contains 3,000 plots and the second 5-year cycle was completed 3 years ago (13 years of plot data).

A review of the annual harvest volumes cut from the annual allowable harvest sites and the growth and yield data described above confirm that approximately one-half of growth is harvested annually.

Public Input Opportunities

The DNR has many opportunities available for public input and offers central calendars for public meetings and public hearing as well as opportunities to comment on proposed administrative rules and program guidance.

Surveillance Audit Process

The Surveillance Audit was performed by NSF on August 20-23, 2019 by an audit team headed by Norman Boatwright, SFI Lead Auditor and Shannon Wilks, SFI Team auditor. The audit was conducted in conjunction with an FSC FM audit and the FSC audit team members included Beth Jacquain, FSC Lead Auditor. Audit team members fulfill the qualification criteria for conducting Certification Audits found in Section 9 – SFI 2015-2019 Audit Procedures and Auditor Qualifications contained in Requirements for the SFI 2015-2019 Standards and Rules. 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 SFI 2015-2019 Standards and Rules, Section 2. The audit served to assess conformance for parts of the standard to determine conformity. 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 2015-2019 Standards and Rules®, Section 2 were utilized without modification or substitution.

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. Approximately twenty-five percent (25%) of the sites visited were randomly selected. The remaining field sites were selected based on the risk of environmental impact, special features, and other criteria outlined in the NSF-SFI-SOP. 57 field sites were visited consisting of 24 thinnings, 16 regeneration harvests, 10 wildlife habitat restoration, 1 recreation, 2 final harvests, 1 artificial regeneration and 3 invasive treatments.

During the audit, the audit team reviewed a sample of the available written documentation as objective evidence of 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 requirements included Full Conformance, Major Non-conformance, Minor Non-conformance, Opportunities for Improvement, and Practices that exceeded the Basic Requirements of the standard.

2019 Surveillance Audit Findings

The following opportunity for improvement was observed:

1.1.5 Documentation of forest practices (e.g., planting, fertilization and thinning) consistent with assumptions in harvest plans.

Finding: There is an opportunity to improve documentation of forest practices (e.g., planting, fertilization and thinning) consistent with assumptions in harvest plans.

2018 Audit Findings

Major CAR 980175 CI 3.1.3 *Monitoring of overall best management practices implementation.*

Finding: In the event of a hazardous material spill, at the White River Fishery Area in Bayfield County, the FME did not immediately contain the material and engage qualified personnel to perform the appropriate removal and remediation on site, as required by applicable law and regulations.

The hydraulic spill observed was roughly eight-square-feet in size and, per interviews with the BMP forester, the affected material should have been removed and disposed of at a specialized waste facility. Several staff interviewed did not recognize the presence of the spill.

Approved Corrective Action: A training session for BMPs was held on site with local DNR staff responsible for the management of the White River Fisheries Area (FA) including spill response and trail rehabilitation including the shaping of trails, broad-based dips, water bars and seeding and soil stabilization.

Resolution: This CAR was closed in 2018 and continued implementation of the corrective action plan reviewed during the 2019 audit. In addition to the actions that the FME has described, the FME provided a copy of the memo on spills kits signed by the Bureau Director of Forestry Field Operations and sent to Forestry Area Leaders and Team Leaders on November 5, 2018, which ensures that the memo has taken effect per the FME's internal procedures.

Minor CAR 980176 15.1.1 *System to review commitments, programs and procedures to evaluate effectiveness.*

Finding: The FME is not consistently completing its monitoring protocol for documenting the degree to which the objectives stated in the Master Plans are being fulfilled, as well as significant deviations from these plans. Per review of publicly available monitoring reports, several are years behind (<https://dnr.wi.gov/topic/lands/masterplanning/MPReports.html>). For years during which Master Plans were under revision, for some state forests and natural areas, the webpage states "N/A" or "In active master planning process". For other years, there is a blank space for monitoring reports. Monitoring reports are currently published annually. Per interviews with FME staff, monitoring protocols are under revision and being consolidated.

Approved Corrective Action: The DNR Integrated Certification Implementation Team (ICIT) will work with both the Forestry and Fish, Wildlife and Parks divisions to outline the work that needs to be completed to revise monitoring and reporting protocols. The divisions will make the appropriate assignments to assure that this work is completed. Staff will be informed about the new procedures prior to an internal March 31 master planning reporting deadline.

Resolution: Confirmed by review of the Master Plan and Monitoring Interim Plan and Actions document that the department established an interdisciplinary team to evaluate current monitoring systems and make recommendations. This CAR is closed.

2018 Opportunities for Improvement

2.3.2 Use of erosion control measures to minimize the loss of soil and site productivity.

Finding: There is an Opportunity to Improve the use of water bars as an erosion control measure.

Resolution: Reviewed additional BMP training and no issues were identified during the site visits.

2.3.6 Road construction and skidding layout to minimize impacts to soil productivity.

Finding: There is an Opportunity to Improve the efforts to build and maintain permanent roads, both active and inactive roads, to ensure that they meet Wisconsin BMPs.

Resolution: Reviewed additional BMP training and no issues were identified during the site visits.

9.1.2 System to achieve compliance with applicable federal, provincial, state, or local laws and regulations.

Finding: There is an Opportunity to Improve compliance with applicable federal, provincial, state, or local laws and regulations.

Resolution: Reviewed additional forester training relative to the requirement that spill kits be present when mechanical work is conducted and interviews with loggers on active harvest sites.

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 ensure forest management plans include long-term sustainable harvest levels and measures to avoid forest conversion.

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. Planning approaches vary depending on property size and intended use. DNR uses Area Regulation to determine the annual allowable harvest acreage. The US Forest Service's FIA plots system is used to provide growth data; for the state forest system there are additional plots which provide for more detailed analysis and more precise information. Report shares data about state forests: The baseline report for the first five years of the Continuous Forest Inventory highlights the conditions of ten Wisconsin DNR state forests based on a plot inventory system, similar to the USDA Forest Service's Forest Inventory and Analysis (FIA) program. The CFI contains 3,000 plots and the second 5-year cycle was completed 3 years ago (13 years of plot data).

A review of the annual harvest volumes cut from the annual allowable harvest sites and the growth and yield data described above confirm that approximately one-half of growth is harvested annually.

Objective 2. Forest Productivity - To ensure long-term forest productivity, carbon storage and conservation of forest resources through prompt reforestation, afforestation, minimized chemical use, soil conservation, and protecting forests from damaging agents.

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 the water quality of rivers, streams, lakes, wetlands and other water bodies through meeting or exceeding best management practices.

Summary of Evidence – Field observations of a range of sites were the key evidence. Auditors visited the portions of many field sites that were closest 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 a diversity of types of habitat and successional stages, and the conservation of forest plants and animals, including aquatic species, as well as threatened and endangered species, Forests with Exceptional Conservation Value, old-growth forests and ecologically important sites.

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 minimize waste and ensure the efficient use of fiber 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 8. Recognize and Respect Indigenous Peoples' Rights - To recognize and respect Indigenous Peoples' rights and traditional knowledge.

Summary of Evidence: *The Company's attempts to solicit input from Indigenous Peoples and the tribal liaison positions provided the key evidence.*

Objective 9. Legal and Regulatory Compliance - To comply 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. The ready availability of BMP manuals and access to laws were factors in finding conformance.*

Objective 10. Forestry Research, Science, and Technology - To invest in forestry research, science and technology, upon which sustainable forest management decisions are based and broaden the awareness of climate change impacts on forests, wildlife and biological diversity.

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

Objective 11. 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 12. Community Involvement in the Practice of Sustainable Forestry - To broaden the practice of sustainable forestry through public outreach, education, and involvement, and to support the efforts of SFI Implementation Committees.

Summary of Evidence – *Wisconsin DNR has an outstanding program of outreach and landowner education, with information available at field offices, trail kiosks and on its website. DNR is very active in the WI SIC and participates in logger training.*

Objective 13. Public Land Management Responsibilities - To participate 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. 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 14. Communications and Public Reporting - To increase transparency and to annually report progress on conformance with the SFI Forest Management Standard.

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

Objective 15. Management Review and Continual Improvement - To promote continual improvement in the practice of sustainable forestry by conducting a management review and monitoring performance.

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 Leadership Team of the Fish, Wildlife, Parks 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

Michelle Mateo	Daniel Freeman	Mark Heyde
NSF Forestry Program Manager	NSF Project Manager	Forestry Field Operations Bureau Sustainable Forestry Certification Coordinator Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
789 N. Dixboro Road Ann Arbor, MI 48105	789 N. Dixboro Road Ann Arbor, MI 48105	101 South Webster St. Madison, WI 53707-7921
413-265-3714	734-214-6228	608-220-9780
mmatteo@nsf.org	dfreeman@nsf.org	mark.heyde@wisconsin.gov

Appendix 3
SFI Forest Management Audit Checklist and Site Notes



SFI 2015-2019, Section 2: Forest Management Standard Audit Checklist

1Y941: Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources – DNR State Lands

Date of audit: August 20-24, 2019

Auditors: Norman Boatwright – SFI Lead Auditor, Shannon Wilks – Team Auditor and Beth Jacquain, FSC Lead Auditor

Audited in 2019

1.2 Additional Requirements

SFI Program Participants with fiber sourcing programs (acquisition of roundwood and field-manufactured or primary-mill residual chips, pulp and veneer to support a forest products facility), must also conform to the SFI 2015-2019 Fiber Sourcing Standard.

Use of the SFI on-product labels and claims shall follow Section 5 - Rules for Use of SFI On-Product Labels and Off-Product Marks as well as ISO 14020:2000.

N/A Conforms Exceeds O.F.I. Minor NC Major NC

Audit Notes: FM only.

Objective 1 Forest Management Planning

To ensure forest management plans include long-term sustainable harvest levels and measures to avoid forest conversion.

Performance Measure 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.

N/A Conforms Exceeds O.F.I. Minor NC Major NC

Audit Notes: Management Plans for selected tracts visited in 2019 were reviewed. All tracts with active or recently-completed timber sales (sold after March 15, 2015) are covered by Master Plans or Interim Forest Management Plans (IFMP); this is consistent with policy.

WDNR is working through a backlog of Master Plans with an increased the priority placed on planning. Interim Forest Management Plans 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 audit team reviewed several Interim Forest Management Plans. These plans included the required elements needed to supplement wider scale plans.

The Management Plan process was significantly changed in 2018. Previously based on properties, the process was changed to take ecological landscape approach. The program uses “The Ecological Landscapes of Wisconsin” as a key resource to ensure that management is consistent with a landscape level understanding of the bio-physical environment. For example, Chapter 17 - Northwest Sands Ecological Landscape provides descriptions of the Physical Environment, the Biotic Environment, Management Opportunities for Important Ecological Features of the Northwest Sands, History of Human Settlement and Resource Use, Resource Characterization and Use, Current Socioeconomic Conditions, and Integrated Opportunities for Management. Appendix 17.E. Species of Greatest Conservation Need (SGCN) is found in the Northwest Sands Ecological Landscape. Master plans are developed or are being developed for each Ecological Landscape.

Master Plans/Interim Forest Management Plans were reviewed for all sites visited.

Progress since the 2019 audit includes new plans on approximately 135,000 acres.

Master Plans/Interim Forest Management Plans were reviewed for all sites visited.

Fiscal Year	Acres w/NR 44 approved plan	% under approved NR 44 MP*	Target % under approved MP
13	645,815	49.2	
14	663,027	50.5	
15	672,893	51.3	50
16	754,306	57.5	55
17	865,929	66	60
18	879,201	65.4	65
19	1,014,000	64.4	70

20			75
21			80
22			85
23			90
24			95
25			100

**FY13-FY18 are previously reported numbers.*

FY19 numbers include all DNR-managed lands (fee and easement, without Forest Legacy properties) in Wisconsin, which has significantly increased the denominator used to calculate the percent of areas covered under an approved NR 44 master plan.

Background

The Natural Resources Board (NRB) determines which properties shall have master plans describing their use and management (Ch. NR 1.60, Wis. Admin. Code). The DNR follows Ch. NR 44 when developing master plans for lands it manages. The NRB has adjusted its policy regarding which lands managed by the DNR are subject to NR 44 master plans.

In 2006, the NRB authorized a “tiering” approach that recognized the differences in complexity of management and the depth of analysis and public involvement that master plans for different properties needed. In this system, the DNR developed NR 44-compliant master plans for individual or small groups of properties that were considered highly complex (Tier 1) and larger groups of “medium complexity” properties (Tier 2). The NRB did not require the DNR to develop NR 44 master plans for the small, scattered parcels and properties (e.g., boat access sites, scattered habitat areas, statewide natural area sites, gift lands, fish hatcheries, and streambank easements) that fell into Tier 3.

In June 2017, the NRB authorized the DNR to initiate a different planning system to develop region-based plans (based on the 16 ecological landscapes of Wisconsin). Under this system all DNR-managed lands - regardless of size, development level, public use or access (fee and easement, but not Forest Legacy) - are now included in these master plans.

From FY13 to FY17, the percent of lands with NR 44 master plans did not include the approximately 200,000+ acres of scattered parcels and properties that occur throughout the state because they were not subject to NR 44 under the tiering system. In FY18, the scattered parcels that were included in the regional plan that was completed were added to the total of DNR lands, other scattered lands were not.

For FY19 and going forward, this table includes all lands in the DNR’s Land Records System that are classified as Department-managed lands (fee and easement, but not including Forest Legacy easements). For FY19, this figure is 1,575,100 acres. Because the total number of acres “plannable” under NR 44 has increased, the percentage of DNR-managed lands with a NR 44-compliant master plan has dropped to 64.4%. That is, although the DNR completed master plans on almost 135,000 acres in FY19, the addition of 232,100 acres of land to the denominator (a one-time event) results in a decreased percentage of lands covered by a NR 44 master plan.

The DNR currently is engaged in planning properties in four regions (Central Sand Plains, Northeast Sands, Western Prairie, and Southwest Savanna) with a combined 144,000 acres of lands that do not have a master plan or have an outdated one. The DNR is in the pre-public planning stage for the Central Sand Hills and anticipates kicking off the public involvement process early in 2020 (60,000 acres of currently unplanned lands). With the new system of developing master plans by the 16 ecological landscapes, the DNR is on track to complete master plans for all properties by FY 25.

[NOTE: The total number of acres subject to NR 44 is somewhat of a “moving target” because the DNR acquires (and sometimes sells) lands in most years. Thus, the total acreage for which the DNR includes or will include in master plans is typically a gradually increasing number.]

- 1.1.1 Forest management planning at a level appropriate to the size and scale of the operation, including:
- a. a *long-term* resources analysis;
 - b. a periodic or ongoing *forest inventory*;
 - c. a land classification system;
 - d. biodiversity at *landscape* scales;
 - e. soils inventory and maps, where available;
 - f. access to *growth-and-yield modeling* capabilities;
 - g. up-to-date maps or a geographic information system (GIS);
 - h. recommended sustainable harvest levels for areas available for harvest; and
 - i. 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).

N/A Conforms Exceeds O.F.I. Minor NC Major NC

Audit Notes: Document review and interviews confirm that the WisFIRS system (Wisconsin Forest Inventory and Reporting System) is developed and maintained to house forest inventory from all state lands. All state forests have an approved Master Plan.

Statewide:

- Division of Forestry Five-Year Strategic Plan
- 2011-2016 Wisconsin Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan
- Wisconsin Land Legacy Report: An inventory of places to meet Wisconsin’s future conservation and recreation needs; 2006.
- Wisconsin Wildlife Action Plan (six-year plan, to be updated by Natural Heritage Conservation).

Property Master Planning (property-level planning approach, process outlined in state law and in administrative code NR-44, data-driven):

- See the table above.
- Tier 1 and Tier 2 properties require an NR-44 Master Plan.
- Tier 3 properties don’t have as detailed plans.
- Supported by county, sub-county, or multi-county “Integrated Meetings”.
- Master Plans can be updated through targeted variances.

Harvest-Level Planning

- WisFIRs (Wisconsin Forest Information Reporting System) database provides stand-level information used to determine which areas are likely ready to be treated
- Forester and property manager discuss, obtain context
- Field review by foresters may or may not include robust re-inventory (age of data often determines) or a quick few plots
- Field foresters set up sale, with 3 major sources of guidance (and many other directives and guidance):
1. Silvicultural Manual; 2. Public Lands Handbook; 3. Timber Sale Handbook
- Other sources of information: Natural Heritage Database and the State’s Historic and Archeological Database
- Timber Sale Notices and Cutting Reports, including Narrative Report; accompanied by sale map
- Reviewed and approved by the property manager and forestry supervisor
- Sales valued over \$3,000 must be sold by public bid; must be advertised in local papers

The required items a through g are included in 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.

Management Plans for the sites visited in 2019 were reviewed to determine that they, in conjunction with other guidance documents and assessments, comprise a long-term resource analysis. 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. Foresters inventory a portion of each forest annually using the RECON system. FIA data provide broad growth determinations.

Some harvests are targeted at ecological restoration (e.g. savannas); ecological reference area harvests may not be consistent with growth and yield models because timber is not the primary objective.

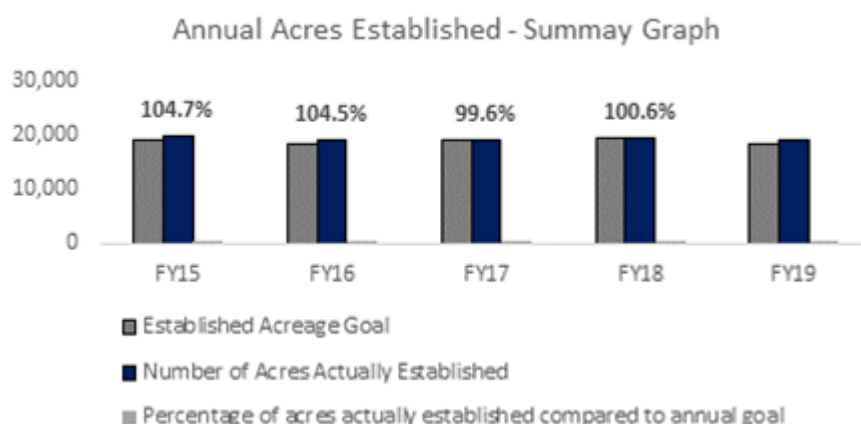
Non-timber issues are a major part of the planning process and include wildlife, recreation and research.

WisFIRS has been improved to include more specific descriptions of non-timber areas. This was done to enable the Wildlife and Parks and Recreation Divisions better manage and schedule activities. Interview confirms that the Wildlife Division has completed about 50% of the stand description updates.

1.1.2 Documented current harvest trends fall within long-term sustainable levels identified in the forest management plan.

N/A Conforms Exceeds O.F.I. Minor NC Major NC

Audit Notes:



Recent harvest levels have been at or slightly above (due to deferred sales) the long-term harvest goal guidelines.

1.1.3 A forest inventory system and a method to calculate growth and yield.

N/A Conforms Exceeds O.F.I. Minor NC Major NC

Audit Notes: Document review and interviews confirm the WisFIRS system (Wisconsin Forest Inventory and Reporting System) is developed and maintained to house forest inventory from all state lands.

The DNR uses area regulation to determine sustainable harvest levels. See 1.1.4 for a description of the forestry inventory system.

The US Forest Service's FIA plots system is used to provide growth data; for the state forest system there are additional plots which provide for more detailed analysis and more precise information. Report shares data about state forests: The baseline report for the first five years of the Continuous Forest Inventory highlights the conditions of ten Wisconsin DNR state forests based on a plot inventory system, similar to the USDA Forest Service's Forest Inventory and Analysis (FIA) program. The CFI contains 3,000 plots and the second 5-year cycle was completed 3 years ago (13 years of plot data).

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, including but not limited to: improved data, long-term drought, fertilization, climate change, changes in forest land ownership and tenure, or forest health.

N/A Conforms Exceeds O.F.I. Minor NC Major NC

Audit Notes: DNR uses Area Regulation to determine the annual allowable harvest acreage.

Document review and interviews confirm that Wisconsin Act 166 (2005) requires the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to report biennially to the Council on Forestry the total timber harvest on state lands. Further, it requires DNR to establish an annual allowable timber harvest for these same properties or groups of properties. Further, it requires DNR to maintain a current inventory (recon) of forest resources on state forested lands.

The US Forest Service's FIA plots system is used to provide growth data; for the state forest system there are additional plots which provide for more detailed analysis and more precise information. Report shares data about state forests: The baseline report for the first five years of the Continuous Forest Inventory highlights the conditions of ten Wisconsin DNR state forests based on a plot inventory system, similar to the USDA Forest

Service's Forest Inventory and Analysis (FIA) program. The CFI contains 3,000 plots and the second 5-year cycle was completed 3 years ago (13 years of plot data).

A review of the annual harvest volumes cut from the annual allowable harvest sites and the growth and yield data described above confirm that approximately one-half of growth is harvested annually.

1.1.5 Documentation of forest practices (e.g., *planting*, fertilization and thinning) consistent with assumptions in harvest plans.

N/A Conforms Exceeds O.F.I. Minor NC Major NC

Audit Notes: Review of the WisFIRS system confirms it is used to document forest practices.

OFI: Sale marked in 2016 and sold April 2019. Leave trees marked in purple paint by ground observation but contract and bid prospect documents list green painted leave trees. Historical practice and contract not changed to reflect purple leave trees. Tract managed by Interim Forest Management Plan. Disturbance 42-Love Creek Fishery 44 acres, Sale #2508-01 Tract 1-19, Restoration Sale.

Performance Measure 1.2

Program Participants shall not convert one *forest cover type* to another *forest cover type*, unless in justified circumstances.

1.2.1 *Program Participants* shall not convert one *forest cover type* to another *forest cover type*, unless the conversion:

- a. Is in compliance with relevant national and regional *policy* and legislation related to land use and forest management;
- b. Would not convert *native* forest types that are rare and ecologically significant at the *landscape* level or put any *native* forest types at risk of becoming rare; and
- c. Does not create significant long-term adverse impacts on Forests with Exceptional Conservation Value, old-growth forests, forests critical to threatened and endangered species, and special sites.

N/A Conforms Exceeds O.F.I. Minor NC Major NC

Audit Notes: Not Audited in 2019.

1.2.2 Where a *Program Participant* intends to convert another *forest cover type*, an assessment considers:

- a. *Productivity* and *stand* quality conditions and impacts which may include social and economic values;
- b. Specific ecosystem issues related to the site such as invasive species, insect or disease issues, riparian *protection* needs and others as appropriate to site including regeneration challenges; and
- c. Ecological impacts of the conversion including a review at the site and *landscape* scale as well as consideration for any appropriate mitigation measures.

N/A Conforms Exceeds O.F.I. Minor NC Major NC

Audit Notes: Not Audited in 2019.

Performance Measure 1.3

Program Participants shall not have within the scope of their certification to this *SFI Standard*, forest lands that have been converted to non-forest land use. Indicator:

1.3.1 Forest lands converted to other land uses shall not be certified to this *SFI Standard*. This does not apply to forest lands used for forest and *wildlife* management such as *wildlife* food plots or infrastructure such as forest roads, log processing areas, trails etc.

N/A Conforms Exceeds O.F.I. Minor NC Major NC

Audit Notes: Not Audited in 2019.

Objective 2 Forest Health and Productivity

To ensure *long-term* forest *productivity*, carbon storage and *conservation* of forest resources through prompt *reforestation*, *afforestation*, *minimized* chemical use, *soil conservation*, and protecting forests from damaging agents.

Performance Measure 2.1

Program Participants shall promptly reforest after final harvest. Indicators:

2.1.1 Documented *reforestation* plans, including designation of all harvest areas for either natural, planted or direct seeded regeneration and prompt *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.

N/A Conforms Exceeds O.F.I. Minor NC Major NC

Audit Notes: Review of WisFIRS System confirms that it is maintained for foresters to schedule reforestation; which issues alerts so that sites are promptly reforested.

Regional ecological impacts of reforestation or afforestation are discussed as part of the master planning or Interim Forest Management Plan (IFMP) process.

Ecological plans for reforestation are bounded by the master plans, or in the Interim Forest Management Plan if a master plan is not in place; reforestation projects are discussed at annual integrated property meetings to assure that proposed reforestation meets property objectives.

Foresters and property managers carefully review every harvest with respect to invasive plants and possible regeneration concerns. In some cases, such as when this option is within silvicultural guidelines, regeneration treatments are delayed due in part to the widespread extent of invasives in the southern portion of the state. However, when regeneration is needed the Wisconsin DNR expends the resources necessary to achieve regeneration, sometimes at great cost.

Site visits confirmed that regen is addressed in the cutting notice and checked periodically for success after logging. Site visits also confirmed the protection of advanced regen is also addressed in the cutting notice and monitored during logging.

2.1.2 Clear criteria to judge adequate regeneration and appropriate actions to correct understocked areas and achieve acceptable species composition and stocking rates for *planting*, *direct seeding* and *natural regeneration*.

N/A Conforms Exceeds O.F.I. Minor NC Major NC

Audit Notes: Document review confirms that regeneration guidelines are species specific and are outlined in the Silviculture and Forest Aesthetics Handbook. Interviews confirm that DNR Foresters use WisFIRS to code the stand and flag it for re-visit if they believe that natural regeneration may not be successful.

2.1.3 Plantings of exotic tree species should minimize risk to native ecosystems.

N/A Conforms Exceeds O.F.I. Minor NC Major NC

Audit Notes: Interviews and observations confirm that no exotic tree species are planted. Apple trees to be planted will be from native stock.

2.1.4 *Protection* of desirable or planned advanced *natural regeneration* during harvest.

N/A Conforms Exceeds O.F.I. Minor NC Major NC

Audit Notes: Site visits confirm that 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 which includes 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.



2.1.5 *Afforestation programs* that consider potential ecological impacts of the selection and *planting* of tree species in non-forested *landscapes*.

N/A Conforms Exceeds O.F.I. Minor NC Major NC

Audit Notes: Interviews confirm that afforestation is done on old fields and local species are used.

Performance Measure 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*. Indicators:

2.2.1 *Minimized* chemical use required to achieve management *objectives*.

N/A Conforms Exceeds O.F.I. Minor NC Major NC

Audit Notes: Not Audited in 2019.

2.2.2 Use of least-toxic and narrowest-spectrum pesticides necessary to achieve management objectives.

N/A Conforms Exceeds O.F.I. Minor NC Major NC

Audit Notes: Not Audited in 2019.

2.2.3 Use of pesticides registered for the intended use and applied in accordance with label requirements.

N/A Conforms Exceeds O.F.I. Minor NC Major NC

Audit Notes: Not Audited in 2019.

2.2.4 The World Health Organization (WHO) type 1A and 1B pesticides shall be prohibited, except where no other viable alternative is available.

N/A Conforms Exceeds O.F.I. Minor NC Major NC

Audit Notes: Not Audited in 2019.

2.2.5 Use of pesticides banned under the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (2001) shall be prohibited.

N/A Conforms Exceeds O.F.I. Minor NC Major NC

Audit Notes: Not Audited in 2019.

2.2.6 Use of *integrated pest management* where feasible.

N/A Conforms Exceeds O.F.I. Minor NC Major NC

Audit Notes: Not Audited in 2019.

2.2.7 Supervision of forest chemical applications by state- or provincial-trained or certified applicators.

N/A Conforms Exceeds O.F.I. Minor NC Major NC

Audit Notes: Not Audited in 2019.

- 2.2.8 Use of management practices appropriate to the situation, for example:
- 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 transportation and 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*.

N/A Conforms Exceeds O.F.I. Minor NC Major NC

Audit Notes: Not Audited in 2019.

Performance Measure 2.3

Program Participants shall implement forest management practices to protect and maintain forest and soil *productivity*. Indicators:

- 2.3.1 Process to identify soils vulnerable to compaction, and use of appropriate methods, including the use of soil maps where available, to avoid excessive soil disturbance.

N/A Conforms Exceeds O.F.I. Minor NC Major NC

Audit Notes: Not Audited in 2019.

- 2.3.2** Use of erosion control measures to *minimize* the loss of soil and site *productivity*.

N/A Conforms Exceeds O.F.I. Minor NC Major NC

Audit Notes: Foresters and loggers have training in BMPs but there are some challenges in the placement and construction of waterbars.

BMP monitoring on state lands was performed 2018 and drat results are just being made available. BMP implementation monitoring addresses road construction and soil protection. Foresters, often supported by property managers from other disciplines, 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 quite limited and reasonable levels of soil compaction and disturbance.

Foresters are also trained in equipment impacts on soils and skid road layout. Site visits identified some erosion issues associated with unusually heavy summer rainstorms, including a storm on June 17 in which over 10 inches of rain fell. BMPs were in place but appeared to have been overwhelmed by this unusual weather event

- 2.3.3 Post-harvest conditions conducive to maintaining site *productivity* (e.g., limited rutting, retained down woody debris, *minimized skid trails*).

N/A Conforms Exceeds O.F.I. Minor NC Major NC

Audit Notes: Not Audited in 2019.

- 2.3.4 Retention of vigorous trees during partial harvesting, consistent with scientific silvicultural standards for the area.

N/A Conforms Exceeds O.F.I. Minor NC Major NC

Audit Notes: Not Audited in 2019.

- 2.3.5 Criteria that address harvesting and site preparation to protect soil *productivity*.

N/A Conforms Exceeds O.F.I. Minor NC Major NC

Audit Notes: Not Audited in 2019.

2.3.6 Road construction and skidding layout to *minimize* impacts to soil *productivity*.

N/A
 Conforms
 Exceeds
 O.F.I.
 Minor NC
 Major NC

Audit Notes: Page 62, Chapter 4 lists 4 BMPs for inactive roads. One requirement (of four) states “Shape all road systems surfaces to maintain proper surface drainage, if necessary.”

Closed roads and open roads, some of which are used as recreation trails, show minor surface erosion in many places. No instances where this erosion led to sedimentation into wetlands or watercourses were observed. Most of these roads do not have gravel running surfaces and are not crowned. Grading is infrequent, and opportunities to ensure surface water is drained from the road are not consistently utilized. There have been several unusually-heavy rainfall events in the region audited. Climate change predictions indicate that more severe summer storm events and more prolonged droughts can be expected. Such a pattern will both slow the revegetation process and increase the amount of road impacts from summer rains. These two factors reinforce the issues and will increase the need for drainage structures on roads. Conversations among personnel from different divisions indicate some uncertainty as to responsibilities for and resources to accomplish road repair and routine maintenance

New logging access road spurs in the units visited were appropriately located, constructed, and stabilized after harvesting. Loading decks, 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.

Foresters are trained in equipment impacts on soils and skid road layout. The impacts on recreation trails by skid roads and trails are clearly a consideration during sale planning and implementation.

No issues related to road and skid trail construction were identified at the sites visited.

Performance Measure 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*. Indicators:

2.4.1 *Program* to protect forests from damaging agents.

N/A
 Conforms
 Exceeds
 O.F.I.
 Minor NC
 Major NC

Audit Notes: Not Audited in 2019.

2.4.2 Management to promote healthy and productive forest conditions to *minimize* susceptibility to damaging agents.

N/A
 Conforms
 Exceeds
 O.F.I.
 Minor NC
 Major NC

Audit Notes: Not Audited in 2019.

2.4.3 Participation in, and support of, fire and pest prevention and control *programs*.

N/A
 Conforms
 Exceeds
 O.F.I.
 Minor NC
 Major NC

Audit Notes: Not Audited in 2019.

Performance Measure 2.5

Program Participants that deploy improved planting stock, including varietal seedlings, shall use best scientific methods. Indicator:

2.5.1 *Program* for appropriate research, testing, evaluation and deployment of *improved planting stock*, including *varietal seedlings*.

N/A
 Conforms
 Exceeds
 O.F.I.
 Minor NC
 Major NC

Audit Notes: Not Audited in 2019.

Objective 3 Protection and Maintenance of Water Resources

To protect the water quality of rivers, streams, lakes, *wetlands* and other water bodies through meeting or exceeding *best management practices*.

Performance Measure 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*.

Indicators:

3.1.1 *Program* to implement federal, state or provincial water quality *best management practices* during all phases of management activities.

N/A Conforms Exceeds O.F.I. Minor NC Major NC

Audit Notes: Interview confirms the state’s hydrologist is available to consult with field foresters as needed in the planning of timber harvests and roads. In many cases foresters are seeking access across a stream or wetland and want to minimize impacts or avoid filling wetlands.

The Division of Forestry maintains a BMPs for Water Quality program, which includes training and monitoring. 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.

3.1.2 Contract provisions that specify conformance to *best management practices*.

N/A Conforms Exceeds O.F.I. Minor NC Major NC

Audit Notes: Clause 18 g sub-clause 1 in the timber sale contract species the use of Water quality BMPs. Sub-clause 1 states “The Purchaser shall comply with all recommended BMPs for Water Quality guidelines as described in “*Wisconsin’s Forestry Best Management Practices for Water Quality*” published by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, publication Pub-FR-093”. These clauses that specify conformance to best management practices were found in the timber sale contracts reviewed.

Review of the timber Sale Contracts for all sites visited confirms the BMP clause was present.

3.1.3 Monitoring of overall *best management practices* implementation.

N/A Conforms Exceeds O.F.I. Minor NC Major NC

Audit Notes: BMP implementation monitoring was conducted in 2018 covering state and county lands. Draft results are just becoming available. Past monitoring showed that the greatest challenges involved road-related BMPs, including inappropriate use of roads intended to be closed or seasonally-closed, and rutting based on frequent use. Sale administrators participate in the reviews of sites selected by the BMP monitoring team for field review. Property managers have primary responsibility for maintenance of forest roads.

The Division of Forestry maintains a BMPs for Water Quality program, which includes training and monitoring. Timber sale contracts contain provisions for conformance to BMPs.

BMP monitoring studies are conducted on state lands on a 5-year cycle. State lands BMP monitoring was completed in 2018 and the data has been summarized in draft form. “*There was a total of 3577 acres monitored over the 38 sales which leads to the average acreage of 94.1 for state lands during 2018 BMP monitoring. Overall, teams discovered that 34.5% of BMPs were applicable to state lands and when they are applicable, 97.2% of the time, they are applied correctly. Only 2.3% of the time was a BMP applicable to the site and was not applied. Like in past years, along with other landowners, different monitoring categories have different rates of correct application. The monitoring category of ‘fuels, waste, and spills’ had the highest at 100% and ‘forest roads’ received the lowest correct application rating at only 93.6%. Overall, correct application rates in 2018 are over 10% better from the baseline data in 1995-1997.*

BMP effectiveness for the state when correctly applying BMPs was high at 99.6% overall. Only two monitoring categories did not receive 100% effectiveness rates when BMPs were applied correctly – ‘wetlands’ and ‘timber harvesting’. Water quality was impacted nearly 70% of the time when BMPs were not applied where they were needed. There was only one major long-term impact found on state land during BMP monitoring.”

Performance Measure 3.2

Program Participants shall implement water, wetland and riparian protection measures based on soil type, terrain, vegetation, ecological function, harvesting system, state *best management practices (BMPs)*, provincial guidelines and other applicable factors. Indicators:

3.2.1 *Program* addressing management and protection of rivers, streams, lakes, wetlands, other water bodies and riparian areas during all phases of management, including the layout and construction of roads and skid trails to maintain water reach, flow and quality.

N/A Conforms Exceeds O.F.I. Minor NC Major NC

Audit Notes: The Division of Forestry maintains a program for implementing BMPs for Water Quality that includes training and monitoring. 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.

Site visits did not identify any water quality issues.

3.2.2 Mapping of rivers, streams, lakes, wetlands and other water bodies as specified in state or provincial *best management practices* and, where appropriate, identification on the ground.

N/A Conforms Exceeds O.F.I. Minor NC Major NC

Audit Notes: Review of stand level maps generated by the GIS confirms that waterbodies are mapped.

3.2.3 Document and implement plans to manage and protect rivers, streams, lakes, wetlands, other water bodies and riparian areas.

N/A Conforms Exceeds O.F.I. Minor NC Major NC

Audit Notes: Timber sale pre-planning and ongoing harvest inspections and documentation were reviewed. The Timber Sale and Cutting Report has water quality and ecological considerations.

3.2.4 Plans that address wet-weather events in order to maintain water quality (e.g., forest inventory systems, wet-weather tracts, definitions of acceptable operating conditions).

N/A Conforms Exceeds O.F.I. Minor NC Major NC

Audit Notes: Interview and document review confirm sensitive soils and wet weather restrictions are addressed in timber sale planning, contracting, and sale administration. Sale administration notes for several ongoing or completed harvests documented instances when the harvest was suspended by the sale administrator or the logging operator voluntarily shut down operations.

Objective 4 Conservation of Biological Diversity

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 the *conservation* of forest plants and animals, including *aquatic species*, *as well as threatened and endangered species*, *Forests with Exceptional Conservation Value*, *old-growth forests* and ecologically important sites.

Performance Measure 4.1

Program Participants shall conserve biological diversity. Indicators:

4.1.1 Program to incorporate the *conservation of native biological diversity*, including species, *wildlife habitats* and ecological community types at *stand* and *landscape* levels.

N/A
 Conforms
 Exceeds
 O.F.I.
 Minor NC
 Major NC

Audit Notes: DNR maintains a comprehensive program to conserve native biological diversity that includes an inventory of stand and landscape level biodiversity features by trained professionals, biodiversity-related research by staff and in collaboration with academic institutions and other partners, a statewide Wildlife Action Plan that includes plans to manage species of greatest conservation need, and conservation of important areas of biological diversity through a system of parks, state forests, and natural areas.

Planning is now organized by landscapes, since the June 2017 approval by the Natural Resources Board to conduct regional master planning based on Wisconsin's 16 Ecological Landscapes, which are ecoregions with similar ecology and management opportunities.

The program uses "The Ecological Landscapes of Wisconsin" as a key resource to ensure that management is consistent with a landscape level understanding of the bio-physical environment. For example, Chapter 17 - Northwest Sands Ecological Landscape provides descriptions of the Physical Environment, the Biotic Environment, Management Opportunities for Important Ecological Features of the Northwest Sands, History of Human Settlement and Resource Use, Resource Characterization and Use, Current Socioeconomic Conditions, and Integrated Opportunities for Management. Appendix 17.E. Species of Greatest Conservation Need (SGCN) is found in the Northwest Sands Ecological Landscape. Master plans are developed or are being developed for each Ecological Landscape. Review of developed plans confirm they address biodiversity at the landscape level.

Discussed process for adding element occurrences to the database, called "Biotics" and mapping them. New element occurrences may take 4 to 6 weeks to be entered. The foresters use the NHI portal.

Heritage's Management Program's Central office staff consists of 3: an ecologist, a mapping/records specialist (part time), and an acquisition/legal/administrative specialist. There is an advisory group: Natural Areas Preservation Council. The program employs a Forestry Liaison, Bureau of Natural Heritage Conservation to assist in the work of the Division of Forestry to implement forest management consistent with rare, threatened, or endangered species or communities. There are also 8 district ecologists who are the NHC's representatives in the field; each district ecologist covers multiple counties; handle all aspects of rare and endangered species as well as management of State Natural Areas.

Larger state forests in the north have opportunities for larger landscape blocks.

4.1.2 Development of criteria and implementation of practices, as guided by regionally based *best scientific information*, to retain *stand-level wildlife habitat* elements such as snags, stumps, mast trees, down woody debris, den trees and nest trees.

N/A
 Conforms
 Exceeds
 O.F.I.
 Minor NC
 Major NC

Audit Notes: Retention of stand-level wildlife habitat elements is guided by several documents that include specific criteria and practices for foresters to follow. WDNR's Silviculture and Forest Aesthetics Handbook also includes specific criteria for conserving stand-level wildlife elements. The Public Forest Lands Handbook includes guidelines for implementing the Forest Wildlife Habitat Improvement Program, which includes specific stand-level projects such as identification, selection, and management of snag, den, nest, or rendezvous sites. As a final example, the WDNR's Old-growth and Old Forests Handbook contains criteria and implementation practices for retaining wildlife habitat elements specifically associated with late successional and old growth forests. All of these documents are prepared by WDNR professionals with input from academic experts and professionals from partnering organizations. Criteria and implementation practices are kept current and represent the best available scientific information for the region. Foresters, biologists, and ecologists collaborate closely and demonstrate

familiarity with these documents and field sites document adherence to the criteria and practices that they contain.

4.1.3 Document diversity of *forest cover types* and age or size classes at the individual ownership or forest tenure level, and where credible data are available, at the *landscape* scale. Working individually or collaboratively to support diversity of *native forest cover types* and age or size classes that enhance *biological diversity* at the *landscape* scale.

N/A Conforms Exceeds O.F.I. Minor NC Major NC

Audit Notes: The main timber inventory is done through forest compartment reconnaissance (recon). Recon is a stand level assessment used to populate the Wisconsin Forest Inventory Reporting System (WisFIRS). Plots include measurements of species, volume (merchantable log tally and basal area reading), stocking, site index, timber quality, and general forest conditions. Recon is done on an as needed basis depending on several triggers (timber sale establishment, closeout, land acquisition, etc.) but no longer than every 20 years on state land.

DNR's Ecosystem Management Planning Team developed *The Ecological Landscapes of Wisconsin: An Assessment of Ecological Resources and a Guide to Planning Sustainable Management* that documents the diversity of forest types and natural communities at the regional level. The state has been divided into 16 ecological landscapes, or ecoregions, with similar ecology and management opportunities. It contains an assessment of conditions for the entire state, and for each ecoregion, broken down by dominant natural community type. In addition, the document includes an assessment of trends in ecological conditions, including those related to anticipated trends associated with climate change.

Property Master Plans include site-specific information regarding natural communities and specific forest management plans describe stand-level size and age class characteristics. During development, Master Plans use information from *The Ecological Landscapes of Wisconsin*. Using the information contained in these and other documents, WDNR develops specific plans for conserving the full range of age and size classes for the forest types and natural communities that are native to Wisconsin. In addition, specific programs have been developed for retaining late successional and old growth stands as well as maintaining a component of the landscape in an early successional condition.

Site visits observed several instances of the WIDNR working to maintain/improve biodiversity through harvest planning to develop young forest or open landscape habitats such as barrens, oak savannah, or young Jack Pine stands developed with gaps to provide Kirtland's Warbler habitat.

4.1.4 *Program Participants* shall participate in or incorporate the results of state, provincial, or regional *conservation* planning and priority-setting efforts to conserve biological diversity and consider these efforts in forest management planning. Examples of credible priority-setting efforts include state *wildlife* action plans, state forest action plans, relevant *habitat conservation* plans or provincial *wildlife* recovery plans.

N/A Conforms Exceeds O.F.I. Minor NC Major NC

Audit Notes: Wisconsin DNR has developed *The Ecological Landscapes of Wisconsin, Wildlife Action Plan 2015-2025*, a ten-year Statewide Forest Action Plan 2010 (with a 2015 update), a Habitat Conservation Plan for the Karner Blue Butterfly, a conservation plan for sharp-tail grouse, the Fish, Wildlife and Habitat Management Plan 2015-2025. Master plans are developed for all State forests and are being developed for Wildlife management areas and Parks and Recreation areas that include forest management planning for conserving biological diversity.

4.1.5 *Program* to address *conservation* of known sites with viable occurrences of significant species of concern.

N/A Conforms Exceeds O.F.I. Minor NC Major NC

Audit Notes: Primary sites (which form the core of native community management areas) are identified by the Natural Heritage Staff in the biotic inventory and are mapped and in a report for each property. Some areas surrounding these primary sites that were managed to support the primary sites have been reclassified from native community to forest production. Integrated planning meetings are held to review proposed timber management; district ecologists participate in these meetings along with foresters, NHC, and wildlife.

"Appendix 17.E. Species of Greatest Conservation Need (SGCN) found in the Northwest Sands Ecological Landscape" lists the following types as having "Major opportunity - Relatively abundant, represented by multiple significant occurrences, or ecological landscape is appropriate for major restoration activities":

Northern Dry Forest; Northern Dry-mesic Forest; Northern Wet Forest (Black Spruce Swamp; Tamarack Swamp); Pine Barrens; Oak Barrens; Northern Sedge Meadow; Surrogate Grasslands; Open Bog; Emergent Marsh; Emergent Marsh - Wild Rice; Submergent Marsh; Inland Beach; Coldwater Stream; Coolwater Stream; Inland Lake; Spring Pond; Warmwater River. Auditors visited restoration or reserved area examples of many of these types.

“Wisconsin’s Comprehensive *Wildlife Action Plan* (2015c) identifies 28 vertebrate Species of Greatest Conservation Need (declining in Wisconsin and or throughout their range) as moderately or significantly associated with pine barrens.” Source: Northwest Barrens Properties – Master Plan. Burnett, Douglas, & Washburn Co, Wisconsin. Many field sites confirmed a comprehensive and widespread program to manage to retain, conserve, and expand barrens habitat where appropriate. Listed objectives support this indicator:

Objectives:

- Maintain, restore, and enhance the ecological function of the Northwest Sands barrens community by providing a core of early successional barrens habitat.
- Manage barrens as a shifting mosaic of habitat by following the principles and general framework described in the Northwest Sands Habitat Corridor Plan (Reetz et. al, 2013).
- Protect, maintain, and increase barrens ground layer vegetation with specific emphasis on rare plants.
- Protect and maintain wildlife associated with barrens habitat, with specific emphasis on rare birds, herptiles and invertebrates.
- Allow large savanna legacy trees in rare circumstances (oak and pine), to provide savanna structure, mast crops and seed trees.
- Maintain, restore, and enhance the ecological function of the Northwest Sands barrens community by providing a core of early successional barrens habitat.
- Manage barrens as a shifting mosaic of habitat by following the principles and general framework described in the Northwest Sands Habitat Corridor Plan (Reetz et. al, 2013).
- Protect, maintain, and increase barrens ground layer vegetation with specific emphasis on rare plants.
- Protect and maintain wildlife associated with barrens habitat, with specific emphasis on rare birds, herptiles and invertebrates.
- Allow large savanna legacy trees in rare circumstances (oak and pine), to provide savanna structure, mast crops and seed trees.

4.1.6 Identification and *protection of non-forested wetlands*, including bogs, fens and marshes, and *vernal pools* of ecological significance.

N/A Conforms Exceeds O.F.I. Minor NC Major NC

Audit Notes: Interviews and observation confirm that non-forested wetlands are excluded from harvest areas, with equipment exclusion and protection ensured by painted trees along edges and BMPs recommending not placing slash or tops in these areas. Auditors confirmed these protection measures on the many harvest sites that were inspected where these features were present.

During the Master Plan development process, non-forested wetlands are considered as a forest cover type. Non-forested wetlands such as bogs, fens, and marshes are addressed as part of the Natural Heritage Inventory and State Natural Areas Program. These features are identified by trained ecologists during statewide, regional (i.e., landscape), property, and stand-level inventories and are protected as natural areas or special management areas. DNR manages an extensive array of natural areas that, among other things, include ecologically significant wetlands, bogs, fens, and marshes. In addition, The Ecological Landscapes of Wisconsin addresses these features. At the property and stand level, ecologists, biologists, and foresters identify and protect smaller wetlands and vernal (ephemeral) pools, as evidenced during site visits. DNR is developing a reference wetland project to identify high quality wetlands, of which some are already set aside in SNAs.

4.1.7 Participation in *programs* and demonstration of activities as appropriate to limit the introduction, spread and impact of *invasive exotic plants and animals* that directly threaten or are likely to threaten *native* plant and animal communities.

N/A Conforms Exceeds O.F.I. Minor NC Major NC

Audit Notes: Clause 18 g sub-clause 2 in the timber sale contract specifies the use of invasive control BMPs. Sub-clause 2 states:

“The Purchaser shall make every attempt to comply with Forestry BMPs for Invasive Species as described in “Wisconsin’s Forestry Best Management Practices for Invasive Species” published by the Wisconsin Department of

Natural Resources, publication Pub-FR-444-09 unless specifically provided otherwise below. In particular, the Purchaser agrees to work cooperatively with the administering forester and any subcontractors to address the considerations in BMPs 4.4, 4.5, 4.6, 5.1, 5.2, 5.3, 5.5 and 9.1. A copy of this publication is available upon request to the Seller if not possessed by the Purchaser.

DNR has a comprehensive program for identifying, controlling, and monitoring the occurrence of invasive exotic plants and animals that threaten the ecological integrity of the state's ecosystems. See, for example, the Wisconsin Invasive Species Program Reports. The WDNR Silviculture and Forest Aesthetics Handbook specifically addresses upland invasive species and field foresters, biologists, and ecologists demonstrated expert knowledge of invasive exotic species management. Many of the field sites, for example, included some element of invasive exotic plants and WDNR staff identified the species and explained how control had been included in the management plan through harvest modification, mechanical or chemical treatment, or requiring pressure-washing logging equipment. The WDNR website contains current information for the public to promote the control of aquatic, terrestrial, and wetland invasive species and the Department maintains a staff of qualified professionals who focus exclusively on invasive species management.

Field site visits and review of harvest justifications did not identify any issues.

4.1.8 Consider the role of natural disturbances, including the use of prescribed or natural fire where appropriate, and *forest health* threats in relation to *biological diversity* when developing forest management plans.

N/A Conforms Exceeds O.F.I. Minor NC Major NC

Audit Notes: WDNR employs a fire ecology scientist and the position is currently vacant.

WDNR considers the role of natural disturbance regimes in its statewide, landscape, property, and stand management plans and strives to maintain a natural distribution of stand types, age and size classes, and natural communities. Prescribed fire is an active part of the Department's management program and is used to improve wildlife habitat, control invasive species, restore and maintain native plant communities, and reduce wildfire potential. Examples of such efforts include: creating and maintaining barrens, stimulating prairie grass growth and improving habitat for upland game and waterfowl; maintaining pockets of open water for waterfowl by using draw-downs (e.g., at Crex Meadows); improving habitat for upland nesting birds; and helping to preserve grassland and savanna natural communities that were previously dependent on natural fires prior to European settlement. Prescribed burn plans are developed by trained professionals with multi-disciplinary input from ecologists, biologists, and foresters.

Performance Measure 4.2

Program Participants shall protect threatened and endangered species, Forests with Exceptional Conservation Values (FECV) and old-growth forests. Indicators:

4.2.1 Program to protect threatened and endangered species.

N/A Conforms Exceeds O.F.I. Minor NC Major NC

Audit Notes: Not Audited in 2019.

4.2.2 Program to locate and protect known sites flora and fauna 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.

N/A Conforms Exceeds O.F.I. Minor NC Major NC

Audit Notes: Not Audited in 2019.

4.2.3 Support of and participation in plans or *programs* for the *conservation of old-growth forests* in the region of ownership or forest tenure.

N/A Conforms Exceeds O.F.I. Minor NC Major NC

Audit Notes: Not Audited in 2019.

Performance Measure 4.3

Program Participants shall manage ecologically important sites in a manner that takes into account their unique qualities. Indicators:

4.3.1 Use of information such as existing natural heritage data or expert advice in identifying or selecting ecologically important sites for *protection*.

N/A Conforms Exceeds O.F.I. Minor NC Major NC

Audit Notes: Not Audited in 2019.

4.3.2 Appropriate mapping, cataloging and management of identified ecologically important sites.

N/A Conforms Exceeds O.F.I. Minor NC Major NC

Audit Notes: Not Audited in 2019.

Performance Measure 4.4

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*. Indicators:

4.4.1 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.

N/A Conforms Exceeds O.F.I. Minor NC Major NC

Audit Notes: Not Audited in 2019.

4.4.2 A methodology to incorporate research results and field applications of *biodiversity* and ecosystem research into forest management decisions.

N/A Conforms Exceeds O.F.I. Minor NC Major NC

Audit Notes: Not Audited in 2019.

Objective 5 *Management of Visual Quality and Recreational Benefits*

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

Performance Measure 5.1

Program Participants shall manage the impact of harvesting on *visual quality*. Indicators:

5.1.1 Program to address visual quality management.

N/A
 Conforms
 Exceeds
 O.F.I.
 Minor NC
 Major NC

Audit Notes: The DNR has developed its own aesthetics guidelines as part of the Silviculture and Forest Aesthetics Handbook. It involves assigning class codes to all timber sales as guidance to the foresters. The cutting notice has an aesthetics section.

Areas with special visual qualities can be protected through master and interim planning utilizing a land classification of "Scenic Resource Management Area" (NR44.06 (9)). In this zone, timber and other property management is required to be designed, to the extent possible, to minimize visual impacts. All foresters, as part of new forester training, are trained in visual quality management; see the department's Silviculture and Forest Aesthetics Handbook. Department staff, both property managers and foresters meet with affected neighboring land owners and affected publics to discuss the mitigation of negative visual impacts on a case by case basis. Areas with special visual qualities are identified in property master plans and in the WisFIRS forest reconnaissance system.

5.1.2 Incorporation of aesthetic considerations in harvesting, road, landing design and management, and other management activities where visual impacts are a concern.

N/A
 Conforms
 Exceeds
 O.F.I.
 Minor NC
 Major NC

Audit Notes: See 5.1.1. Site visits did not identify any aesthetic issues.

Performance Measure 5.2

Program Participants shall manage the size, shape and placement of clearcut harvests. Indicators:

5.2.1 Average size of clearcut harvest areas does not exceed 120 acres (50 hectares), except when necessary to meet regulatory requirements, achieve ecological *objectives* or to respond to *forest health* emergencies or other natural catastrophes.

N/A
 Conforms
 Exceeds
 O.F.I.
 Minor NC
 Major NC

Audit Notes: Not Audited in 2019.

5.2.2 Documentation through internal records of clearcut size and the process for calculating average size.

N/A
 Conforms
 Exceeds
 O.F.I.
 Minor NC
 Major NC

Audit Notes: Not Audited in 2019.

Performance Measure 5.3

Program Participants shall adopt a *green-up requirement* or alternative methods that provide for *visual quality*. Indicators:

5.3.1 *Program* implementing the *green-up requirement* or alternative methods.

N/A
 Conforms
 Exceeds
 O.F.I.
 Minor NC
 Major NC

Audit Notes: Not Audited in 2019.

5.3.2 Harvest area tracking system to demonstrate conformance with the *green-up requirement* or alternative methods.

N/A
 Conforms
 Exceeds
 O.F.I.
 Minor NC
 Major NC

Audit Notes: Not Audited in 2019.

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*.

N/A Conforms Exceeds O.F.I. Minor NC Major NC

Audit Notes: Not Audited in 2019.

Performance Measure 5.4

Program Participants shall support and promote recreational opportunities for the public. Indicator:

5.4.1 Provide recreational opportunities for the public, where consistent with forest management *objectives*.

N/A Conforms Exceeds O.F.I. Minor NC Major NC

Audit Notes: Not Audited in 2019.

Objective 6 *Protection of Special Sites*

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

Performance Measure 6.1

Program Participants shall identify *special sites* and manage them in a manner appropriate for their unique features. Indicators:

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*.

N/A Conforms Exceeds O.F.I. Minor NC Major NC

Audit Notes: Not Audited in 2019.

6.1.2 Appropriate mapping, cataloging and management of identified *special sites*.

N/A Conforms Exceeds O.F.I. Minor NC Major NC

Audit Notes: Not Audited in 2019.



Objective 7 Efficient Use of Fiber Resources

To *minimize* waste and ensure the efficient use of fiber resources.

Performance Measure 7.1

Program Participants shall employ appropriate forest harvesting technology and in-woods manufacturing processes and practices to *minimize* waste and ensure efficient utilization of harvested trees, where consistent with other *SFI Standard objectives*. Indicator:

7.1.1 *Program* or monitoring system to ensure efficient utilization, which may include provisions to ensure:

- 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 the potential of increased fuels build-up) and other utilization needs;
- b. training or incentives to encourage loggers to enhance utilization;
- c. exploration of markets for underutilized species and low-grade wood and alternative markets (e.g., bioenergy markets); or
- d. periodic inspections and reports noting utilization and product separation.

N/A Conforms Exceeds O.F.I. Minor NC Major NC

Audit Notes: Not Audited in 2019.



Objective 8 Recognize and Respect *Indigenous Peoples'* Rights

To recognize and respect *Indigenous Peoples'* rights and traditional knowledge.

Performance Measure 8.1

Program Participants shall recognize and respect Indigenous Peoples' rights. Indicator:

8.1.1 *Program Participants* will provide a written *policy* acknowledging a commitment to recognize and respect the rights of *Indigenous Peoples*.

- N/A
- Conforms
- Exceeds
- O.F.I.
- Minor NC
- Major NC

Audit Notes: Not Audited in 2019.

Performance Measure 8.2

Program Participants with forest management responsibilities on public lands shall confer with affected *Indigenous Peoples* with respect to sustainable forest management practices. Indicator:

8.2.1 *Program* that includes communicating with affected *Indigenous Peoples* to enable *Program Participants* to:

- a. understand and respect traditional forest-related knowledge;
- b. identify and protect spiritually, historically, or culturally important sites;
- 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; and
- d. respond to *Indigenous Peoples'* inquiries and concerns received.

- N/A
- Conforms
- Exceeds
- O.F.I.
- Minor NC
- Major NC

Audit Notes: Not Audited in 2019.

Performance Measure 8.3

Program Participants are encouraged to communicate with and shall respond to local *Indigenous Peoples* with respect to sustainable forest management practices on their private lands. Indicators:

8.3.1 *Program Participants* are aware of *traditional forest-related knowledge*, such as known cultural heritage sites, the use of wood in traditional buildings and crafts, and flora that may be used in cultural practices for food, ceremonies or medicine.

- N/A
- Conforms
- Exceeds
- O.F.I.
- Minor NC
- Major NC

Audit Notes: Not Audited in 2019.

8.3.2 Respond to *Indigenous Peoples'* inquiries and concerns received.

- N/A
- Conforms
- Exceeds
- O.F.I.
- Minor NC
- Major NC

Audit Notes: Not Audited in 2019.

Objective 9 Legal and Regulatory Compliance

To comply with applicable federal, provincial, state and local laws and regulations.

Performance Measure 9.1

Program Participants shall comply with applicable federal, provincial, state and local *forestry* and related social and environmental laws and regulations. Indicators:

9.1.1 Access to relevant laws and regulations in appropriate locations.

N/A
 Conforms
 Exceeds
 O.F.I.
 Minor NC
 Major NC

Audit Notes: Not Audited in 2019.

9.1.2 System to achieve compliance with applicable federal, provincial, state, or local laws and regulations.

N/A
 Conforms
 Exceeds
 O.F.I.
 Minor NC
 Major NC

Audit Notes: Wisconsin DNR employs an attorney to review key aspects of all programs and major actions.

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.

Experienced foresters employed by WDNR review and approve most projects, and legal/regulatory compliance is part of these reviews.

All harvests are planned and supervised by trained foresters and operated by trained loggers.

9.1.3 Demonstration of commitment to legal compliance through *available regulatory action information*.

N/A
 Conforms
 Exceeds
 O.F.I.
 Minor NC
 Major NC

Audit Notes: Not Audited in 2019.

Performance Measure 9.2

Program Participants shall take appropriate steps to comply with all applicable social laws at the federal, provincial, state and local levels in the country in which the *Program Participant* operates. Indicators:

9.2.1 Written *policy* demonstrating commitment to comply with social laws, such as those covering civil rights, equal employment opportunities, anti-discrimination and anti-harassment measures, workers' compensation, *Indigenous Peoples'* rights, workers' and communities' right to know, prevailing wages, workers' right to organize, and occupational health and safety.

N/A
 Conforms
 Exceeds
 O.F.I.
 Minor NC
 Major NC

Audit Notes: Not Audited in 2019.

9.2.2 *Forestry enterprises* will respect the rights of workers and labor representatives in a manner that encompasses the intent of the International Labor Organization (ILO) core conventions.

N/A
 Conforms
 Exceeds
 O.F.I.
 Minor NC
 Major NC

Audit Notes: Not Audited in 2019.

Objective 10 Forestry Research, Science and Technology

To invest in *forestry* research, science and technology, upon which sustainable forest management decisions are based and broaden the awareness of *climate change* impacts on forests, *wildlife* and *biological diversity*.

Performance Measure 10.1

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. Indicators:

10.1.1 Financial or in-kind support of research to address questions of relevance in the region of operations. Examples could include, but are not limited to, areas of forest *productivity*, water quality, biodiversity, community issues, or similar areas which build broader understanding of the benefits and impacts of forest management.

N/A Conforms Exceeds O.F.I. Minor NC Major NC

Audit Notes: Not Audited in 2019.

10.1.2 Research on genetically engineered trees via *forest tree biotechnology* shall adhere to all applicable federal, state, and provincial regulations and international protocols ratified by the United States and/or Canada depending on jurisdiction of management.

N/A Conforms Exceeds O.F.I. Minor NC Major NC

Audit Notes: Not Audited in 2019.

Performance Measure 10.2

Program Participants shall individually and/or 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*. Indicator:

10.2.1 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.

N/A Conforms Exceeds O.F.I. Minor NC Major NC

Audit Notes: Not Audited in 2019.

Performance Measure 10.3

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*. Indicators:

10.3.1 Where available, monitor information generated from regional climate models on *long-term forest health*, *productivity* and *economic viability*.

N/A Conforms Exceeds O.F.I. Minor NC Major NC

Audit Notes: Not Audited in 2019.

10.3.2 *Program Participants* are knowledgeable about *climate change* impacts on *wildlife*, *wildlife habitats* and *conservation of biological diversity* through international, national, regional or local *programs*.

N/A Conforms Exceeds O.F.I. Minor NC Major NC

Audit Notes: Not Audited in 2019.

Objective 11 Training and Education

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

Performance Measure 11.1

Program Participants shall require appropriate training of personnel and contractors so that they are competent to fulfill their responsibilities under the *SFI 2015-2019 Forest Management Standard*. Indicators:

11.1.1 Written statement of commitment to the *SFI 2015-2019 Forest Management Standard* communicated throughout the organization, particularly to facility and woodland managers, and field foresters.

N/A Conforms Exceeds O.F.I. Minor NC Major NC

Audit Notes: Confirmed by review of email to employees dated 8/7/2015 from Mark Heyde. The commitment is also present in the Public Forest Lands Handbook CN 320/10.

11.1.2 Assignment and understanding of roles and responsibilities for achieving *SFI 2015-2019 Forest Management Standard objectives*.

N/A Conforms Exceeds O.F.I. Minor NC Major NC

Audit Notes: 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. Each state employee involved in the audit clearly understood their certification responsibilities.

11.1.3 Staff education and training sufficient to their roles and responsibilities.

N/A Conforms Exceeds O.F.I. Minor NC Major NC

Audit Notes: Auditors 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.

11.1.4 Contractor education and training sufficient to their roles and responsibilities.

N/A Conforms Exceeds O.F.I. Minor NC Major NC

Audit Notes: For harvest operations, interviews with timber sale administrators indicate they expect a trained person with on-site responsibility. Training status is checked on-line and confirmed during the pre-harvest meeting with the logger.

WDNR requires pesticide applicators to be a WI Commercial Certified pesticide Applicator. Confirmed by review of contract for spray work on the Rowan Creek Fishery Area Hwy CS and Sentinel Timber Sale Areas.

Interview confirms that the Site Prep contractors are given site specific guidance by DNR personnel.

11.1.5 *Program Participants* shall have written agreements for the use of *qualified logging professionals* and/or *certified logging professionals* (where available) and/or *wood producers* that have completed training *programs* and are recognized as *qualified logging professionals*.

N/A Conforms Exceeds O.F.I. Minor NC Major NC

Audit Notes: WDNR supports the Master logger program and the SFI SIC FISTA program.

Review of Timber Sale Contracts for all harvest sites visited confirm they contain a trained logger clause.

Performance Measure 11.2

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*.

Indicators:

11.2.1 Participation in or support of *SFI Implementation Committees* to establish criteria and identify delivery mechanisms for *wood producer* training courses and periodic continuing education that address:

- 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. awareness of rare forested natural communities as identified by provincial or state agencies, or by credible organizations such as NatureServe, The Nature Conservancy, etc.
- f. logging safety;
- g. U.S. Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) and Canadian Centre for Occupational Health and Safety (CCOHS) regulations, wage and hour rules, and other provincial, state and local employment laws;
- h. transportation issues;
- i. business management;
- j. public policy and outreach; and
- k. awareness of emerging technologies.

N/A Conforms Exceeds O.F.I. Minor NC Major NC

Audit Notes: Confirmed considerable involvement in the Wisconsin SFI Implementation Committee and by Mark's participation in the WI SIC. WIDNR foresters also instruct FISTA training programs.

Confirmed by review of meeting minutes that WIDNR attended all of the meetings since the last audit.

11.2.2 The *SIC-approved wood producer training programs* shall have a continuing education component with coursework that supports the current training *programs*, safety and the *principles of sustainable forestry*.

N/A Conforms Exceeds O.F.I. Minor NC Major NC

Audit Notes: Review of the website confirms the FISTA training has a 4-hour annual training requirement.

11.2.3 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.

N/A Conforms Exceeds O.F.I. Minor NC Major NC

Audit Notes: WI has a Master Logger program that is supported by the SIC.

Objective 12 Community Involvement and Landowner Outreach

To broaden the practice of *sustainable forestry* through public outreach, education, and involvement, and to support the efforts of *SFI Implementation Committees*.

Performance Measure 12.1

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. Indicators:

12.1.1 Support, including financial, for efforts of *SFI Implementation Committees*.

N/A Conforms Exceeds O.F.I. Minor NC Major NC

Audit Notes: Not Audited in 2019.

12.1.2 Support, individually or collaboratively, education and outreach to forest landowners describing the importance and providing implementation guidance on:

- a. best management practices;
- b. reforestation and afforestation;
- c. visual quality management;
- d. conservation objectives, such as critical wildlife habitat elements, biodiversity, threatened and endangered species, and Forests with Exceptional Conservation Value;
- e. management of harvest residue (e.g., slash, limbs, tops) considers economic, social, environmental factors (e.g., organic and nutrient value to future forests) and other utilization needs;
- f. control of invasive exotic plants and animals;
- g. characteristics of *special sites*; and
- h. reduction of wildfire risk.

N/A Conforms Exceeds O.F.I. Minor NC Major NC

Audit Notes: Not Audited in 2019.

12.1.3 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.

N/A Conforms Exceeds O.F.I. Minor NC Major NC

Audit Notes: Not Audited in 2019.

Performance Measure 12.2

Program Participants shall support and promote, at the state, provincial or other appropriate levels, mechanisms for public outreach, education and involvement related to sustainable forest management. Indicator:

12.2.1 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.

N/A Conforms Exceeds O.F.I. Minor NC Major NC

Audit Notes: Not Audited in 2019.



Performance Measure 12.3

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*. Indicators:

12.3.1 Support for *SFI Implementation Committees* (e.g., toll-free numbers and other efforts) to address concerns about apparent nonconforming practices.

- N/A Conforms Exceeds O.F.I. Minor NC Major NC

Audit Notes: Not Audited in 2019.

12.3.2 Process to receive and respond to public inquiries. *SFI Implementation Committees* shall submit data annually to *SFI Inc.* regarding concerns received and responses.

- N/A Conforms Exceeds O.F.I. Minor NC Major NC

Audit Notes: Not Audited in 2019.

Objective 13 *Public Land Management Responsibilities*

To participate and implement sustainable forest management on *public lands*.

Performance Measure 13.1

Program Participants with forest management responsibilities on *public lands* shall participate in the development of *public land* planning and management processes. Indicators:

13.1.1 Involvement in *public land* planning and management activities with appropriate governmental entities and the public.

N/A Conforms Exceeds O.F.I. Minor NC Major NC

Audit Notes: Public input opportunities during master planning are superb including: Local outreach to stakeholders and the community level: annual stakeholder meetings, listening sessions, newsletters, integrated property management meetings; outreach is scaled to the public’s level of interest and relative risk.

Web information is listed by property.

Interim forest management plan (IFMP) development is offered for public review.

13.1.2 Appropriate contact with local stakeholders over forest management issues through state, provincial, federal or independent collaboration.

N/A Conforms Exceeds O.F.I. Minor NC Major NC

Audit Notes: See 13.1.1 above. Local stakeholders are asked to comment on Master and Interim Forest plans, all internal guidance formulated by WIDNR and contacts with local governments and landowners.

Document review confirms that the department actively seek public input at two phases of the planning process. The public is also encouraged to provide input directly to the Natural Resources Board when they consider the proposed master plans for potential approval. These days, much of the public input comes to us through online input forms/questionnaires.

The two phases:

1) At the initial kick-off phase (what we call our “scoping” phase) we seek input on the properties, the broader region, and the issues that the public would like the DNR to consider in the planning process. Northeast Sands summary of public scoping input.

Blue Mound State Park (an example of a planning project where the complexity of issues at a property necessitate developing a separate master plan for the property):

https://p.widencdn.net/6zm910/BMSP_Initial_Public_Input_Summary.

2) After the release of the preliminary draft master plan.

Northwest Sands draft master plan: https://dnr.wi.gov/About/NRB/2019/Feb/2019-02-2B3%20NWS_NRB_MP.pdf

This link is to the version on the draft master plan that was submitted to the Natural Resources Board. Chapter 6 summarizes the public input received on the preliminary draft of the master plan and if and how the preliminary version was modified based on public comments.

Confirmed by review of a copy of a working draft document staff are currently developing that summarizes public input on the preliminary draft master plan. This document is still in development and has not yet been approved internally.

Objective 14 Communications and Public Reporting

To increase transparency and to annually report progress on conformance with the *SFI Forest Management Standard*.

Performance Measure 14.1

A *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 2015-2019 Forest Management Standard*. Indicator:

14.1.1 The summary audit report submitted by the *Program Participant* (one copy must be in English), shall include, at a minimum,

- a. a description of the audit process, *objectives* and scope;
- b. a description of substitute *indicators*, if any, used in the audit and a rationale for each;
- c. the name of *Program Participant* that was audited, including its *SFI* representative;
- d. a general description of the *Program Participant's* forestland included in the audit;
- e. the name of the *certification body* and *lead auditor* (names of the *audit team* members, including *technical experts* may be included at the discretion of the *audit team* and *Program Participant*);
- f. the dates the audit 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.

The summary audit report will be posted on the *SFI Inc.* website (www.sfiprogram.org) for public review.

N/A Conforms Exceeds O.F.I. Minor NC Major NC

Audit Notes: Confirmed by review of the SFI Inc. website that the 2018 report is present.

Performance Measure 14.2

Program Participants shall report annually to SFI Inc. on their conformance with the SFI 2015-2019 Forest Management Standard. Indicators:

14.2.1 Prompt response to the *SFI* annual progress report survey.

N/A Conforms Exceeds O.F.I. Minor NC Major NC

Audit Notes: Confirmed by review of "last Updated" field that that the report was submitted March 29, 2018.

14.2.2 Record keeping for all the categories of information needed for *SFI* annual progress report surveys.

N/A Conforms Exceeds O.F.I. Minor NC Major NC

Audit Notes: WisFIRs system tracks all harvests; other systems are used to track contributions, etc.

The review of documents associated with selected field sites helped audit team assess recordkeeping. All records requested were provided quickly.

Confirmed by review of 2018 APR.

14.2.3 Maintenance of copies of past survey reports to document progress and improvements to demonstrate conformance to the *SFI 2015-2019 Forest Management Standard*.

N/A Conforms Exceeds O.F.I. Minor NC Major NC

Audit Notes: Interview confirms hard copies of past reports maintained by Mark Heyde.

Objective 15 Management Review and Continual Improvement

To promote continual improvement in the practice of *sustainable forestry* by conducting a management review and monitoring performance.

Performance Measure 15.1

Program Participants shall establish a management review system to examine findings and progress in implementing the *SFI 2015-2019 Forest Management Standard*, to make appropriate improvements in *programs*, and to inform their employees of changes.

Indicators:

15.1.1 System to review commitments, *programs* and procedures to evaluate effectiveness.

N/A
 Conforms
 Exceeds
 O.F.I.
 Minor NC
 Major NC

Audit Notes: The department maintains an Integrated Certification Implementation Team (ICIT).

A primary role of ICIT is the review of commitments, programs and procedures to evaluate the effectiveness of SFI standards implementation and reporting to management.

The results of the department's response to CAR requests as well as the result of internal monitoring are discussed with senior management at the annual review.

The DNR's Integrated Certification Implementation Team (ICIT) includes a representative from each DNR program. The team meets regularly.

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.

15.1.2 System for collecting, reviewing, and reporting information to management regarding progress in achieving *SFI 2015-2019 Forest Management Standard objectives and performance measures*.

N/A
 Conforms
 Exceeds
 O.F.I.
 Minor NC
 Major NC

Audit Notes: The system includes regular meetings of the ICIT, periodic BMP monitoring on state, county and private lands, a rigorous internal audit of pesticide use, the use of WisFIRS to tract harvest and regeneration and a process to gather information for completing the APR.

The ICIT Team conducts annual internal monitoring and has a meeting to discuss the results. Confirmed by review of the meeting agenda dated July 16, 2019. The meeting included an SFI related minor non-conformance related to who is responsible for monitoring, repairing and maintaining roads and trails, which is an unresolved alignment issue.

15.1.3 Annual review of progress by management and determination of changes and improvements necessary to continually improve conformance to the *SFI 2015-2019 Forest Management Standard*.

N/A
 Conforms
 Exceeds
 O.F.I.
 Minor NC
 Major NC

Audit Notes: Agenda and memo for DNR's annual senior management review, August 15, 2019 and the supporting documentation for this management review were the key evidence of conformance with this requirement. The review was structured to focus on issues related to the third-party audit findings from the 2018 audit as well as the 2019 internal audit findings and review 2019 External Audit plans, status of FSC and SFI forest management standards and other items.

(End SFI Forest Management Checklist)



Site Visit Notes

Tuesday, August 20		
DNR Participants: Teague Prichard, Doug Brown, Mark Heyde, Sadie Brown, Mike Finlay, Rebecca Mouw, Chrissy Shaw, Kristine Buchholtz, Heather Berklund, John Pohlman and David Sample.		
Site Location/ID	Feature of Interest	Description/Notes
Bluff/Drumlin Conference Room SCR FITCHBURG SERVICE CENTER FITCHBURG, WI 53711	Opening Meeting	Opening meeting: introductions, audit scope, confidentiality and public summary, conformance evaluation methods and tools, CARs process, relevant work safety, emergency and security procedures for the audit team, review audit plan, document review, stakeholder input; questions.
Savanna Sale All Field Site (1 site) GPS: 42.901027, -89.703092 Property Manager: Nate Fayram Forester: Cody Didier	RMZ, Wildlife habitat project	Project area of 360 acres. Examined 14-acre harvest area, marked to cut, sold not yet cut. Part of habitat restoration project and future burn unit. Restoring to oak savanna and open oak woodland. Retain all shagbark and oak merchantable trees, remove undesirable species and capture merchantable volume of undesired species prior to prescribed burning. RMZ boundary examined and in conformance. Brush treated prior to harvest. Discussions: Endangered resource review, integrated review teams, RMZ BMPs.
SW Team Route 1, Wilks, Day 1, (at least 5 additional sites)		
Campground Salvage Sale, Nelson Dewy State Park Sale GPS: 42.731641, -91.016934 Property Manager: Chad Breuer Forester: Tom Hill Additional DNR Staff: Mike Finlay	Oak Wilt- salvage cut Sale #2210-02	23 acres salvage cut of oaks impacted by oak wilt around campsites. Park contains 49 Campsites; 40-50 K visitors' year. Pathologist, forester and property manager jointly developed plan to remove hardwoods for safety around campsites. Salvage sale allowed faster process and avoid bidding process. Sale began in 12/17 and completed 3/18. Obs: T/S folder- inspection, contract, BMP compliance and FISTA training requirements. Unsafe (Dead/dying) and infected trees were cut. Marked with orange paint. Measured distance based on diameter of infected tree and removed all oaks. Trenching operations conducted with burial mounds and supervised by state archaeologist. 2-year designated use inspection- trails, buildings, campgrounds. Helps to develop work plans. Complaints-handled directly at each location by property manager with assistance of Bureau of Law Enforcement. Communication with public: radio, newspaper, contacts for Property Manager.
Back Forty 23, Nelson Dewy State Park GPS: 42.731641, -91.016934 Property Manager: Chad Breuer Forester: Tom Hill Additional DNR Staff: Mike Finlay	Proposed Sale	Harvest all orange marked trees and unmarked under 12 inches. Proposed and not harvested. Objective to regenerate oak and hickory. Stand has tendency to favor maples, but pre-harvest TSI work for less than 12-inch diameters will enable oak regeneration. No market for small diameter trees. Stand matched prescription.
Basswood Bluff (Lakeside) Sale, Blackhawk Lake (Mandatory) GPS: 43.026199, -90.275895 Property Manager: Travis Anderson Forester: Tom Hill Additional DNR Staff: Mike Finlay	Wildlife habitat Tract 2-16 Sale#2506-8	Site conversion for removal of Basswood to favor oak for wildlife habitat. Shows as recreation area but it's actually a wildlife area. Western Cooley's ecological landscape plan. Interim FM Plan is wildlife. Habitat for deer turkeys stocked with pheasants. Goal to create larger savannah for oaks with removal of Basswood. Only completed 1-2 acres due to market. Observed aesthetic buffer along lake. Objective thin woods for more savannah for oak and hickories. Basswood market 5-inch top and 10-inch butt size.



<p>Sunny Ridge Sale, Blackhawk Lake GPS: 43.026199, -90.275895 Property Manager: Travis Anderson Forester: Tom Hill Additional DNR Staff: Mike Finlay</p>	<p>TSI spray regeneration of oaks and hickories. TS # 25-08 Tract 1-17</p>	<p>Historically high graded stand with high honeysuckle component. TSI spray regeneration of oaks and hickories. Review of contract for herbicide. Applicators License for -Quality Property Management-License #305007-CA Expires 2/28/20. 33 pints of Vanquish 99 qts Triclophyr Oak/hickory wildlife habitat goal. Possible introduction of fire. Last spring completion-2019. Scale of logs by DNR. Interim Inspections identified tutting on skid trails. Contractor was stopped and allowed to return after ground conditions firmed. Performance bond is held until contractor returns and repairs. Contractor scheduled to return after ground conditions dry. Provisions in contract for holding performance bond and 2-year ban from bidding on timber sales on state lands.</p>
<p>Patch Cuts/ Walnut Salvage Sale, James J Rule Timber Demo Forest GPS: 43.004192, -90.250587 Property Manager: Tom Hill Forester: Tom Hill Additional DNR Staff: Mike Finlay</p>	<p>TS 2503-01-2016 Rule Demonstration Forest</p>	<p>Patch clear cuts for regeneration of Black Walnut. Observed minor washing from significant rainfall event. No soil movement observed. Sale harvested and completed in winter 2017. Wood hauled thru adjacent landowner. Forest used for demonstrations with Walnut Associations and other groups from around the world. High value species of walnuts observed-~40-inch DBH Black Walnut. Ground conditions matched all sale documents. FISTA training for contractor maintained in sale file.</p>
<p>Avoca Pine/ Lemanski Sale, Lower Wisconsin State Riverway GPS: 43.187252, -90.361896 Property Manager: Matt Seguin Forester: Scott Lancaster Additional DNR Staff: Mike Finlay</p>	<p>Habitat conservation for ornate box turtle</p>	<p>Harvest 80 acres. Area is used for Spring breakup harvest area. Typically put together 2000+ cords for sale. LW State Riverway Master Plan. Red pine stand-harvest. Red pines tend to have high mortality around 45 years old-root rot, high water table, etc. Wildlife objective - oak barons restoration project. Initially planted for seed collection but quality poor. Habitat conservation for ornate box turtle. Dry warm flat ground habitat. Site is eastern most-State Listed endangered- sand Barron species. Not uncommon to have 40+ hits on Natural Heritage site for sales along River. Management plan driven by threatened species. Observed blue painted property boundary. Observed white pine regeneration and red oak/black. Observed inspection report conducted by forester. No issues noted. Sale completed in 4/2019. Contract and FISTA training records maintained in folder and observed on-site.</p>
<p>Eastern Team Route 2, Boatwright, Day 1</p>		
<p>Tower Road Sale, Devil's Lake State Park Tower Road, Baraboo, WI GPS: 43.43287, -89.66837 Property Manager: Steve Schmelzer Forester: Nick Morehouse Additional DNR Staff: Mark Heyde, Rebecca Mouw, Nolan Kriegal</p>	<p>Central Hardwood TSI and Devil's Lake State Park</p>	<p>Marked and not sold 14-acre grassland habitat restoration for upland birds retaining oak and shag bark hickory. 2 NHI hits on sale area. Devil's Lake State Park is Wisconsin's most popular state park with about 3 million visitors per year. The over 9,000-acre park has a Nature Center and anchors more than 27,000 acres of parkland and natural areas open to public recreation in Sauk County. There are 29 miles of hiking trails and has three campgrounds with a total of 423 sites that each accommodate a family.</p>
<p>Dore Road West Sale, Dell Creek Wildlife Area 3927-3780 Dore Rd. Lyndon Station, WI GPS: 43.64621, -89.95007 Property Manager: Nate Fayram</p>	<p>Dell Creek Wildlife Management Area habitat improvement sale</p>	<p>164-acre active sale to provide a mix of different habitats across the landscape for a variety of game and non-game wildlife. Harvest types include central hardwood TSI and overstory removal, pine red pine thinning and central hardwood patched with reserves. Cutter operator on-site and observed spill kit in the harvester. Confirmed operator is FISTA trained.</p>



<p>Forester: Melissa Gillaume Cappaert Additional DNR Staff: Mark Heyde, Rebecca Mouw, Nolan Kriegal</p>		<p>Review of the Timber Sale Contract confirmed it had the required BMP and logger training language. Also reviewed completed pre-harvest and TIS forms. Dell Creek Wildlife Area is a 2,557-acre property located in Sauk County. The property is comprised mostly of grasslands, forest, trout streams, farmland and savanna.</p>
<p>Dore Road East Sale, Dell Creek Wildlife Area 3927-3780 Dore Rd. Lyndon Station, WI GPS: 43.64460, -89.94478 Property Manager: Nate Fayram Forester: Melissa Gillaume Cappaert Additional DNR Staff: Mark Heyde, Rebecca Mouw, Nolan Kriegal</p>	<p>Dell Creek Wildlife Management Area habitat improvement sale</p>	<p>45 acres sold but not cut sale to provide a mix of different habitats across the landscape for a variety of game and non-game wildlife. Harvest types include an even aged oak and jack pine regeneration harvest, a seed tree regen harvest to promote white pine and other hardwood species and an uneven-aged central hardwood and oak regen harvest. Marking appeared appropriate. Review of the Timber Sale Contract confirmed it had the required BMP and logger training language.</p>
<p>Adamski Sale, Dell Creek Wildlife Area (Mandatory Site) Adamske Rd. Wisconsin Dells, WI GPS: 43.62493, -89.91285 Property Manager: Nate Fayram Forester: Nick Morehouse Additional DNR Staff: Mark Heyde, Rebecca Mouw, Nolan Kriegal</p>	<p>Overstory removal with reserves on the Dell Creek WMA</p>	<p>68-acre completed sale on sandy soils. Objective is to increase oak and jack pine on the landscape for wildlife use using overstory removal with reserves where advanced regen is present and patch clearcut with reserves in areas without advanced regen. Minimal damage to residuals. Reviewed Timber Sale Contract, Pre-Harvest Inspection Checklist and Sale Inspections.</p>
<p>Northwest Sale, Mirror Lake State Park E9724 Scott Ln. Wisconsin Dells, WI GPS: 43.57970, -89.83356 Property Manager: Ryder Will Forester: Melissa Gillaume Cappaert Additional DNR Staff: Mark Heyde, Rebecca Mouw, Nolan Kriegal</p>	<p>Pine/Oak native community management on the Mirror Lake State Park</p>	<p>131-acre unsold sale on sandy soils. Harvest types include a pine thinning, oak overstory removal with reserves, oak/jack pine overstory removal with reserves and an oak/white pine overstory removal with reserves. Marking appeared appropriate. Mirror Lake State Park covers over 2000 acres and is just three miles south-west of Wisconsin Dells. Sandstone bluffs surround half of the lake which offers excellent fishing, swimming and canoeing, kayaking and birdwatching opportunities. Located within the park is the Seth Peterson Cottage, a Frank Lloyd Wright-designed building available for public rental.</p>
<p>Eastern Team Route 3, Jacqmain, Day 1</p>		
<p>Hi-Lo and P Sale, Kettle Moraine SF Southern Unit 8201 Hi Lo Rd. Whitewater, WI 53190 GPS: 42.793, -88.689</p>	<p>Invasive treatment (buckthorn) and WP/RP thinning.</p>	<p>Improvement 3rd thinning of multiple stands in compartment. Marked to cut. 106 acres. Basal area, square feet/acre, reduced retaining healthiest and most vigorous as crop trees. Harvested December 2018. Mulched and mowed 2017 (feecon), to encourage natural regeneration. Buckthorn, honeysuckle and other invasive species treated. Annosum root rot included in assessment. Snags abundance and retained throughout. No damage to residual stems. Discussions: Invasives, root rot treatment, regeneration fund, Pesticide General Approval – Woody species (buckthorn, HBS treatments). Review of Pesticide Use Approval Form 4200-009 (R 04/17). Forest Regeneration Project Application Form (2013).</p>
<p>East Whitewater Sale, Kettle Moraine SF Southern Unit (Mandatory) 7817 McCabe Rd, Whitewater, WI 53190 GPS: 42.781, -88.662</p>	<p>WP/RP Pine thinnings</p>	<p>Compartment 15, 6 red and white pine 1st, 2nd, and 3rd improvement thinnings in stands 30-60 years old, set up not yet sold. 108 acres. Marked to remove except one stand for first thin, every 3rd row removal. Removal all non-desired hardwood species during thinning in all stands. Old crop fields planted over a number of years starting in 1963. Insect and disease issues and brush competition</p>



		notes for eventual treatment once regeneration planning begins. Discussion: Annosum root rot in red pine
Hwy H North Sale, Kettle Moraine SF, Southern Unit	WP thinning, regeneration release	Harvest completed October 2018, 96 acres. Invasive brush and other undesirable wood species heavy throughout stand. Mulched throughout stand early 2018. Foliar herbicide done June/July 2018. Regeneration checks in 2019 found abundant white pine germinants throughout. Release from persistent woody competition planned for early fall, after white pine seedling bud set (hardening) using herbicides specific and targeted to species pest species.
Bluff West Sale, Kettle Moraine SF Southern Unit W6260 Bluff Rd. Whitewater, WI 53190 GPS: 42.834, -88.609	Invasives treatment and WP thinning	White pine thinning, 60-year-old, 2 prior thinnings, 183 acres. Sold Feb 2018, not yet cut. Heavy invasives and other undesirable brush in understory removed for development of natural regeneration. Mulched 2018 and 2019, herbicide treatments July 2019. Clean up of missed areas planned August/September 2019. Harvest to begin fall 2019. Discussions: buckthorn/invasives management
Young Tam Locust Sale, Kettle Moraine SF Southern Unit N186 Tamarack Rd. Palmyra, WI 53156 GPS: 42.844, -88.58	Hardwood thinning, invasive treatment	Harvested 2016/2017, 32 acres. Oaks and central hardwoods dominant but large portions with black locust and other competing brushy species. Undesirable brushy species removed. Locust was girdled and herbicided to kill prior to harvest. After harvest, mulch and brushed to remove woody competition and planted. Mowing done fall 2017. In 2018 foliar herbicide applied to control resprouts. In 2019, additional mowing done and additional foliar herbicide to clean up remnant patches of invasive brush. Current plan to plant in 2020. Use of firewood sale to remove girdled black locust. Discussions: oak wilt
Highway 67 and ZZ Sale, Kettle Moraine SF Southern Unit W35959 County Rd ZZ North Prairie, WI 53153 GPS: 42.936, -88.465	Hardwood regeneration planning	A 26-acre, oak/central hardwood type dominated by black and white oak, with red and burr oak present, volume of black cherry, hickory, elm and aspen. Marked to cut for thinning where viable and treat locust throughout with focus on south part of stand where it dominates. Undesirable brushy black locust abundant in understory throughout, impeding development of desired commercial and wildlife hardwood species. Objective to establish hardwood regeneration and improve stand quality. Will be hand planted once understory conditions are suitable.



Wednesday, August 21 (3 Routes, 25 Sites Total)		
Site Location/ID	Feature of Interest	Description/Notes
SW Team Route 1, Wilks, Day 2 (at least 8 sites today)		
Rush Creek Walnut Sale, Rush Creek (Mandatory) GPS: 43.374464, -91.136590	Rare habitat- TE species of timber rattlers and their hibernating cave/rock structures. historical campgrounds of Native Americans Sale #1204 Tract 1-17 harvest 35 acres	Rare habitat, documented high population of TE species of timber rattlers and their hibernating cave/rock structures. Archaeological hit for historical campgrounds of Native Americans. Battle of Blackhawk historical site associated with campsite. Wildlife Action plan identifies species of greatest concern. 2600-acre previous Nature Conservancy Property. Bluff prairie of oak savannah habitat. Observed archaeological site: pre-logging conference with logger, area was flagged in orange and no equipment unless frozen ground. Designated trees with protection zone marked in orange by property manager. Rare site is documented with Wisconsin Historical Society. Archaeological sites are reviewed and protected during the FM activity. Harvest closed out January 2018. Post-sale inspection by property manager observed 10 red-headed woodpeckers. Pleased with harvesting results. Restoration ecology developing to restore conditions closer to native habitat. Forest interior birds, State endangered butterflies, Lizards, snakes and Purple milkweed, and State endangered plants.
Onstine Hill/ Blowdown Sale, Kickapoo Wildlife Area (Mandatory) GPS: 43.118872, -90.886272	Significant Rain Event with Erosion of Skid Trails. Tract 01-14	105 acres completed timber sale. Property manager is Dan Oltz, Wildlife Biologist. Interim Forest Management Plan. Interior song birds primary management goal for wildlife. Tract was hit by tornado in 2015 and included additional 35 acres clear cut. Single tree and group selection for conversion to northern hardwoods and maintaining oak component. Large block of contiguous oak and hickory. Managed for hunting, fishing and trapping. Secondary hiking no camping or recreation facilities. Some permits issued to disabled hunters. Kentucky Warbler and other species of birds. History: Logging for one year, contractor left with additional year on contract. Tornado event caused massive blowdown and sale was amended to include salvage area. Sale closed and all close out procedures and water bars completed. Significant rain event occurred (16+ inches) and caused water bars to blow out and erosion of soils. No impacts to water or flowing streams observed. Timber Stand Improvement recon plan for reforestation of tornado alerted to issues from massive rains. Action plan developed and observed, GPS used to identify and photos taken. (Avenza Maps). Remediation plans are set to begin Fall 2019.
Dittman Hill Sale, Kickapoo Wildlife Area GPS: 43.098950, -90.879267	Tract #01-18 17 acres Kickapoo Wildlife Area-Habitat Management	Same management goals as Onstine Hill-Wildlife habitat. Proposed and not harvested. Part of stand (11) needed permit from Lower Wisconsin River Authority. Regeneration of aspen, central hardwoods (Mix of shagbark hickory, cherry, oaks, walnut). Observed permit from LWRA dated 11/18-4/19; permitted 9/28/18. Observed walnut regeneration stand 11 with oak component. TSI improvement planned-south facing slope. Worked with adjacent farmer/sharecropper to increase the size of grass buffer around field to minimize impacts of rainfall runoff. Oak planting is scheduled in gaps. Uncut aspen due to small size will be sheared to encourage coppice regeneration. Observed no regeneration below current canopy.
Big Rock Sale, Lower Wisconsin State Riverway GPS: 43.035859, -90.956598	Big Rock Timber Sale Sale #2232-45 Tract 4-18	50,000 acres ownership along Wisconsin River-93 miles in length. Outdoor recreation on waterway and trail system. Protection of natural scenic and cultural sites. Effigy mounds. Harvest area 55



		<p>acres-cut and closed. Purchased by Cooper Logging- FISTA Trained. Concern from property manager preharvest- damage to walking/equestrian trail. Post-harvest pleased and improved trails. Remove all non-oak species. Remained oak and management plan for fire. Trail was in great shape, no BMP or soil erosion issues. Observed minimal damage to residual trees post-harvest. Property Manager Matt Seguin.</p>
<p>Dogs Tail Sale, Lower Wisconsin State Riverway GPS: 43.040545, -90.938856</p>	<p>Timber Sale-66 acres Sale #2232-36</p>	<p>Completed winter 2017-2018. Wildlife primary objective and establishing native understory. Planned prescription fire on approximately 4-year cycle. No BMP issues or utilization problems observed. Sale sold for approximately \$5k per acre. Observed butterflies utilizing herbaceous understory. Wildlife habitat/timber management objective.</p>
<p>Baxter Lane Sale, Lower Wisconsin State Riverway GPS: 43.054942, -90.881954</p>	<p>Contracted marking site</p>	<p>Observed contract with Steigerwaldt. Observed 3 bids. Observed stand 2 marked as described in contract requirements. Sale has not been submitted for bids. Goal to utilize 10% of sales with contractors. DNR has system to check work and ensure it meets requirements. Groups of oaks targeted for removal and Patch harvest cuts (up to 6 acres) are only allowed in the LWRA. Permit required and goal to maintain aesthetics along waterway.</p>
<p>Stonefarm Sale, Lower Wisconsin State Riverway GPS: 43.190679, -90.664996</p>	<p>Tract 01-19 Proposed sale</p>	<p>Proposed sale-sold but not harvested. Marked groups observed marked with orange paint. Management based on guidelines for Lower Wisconsin River Authority. Steep terrain and Logging will be some with chainsaw and cable skidder. Riverside sawmill purchased-FISTA Trained. Contract contains legal compliance and BMP requirements.</p>
<p>Bud Sale, Lower Wisconsin State Riverway GPS: 43.209746, -90.404968</p>	<p>HWY 00-Bud Timber Sale</p>	<p>Under contract for pre-harvest non-commercial work. Recon confirmed high-grading with poor understory. Components of undesirable ash, ironwood species within understory. TSI planned to remove all suppressed understory with plan for natural regeneration of northern hardwood species. Mid-canopy manipulation. Observed archaeological designated area from NHI. Undocumented burial site. Recon did not find confirmed evidence on ground, so extra work revealed documented historical notes. Extra precautions were made by increasing no equipment zones. No soil disturbance.</p>
<p>Eastern Team Route 2, Boatwright, Day 2 (9 sites today)</p>		
<p>Heat Stroke Sale, Pine Island Wildlife Area Levee Rd. Portage, WI GPS: 43.533199, -89.538792 Property Manager: Andy Paulios (Sara Kehrl) (Sara Kehrl) Forester: Bruce Henderson Additional DNR Staff: Mark Heyde, Rebecca Mouw, Nolan Kriegal</p>	<p>Aspen regen harvest Pine Island WMA</p>	<p>Unsold 70 acres aspen regen cut with reserves and leaving areas with existing good natural regen in 3 blocks. Sale boundaries well-marked with paint. Pine Island Wildlife Area is a 5,499-acre property located just west of Portage on Levee Road off of Highway 33. The property consists of approximately 1,200 acres of wetland habitats, 1000 acres of grasslands, 1500 acres of oak/savanna habitats and 1,900 acres of wooded habitat. The Pine Island Wildlife Area lies in the floodplains of the Wisconsin and Baraboo rivers and includes several islands of the Wisconsin River.</p>
<p>Stolen Flag Sale, Pine Island Wildlife Area (Mandatory) N. Heln Rd. Baraboo, WI GPS: 43.552336, -89.624319 Property Manager: Andy Paulios (Sara Kehrl) (Sara Kehrl) Forester: Bruce Henderson</p>	<p>Aspen regen and central hardwood salvage Pine Island WMA</p>	<p>77 acre completed sale including aspen regen with reserves and central hardwood salvage harvests. The salvage harvest was well conducted with minimal damage to residuals and good stocking. Review of the Timber Sale Contract confirmed it had the required BMP and logger training language. Also reviewed completed pre-harvest and TSI forms.</p>

<p>Additional DNR Staff: Mark Heyde, Rebecca Mouw, Nolan Kriegal</p>		<p>Pine Island Savanna features one of the largest floodplain savanna remnants along with several patches of sand prairie. An interior river island supports a floodplain savanna of scattered swamp white oak and an understory comprised of prairie grasses and forbs. Sandy ridges contain black oak and wet swales are vegetated with bottomland species such as silver maple, river birch, and green ash. Both red pine and white pine occur naturally on the island. Common savanna understory species include prairie milkweed, New England aster, white false indigo, prairie coreopsis, wild bergamot, black-eyed susan, Missouri goldenrod, and culver's-root. The site also contains small areas of sand prairie. Pine Island Savanna is owned by the DNR and was designated a State Natural Area in 2007. Witnessed a wetland restoration project.</p>
<p>Wolfgram Road Timber Sale Pacific, WI GPS 43.519140, -89.393037 Property Manager: Nate Frayram Forester: Bruce Henderson Additional DNR Staff: Mark Heyde, Rebecca Mouw, Nolan Kriegal,</p>	<p>Oak opening conversion and aspen regen harvests Swan Lake WMA</p>	<p>Completed 37-acre sale in 3 blocks. Buckthorn and black locust treatments prior to harvest. Harvest types include converting an oak stand to and oak opening and maintain with fire and 2 aspen regen cuts. Minimal damage to the residual oaks in the oak opening stand. Review of the Timber Sale Contract confirmed it had the required BMP and logger training language. Also reviewed completed pre-harvest and TSI forms. Swan Lake Wildlife Area is a 2,466-acre property that consists of approximately 2,000 acres of wetlands, 100 acres of grassland and 366 acres of wooded habitat. The Fox River flows through the Swan Lake Wildlife Area in a northwesterly direction from Swan Lake on the east. The property is surrounded by residential areas. The property was designated as a wildlife area in 1963. Current management objectives focus on protecting the watershed of the Fox River and managing for pre-settlement vegetation types. This includes maintaining existing prairies, oak barrens, savannas and sedge meadows and seeking opportunities to increase these cover types. The property is managed on a landscape scale to create smooth transitions between cover types.</p>
<p>Sentinel Timber Sale, Rowan Creek Fishery Area (Mandatory) Tomlinson Rd. Poynette, WI GPS: 43.381005, -89.414837 Property Manager: Nathan Nye Forester: Bruce Henderson Additional DNR Staff: Mark Heyde, Rebecca Mouw, Nolan Kriegal, Nate Frayram</p>	<p>Red pine thin and central hardwood TSI Rowan Creek Fishery Area</p>	<p>41-acre unsold sale including a red pine thinning and a central hardwood TSI. Buckthorn and garlic mustard were mowed last year and sprayed this year. Well-marked TSI leave trees. The Rowan Creek Fishery Area consists of wetlands, shrub vegetation, bottomland and upland forests. The primary water resource is Rowan Creek, which drains a 60 square mile area as it flows through a valley bordered by steep hillsides to Lake Wisconsin, where it joins the Wisconsin River and the Mississippi River System. The upper four miles of Rowan Creek is designated class 1 trout water and the lower eight miles is designated as class 2 trout water. Observed where DNR had made improvements to the upper section of the creek including removing wood vegetation, reshaping banks and installing "lunker" structures in the creek.</p>
<p>Sentinel Timber Sale, Rowan Creek Fishery Area (Mandatory) Tomlinson Rd. Poynette, WI GPS: 43.386277, -89.382656 Property Manager: Nathan Nye Forester: Bruce Henderson Additional DNR Staff: Mark Heyde, Rebecca Mouw, Nolan Kriegal, Nate Frayram</p>	<p>Aspen regen and central hardwood TSI Rowan Creek Fishery Area</p>	<p>25-acre unsold sale including aspen regen and a central hardwood TSI harvests. Buckthorn and garlic mustard sprayed the day before so we were unable to walk the site. Access to the site involved crossing Rowan Creek, a class 1 trout stream so the sale stipulates frozen ground only and the logger will use a DNR bridge structure.</p>



<p>Half Day Sale, Peter Helland Wildlife Area County Road P Cambria, WI GPS: 43.534922, -89.217152 Property Manager: Andy Paulios (Sara Kehrl) Forester: Bruce Henderson Additional DNR Staff: Mark Heyde and Nolan Kriegal</p>	<p>Central hardwood and aspen regen and red pine final harvest Peter Helland WMA</p>	<p>43-acre active sale. Central hardwood leave-trees looked good. Interviewed logger, Dean Bauknect and harvester operator, Scott Pudill and both are FISTA trained. Review of the Timber Sale Contract confirmed it had the required BMP and logger training language. Also reviewed completed pre-harvest and TSI forms. Peter Helland Wildlife Area is a 3,543-acre property located in Columbia County. The property consists of approximately 2,700 acres of wetland, 500 acres of grassland, 240 acres of wooded habitat and some shrub and agricultural lands. The WMA lies in a basin formed by the meltwaters from the last glacial period about 10,000 years ago.</p>
<p>Dead Buck Timber Sale, Peter Helland Wildlife Area (Mandatory) Sawyer Rd. Cambria, WI 53923 GPS: 43.521203, -89.191797 Property Manager: Andy Paulios (Sara Kehrl) Forester: Bruce Henderson Additional DNR Staff: Mark Heyde and Nolan Kriegal</p>	<p>Red pine plantation conversion of oak savannah, aspen regen and oak TSI Peter Helland WMA</p>	<p>47 acre completed sale with no issues and good leave tree marking in the oak TSI stand. Review of the Timber Sale Contract confirmed it had the required BMP and logger training language. Also reviewed completed pre-harvest and TSI forms.</p>
SE Team Route 3, Jacqmain, Day 2 (8 sites today)		
<p>Tichigan Bridge Sale, Tichigan Wildlife Area (Mandatory) GPS: 42.82, -88.231</p>	<p>Wildlife Management, Thinning/crop tree release saplings, small pole hardwoods</p>	<p>Overstory of large oaks missed with abundant, high quality hardwood small pole and saplings. Stand managed within approximately 7,000-acre wildlife management area. Invasives noted. Lake shore buffer left, RMZ BMPs confirmed. Oak and hickory (order) to be promoted throughout. Aggressive ash removal during thinning while maintaining adequate stocking levels. All elm, aspen, mulberry and box elder to be removed. Thin from below. Oak wilt concerns noted. NHI checks note nearby but not impacted species occurrences. Oak restriction timing noted for oak wilt management. Osprey platform installed July 2016 and first use this year in 2019 (success). Discussion: partnering with wildlife groups such as Ducks Unlimited, planting, water level management of duck habitat, milfoil management, trumpeter swan restoration (pair ponds), navigable waterways, lake RMZ BMPs.</p>
<p>Muskego Dam Road Sale, Big Muskego Lake Wildlife Area Kelsey Dr. Muskego, WI 53150 GPS: 42.845, -88.147</p>	<p>Shelterwood, EAB/Dutch Elm disease/ RMZ</p>	<p>Sold, not yet cut, oak central hardwoods, 34 acres. Shelterwood harvest in mixed hardwood, retain around 80 square feet per acre basal area, retaining oak, hickory and cherry. Dominated by defect/over mature red, white and burr oak. Marked but not yet cut, to cut all ash, elm and box elder. Elm impacted by EAB, elm by Dutch Elm disease. Note public use is high, aesthetic considerations. Oak wilt cutting restrictions prescribed. Frozen or dry ground harvest only. Pond RMZ inspected, buffer conformant to state BMPs for Water Quality. Master Plan "Variation" received for site, Kettle Moraine State Forest, 7/17/2016. Variation made adjustment to AAC from 1991 Master Plan to treat more acres than specified in 1991 MP.</p>
<p>Honey Creek Highway FF Sale, Honey Creek Wildlife Area (Mandatory) 32900-33798 County Rd. FF Burlington, WI GPS: 42.723, -88.275</p>	<p>Thinning hardwoods with Aspen clearcut</p>	<p>Improvement thinning in overstocked hardwood stand, trees marked to cut. Shifting to northern hardwoods with sugar maple dominating understory. Remove all aspen and box elder. Aspen regeneration harvest in 9 acres, to maintain aspen component within the Compartment. Buckthorn treatment.</p>
<p>Tichigan and Honey Creek Pine Thin Sale, Honey Creek Wildlife Area, County DD, Burlington, WI GPS: 42.71, -88.32</p>	<p>WP Thinning, slash treatment</p>	<p>Property acquired in 2006. Thin to residual about 140 square feet per acre in 52-year-old red and white pine planting, 4 acres. Thin from below and crop tree release, trees marked to cut. Tichigan portion harvested January 2017 and Honey Creek portion sold but not yet cut.</p>



		Honey Creek sale access is problematic leading to extensions. Direct sale due to small size of sale area. Trees marked to remove. Occasional hardwoods mixed in, natural origin. Annosum root rot treatment applies. Slash prescription off road ROW, property boundaries, and ground height is specified.
Hwy 12 Mike Tree Planting, Kettle Moraine	19-year-old Planting site	White and red pine, red oak and red spruce planted on old field.
Dufflin 12 Sale, Kettle Moraine SF Southern Unit, N8548 Dufflin Rd. Whitewater, WI GPS: 42.8, -88.62	Active harvest, equipment but no operator on-site	Initial shelterwood harvest with areas of thinning or crop tree release, depending on adequate oak and other hardwood regeneration or presence. Oak with some white pine and other mixed deciduous species, 48 acres. Harvesting started March 2019 but stopped due to wet weather and was delayed now when oak wilt restriction period is done. Just restarted recently. Invasive understory woody brush treatment was done and mulching completed 2015/2016, foliar treatment of buckthorn and other undesired woody brush done on resprouts summer 2017. Confirmation of logger training not in file folder.
McMiller Front Corner, Kettle Moraine SF Southern Unit 38905-38801 County Rd. NN, Eagle, WI GPS: 42.856, -88.52	Manchu tuber gourd vine, exotic invasive treatment	Spray treatment of exotic invasive. Only 2nd occurrence found in Wisconsin. Stakeholder comment received from neighbor indicating satisfaction that treatment was done.
McMiller Front Stand Sale, Kettle Moraine SF Southern Unit 38905-38801 County Rd. NN, Eagle, WI GPS: 42.856, -88.52	WP/RP thinning	White and red pine, white and red oak planted about 26 years ago. 15 acres. First thin completed April 2019 through Direct Sale. Mulch, mow and spray for buckthorn and other species. Marked to maintain mixed hardwood and pine stand, favoring high quality stems of pine and oak.
Eagle 8910 Sale, Kettle Moraine SF Southern Unit Township Road X, Eagle, WI GPS: 42.916, -88.467	Shelterwood and thinning	Oak and central hardwoods. Sale area 106 acres, in a combination of shelterwood, thinning and salvage. Sold not yet cut, pre-harvest invasive treatment of buckthorn was completed on 50 acres to encourage natural oak regeneration. High quality hardwood (red oak) site with good quality in the stand. NHI occurrences in area but outside of and no impact from harvest. Oak wilt and slash rules specified. Horse /Snowmobile trail through sale area at 2 branches in different locations of the stand. Safety signs posted along trails at each entry with trail infrastructure rules specified in contract. Examined trail head, parking area, and signage.
Main Pinewoods #4 Sale, Kettle Moraine SF Southern Unit GPS: 42.959, -88.449	Thinning in pine	Red/white pine, 100 acres. 64-year-old stand. Thinning from below and crop tree release. Insect and disease and windthrow issues have impacted stands in Compartment 2. Former crop field with objective to maintain in conifer. Marked to cut with removal of all aspen, elm, box elder and mulberry. Plan to regenerate pockets with no desired tree species impacted by insect/disease/wind damage. Annosum root rot rules apply. Invasive understory woody brush treatment is planned.



Thursday, August 22 (3 Routes, 24 Sites Total)		
Site Location/ID	Feature of Interest	Description/Notes
SW Team Route 1, Wilks, Day 3 (8 sites today)		
Bogenschneider Sale, Lower Wisconsin State Riverway GPS: 43.15822, -90.101207	Sale #2232-43 Tract 3-15 Timber Sale and TSI	Harvest 43 acres-Harvest all trees marked with orange. Invasive species-Buckthorn; Management. Proposed to clear cut-aspen and central hardwoods. Shelterwood pockets of primarily oak. Limit red maple regeneration-more shade tolerant species. Primary objective to maximize oak-timber production. LWRA permit required and secured. 2 types permits-commercial harvesting; non-commercial permit observed and executed on 9/9/16. Sold on 2-year contract and not cut. Working on extension vendor. Market conditions prevented harvesting due to low value products. 3/4 of sales are based on restoration due to high grading history. Observed TSI, marked orange trees for harvest and green retention trees. Ground conditions matched prescription. TSI was completed and visible in targeted areas.
Disturbance 42 Sale, Love Creek Fishery Area GPS: 43.020490, -89.996393	Disturbance 42-Love Creek Fishery 44 acres Sale #2508-01 Tract 1-19 Restoration Sale	Heavily invasive plant dominated tract (primarily honeysuckle and buckthorn) needing heavy disturbance to return site back to oak and hickory. Historical use as pasture and high graded by previous owner. Class 1 Trout Stream with adjacent landowner and shared driveway. Plans to put rock fjord for logging. Purchased by buyer from Beijing at minimum bid price. Bid on all advertised sales and this was only site purchased. Optimal Plan for mechanical shear (cutting machine)-forester will try to negotiate with buyer. May 15-September 15 construction period for fjord due to trout population within Strut creek flowing through site. Planned use of Fecon equipment with mulching head for invasive removal of honeysuckle, buckthorn. Follow up with spray to kill sprouts and dormant seeds. Contract awarded for TSI but preclusion of commercial harvesting until TSI complete. No activity had been conducted at time of audit. OBS: Sale marked in 2016 and sold April 2019. Leave trees marked in purple paint by ground observation but contract and bid prospect documents list green painted leave trees. Historical practice and contract not changed to reflect purple leave trees. Tract managed by Interim Forest Management Plan.
Conservation Road Sale, Lower Wisconsin State Riverway GPS: 43.234433, -89.801463	Property 2232 Timber Sale 38; Tract 6-17 Future Recreation Development	FM plan to increase recreational opportunities along Wisconsin River. Widen road corridors, expand parking lots- property development with addition of mezzanine. Stand heavy to black locust, removed during timber sale. Sale completed-March 2018. Cut to Length sale, minimum bid; bitternut hickory, hackberry and black locust. Sale objective to regenerate oak in forested areas not dedicated to recreation. Permits secured through LWRA. Verso purchased-FISTA Trained. Observed from River- aesthetic buffer left. Future plan to burn-for invasive and regeneration for oaks. Wildlife plans for mast bearing species for wildlife. Reviewed Master Plan-matched ground conditions. Historical clothing optional beach along Wisconsin River. Site closed to public three years ago.
Mazo Oak Barrens Pine Removal Sale, Lower Wisconsin State Riverway GPS: 43.240895, -89.746261	Proposal- 2232; Threaten Species Habitat Management	26 acres-1505 tons advertised for bid. Mazo oaks Barrens Pine SNA Planned removal of white pine-planned for bids in Fall 2019. Property Manager is Matt Sequin. Observed stand of prickly pear cactus in deep sandy soil. White Pine stands being liquidated to facilitate oak barrens habitat for ornate box turtle. Prescribed burning plan on annual basis to maintain barrens type habitat.



<p>Little Blue Sale, Lower Wisconsin State Riverway</p>	<p>Property 2232 Sale 18-02 46 Endangered species hits from NHI</p>	<p>Wildlife duck banding in area. Timber production management with oak regeneration. Management around the NHI notices. TSI Fecon mower for invasive species (Buckthorn). Planned 107-acre timber patches. Site has been flooded without access since Sept 2018. Harvest cut all patches. Management of flyway zone for bird corridor on west side of block. Observed red painted boundaries around groups. LWRA requirement RMZ 75 feet from high water mark but BMP states 100 feet. Historical ownership by sawmill- site high graded. Archaeological site in NW section - close to prairie. Indian village- no soil disturbance or removal of stumps. Plan is to completely avoid area. Silviculture representative took random 300th/acre plot for understory-1800 seedlings /acre with 1200/acre hackberry. Major species observed -hackberry, ironwood and minimal swamp oak.</p>
<p>Battle of Wisconsin Heights-Black Hawk Ridge</p>	<p>Historical Site/Preservation</p>	<p>LWRA Interim Management Plan Steep bank, historical battle, hiking trails, equestrian trails-day use only. Historic cabin moved from North Woods for picnics etc. observed TSI for buckthorn-invasive species management. Pittman Robertson funding (sporting goods tax) for management. Long term goal to manage stand for oaks. Managing 82 acres for invasive species. Blue boundary observed for conservation/historical area and TSI work. No mechanized equipment in historical area. Significant historical site in Battle of Illinois Militia and Black Hawk Indians. Property Manager-Matt Seguin long term goal to return site to conditions of historical time. More open with oaks.</p>
<p>Black Hawk Effigy Mounds</p>	<p>Historical Site/Preservation</p>	<p>Historical preservation- No FM activity. Observed signs and walking trail. Mounds were undisturbed with vines and other vegetation. Observed 4 large linear shaped mounds. Wisconsin and Federal law prohibits contact.</p>
<p>Eastern Team Route 2, Boatwright, Day 3 (7 sites today)</p>		
<p>Horicon South Sale, Horicon Wildlife Area N Palmatory St. Horicon, WI GPS: 43.464061, -88.622862 Property Manager: Paul Samerdyke Forester: Bruce Henderson Additional DNR Staff: Mark Heyde</p>	<p>Central hardwood TSI and ash removal Horicon Marsh WMA</p>	<p>15+ acre sold but uncut sale in 4 blocks with focus on removing ash. Observation of the marked leave trees confirm the stated management intention was implemented. Review of the Timber Sale Contract confirmed it had the required BMP and logger training language. Horicon Marsh is the largest freshwater cattail marsh in the United States and has been formally recognized as a Wetland of International Importance by the Ramsar Convention of the United Nations. This renowned marsh is now home to the Horicon Marsh Education and Visitor Center. The Wildlife Education Program has been conducted at the marsh since the mid-1980s. This program focuses on the abundant wildlife resources of the marsh, their ecology and applied management. Construction of the new educational displays and hands-on exhibits known as the Explorium was completed in August of 2015. The exhibits occupy portions of both the first floor and lower level and offer a fantastic opportunity to learn about the history of Horicon Marsh from the Ice Age to present day.</p>
<p>Greenhead Road Ash Sale, Horicon Wildlife Area (Mandatory) 8600 Green Head Rd. Mayville, WI GPS: 43.500501, -88.591053 Property Manager: Paul Samerdyke</p>	<p>Ash removal with a central hardwood TSI Horicon Marsh WMA</p>	<p>11 acre completed sale in 2 blocks with no issues identified.</p>



Forester: Bruce Henderson Additional DNR Staff: Mark Heyde		
Plato Road Sale, Mud Lake Wildlife Area (Mandatory) 2498 Plato Rd. Reedsville, WI GPS: 43.285297, -88.837012 Property Manager: Paul Samerdyke Forester: Bruce Henderson Additional DNR Staff: Mark Heyde	Central hardwood TSI Mud Lake WMA	8+ acre unsold central hardwood TSI with take trees marked. Targeted BA = 75 sq. ft./acre. Marking looked good with no issues.
Double Cat Sale, Mud Lake Wildlife Area N2799 County Rd K, Watertown, WI GPS: 43.295997, -88.783943 Property Manager: Paul Samerdyke Forester: Bruce Henderson Additional DNR Staff: Mark Heyde	Aspen Regen harvest Mud Lake WMA	9-acre unsold aspen regen harvest with a small pocket of oaks to be thinned with no issues. Mud Lake Wildlife Area is approximately 4,500-acres with a diversity of habitat types. The Beaver Dam River runs through the heart of the property where it joins the Crawfish River at the southern portion. There are two large lakes, Mud and Chub Lakes. There is a mixture of forested bottomland hardwoods, forested upland hardwoods, grasslands and marsh.
Highway Q Sale, Mud Lake Wildlife Area 8903 County Rd Q, Watertown, WI GPS: 43.24134, -88.836791 Property Manager: Paul Samerdyke Forester: Bruce Henderson Additional DNR Staff: Mark Heyde	Ash removal and central hardwood TSI	14 acre completed sale with good residual stocking and minimal damage to residuals. Review of the Timber Sale Contract confirmed it had the required BMP and logger training language. Also reviewed completed pre-harvest and TSI forms. No issues.
Golden Road Timber Sale, Mud Lake Wildlife Area (Mandatory) Mud Lake, WI GPS: 43.229857, -88.872847 Property Manager: Paul Samerdyke Forester: Bruce Henderson Additional DNR Staff: Mark Heyde	Ash removal and central and bottomland hardwood TSI	15+ sold uncut sale using group selection in the bottomland to encourage silver maple regen. The remainder of the sale is thinned to remove ash and create gaps for regen. Review of the Timber Sale Contract confirmed it had the required BMP and logger training language. Also reviewed completed pre-harvest and TSI forms. No issues.
SE Team Route 3, Jacqmain, Day 3		
Highway LO Pine Sale S100W31365 County Rd LO, Mukwonago, WI 53719 GPS: 42.862, -88.37	Mukwonago River Wildlife Area	White and red pine, 2nd thing, thinning from below with long-term plan to convert to hardwoods. 7 acres, plantings about 60 years old. Former crop field with objective to maintain in conifer. Marked to cut with removal of all aspen, elm, box elder and mulberry. Restore to prairie at rotation harvest. Discussion: Stakeholder consultation for annual work plans, call center/customer service lines. Annual Property Implementation Plan (APIP) done annually. Annual Property Integrated Management (APIM). Document/records storage, Sharepoint site.
South Tamarack Sale, Kettle Moraine SF Southern Unit GPS: 42.839, -88.585	Thinning in pine, mountain bike trail	Red and white pine thinning from below marked to cut. Former crop planted 1965 and 1948. Marked to cut with removal of all aspen, elm, box elder and mulberry. Plan to regenerate pockets with no desired tree species impacted by insect/disease/wind damage. HRD/Annosum root rot rules apply. Invasive understory woody brush treatment is planned.
Drop Point Echo, Kettle Moraine SF, Oak Opening State Natural Area	Prescribed burn unit, oak savanna restoration	Prescribed burn unit, 120 acres. Objective to ecological restore native prairie savanna and associated native plant communities. Has had 18 prescribed burns over 20 years.



<p>Lima Bur Oak Restoration Sale, Lima Marsh – Storrs Lake Wildlife Area Lima, WI GPS: 42.8382988, -88.828585</p>	<p>White oak restoration/ regeneration</p>	<p>WO stand, 130 years old. Shelterwood to establish regeneration prior to harvest and maintain as white oak - wildlife habitat. Invasive understory woody brush treatment. Harvest completed January 2019. Adjoining landowner notification letter and offer to walk/establish joint boundary. Milestone used for aspen control, 5% basal or cut stump. Pesticide Use Approval Form 4200-009(R 04/17). Forest Regeneration Project Application Form (2013). Discussions: WISFRS, Master Plan monitoring.</p>
<p>Storrs Lake Oak Sale, Lima Marsh – Storrs Lake Wildlife Area 1444-5966 E Storrs Lake Rd., Milton, WI GPS: 42.779311, -88.917808</p>	<p>Single tree selection</p>	<p>Private land adjacent. Single tree selection to remove off-site and declining 50-year-old red pine, and also elm and box elder. 56 acres. Shifting stand to burr oak. GHA, Glacial Heritage Master Plan applies. Prescribed burn planned to increase bur oak regeneration. Existing oak sapling, pole-, and sawtimber of good quality and to be protected, whenever possible. Honeysuckle and buckthorn treatments are planned. Will supplement plant with burr oak 2-3 years following harvest.</p>
<p>Hook Lake Timber Sale Bad Fish Creek Unit, Badfish Creek Wildlife Area Rutland, WI GPS: 42.871764, -89.266693</p>	<p>RMZ, Wildlife Management – Prairie restoration</p>	<p>Objective to manage as open game area and maintain with Prescribed fire. Clearcut 5 acres of planted white pine for prairie restoration as part of pheasant habitat production. Private land adjacent. Wetland and small man-made ponds nearby. Slash disposal and seasonal restrictions for harvesting apply. Whole tree harvesting preferred to reduce slash disposal requirements for prairie restoration.</p>
<p>Hook Lake Timber Sale Hook Lake Unit, Hook Lake Wildlife Area Flying Acre Dr., Oregon, WI 53575 GPS: 42.944065, -89.324784</p>	<p>RMZ Lake, prairie and oak savanna restoration, WP clearcut and oak thin</p>	<p>Multi-stand treatment area for wildlife habitat management to improve and maintain high quality grassland for recreational use. Convert to oak savanna and open oak woodland, 44 acres. Plan for prescribed burns to control invasive species and encourage natural oak regeneration. Marked to cut. Pine stand to be clearcut and converted to grass prairie, 10 acres. Oak wilt seasonal restrictions apply.</p>

Appendix 4
Opening/Closing Meeting Attendees



NSF Audit Attendance Sheet

Company Name WIDNR

Location Bluff/Drumlin Conference Room SCR FITCHBURG SERVICE CENTER Opening Meeting
Madison, WI HQ Closing Meeting

Type of Audit SFI and FSC Forest Management Surveillance Audits

Opening Meeting Date August 20, 2019 Closing Meeting Date August 23, 2019

Name	Position	Attended Opening Meeting?	Attended Closing Meeting?
Norman Bogacki	NSF SFI LEAD AUDITOR	AB	
Shannon Wilks	SCS/NSF Team Auditor	SW	
Beth Jacobson	SCS Senior Cert Forester/FSC Body		
Anne Reis	DNR/WM Public Lands Spe	YES	
Teggie Prichard	DNR FORESTRY	YES	
John Potzman	DNR Planning Section	Yes	
DAVID SAMPLE	DNR - STATE NATURAL AREAS	YES	
Mark Heyde	DNR - Forest Cert Coord.	Yes	
DOUG BROWN	DNR - CFA Public Lands Spe	yes	yes
Deather Bellund	DNR - Dep. Inv. Admin Ops	YES	
ANDY STOLTMAN	DNR - SECTION CHIEF - Forest Econ & Econ	YES	
Kristine Buchholtz	DNR - Forestry Specialist	YES	
Jim Warren	DNR - Chief - Public + Private	Yes	No



NSF Audit Attendance Sheet

Company Name WOND STATE LANDS
 Location MADISON, VT
 Type of Audit SFE & PSC FM
 Opening Meeting Date _____ Closing Meeting Date 8/23/19

Name	Position	Attended Opening Meeting?	Attended Closing Meeting?
NORMAN BOJANKOWITZ	NSF/SFE LEAD AUDITOR		NB
BETH JACOMAIN	SCS/PSC Lead		NO
Shannon Wilks	NSF/SES Team		SW
Anne Reis	Public Lands Spec WM		AR
Craig Anderson	State Parks Ecologist		A
Kristine Buchholtz	Forestry Specialist & Staff Specialist		KB
DOUG BROWN	CF & Public Land Spec	✓	DB
DAVID SAMPLE	DNR SNA PROGRAM	✓	DNS
Teague Prichard	DNR Forestry ^{State} Forest Sp	✓	TDP
Carmen Hardin	DNR - Applied Forestry Bureau Director		CH
Paul Cunningham	DNR - Historic Management		PC
MARK HEYDE	Forest Certification Council	✓	MH
ANDY STOLTMAN	DNR Forest Econ + Ecol. Sect Chief	✓	AS
John Pohlman	DNR - Property Planning	✓	JP
Sadie Brown	Dodgeville Area Staff Spe	✓	✓
Mike Finlay	Dodgeville Area Forestry Dir	✓	✓
Bruce Henderson	Forester		✓
Nick Morehouse	Forester		✓
Melissa Guillaume Cappert	Forester		✓