

# Wisconsin County Forest System

Forestry Field Operations Bureau  
Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources  
101 S Webster Street – FR/4  
Madison WI 53707-7921

FRS 1Y943

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

Surveillance





## NSF Forestry Program Audit Report

### A. Certificate Holder Information

Certificate Holder	Wisconsin County Forest Program
Customer Number	1Y943
Contact Information (Name, title, phone & email)	Doug Brown, County Forest & Public Lands Specialist, Forestry Field Operations Bureau, 715-966-0157 <a href="mailto:Douglas.Brown@wisconsin.gov">Douglas.Brown@wisconsin.gov</a> Mark Heyde, Sustainable Forestry Certification Coordinator, Forestry Field Operations Bureau, 608-220-9780 <a href="mailto:Mark.Heyde@wisconsin.gov">Mark.Heyde@wisconsin.gov</a>
Scope of Certification	Land management for participating counties within the Wisconsin County Forest Program, encompassing approximately 2.2 million acres of forestland in the following 25 counties: Ashland, Barron, Bayfield, Burnett, Douglas, Eau Claire, Florence, Forest, Iron, Jackson, Juneau, Langlade, Lincoln, Marathon, Marinette, Oconto, Oneida, Polk, Price, Rusk, Sawyer, Taylor, Vilas, Washburn and Wood. SFI Forest Management code: NSF-SFI-FM-1Y943.
Locations Included in the Certification Note: may be listed as plain text or included in an appendix or a separate file.	Refer to Scope of Certification
Significant Changes to Operations or to the Standard(s)	None

### B. Audit Team

Lead Auditor	Shannon Wilks
Audit Team Member(s)	Beth Jacquain

### C. Site Visits

Date and Location of Each Visit	8/4/2020 Wood County 8/5/2020 Marathon County 8/5/2020 Juneau County 8/6/2020 Jackson County
---------------------------------	---

### D. Audit Results

Auditor Recommendation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grant, maintain or renew certification <input type="checkbox"/> Grant, maintain or renew certification pending closure of CARs <input type="checkbox"/> Grant, maintain or renew certification pending follow-up assessment <input type="checkbox"/> Do not grant, maintain or renew certification (notify NSF office immediately)
Number and Summary of Findings of "Exceeds the Requirements"	13.1.2: Records of Committee Meetings and Involvement with the various stakeholders, citizen advisory councils, county and state agencies confirmed a high degree of public involvement in planning and implementation of forest management plan. Involvement with the various user groups was observed during the audit.
Number and Summary of Findings of "Opportunity for Improvement"	None
Number and Summary of Findings of "Minor Nonconformity"	None
Number and Summary of Findings of "Major Nonconformity"	None



Summary of review of nonconformities from previous audit(s)	N/A
Notes from Opening and Closing Meetings	During the opening and closing meetings auditors discussed audit protocols including sampling, methods of evidence required and utilized, communication of findings and audit report process. Representatives of the program described overview of program and Covid protocols utilized by auditors and county/state personnel. Preliminary findings were communicated during closing meeting (1 Exceptional Practice; Conformance for all indicators audited) Recommendation of continued certification and reminder of final decision determined by NSF.
All logos and/or labels, including ANSI, ANAB, SFI, PEFC, ATFS, etc. are utilized correctly in accordance with NSF policies.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No (a finding of nonconformity should be issued) <input type="checkbox"/> N/A (not using any labels or logos on any marketing materials, website, finished products, etc.)

**E. Recertification Review**

<p>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:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• An effective interaction between all parts of the program and its overall effectiveness?</li> <li>• An overall effectiveness of the system in its entirety in light of internal and external changes?</li> <li>• A demonstrated commitment by top management to maintain the effectiveness and improvement of the system to enhance overall performance?</li> <li>• Continual improvement over the cycle?</li> <li>• The program contributing to the achievement of the client’s policy and objectives, and the intended results?</li> <li>• Repeated audit findings during the audit cycle that would indicate systemic issues?</li> </ul>	
Answer	N/A-Surveillance Audit

**F. Appendices**

Appendix 1	Audit Notification and Agenda
Appendix 2	SFI Public Summary Report
Appendix 3	SFI Forest Management Checklist
Appendix 4	Field Site Notes
Appendix 5	Attendance
Appendix 6	Covid Appendix



Appendix 1

Audit Notification Letter

July 2, 2020

Doug Brown, County Forest & Public Lands Specialist
Mark Heyde, Forest Certification Coordinator
Bureau of Forest Management
Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
101 S Webster Street-FR/4
Madison, WI. 53707-7921

RE: Confirmation of 2020 SFI Forest Management Audit, Wisconsin County Forest Program

Dear Mr. Brown and Mr. Heyde,

As we discussed, I will be conducting your SFI® surveillance audit as described in the attached itinerary. Please confirm that the dates of August 4-7, 2020 are still appropriate for the audit of your program’s continued conformance to the SFI® 2015-2019, Section 2- Forest Management Standard.

SFI Scope: Land management for participating counties within the Wisconsin County Forest Program, encompassing approximately 2.2 million acres of forestland in the following 25 counties: Ashland, Barron, Bayfield, Burnett, Douglas, Eau Claire, Florence, Forest, Iron, Jackson, Juneau, Langlade, Lincoln, Marathon, Marinette, Oconto, Oneida, Polk, Price, Rusk, Sawyer, Taylor, Vilas, Washburn and Wood. SFI Forest Management code: NSF-SFI-FM-1Y943.

Itinerary

Table with 5 columns: County/Location, Acres, Auditors, Day (August), Notes. Rows include Wood, Marathon/Juneau, Jackson, and Wood County Park.

Preparing for the Audit

This audit is being conducted in conjunction with your FSC Forest Management Audit (conducted by SCS Global). Please provide me any information or documents that you provide to SCS Global or to their assigned Lead Auditor. This will help reduce the burden that the dual audit process places on you and your team.

A key part of the audit is a review of selected evidence related to your program, which may include: Approval for logo usage; Internal Audit and Management Review records; Training records; or Documentation for multisite requirements; as well as information I’ve requested separately related to specific SFI requirements. To the degree possible in advance of the audit, please provide key written evidence for the SFI requirements selected for review (see list below). I would ask that you place particular emphasis on SFI-focused requirement (SFI Implementation Committee involvement, SFI reporting, etc.) as these are often overlooked when customers prepare for dual audits.



## SFI Requirements Selected for 2020 Surveillance Audit

This audit will include all relevant requirements within Objectives 1, 3, 6, 9, 13, 14 and 15.

### Field Site Selection Process

You have provided a spreadsheet of all currently established but unsold, currently sold, active and closed (closed within last 2 years) timber sales for counties involved in the 2020 Wisconsin County Forest Audit. The counties include Jackson, Juneau, Marathon and Wood. The information contained several columns of data for each timber sale by county.

SFI Lead Auditor, Shannon Wilks made a random selection of timber sales that could be visited and worked with the FSC Lead Auditor to ensure any specific types of sales needed would be included. Thirty-two initial sites were selected. During further review of site data within the spreadsheet, the list was narrowed to 16 sites or 4 for each county.

DNR will review and ensure the sites selected can be accessed and contain specific criteria that meet the objectives of the audit. If not, alternates will be selected from the initial selection. Criteria should include the following: Water (in/adjacent), Primary Timber Type, Special Sites, Active Sales, Completed Timber Sales, Non-Timber uses, HCVF/reserves, planting/regeneration, chemical treatment or research. After confirmation of final site selections, we would ask the county personnel to develop 8 additional sites per county that provide efficient logistic routes that contain the auditor selected sales. These additional sites should include additional non-timber sale sites that demonstrate county forest management accomplishments, forest conversions to other species/non-forest, indigenous people sites, HCVF's and active timber harvests. The goal is to have a list of 10+ potential stops (timber sales and non-timber sites) for each day. We accept that one or more of the selected sites may be inaccessible or challenging to include. Auditors will review the proposed route and adapt the sites to fit within the allotted time schedules during each daily opening meeting.

### Role of SFI Inc. Office of Label Use and Licensing

As a reminder, your organization is responsible for contacting SFI, Inc. and complying with all requirements before using or changing any SFI label or logo. Your contact is:

Rachel Hamilton, Coordinator, Office of Statistics and Label Use  
Sustainable Forestry Initiative, Inc.

343-803-0590

[rachel.hamilton@sfiprogram.org](mailto:rachel.hamilton@sfiprogram.org)

### Agenda for Review

Attached for your review is the tentative agenda that will guide the conduct of the audit. Please contact me via email or phone if you would like to recommend changes or have any questions regarding what is needed for the audit.

Thank you for selecting NSF to provide your audit services.

Sincerely,

Shannon Wilks  
Lead Auditor, NSF  
903-278-7766  
Swilks@nsf.org



## Audit Agenda

### Type of Audit

- |   |   |  |
|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Readiness Review (Stage 1) | <input type="checkbox"/> Registration (Stage 2) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Surveillance |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Reassessment               | <input type="checkbox"/> Transfer               | <input type="checkbox"/> Verification            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____                |   |  |

### Audit Objectives

Determine if certification should be maintained based on conformance to Sustainable Forestry Initiative® requirements within Section 2-Forest Management Standard, 2015-2019 Standards and Rules.

### Schedule

Day/Date	Time	Activity/Process and Location to be Audited <i>Note: Include NSF facility numbers and/or addresses</i>	Auditor (s)
Monday August 3, 2020		Auditor Logistics: Cobblestone Inn 3010 8th St S Wisconsin Rapids, WI. 54494	Shannon Wilks, SFI Beth Jacquain, FSC
Tuesday August 4, 2020	9:00 AM	Wood County Courthouse Opening Meeting-Safety Protocols, Procedures, Final Site Selections, Field Sites-Wood County (4-6 Sites including mandatory selections)	Shannon Wilks, SFI Beth Jacquain, FSC
	4:30-5:00 PM	Daily Summary, Review of Findings, Agenda for Next Day	Shannon Wilks, SFI Beth Jacquain, FSC
Wednesday August 5, 2020	8:00 AM	SFI: Marathon County-Field Sites (8-10 including mandatory selections) FSC: Juneau County-Field Sites (8-10 including mandatory selections)	Shannon Wilks, SFI Beth Jacquain, FSC
	4:30-5:00 PM	Daily Summary, Review of Findings, Agenda for Next Day	Shannon Wilks, SFI Beth Jacquain, FSC
Thursday August 6, 2020	8:00 AM	Jackson County-Field Sites (8-10 including mandatory selections)	Shannon Wilks, SFI Beth Jacquain, FSC
	4:30-5:00 PM	Daily Summary, Review of Findings, Agenda for Next Day	Shannon Wilks, SFI Beth Jacquain, FSC
Friday August 7, 2020	8:00 AM	Conference Room-Cobblestone Inn: Document Review, Staff Interviews, GIS and other required documents	Shannon Wilks, SFI Beth Jacquain, FSC
	11:00 AM	Auditor closing meeting preparation and auditor evaluation of findings.	Shannon Wilks, SFI Beth Jacquain, FSC
	2:00 PM	Wood County Park: Closing Meeting, presentation of findings, review of activities, NSF procedures and review of report process. Review of 2021 audit time/sites	Shannon Wilks, SFI Beth Jacquain, FSC
*Note		Auditors will travel in separate vehicles and follow all Covid safety protocols. Refer to NSF Client Commitment	



## Appendix 2

# Wisconsin County Forest Program 2020 SFI Forest Management Public Summary Audit Report

## Introduction

Wisconsin County Forest Program has demonstrated conformance to SFI® 2015-2019 Standard and Rules, Section 2 – Forest Management Standard in accordance with the NSF certification process.

Wisconsin County Forest Program includes over 2.2 million acres of forestland managed by 25 counties in the central and northern areas of Wisconsin. The scope of certification includes the following counties: Ashland, Barron, Bayfield, Burnett, Douglas, Eau Claire, Florence, Forest, Iron, Jackson, Juneau, Langlade, Lincoln, Marathon, Marinette, Oconto, Oneida, Polk, Price, Rusk, Sawyer, Taylor, Vilas, Washburn and Wood. Responsibility for management of these forests rests with elected county boards, with management activities implemented by county-employed foresters supported by DNR personnel. The forests are managed to provide revenue, habitat, recreational opportunities, and to protect biodiversity values and special sites. The lands abound with a variety of game and non-game wildlife species, and attract a variety of recreationists from hunters to trail users to nature enthusiasts. The most common tree species in order are aspen, sugar maple, red maple, red oak, red pine, basswood, and white birch. The Wisconsin County Forest's SFI Program is managed by the Wisconsin DNR County Forest Specialist. A County Forest Certification Committee with representatives of the counties, the Wisconsin County Forests Association (WCFA), and DNR staff help implement the SFI program, reviewing progress and making suggestions for improvements or changes as needed. The Wisconsin County Forests Association (WCFA) represents the forestry interests of 30 counties in Wisconsin with lands enrolled under Wisconsin's County Forest Law. WCFA provides considerable support for certification-related activities and is a key support mechanism for the program. The 25 participating Wisconsin County Forests have been certified to the Sustainable Forestry Initiative® Standard since December 10, 2004

The audit was performed by NSF on August 4-7, 2020 by an audit team headed by Shannon Wilks, Lead Auditor and Beth Jacquain, Team Auditor. Audit team members fulfill the qualification criteria for conducting audits contained in SFI 2015-2019 Standards and Rules, Section 9 - Procedures and Auditor Qualifications and Accreditation.

The objective of the audit was to assess conformance of the firm's SFI Program to the requirements of the SFI 2015-2019 Standard and Rules, Section 2 – Forest Management.

The scope of the audit included forest management operations. Forest practices that were the focus of field inspections included those that have been under active management over the planning period of the past 3 years. In addition, practices conducted earlier were also reviewed as appropriate (regeneration and BMP issues, for example), SFI obligations to promote sustainable forestry practices, to seek legal compliance, and to incorporate continual improvement systems were also within the scope of the audit.

Several of the SFI Section 2 requirements were outside of the scope of Wisconsin County Forest Program's SFI program and were excluded from the scope of the audit as follows:

- Indicator 2.1.3 – No planting of exotic trees
- Indicator 2.1.5 – No afforestation program
- Performance Measure 8.3 – There is no private land involved in the program
- Indicator 10.1.2 – No research on genetically engineered trees

The next audit will be a surveillance audit and is scheduled for August 3-6, 2021.

## Audit Process

The audit was governed by a detailed audit plan designed to enable the audit team to efficiently determine conformance with the applicable SFI requirements. The plan provided for the assembly and review of audit evidence consisting of documents, interviews, and on-site inspections of ongoing or completed forest practices.

The 2020 audit was a Surveillance Audit for this multi-site certificate that covers 25 county forests (sites). Four county forests were included in the sample: Jackson County Forest, Juneau County Forest, Marathon County Forest, and Wood County Forest. This sample size was determined using the guidelines set forth in IAF-MD1 and modified due to Covid-19 guidance. These counties were selected based on a date rotation of the population of 25 participating counties.

Within the four selected participating county forests NSF's lead auditor selected field sites for inspection based upon the risk of environmental impact, likelihood of occurrence, special features, and other criteria outlined in the NSF protocols. During the 3 ½ day audit 34 field sites were visited, including 22 completed timber harvests, 2 marked or planned harvests, 1 road, 2 recreational trails



and 2 recreation areas, 1 area of oak-wilt treatment, 3 special sites of historic or ecological interest, 2 sites with significant wildlife features (all harvest sites were also sites where wildlife management issues were considered), and 2 other sites (several sites fit into more than one category). Auditors also observed numerous sections of county forest access roads and extensive portions of the county forests while traveling between field stops, but it is not possible to quantify this portion of the sample into discrete field sites.

During the audit NSF also reviewed a sample of the written documentation assembled to provide objective evidence of conformance. NSF also selected and interviewed stakeholders such as recreational stakeholders, adjacent landowners and other interested parties, and interviewed employees within the organization to confirm that the SFI Standard was understood and actively implemented. There were no recent minor non-conformances identified in the 2019 audit.

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

## Overview of Audit Findings

The Wisconsin County Forest Program was found to be in conformance with the standard. NSF determined that there were no non-conformances, no opportunities for improvement and one indicator that exceeded the requirements:

- 13.1.2: Records of Committee Meetings and Involvement with the various stakeholders, citizen advisory councils, county and state agencies confirmed a high degree of public involvement in planning and implementation of forest management plan. Involvement with the various user groups was observed during the audit.

## General Description of Evidence of Conformity

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

### Objective 1 Forest Management Planning

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

**Summary of Evidence:** *The county forest management plans of Jackson, Juneau, Marathon and Wood Timber Sale Notice and Cutting Reports for selected timber sales, supporting documents including DNR manuals and handbooks, and the county forest inventory reports produced from the WisFIRS system were the key evidence of conformance.*

### 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.

**Summary of Evidence:** *Not Audited in 2020*

### 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 across a range of sites were the key evidence. Auditors visited portions of selected field sites that contained water resources, pesticide applications, reforestation, recreational uses and HCV's. Auditors reviewed maps, harvest plans and committee agendas. Protection of water quality is a high priority and is detailed within many of the organization's practices and procedures.*

### 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.

**Summary of Evidence:** *Not Audited in 2020*

### 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:** *Not Audited in 2020*

### 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.





---

**Summary of Evidence:** Auditors review of detailed procedures within policies, GIS mapping technology, archaeological and ecological contacts and observation during field sites confirmed protection of Special Sites is a high priority within program.

**Objective 7 Efficient Use of Fiber Resources**

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

**Summary of Evidence:** Not Audited in 2020

**Objective 8 Recognize and Respect Indigenous Peoples' Rights**

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

**Summary of Evidence:** Not Audited in 2020

**Objective 9 Legal and Regulatory Compliance**

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

**Summary of Evidence:** Auditors review of policies, handbooks, contracts and observations of regulatory postings were the main evidence confirming compliance. Interviews with personnel, review of web and observations were also conducted.

**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:** Not Audited in 2020

**Objective 11 Training and Education**

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

**Summary of Evidence:** Not Audited in 2020

**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.

**Summary of Evidence:** Not Audited in 2020

**Objective 13 Public Land Management Responsibilities**

To participate and implement sustainable forest management on public lands.

**Summary of Evidence:** The Wisconsin County Forests Association (WCFA) provided written evidence regarding the counties' outreach activities related to public land management. Support and involvement in various organizations confirm support of active public management role of county forests. Interviews and review of policies were used to confirm the requirements.

**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 website were 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 including annual "Partnership Meetings", periodic internal audits, and agendas and notes from management review meetings, and interviews with personnel from all involved levels in the organization were assessed.

**Relevance of Forestry Certification**

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

**1. Sustainable Forestry**

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





**2. Forest Productivity and Health**

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

**3. Protection of Water Resources**

To protect water bodies and *riparian areas* and to conform with forestry *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 lands that are ecologically, geologically or *culturally important* in a manner that 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. Legal Compliance**

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

**9. Research**

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

**10. Training and Education**

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

**11. Community Involvement and Social Responsibility**

To broaden the practice of *sustainable forestry* on all lands through community involvement, socially responsible practices, and through recognition and respect of *Indigenous Peoples’* rights and *traditional forest-related knowledge*.

**12. Transparency**

To broaden the understanding of forest certification to the *Fiber Sourcing* Standard by documenting certification audits and making the findings publicly available.

**13. Continual Improvement**

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

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

*Applies only to the SFI 2015-2019 Fiber Sourcing Standard*

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.

**Source:** *Sustainable Forestry Initiative® (SFI) Standard, 2015–2019 Edition*

**For Additional Information Contact**

Daniel Freeman	Michelle Matteo	Mark Heyde
NSF Project Manager	NSF Forestry Program Manager	Wisconsin DNR Forest Certification Coordinator
789 N. Dixboro Road Ann Arbor, MI 48105	789 N. Dixboro Road Ann Arbor, MI 48105	101 S Webster Street-FR/4 Madison, WI. 53703
734-214-6228	413-265-3714	608-267-0565
<a href="mailto:dfreeman@nsf.org">dfreeman@nsf.org</a>	<a href="mailto:mmatteo@nsf.org">mmatteo@nsf.org</a>	<a href="mailto:Mark.heyde@wisconsin.gov">Mark.heyde@wisconsin.gov</a>



Appendix 3

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

1Y943 – Wisconsin County Forest System

Date of audit(s): August 4-7, 2020

## 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

Notes: No fiber sourcing program or use of on-product labels.

## 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

Notes: Forest management plans for each county are developed from a comprehensive template provided by the WDNR. Counties customize their individual plans considerably, adding locally-significant information throughout the plan. The resulting plans are realistic, locally-adapted, and comprehensive. Plans are supplemented by a detailed GIS, support tools, prompts/required fields and supporting documents. Comprehensive Land Use Management Plans include all of the required items listed in the indicator and used to update WisFirs (database) that compiles the data from each county, management treatment and utilizes growth tables developed based on habitat, soils and detailed models.

Review of Comprehensive Land Use Plans for Jackson, Juneau, Marathon and Wood counties confirmed detailed aspects for sustainable long-term harvest levels. Harvest levels goals and actuals for Wisconsin County Forest Program and for each county within audit is listed:

	WCF Annual Allowable Acres	5 Year Average Acres Est	5 Year Average Acres Sold	5 Year Average Acres Completed
WI DNR CF	56,782	47,320	45,239	40,680
Jackson	2,457	1,619	1,472	1,415
Juneau	444	601	439	425
Marathon	697	620	615	483
Wood	849	445	462	483



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

Notes: Review of Comprehensive Land Use Plans for Counties identified in 1.1 contain detailed documentation for all requirements within a-i. Review of long-term resource planning within PM 1.1 confirm systems and infrastructure to manage the FM plan at the size and scale of organization. Review of GIS systems contain requirements within c-h. Review of Timber Sales and Cutting Report contain detailed reviews that meet the aspects within i.

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

Notes: Review of harvest levels for the counties within audit scope confirm levels are within designated parameters established. Refer to evidence in PM 1.

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

Notes: Forest inventory system is WisFIRS (Wisconsin Forest Inventory and Reporting System). A combination of WisFIRS and FIA data are used to calculate growth and yield. Although FIA data are reviewed to estimate growth, the system is not driven by volume growth estimates, but by stand-level assessments completed immediately prior to treatment to confirm or adjust target harvest dates. The WisFIRS program is used each year to determine harvest levels (acres) based on the most recent inventory information. Basal area growth rates and stand ages are used to estimate the year in which stands will be silviculturally ready for the next treatment (thinning, regeneration, etc.), and that target date is recorded in WisFIRS.

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

Notes: For each of the county forests within 2020 audit scope contained two versions of reconnaissance reports documenting the status of inventory information (currency) were provided. Annual updates to inventory and annual allowable harvest acres are updated based on the recon reports. This information confirmed compliance. The following reports regarding inventory status were reviewed:

- Jackson County – Report #114 - 60% of acres had recon data collected within the past 10 years; Report #115\_recon: 33% of acres (40,009) were updated from 2016 through 7.23.20.
- Juneau County – Report #114 - 67% of acres had recon data collected within the past 10 years; Report #115\_recon: 40% of acres (7,072) were updated from 2016 through 7.23.20.
- Marathon County – Report #114 - 55% of acres had recon data collected within the past 10 years; Report #115\_recon: 46% of acres (13,963) were updated from 2016 through 7.23.20.
- Wood County – Report #114 - 68% of acres had recon data collected within the past 10 years; Report #115\_recon: 48% of acres (17,960) were updated from 2016 through 7.23.20.



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

Notes: Review of Public Forest Lands Handbook (2460.5) section 140 contains detailed protocols for record-keeping; records and activities based on these protocols are reviewed and managed from field site personnel through management.

Each county maintains records as required in their partnership agreement with WDNR. The system of records is WisFIRS, which is a comprehensive database of all stands including inventory information, harvests and vegetation management treatments and needs. WisFIRS is maintained and supported by WDNR and counties are provided secure access to the web-based system. Long term harvest planning and the setting of annual allowable harvest levels are based on assumptions regarding growth rates by major cover type, driven in most types primarily by basal area and its growth. Review of 34 field sites within Jackson, Juneau, Marathon and Wood counties confirmed ground conditions matched plans detailed within Timber Sale and Cutting Notice (2460) forms reviewed. Detailed descriptions, systematic use of planning process and procedures was observed across four counties within audit scope. Recon and treatments are scheduled within WisFirs to alert counties to verify regeneration and other required aspects of required treatments to validate ground conditions. Assumption for partial harvests that stocking will be maintained within acceptable limits, which was observed during all field sites. Assumption for regeneration harvests that regeneration will be secured within 5 years was observed on field sites with harvest activity.

### 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

Notes: Review of Assessment for stand level decisions to change cover types is documented on the narrative of the Timber Sale Cutting Notice (Form 2460). Most harvests have a goal of maintaining the current forest cover type, but there are some sites where cover type changes were planned to promote species composition with soil/site conditions or landscape considerations. Soil/site conditions are determined (Field Guide to Forest Habitat Types – Kotar, et al) and then used to help guide decisions about forest type. Prescriptions are reviewed by wildlife biologists, ecologist and other specialists as required. Goals for desired future conditions with respect to cover type have been developed with considerations at larger spatial scales and documented in plans. Overall goal to enable native forest types to repopulate site based on the analysis of soils and habitats. Improvement in the species that are rare/declining was communicated during field site reviews. Landscape-level issues regarding trends for forest cover types are considered in the 15-year plans, and site-level considerations are also reviewed. These conversions or successions are consistent with natural stand development pathways and with site quality assessments. Interviews confirmed artificial planting is not used to drive cover-type conversion.

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

Notes: Managers occasionally seek to convert one forest type to another, for reasons such as forest health, site productivity, and meeting property objectives. Any assessment for the stand level decision to change cover types is documented on the narrative of the Timber Sale Cutting Notice (Form 2460). Assessments are made based on understory, soils and habitat types based on Field Guide to Forest Habitat Types – Kotar, et al. Conversion of Red Maple to Northern Red Oak and Aspen to Northern Oak in Tract 01-19 (Marathon County).



---

**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

Notes: Review of records indicate that there is little such conversion out of county forest status. When lands are selected for changes in land use, they are subject to a robust review process before receiving approval to be removed from the county forest system. No land converted to non-forest use within 2020 audit scope of counties. Field sites confirmed all sites are forest land.

---



## 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

Notes: Not Audited in 2020

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

Notes: Not Audited in 2020

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

Notes: Not Audited in 2020

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

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

Notes: Not Audited in 2020

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

Notes: Not Audited in 2020

### 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

Notes: Not Audited in 2020

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

Notes: Not Audited in 2020

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

Notes: Not Audited in 2020





---

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

Notes: Not Audited in 2020

---

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

Notes: Not Audited in 2020

---

2.2.6 Use of *integrated pest management* where feasible.

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

Notes: Not Audited in 2020

---

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

Notes: Not Audited in 2020

---

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

Notes: Not Audited in 2020

---

### 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

Notes: Not Audited in 2020

---

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

Notes: Not Audited in 2020

---

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

Notes: Not Audited in 2020

---



---

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

Notes: Not Audited in 2020

---

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

Notes: Not Audited in 2020

---

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

Notes: Not Audited in 2020

---

#### 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

Notes: Not Audited in 2020

---

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

Notes: Not Audited in 2020

---

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

Notes: Not Audited in 2020

---

#### 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

Notes: Not Audited in 2020

---



### 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

Notes: Trained foresters plan and oversee all management activities, with review and approval by senior managers and/or specialists who have depth of knowledge and experience. Wisconsin’s Forestry Best Management Practices for Water Quality are the basis of the program and are embedded into many aspects of the overall program (training, contracts, monitoring, management review). Review of Timber Sale Notice and Cutting Report confirmed monitoring of forest management activity compliance to BMPs. Field site reviews (refer to Field Site notes) confirm roads, timber sales and other forest management activities within the audit scope counties contained no issues related to water quality or utilization of Best Management Practices guidelines. Review of 34 field sites confirmed use of SFI SIC trained contractors. Training records were reviewed and all contracts required use of Wisconsin BMP and SFI SIC 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

Notes: Review of 34 field sites and Timber Contracts for Jackson, Juneau, Marathon and Wood confirmed requirements for compliance to State BMP requirements. Refer to 3.1.1 for additional evidence.

3.1.3 Monitoring of overall *best management practices* implementation.

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

Notes: Review of Timber Sale Inspection reports confirmed County foresters monitor all harvests and notes reviewed within Timber Sale Inspection reports of any BMP issues. No issues identified during field sites. Interview with personnel confirmed detailed knowledge of requirements for SMZ and harvesting requirements within RMZ. Field site observations confirmed ground conditions met requirements within WI BMP guidelines. BMP assessment on state and county lands conducted every five-years was completed in 2018. No issues observed on county roads during field sites. All roads observed during audit were properly maintained and improved by recent activity. Review of results confirmed following:

BMP Application Rate: 90.7% BMPs applied correctly. This compares to 2013 rate of 93%. 7.5% BMPs not applied where needed. Fuels, waste and spills, along with RMZ received the highest BMP application rate of 98.5%. Forest Roads received an 81.9% correct application rate.

BMP Effectiveness Rate: When BMPs were applied correctly we had a 99.9% protection of water quality. When BMPs were not applied correctly the teams observed an impact to water quality 71.6% of the time.”



---

## 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

Notes: Review of Comprehensive Land Use Management Plans for all counties within audit scope contain detailed references to the protection of water and the use of Wisconsin Forestry Best Management Practices. Review of 34 field sites confirmed proper management, monitoring, riparian management zones and forest management activities including roads and ski, ATV, single track-mountain biking, horseback and hiking trails managed within guidelines of Wisconsin Best Management Practices.

---

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

Notes: Review of 34 maps associated with the field sites inspected contained the designated bodies of water and protection zones identified if applicable. Review of Timber Sale Notice and Cutting Reports for each field site with harvesting activity contained sections identifying Water Quality Considerations. Mapping of waters is contained within the GIS system of WisFirs as referenced within 1.1.5.

---

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

Notes: Review of all Timber Sale and Cutting Notice documents contain section identifying Water Quality Considerations. Applicable sites with water features were identified on maps and monitoring of BMP compliance was observed on all inspection reports. Review of sites with SMZ or RMZ features confirmed management met the requirements of Wisconsin BMP guidelines. RMZ/SMZ areas were noted on maps and field site observations confirmed. No equipment was observed in restricted areas. Interviews with personnel confirmed knowledge of state BMP requirements.

---

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

Notes: Review of Timber Contracts and Timber Sale Prospectus confirm the language within the prospectus is part of the contract. Plans are identified for within Sale Requirement sections for operations during specific times of the year. Review of Tract #25-18 in Jackson County (Frozen Ground Conditions); Tract #06-15 in Juneau County (Oak Wilt restriction on harvesting April 1-July 15); Tract #01-19 in Marathon County (Operations shall occur when ground is firm); Tract #06-15 in Wood County (Seasonal Restrictions noted) confirm requirements are met. Observations during field site visits confirmed ground conditions met BMP requirements.

---



## 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

Notes: Not Audited in 2020

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

Notes: Not Audited in 2020

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

Notes: Not Audited in 2020

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

Notes: Not Audited in 2020

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

Notes: Not Audited in 2020

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

Notes: Not Audited in 2020

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

Notes: Not Audited in 2020

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

Notes: Not Audited in 2020



---

### 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

Notes: Not Audited in 2020

---

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

Notes: Not Audited in 2020

---

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

Notes: Not Audited in 2020

---

### 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

Notes: Not Audited in 2020

---

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

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

Notes: Not Audited in 2020

---

### 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

Notes: Not Audited in 2020

---

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

Notes: Not Audited in 2020

---



---

## 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

Notes: Not Audited in 2020

---

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

Notes: Not Audited in 2020

---

### 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

Notes: Not Audited in 2020

---

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

Notes: Not Audited in 2020

---

### 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

Notes: Not Audited in 2020

---

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

Notes: Not Audited in 2020

---

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

Notes: Not Audited in 2020

---

### 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

Notes: Not Audited in 2020

---



---

**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

Notes:    All Timber Sale Notice and Cutting Reports reviewed during the 2020 audit confirm each site is reviewed within Natural Heritage Inventory (NHI) and Archaeological/Cultural Review process. Review of Comprehensive Land Use Plans for all counties within audit scope confirmed use of Natural Heritage Inventory to identify special/unique sites, rare species and natural communities. Sites are identified within layers of the WisFIRS database. Examples of special sites during 2020 audit include (Refer to Site Notes for Details):

Review of letter dated 9/11/19 confirming notice from State Archaeologist regarding historical Native American burial grounds for Juneau County in Bass Hollow Park Ho-Chunk Cemetery.

Old log cabin within Tract 06-15.

Bauer-Brockway Barrens Globally Imperiled Habitat.

---

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

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

Notes:    Sites are identified within layers of the WisFIRS database. Monitoring is identified within each Timber Sale Notice and Cutting Report within Ecological section (b.) and Resources of Special Concern/Archaeological (g.). Special Site designation is listed for areas that are managed with other priorities than timber.

---





---

**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

Notes: Not Audited in 2020

---



---

**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

Notes: Not Audited in 2020

---

**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

Notes: Not Audited in 2020

---

**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

Notes: Not Audited in 2020

---

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

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

Notes: Not Audited in 2020

---



## 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

Notes: Review of Jackson, Juneau, Marathon and Wood counties Comprehensive Land Use Plans contain section (330) for ordinances. Review of Jackson, Juneau, Marathon and Wood counties confirm access to ordinances on website. State and Federal regulations are available on internet. Review of regulatory postings observed in all County facilities public areas audited in 2020.

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

Notes: Review of Timber Sales contracts contain compliance to regulations and BMPs. Review of Partnership Meeting notes for Jackson, Juneau, Marathon and Wood Counties confirm system to ensure compliance. System for compliance on all FM activities documented within Timber Sales Contracts, Timber Sale Prospectus, Timber Sales Notice and Cutting Reports. Administration by qualified personnel trained in regulations of county/state.

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

Notes: Interviews with WI DNR CF Specialist and representatives from 4 counties within audit scope confirm no regulatory violations or public complaints regarding forest management activities. Review of internet confirmed no pending actions or notices observed.

### 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

Notes: Interviews with personnel in each county confirmed policies, regulatory requirements including social law covering civil rights, discrimination and equal employment opportunities, indigenous people rights, workers and communities right to know, prevailing wages, right to organize and OSHA requirements are posted in public areas within offices. Auditors observed the postings and utilized face coverings due to Covid restrictions.

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

Notes: Observations and interviews confirmed positive working relationship between management and personnel. Positive working relationships was also observed between agencies (DNR/County; Wildlife/Forestry; Parks/Forestry; Ecology/Forestry). No complaints were noted during 34 site visits with personnel and interviews with DNR County Forest Specialist and County Forest Administrators.



---

## 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

Notes: Not Audited in 2020

---

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

Notes: Not Audited in 2020

---

### 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

Notes: Not Audited in 2020

---

### 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

Notes: Not Audited in 2020

---

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

Notes: Not Audited in 2020

---



## 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

Notes: Review of Comprehensive Land Use Plans for Jackson, Juneau, Marathon and Wood contained SFI Commitment to Sustainable Forestry. Review of Public Lands Handbook Pages 290-11 to 290-13 contained SFI commitment. Interviews conducted during field site visits confirmed knowledge of requirements.

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

Notes: All personnel interviewed and observed during the 2020 audit of the county forest program are knowledgeable of responsibilities for achieving the SFI 2015-2019 Standard objectives as part of their daily job requirements. Observation during field site visits and review of field site inspection documents and monitoring reports confirm. Primary responsibility at the sites resides with the County Forest Administrators, supported by Wisconsin DNR personnel, chiefly the County Forestry Liaisons. Central responsibility is assigned to the Wisconsin County Forestry Specialist, supported by the Certification Coordinator and the WCFA Executive Director. Interviews with County Forestry Liaisons and County Foresters confirmed high degree of knowledge regarding roles and communicated effectively their knowledge.

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

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

Notes: Training records for 8 selected personnel (2 from each County) were reviewed. Training activities in 2020 are curtailed due to Covid and travel restrictions. Webinar training was mentioned as alternative during interviews for continuing education credits for Foresters. Training was demonstrated during all field sites, knowledge of BMP/RMZ, RTE, Archaeological and protection of special sites was communicated during various interviews.

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

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

Notes: Review of Timber Sales contract requirements for all counties reviewed contained training requirements for vendors. Review of all Timber Sales (additional evidence in Field site Notes) confirmed use of qualified personnel with validated training records. Applicators license was observed for required chemicals by personnel and vendors.

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

Notes: Jackson County-Review of Timber Sale Contract for Tract 1-17 (older contract) contained no evidence of FISTA Training required within documents observed, all sales observed were purchased by trained vendors. Contract language amended and observed new contract posted on SharePoint drive with language requiring SFI. Juneau County-Review of Timber Sale Contract for Tract 02-20 section 4 contains SFI and FISTA training requirements. Marathon County-Review of Timber Sale Contract for Tract 4-15 section 12 contains SFI and FISTA training requirements. Wood County-Review of Timber Sale Contract for Tract 6-19 section 35 contains SFI and FISTA training requirements.



## 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

Notes: WCFA and DNR both participate in the Wisconsin SFI Implementation Committee (SIC). Individual county forest group members all belong to WCFA. WCFA's Executive Director or designee and DNR's Forest Certification Coordinator regularly attend SIC meetings-auditor observed attendance for August and October 2019 meetings. WCFA Executive Director retired in 2019 and new appointment was made in October 2019; Attendance to October SIC meeting was only Forest Certification Coordinator.

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

Notes: Review of [training website](#) confirms continuing education is required annually by Forest Industry Safety and Training Alliance (FISTA).

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

Notes: WCFA and DNR both participate in the Wisconsin SFI Implementation Committee (SIC). Individual county forest group members all belong to WCFA. WCFA's Executive Director or designee and DNR's Forest Certification Coordinator regularly attends SIC meetings-auditor observed attendance for August and October 2019. WCFA Executive Director retired in September 2019 and new appointment was made in October 2019; Attendance to October SIC meeting was only Forest Certification Coordinator. Review of core training requirements for Wisconsin Master Logger and FISTA required training confirm a-h are met.



---

## 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

Notes: Not Audited in 2020

---

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

Notes: Not Audited in 2020

---

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

Notes: Not Audited in 2020

---

### 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

Notes: Not Audited in 2020

---



---

**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

Notes: Not Audited in 2020

---

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

Notes: Not Audited in 2020

---





## 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

Notes: The Wisconsin County Forest Program engages involvement with a wide range of county, state, federal, tribal and public entities in their land planning and management activities. This work is done by county board members, forest administrators, and county foresters, with the WCFA providing leadership, guidance, support and coordination.

Several Wisconsin Counties have signed agreements with WDNR to accomplish work on national forests under the Good Neighbor Authority but none audited in 2020 have the agreements. Interviews in each county support a very high level of conformance with the indicator. County forests are run by the citizens of each county. Public comment is received during the planning process before implementation of plans. In addition to the county board members the county foresters are also involved with user group which provide input. Public members can comment during any monthly county forestry committee meeting. Citizen Advisory Committees were also present in 2 of 4 counties (Jackson and Marathon) audited. Marathon County has a 38 member CAC board.

Involvement of user groups and community groups in public land planning and management provide for a wide range of stakeholders representing various user interests. Site specific planned activities (e.g. timber sales) are often posted at kiosk in recreational areas for individual user review.

County and State land planning and management activities are closely coordinated through the use of the DNR Liaison foresters and by incorporating state forest management, private forestry, and county forest activities within the same administrative line-staff field organization (DNR). Senior managers from the three key components of the county program (county forests, Wisconsin DNR forestry, and Wisconsin County Forests Association) have demonstrated continuing involvement in statewide planning efforts such as the tri-state Bat Habitat Conservation Plan, Bear Management Advisory Committee, Wisconsin Bird Conservation Initiative, Wolf Advisory Committee, Elk Advisory Committee, Ruffed Grouse Management Areas Project, Karner Blue Butterfly Committee, countless other planning and outreach efforts at all levels. WCFA is also involved with 36 various committees within State and region.

WCFA Executive Director maintains detailed records of the involvement with public planning details. Numerous personnel are involved. The records reviewed by auditors included the following sections: Strategic Direction, Outreach and Education, Research, Stewardship and Grants, Public Affairs, County Forest 15-Year Plans, Wildlife Management, National Forest Affairs, External Engagement, WCFA Internal Committees and Appendixes A-F.

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

Notes: Review of 4 counties Comprehensive Management Plan section 210 confirms cooperation with other agencies, private individuals, non-profit, research, tribal, industry, historical society and others for Forest Management planning. Interview with personnel confirmed the following process:

Wisconsin County Forest Program maintains a high level of contact with local stakeholders over forest management issues through state, federal and individual collaboration. Wisconsin County Forest Program, supported by the Wisconsin County Forests Association, maintains a significant level of contact with local stakeholders over forest management issues involving state, federal and individual collaboration working through an extraordinary number of initiatives, committees, and environmental non-governmental organizations (ENGOS).

Interviews in each county support the finding. County Forest Administrators monthly committee meetings are open to the public. A time is set aside for public comments. The County Forest Comprehensive Land Use Plans and Annual Work Plans are brought before the county board for approval in systematic and well-publicized processes. Citizens can provide input or ask questions about these plans which are currently under revision. Significant public input is gathered from various user groups and Citizen Advisory Committees to balance recreational uses and forest management objectives. Each County Website provides detailed information on county forestry programs, including forestry committee meeting agendas and minutes, annual work plans, and annual reports and (in some cases) 15-year plans.



## 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](http://www.sfiprogram.org)) for public review.

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

Notes: Review of [SFI website](#) confirms 2019 re-certification audit Public Summary is available. NSF report contains all requirements within a-h.

### 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

Notes: Review within Share-point file of SFI 2019 SIC survey submitted on March 30, 2020.

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

Notes: Review of WisFIRS system contains all required FM information. Other systems are used to track contributions. Each year information in each county is compiled and reported, as described in each county forest plan. All documents requested were readily available.

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

Notes: Annual SFI Progress Reports for Wisconsin are retained electronically by the DNR Certification Specialist. Annual audit reports are available on the [DNR's website](#).



## 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

Notes: Review of Annual Certification Review conducted via Skype on 7/28/2020. Counties within audit scope conduct routine meetings between County Forestry and DNR. Review of the following counties conduct monthly Forestry meetings and agenda is posted on internet.

[Jackson County](#)

[Juneau County](#)

[Marathon County](#)

Wood County---Review of Annual County/DNR Partnership meeting conducted on 9/3/2019.

The County Forest program conducted review of CARs/OFls/OBs on 8/13/19. The periodic internal audits to determine compliance with the County Forest Law, the County Forest Comprehensive Land Use Plan (15 Yr. Plan), and Forest Certification standards. These are supplemented by partnership meetings and by regular review of activities conducted by the Wisconsin DNR Liaison Forester assigned to each county. Each county undergoes a detailed and thorough administrative audit every three years-last audit was 2017 observed for all counties audited.

Review of previous audits, administrative audits and management review confirms a rigorous process to ensure counties respond to third-party audit findings (no findings within SFI and several exceeds findings in past).

Involvement by all enrolled counties in the Wisconsin County Forests Association (WCFA) and involvement by the WCFA as evidenced in indicator 13.1.1. Public lands management with the counties, WCFA, DNR and various other state agencies conducts a detailed system of checks and balances to ensure the certification program meets and exceeds the standards. WCFA represents the forestry programs and commitment was observed during the audit.

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

Notes: Quarterly/Annual WCFA meetings (Impacted by Covid since Q1)

County Partnership meetings (Refer to 15.1.1)

County Forest Administrator, Wisconsin DNR Liaison Forester and Team Leaders review and approve timber sales to ensure they meet silviculture, ecological and social objectives.

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

Notes: Review of agenda and meeting notes for Annual Certification Review conducted via Skype on 7/28/2020. Participants included Deputy State Forester, Applied Forestry Bureau Director, Field Operations Bureau Director, Executive Director WCFA, Assistant to Executive Director WCFA, Florence County Parks and Recreation Administrator, County Forest & Public Lands Specialist, Forest Certification Coordinator, and Forestry Specialist.

(End SFI Forest Management Checklist)



## Appendix 4

### Field Notes

#### Wood County-8/4/2020-Shannon Wilks

All Contracts reviewed contained required BMP and SFI Training requirements. All harvesting contractors training records were valid and reviewed during audit.

#### Tract 7-19 Natures Touch 27 acres

Salvage damaged timber within sale area. Boundaries are red and blue paint lines and town road. Entire stand harvested to promote regeneration. Dry soil conditions needed for harvesting. Futurewood purchased 8//21/19. NHI check found turtle, fish, bird (Red Shoulder Hawk) and frog. No cultural or historical sites identified. No chemical use identified. GTR of oaks and white pine. Observed red painted sale boundary. Minimal rutting/soil observed but no impacts to BMP or violations of rutting policy.

#### Tract 6-19 Albino Aspen 36 acres

Wilson Forestry purchased 6/25/2020. Aspen regeneration and salvage storm damaged timber. July 2019 storm with previous salvage operation. GTR with green and red marked trees. No invasive identified. NHI check found turtle, fish, frog and bird within 2-mile buffer. No chemical use identified. No cultural or historical sites identified. Website map checked on 4/30/2020. 3 main areas damaged by windstorm in July 2019.

#### Tract 9-15 Hidden Nugget Sale 50 acres

Aspen regeneration with coppice. Sale also had an overstory removal to release advanced regeneration as well as an improvement thinning in an oak/hardwood stand. Purchased by Futurewood on 4/25/16. NHI check found butterfly, bird, and KBB high potential range within 2-mile buffer. No archaeological or historic occurrence. No chemical use identified. Sale was within Wood County Dexter Park, involving the Yellow River, water BMPs, hiking trails, campground and recreational considerations.

#### Tract 6-15 Special Oak Sale 58 acres

Red pine row thinning, red pine marked thinning, oak harvest cut and aspen/oak coppice. Futurewood purchased 4/25/16. Oak wilt restriction April 1-July 15. Annosum Stump treatment required on pine stumps. Chemical applicators license not needed for Cellu-Treat. NHI list 1 butterfly; 1 bird species and KBB high potential range within 2-mile buffer. No archaeological occurrences identified. Observed 1st thinning of red pine-Four rows residual and 2 rows harvested. No damages observed to residual stand. Observed old harvest cut boundary of black oaks. Regeneration of aspen, maples and oaks observed.

#### Tract 10-18 Three Point Popple 40 acres

Coppice harvest except all white pines and oak not marked with orange paint. Futurewood purchased on 4/10/19. Observed training record through 2021. 1 species identified within NHI and 0 archaeological occurrence. RMZ within sale delineated with red paint line. No chemical use identified on Timber Sale Notice and Cutting Report. Oak wilt restriction on harvesting. Firm/Frozen ground conditions. Harvesting only lasted 5 days due to wet weather. Observed red painted boundary and minimal harvesting area. Tree tops placed on access road to prevent trespass.

#### Tract 3-16 Keyhole Sale 38 acres

Shelterwood thinning to promote oak regeneration. Purchased by Futurewood on 5/17/18. Special concern turtle identified on NHI check but no habitat observed on ground. No archaeological occurrences identified. No chemical use identified.

#### Tract 1-18 50/50 35 acres

Harvest sale with objective to regenerate with similar tree species. Mature to over mature oak. 1-2 acres pole sized aspen and red maple. Reserve green painted trees-GTR 11/acre. Some dead oak to be left for wildlife. Invasive buckthorn present with discussion to prevent spread. Early restriction for oak wilt not applicable due to advanced state of oak mortality. Natural regeneration planned. NHI indicated one plant within 2-mile buffer- no impact during harvesting. Enhancement of site noted. No SMZ or RMZ. No historical or archaeological sites after check on 1/18/18. Lambert Forest Products purchased on 6/11/18. Observed BMP and training requirements within contract.

#### PJ Scarification 4+ acres

Mechanical site prep. Previous oak wilt, regeneration didn't meet expectations after regeneration monitoring. Site used for firewood and then training for DNR equipment operators required training to scarify/site prep land for hand planting of Jack Pine. Planned for hand planting in Spring of 2021. DNR gets seed from DNR nursery near Hayward. DNR personnel will plant.







---

### **Tract 07-15-Upside Down Owl Sale 83 acres**

Frozen ground sale. Harvest cut except oak and conifer. Purchased by Jacobs Enterprises, LLC on 11/15/15. Observed FISTA training record with expiration of 2018. BMP and training requirements observed in contract. No NHI or Archaeological occurrences identified. Sale input from Ruffed Grouse Society-Biologist for habitat improvement. No chemical use identified within Timber Sale Notice and Cutting Report. Observed completed block with evidence of adequate aspen regeneration. Ground conditions matched Timber Cutting Notice (Form 2460). Personnel knowledgeable of monitoring process within WisFIRs.

### **Tract 04-15-What Sale 39 acres**

Harvest all Aspen (Area 1) and Harvest all Aspen, White Birch, Basswood and hardwood (Area 2). Javorek Logging-purchased 10-10-2015. Observed training records of SFI requirements. Landscape and Wildlife Action plans noted in Timber Sale Notice and Cutting Report. No NHI or Archaeological occurrences identified. Training and BMP requirements observed in contract. Observed minimal damage to residual stand. Harvesting completed in winter of 2018. Regeneration of oak, maple and aspen observed with heavy deer browse. Recon check scheduled for 2022. Red painted sale boundary matched sale description. Access gated and site is part of multi-use with hunting and horseback riding. Minor trash observed due to trespass. Plan to clean up next day by County Forester.

### **Nine Mile Forest Recreation area-4900-acre multi-use**

2.7 miles of trails per square miles. No new trails mandate. Most heavily used forest in system. Biking, cross country, skiing hiking trails, lighted ski trail. Dual management of recreation and timber management is difficult. Timber operations cease around mid-November and preparation for winter recreation. Feasibility study for ski club to install snow-making operations. Project on hold due to Covid. Project is undergoing cost, soil and procedural requirements. Highest productivity soils and produce 30% of County revenue. Preparation of sales involves meeting with ski clubs and other recreational users. User groups notified prior to harvesting, signs placed and all sales are publicly available through website and through Citizens Advisory Committee. Camping permitted. As long as other user group has not contracted site. Average sale size 68-70 acres.

### **Tract 01-19-Dozer Sale 63 Acres**

Conversion of 2 acres Red Maple to Northern Red Oak and 6 acres of Aspen to Northern Oak (Stand 6); Hemlock Thinning (Stand 22-1 Acre); Shelterwood/ Harvest Seeding Cut (Stands 251-39 Acres & Stand 255-15 Acres); Seasonal creek adjacent to Stands 6 & 22 with SMZ. No selection harvest within SMZ. Hiking, cross country ski and horse trails. Selected trees adjacent to trails targeted to improve snow accumulation. Higher basal area was retained within 100 foot adjacent to trails. Longer lived Northern red oak and white oak retained species. Slash required to be cut within 2 foot of ground. Snags and cavity trees (identified with 3 dotted green paint) left for wildlife. Twin Forest Products purchased sale-5/30/2019. Observed SFI training requirement and certified training record through 2020. Scarification to open soil completed prior to harvesting. Harvesting completed in Fall 2019. Regeneration check 4500-5500 seedlings per acre. No BMP violations, knowledgeable personnel of SMZ requirements. No evidence of hydrocarbon or trash.

### **Oak wilt- site treatment**

Recon identified pocket. DNR guidance dictates mitigation. Double girdling and treating with Garlon solution. Applied by County personnel with applicator license expiration 12/2020. Records of chemical use maintained in DNR. Site treated in Summer of 2019.



---

## Juneau County-Beth Jacqmain

### Bass Hollow Park HCV

Indigenous notes for sites. Parsnip application, is in separate spray. Uploaded to SharePoint.

### Tract 09-15 Jack pine/oak harvest 23 acres

Clear-cut retaining marked oak and all white and red pine, snag and den trees. Objective to regenerate oak and jack pine. Oak wilt restrictions. NHI check found 2 species resulting in harvest restrictions for protections and otherwise harvest will enhance. Sale Purchased by Futurewood on 13 March 2015. Snags and green tree retention abundant. Wetland area excluded from sales. Easement through property. History review of property after adjacent landowner inquiry. County worked through easement relocated. Property boundary to east surveyed & staked/rebar. Blue paint

### ATV trail

2 miles, only one in County state funded. Was a snowmobile trail.

### Tract 06-16. Kennedy Park and camping area

Black locust treatment. To honor the will of the person who donated the land for Kennedy Park & to protect wildlife, no hunting allowed. Each fall the park hosts the Annual Wisconsin Bow hunter's Association Broadhead Target Shooting event. Hazard tree removal & regeneration to longer lived species. Deer browse a regen problem. Black locust noted on site. Residual damage monitored

### Tract 06-15 Oak Ridge 23 acres

Natural regeneration harvest for oak leaving advanced regeneration, pine for mixed oak/pine forest. NHI found KBB area with lupine found in follow-up survey, harvest determined to be positive for KBB on the site. NHI review also found Northern Goshawk with last observance in 1997, no nests or activity found on site, site determined to be marginal quality for NG. Aesthetic considerations as location in Oak Ridge Recreation Area. Trail network for hiking and hunting use. Left higher density of oaks for visual management and give structural diversity retaining den and mast trees. Signage used during harvest. Cultural review found old log cabin protected from harvesting. Cabin to be evaluated for potential public hazard. Verso purchased on 18 March 2015. Boundaries painted in red.

### Tract 07-18 Cutler Sale 71 acres

Multi-stand sale entailing 2 stands with overstory removal to release existing understory of desired species and 1 stand of improvement thinning in red pine for sawlog and utility poles marked to cut. Stand ages, silviculture systems, green tree retention, regeneration plan, and other details included in 2460. Buckthorn found on-site and stems pulled by hand. Recreational hunting area determined to be enhanced by management. NHI check found high potential KBB area, no findings in lupine/butterfly surveys. 1 Bird finding and consulted with Conservation Biologist for management considerations. No historic or cultural sites found. Cellu-treat used for Annosum root rot. Stand boundaries painted red, property line at adjacent private land r in blue. Retention areas within stand 3 marked with red paint. Purchased by Bollig & Sons Inc on 16 March 2018. Improved road for bear hunters. DNR Fire techs need dozer hours. Help w marking in the fall too. Red paint sale boundary east edge of southernmost area. Chem applicator record with FISTA in the logger training record supplied.



## Appendix 5

# Wisconsin County Forest Certification Audit Opening Meeting Attendance

*\*Note Opening Meeting was Conducted via Conference Call, only select Wood County personnel, WCFA Executive Director and County DNR Lands Specialist were in attendance\**

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

Beth Jacqmain	FSC Lead Auditor
Shannon Wilks	SFI Lead Auditor
Rebekah Luedtke	WCFA Executive Director
Gary Zimmer	WCFA Assistant Executive Director
Fritz Schubert	Wood County Forest Administrator
Tom Lovlien	Marathon County Forest Administrator
Brian Loyd	Juneau County Forest Administrator
Jim Zahasky	Jackson County Forest Administrator
Jake Walczak	Taylor County Forest Administrator
Pat Smith	Florence County Forest Administrator
Gavin Hutchinson	DNR County Forest Liaison – Wood County
Chad Keranen	DNR County Forest Liaison – Marathon County
Robert Anderson	DNR County Forest Liaison – Juneau County
Zach Clausing	DNR County Forest Liaison – Jackson County
Tyler Wood	DNR County Forest Liaison – Florence County
Lyle Eiden	DNR Wisconsin Rapids Team Leader
Shelly Wrzochalski	DNR Wausau Team Leader
Chris Semann	DNR La Crosse Team Leader
Greg Mitchell	DNR Black River Falls Area Leader
Jon Robaidek	DNR Ecologist/Conservation Biologist
Carly Lapin	DNR Ecologist/Conservation Biologist Supervisor
Scott Roepke	DNR Wildlife Biologist
Heather Berklund	DNR Forest Field Operations Deputy Administrator
Mike Warnke	DNR Forestry Services Deputy Administrator
Carmen Hardin	DNR Applied Forestry Bureau Director
Jim Warren	DNR Forestry Field Operations Bureau Director
Kristen Lambert	DNR Public and Private Lands Section Chief (Acting)
Brad Hutnik	DNR Silviculturist - Ecologist
Greg Edge	DNR Silviculturist - Ecologist
Mark Heyde	DNR Sustainable Forest Certification Coordinator
Doug Brown	DNR County Forest and Public Lands Specialist
Kristine Buchholtz	DNR Forestry Specialist





## Wisconsin County Forest Certification Audit Closing Meeting Attendance

*\*Note Closing Meeting was Conducted via Conference Call from Wood County Park, only Wood County Forest Administrator and County DNR Lands Specialist were in attendance\**

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

Beth Jacqmain	FSC Lead Auditor
Shannon Wilks	SFI Lead Auditor
Rebekah Luedtke	WCFA Executive Director
Gary Zimmer	WCFA Assistant Executive Director
Fritz Schubert	Wood County Forest Administrator
Tom Lovlien	Marathon County Forest Administrator
Brian Loyd	Juneau County Forest Administrator
Jim Zahasky	Jackson County Forest Administrator
John Wendorski	Jackson County Forestry Manager
Mike Peterson	Washburn County Forest Administrator
Pat Smith	Florence County Forest Administrator
Gavin Hutchinson	DNR County Forest Liaison – Wood County
Chad Keranen	DNR County Forest Liaison – Marathon County
Robert Anderson	DNR County Forest Liaison – Juneau County
Zach Clausing	DNR County Forest Liaison – Jackson County
Tyler Wood	DNR County Forest Liaison – Florence County
Lyle Eiden	DNR Wisconsin Rapids Team Leader
Shelly Wrzochalski	DNR Wausau Team Leader
Chris Semann	DNR La Crosse Team Leader
Greg Mitchell	DNR Black River Falls Area Leader
Jon Robaidek	DNR Ecologist/Conservation Biologist
Scott Roepke	DNR Wildlife Biologist
Mike Warnke	DNR Forestry Services Deputy Administrator
Carmen Hardin	DNR Applied Forestry Bureau Director
Jim Warren	DNR Forestry Field Operations Bureau Director
Kristen Lambert	DNR Public and Private Lands Section Chief (Acting)
Brad Hutnik	DNR Silviculturist - Ecologist
Greg Edge	DNR Silviculturist - Ecologist
Dave Kafura	DNR Forest Hydrologist
Mark Heyde	DNR Sustainable Forest Certification Coordinator
Doug Brown	DNR County Forest and Public Lands Specialist
Kristine Buchholtz	DNR Forestry Specialist



Appendix 6

Forestry Program COVID-19 Report Appendix

Client Name: Wisconsin County Forest System

FRS: 1Y943

Is this a fully remote special audit? YES NO Justification:
[ ] [x]

Is a remote special audit for certificate extension needed? YES NO Justification:
[ ] [x]

Approximate date of the future on-site special surveillance or re-evaluation audit to be completed within the allowed extension period.

Was this remote audit able to be effectively completed using remote audit methods? YES NO If no, why?
[ ] [ ]

N/A On-Site Audit conducted with modifications to ensure Covid Safety procedures were adhered to.

Are there specific portions of the audit that could not be effectively evaluated? YES NO Portion of the audit that could not be audited:
[ ] [x]

Remote audit methods used:

Remote method/tool

Used for

N/A. On-Site Audit Conducted



**Additional questions**

When is it expected that the organization will be able to function normally?

Public Forests are open subject to State of Wisconsin requirements

---

Is the organization able to ship products or perform the service defined within the current scope of certification? If not, when is it expected to be able to do so?

Public Forests are open subject to State of Wisconsin requirements

---

Does the organization need to use alternative manufacturing and/or distribution sites? If so, are these currently covered under the current certification or will they need to be evaluated?

No

---

Will some of the processes and/or services performed or products shipped be subcontracted to other organizations? If so, how will the other organizations' activities be controlled by the certified organization?

No

---

To what extent has operation of the management system been affected?

Stay at home orders; personnel working from home. Limited access to offices and special permission for State Employees to travel. County personnel subject to County regulations.

---

Has the certified organization conducted an impact assessment regarding COVID-19?

State of Wisconsin Governors Executive Orders

---

Add additional notes as needed