NSF Sustainability℠
Sustainability Assured

Michigan Department of Natural Resources

525 West Allegan Street, Lansing, MI 48933

5Y031

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

Recertification Audit

September 28-October 2, 2015

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NSF International Forestry Program
Audit Report

A. Program Participant's Name

Michigan Department of Natural Resources

NSF Customer Number (FRS)

5Y031

B. Scope

Forest Management Activities on approximately 3.9 million acres of Michigan State Forest. Exclusions: Long-term military lease lands, lands leased to Luce County, and Wildlife Areas that do not go through the compartment review process are not included in the scope of the certificate. The SFI Certificate Number is NSF-SFIS-5Y031.

Note: The certified State Forest system includes all lands which are inventoried under the MiFI forest inventory systems, are identified in a State Forest Compartment, and go through the Michigan DNR compartment review process.

C. NSF Audit Team

Norman Boatwright, SFI Lead Auditor, Kyle Mister, FSC Lead Auditor and Anne Marie Kittredge and Paul Pingrey as Team Auditors

D. Audit Dates

September 28-October 2, 2015

E. Reference Documentation

SFI 2015-2019 Standards and Rules®, Section 2

Company Documentation

Numerous policy and procedure and work order documents.

F. Audit Results: Based on the results of this assessment, the auditor concluded:

☐ Acceptable with no nonconformities.

☒ Acceptable with 2 transitional minor nonconformities that must have an approved, implemented corrective action plan in-place by December 31, 2015.

☐ Not acceptable with minor nonconformities and/or one or two major nonconformities – corrective action required.

☐ Several major nonconformities – certification may be cancelled unless immediate action is taken.

G. Changes to Operations or to the Standard

Are there any significant changes in operations, procedures, specifications, facility records, etc., from the previous visit?

☐ Yes (Please explain: explanation)

☒ No

H. Other Issues Reviewed

☒ Yes ☐ No ☐ N/A Public report from previous audit(s) is posted on the SFI/SBP/etc. website.

☒ Yes ☐ No ☐ N/A Relevant logos or labels are utilized correctly.

☐ Yes ☐ No ☒ N/A Nonconformities from previous audit were reviewed.
If yes, briefly explain: No CARs issued for the 2014 audit.

I. New Corrective Action Requests

☐ Corrective action plan is not required.

☒ Transitional Minor Nonconformities: Corrective action plans should be approved and implemented by December 31, 2015.

☐ Major Nonconformities: Corrective action plan should be provided within thirty (30) days of this visit. The auditor will make arrangements to verify the corrective action has been effectively implemented. All major nonconformities must be closed by a special verification audit or by desk review. NSF may suspend the certificate is the corrective action plan is not received within sixty (60) days or if evidence verifying the corrective action is not provided within 120 days.

At the conclusion of this audit, the following number of draft NCs was communicated:

Major: 0 Minor: 2 Transitional

In addition, 2 opportunities for improvement (OFIs) were identified.

J. Future Audit Schedule

Following the Recertification Audit, continued certification requires annual assessments commonly referred to as "Surveillance Audits". Additionally, at the end of the certification period, maintaining certification requires the completion of a "Recertification Audit". Your next audit is a Surveillance Audit, tentatively scheduled for the week of August 8, 2016.

Appendices

Appendix 1: Audit Notification Letter and Audit Schedule

Appendix 2: Auditor Qualifications

Appendix 3: SFI Forest Management Audit Checklist

Appendix 4: Site Visit Notes

Appendix 5: SFI Forest Management Public Summary Report

Appendix 6: Meeting Attendance

Appendix 7: Form for Reporting SFI/FS Certification (not included as there are no changes)

Appendix 1

Audit Notification Letter and Audit Schedule

NSF Sustainability℠
Sustainability Assured

September 10, 2015

Re: Confirmation of 2015 SFI and FSC Recertification Audits, Michigan DNR

David Price - MI DNR Forest Resources Division
Michigan Department of Natural Resources, Forest, Mineral, and Fire Management Division
525 West Allegan Street, Lansing, MI 48909-7952

Dear Mr. Price:

We are scheduled to conduct the Annual Surveillance Audits of the Michigan DNR on Monday September 28th through Friday October 2nd . This is a full review of your SFI Program to confirm that it continues to be in conformance with the SFI 2015-2019 Standards and Rules, Section 2 and that continual improvement is being made. The audit also includes a similar review of the FSC Requirements. The FSC audit will be described in more detail in a separate document.

The audit team will consist of Norman Boatwright, NSF Lead Auditor, Kyle Mister, SCS Lead Auditor, Paul Pingrey and Anne Marie Kittredge as team auditors and Ruthann Schulte as an FSC observer.

We have worked together to develop the following tentative schedule:

Audit Plan
2015 SFI and FSC Re-Certification Audit
Michigan Department of Natural Resources
September 28 - October 2, 2015

Sunday September 27, 2015 – Travel Day

Norman Boatwright, Kyle Meister, Ruth Ann Schulte, Anne Marie Kittredge and Paul Pingrey arrive in Pellston and transit to Gaylord. MDNR will provide auditor transportation.

Monday September 28, 2015 – Atlanta FMU

7:15 am	Depart Hotel (30 minute drive)
8:00 am	Opening Meeting – Status of 2014 Observations
9:00 am	District Overview and Issues
9:30 am	Atlanta FMU Overview and Update
10:00 am	Prepare for field
10:30 am -5 pm	Field*: Two audit teams
5:00 pm	Return to hotel
Evening	Dinner

Tuesday September 29, 2015 – Gaylord FMU

7:30 am	Depart Hotel (5 minute drive)
8:00 am	District Overview and Issues
8:30 am	Gaylord FMU Overview and Update
9:00 am	Prepare for field
9:30 am -5 pm	Field*: Two audit teams
5:00 pm	Transit to hotel in Traverse City
Evening	Dinner

Wednesday September 30, 2015 – Traverse City FMU

7:30 am	Depart Hotel (15 minute drive)
8:00 am	Traverse City FMU Overview and Update
8:30 am	Prepare for field
9:00 am – 5 pm	Field*: Two audit teams
5:00 pm	Transit to hotel in Houghton Lake
Evening	Dinner

Thursday October 1, 2015 – Gladwin FMU

7:15 am	Depart Hotel (30 minute drive)
8:00 am	Gladwin FMU Overview and Update
8:30 am	Prepare for field
9:00 am – 5 pm	Field*: Two audit teams
1:00 pm	Norman Boatwright and Kyle Meister depart for Lansing. Ruthann, Anne Marie and Paul continue with field audit.
2:00 pm	Desk audit in Lansing

5:00 pm Lead auditors transit to hotel in Lansing. Other auditors depart.
Evening Dinner

Friday October 2, 2015 – Lansing Office

7:30 am Depart Hotel (15 minute drive)
8:00 am Desk Audit in Lansing
10:00 am Auditors prepare for the closing meeting
10:30 am Closing Meeting
11:30 pm Auditors Depart

FSC Program: Provided separately.

Both Programs:

- A review of the outstanding findings from the 2014 Surveillance Audit (no adverse findings for SFI).
- Review of any changes within DNR (e.g., staffing, land acquisitions, planning documents) that are pertinent to the certification.
- Evidence will include documents, interviews, and observations

SFI Tasks and Audit Focus Areas for 2015:

Focus on the major changes to the SFI Forest Management Standard and review progress on achieving SFI objectives and performance measures and continual improvement as well as the results of the management review of your SFI Program.

- Review logo and/or label use;
- Confirm public availability of public reports;
- Evaluate the multi-site requirements;
- Field reviews covering most aspects of SFI Objectives 2-7; and
- Review all of all of the non-field components of your SFI program as this is a recertification audit.

Multi-Site Sampling Plan

The DNR is being audited as a multi-site organization per requirements for the SFI 2015-2019 Standards and Rules, Section 5: - Rules for Use of SFI On-Product Labels and Off-Product Marks and Section 9: Annex 1 - Audits of Multi-Site Organizations. There are 15 Forest Management Units. This Recertification Audit must cover the requirements of the central organization and 4 of the units selected: Atlanta, Gaylord, Traverse City and Gladwin FMUs. These sites were selected based on proximity and due to length of time since previous audits.

Logistics

- We should plan to have lunch on site to expedite the visit.
- We will travel in your vehicle(s) each day during the audit.
- We ask that you provide hardhats.

Field Site Selections

We randomly selected 25% of the sites and you have provided additional suggested sites and developed an itinerary that seems appropriate. On the day of each site audit we would ask your local forestry staff to tell us about any sales that are being worked at that time, and we would add one or two of these if possible. Thus there may be more sites than we can get to, so the lead auditors will help shorten the list if needed.

Documentation Requested

When we arrive each day please provide documentation for the selected sites as was done during the previous surveillance audit (maps, project descriptions, and at least one example contract per day). The team must review the Timber Sale Contract Field Inspection Report, R-4050 for any sales visited where harvesting has been done or completed. We also need copies of the compartment plans and any other information that would help us determine conformance to the certification requirements and closure of the CARs. Please email some of this material in advance.

In addition please provide:

- Documentation for Internal Audit Reports and Management Review
- Harvest levels vs. planned (SFI Indicator 1.1.2)
- Revised procedures or work instructions
- Any other information that would be helpful to show conformance

The tentative schedule should be reviewed by all participants. This schedule can be adapted either in advance or on-site to accommodate any special circumstances. If you have any questions regarding this planned audit, please contact either of us.

Sincerely yours,

Norman Boatwright

Norman Boatwright
Forestry Program Manager NSF
P.O. Box 4021
Florence, SC 29502
nboatwright12@gmail.com
Office and Mobile: 843.229.1851

Appendix 2

Auditor Qualifications

Auditor Name:	Kyle Meister	**Auditor role**:	FSC Lead Auditor
Qualifications:	Kyle Meister is a Certification Forester with Scientific Certification Systems. He has been with SCS since 2008 and has conducted FSC FM pre-assessments, evaluations, and surveillance audits in Brazil, Panama, Mexico, Costa Rica, Bolivia, Indonesia, India, Japan, New Zealand, Spain, and all major forest producing regions of the United States. He has conducted COC assessments in Oregon, Pennsylvania, and California. Mr. Meister has successfully completed CAR Lead Verifier, ISO 9001:2008 Lead Auditor, and SA8000 Social Systems Introduction and Basic Auditor Training Courses. He holds a B.S. in Natural Resource Ecology and Management and a B.A. in Spanish from the University of Michigan; and a Master of Forestry from the Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies.		
Auditor Name:	Norman Boatwright	**Auditor role**:	SFI Lead Auditor
Qualifications:	Mr. Boatwright has over twenty-eight years' experience in intensive forest management, seventeen years' experience in environmental services and ten years' experience in SFI auditing. He has conducted Phase I Assessments on over two hundred and fifty projects covering 2,000,000 acres, ESA and Endangered Species Assessment on timberland across the South, and managed soil mapping projects over 1.3 million acres. From 1985-1999, he was Division Manager at Canal Forest Resources, Inc. and was responsible for all forest management activities on about 90,000 acres of timberland in eastern South Carolina. Duties included budgeting and implementing land and timber sales, site preparation, planting, best management practices, road construction, etc. Norman is a Qualified Lead Auditor under the NSF-ISR SFI Program with extensive experience auditing procurement and land management organizations.		
Auditor Name:	Anne Marie Kittredge	**Auditor role**:	Forest ecologist/ assistant FSC/SFI auditor
Qualifications:	Anne Marie Kittredge is a Forest Management Lead Auditor with experience conducting audits for large and small private and public landowners. Anne Marie also conducts Lead Auditor Chain of Custody audits under the SFI, FSC and PEFC Standards, is qualified as a Lead Auditor (ISO 19011) and has authored >500 reports for a broad range of landowners, manufacturers, distributors and brokers. Anne Marie has > 20 years of experience in traditional forest management, wildlife habitat management, marketing and utilization and forest cutting practices regulations. Anne Marie's experience as a state forester in Massachusetts focused on management of FSC certified state-owned forest lands, forest cutting practice regulation enforcement as well as private landowner assistance and current use certification administration. Anne Marie earned both MS and BS in Forestry from the University of Massachusetts in Amherst.		
Auditor Name:	Paul Pingrey	**Auditor role**:	Forest Management Specialist/ assistant FSC/SFI auditor
Qualifications:	Paul Pingrey is a forester with extensive experience in sustainable resource		

	certification and public and private land management. Pingrey retired from the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources in 2009 after 35 years of service. He served as the DNR Forest Certification Coordinator, Private Forestry Specialist and the Wisconsin Forest Tax Law Supervisor. From 2004 to 2009, he managed certification for 6 million acres of DNR forestry programs. In 2008-2009, Pingrey served on national panels that developed the FSC-US Family Forest Standard and revised the American Tree Farm Standard. For 20 years he worked directly with small woodland owners in six southern Wisconsin counties, including eleven years as the Madison Area Forestry Supervisor. His duties also included state park and county forest operations, property master planning, and environmental impact assessment. He has served in Society of American Foresters leadership positions and was chair of the National SAF Certification Working Group. Pingrey began as an independent auditor for SCS Global Services in 2010 and is an ISO19011 accredited lead auditor for Chain of Custody reviews and forest management reviews. Pingrey received a forest management degree from Iowa State University in 1974 and completed U.S. Forest Service Silviculturist Certification in 1988.		
Auditor Name:	Jessica Leahy	**Auditor role**:	Auditor, Stakeholder Consultation
Qualifications:	Jessica Leahy is an auditor for SCS from Orono, ME. She earned a BS in Forest Recreation Resources and an MS in Forest Resources with a minor in Environmental and Resource Economics both from Oregon State University. Her PhD is in Natural Resources Science and Management with an option in Economics, Policy, Management & Society from the University of Minnesota. She has attended both ISO19011 training as well as FSC auditing training from SCS. Dr. Leahy has worked for 8 years as a professor in the School of Forest Resources at the University of Maine. She is actively involved in the Society of American Foresters at the state, regional, and national level. She also serves on the Boards of the Northeastern Master Logger Certification program and Small Woodland Owners Association of Maine. Dr. Leahy has participated in FM audits since 2006, which have certified nearly 4 million acres of public forestland and 2 million acres of private forestland.		
Auditor Name:	Ruthann Schulte	**Auditor role**:	Observer/ auditor trainee
Qualifications:	Ruthann has a broad range of natural resource management experience. While with Green Diamond Resource Company she coordinated the company's Forest Stewardship Council and Sustainable Forestry Initiative certifications as well as working on community relations and government relations issues. Prior to that she was Executive Director for The Buckeye, a non-profit organization dedicated to the long-term stewardship of forest and ranch lands. Ruthann participated on internal audit teams for ISO 9001 while serving as Advisor to a Board Member of the California Integrated Waste Management Board and also while Environmental Stewardship Director at The Pacific Lumber Company (PALCO). At PALCO, Ruthann additionally managed teams conducting watershed analysis and contributed to the development		

	of a multispecies Habitat Conservation Plan. While working for forestry companies in California, Schulte coordinated crews and conducted wildlife and fisheries surveys. Ruthann has a B.S. in Biology from Siena Heights College in Adrian, MI and a M.S. in Biology from the University of Louisville in Louisville, KY.

Appendix 3

SFI Forest Management Audit Checklist

NSF International Forestry Program
SFI 2015-2019, Section 2: Forest Management Standard Audit Checklist

FRS# 5Y031 – Michigan Department of Natural Resources

Date of audit: September 28 – October 2, 2015

Auditors: Norman Boatwright and Anne Marie Kittredge

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 ☐ Conformance ☐ Exceeds ☐ O.F.I. ☐ Major NC ☐ Minor NC

Audit Notes: The Department does not source fiber.

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 model*s.

☐ N/A ☒ Conformance ☐ Exceeds ☐ O.F.I. ☐ Major NC ☐ Minor NC

Audit Notes: See evidence below.

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).

Note: *Requirement is new or significantly revised. Transition rules apply until December 31, 2015.*

☐ N/A ☒ Conformance ☐ Exceeds ☐ O.F.I. ☐ Major NC ☐ Minor NC ☐ Transitional NC

Audit Notes: 2014 Regional State Forest Management Plans and models contain elements that satisfy indicators 1.1.1 (a), (f), (h) and (i). An updated forest inventory system (Michigan Forest Inventory, MiFi) was rolled out in 2014 and is now fully functional. This system is on a web based platform and contains GIS and stand description/inventory data at the

stand level and can be queried by DNR staff.

MiFi links into the Geographic Decision Support Environment provides spatial GIS layers for the forest inventory, land classification systems (Kotar Forest Communities and Habitat Types, and Regional Landscape Ecosystems of Michigan), soils maps, and many other resources. An updated network of Ecological Reference Areas and Dedicated Habitat Areas were designated in 2014.

DNR is working to integrate MiFi with the Vegetated Management System (VMS) which contains business related data.

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

☐ N/A ☒ Conformance ☐ Exceeds ☐ O.F.I. ☐ Major NC ☐ Minor NC

Audit Notes: In FY14 there were timber harvests on 62,021 acres, producing 885,143 cords, which includes significant unplanned acres of ash and beech salvage harvests (5,253 acres of new sales and 12,324 acres of amended contracts). Planned production per the 2008 Michigan State Forest Management Plan (revised in 2015 to address HCVs and to update harvest levels designated in the Regional Plans) is a minimum harvest of 61,000 acres (Regional State Forest Management Plans were fully implemented in 2013). The approximate current annual net growth from the 2.5 million acres (decrease due to identifying more ERAs and better identification of the deer winter concentration yards (500,000 acres) in the UP) of state forest lands that are suitable for timber production is 855,000 cords. The approximate annual harvest averages 749,670 cords. The 2014 Forest Inventory and Analysis estimate for the state timberland net growth to removals ratio is 1.4, which is within acceptable levels.

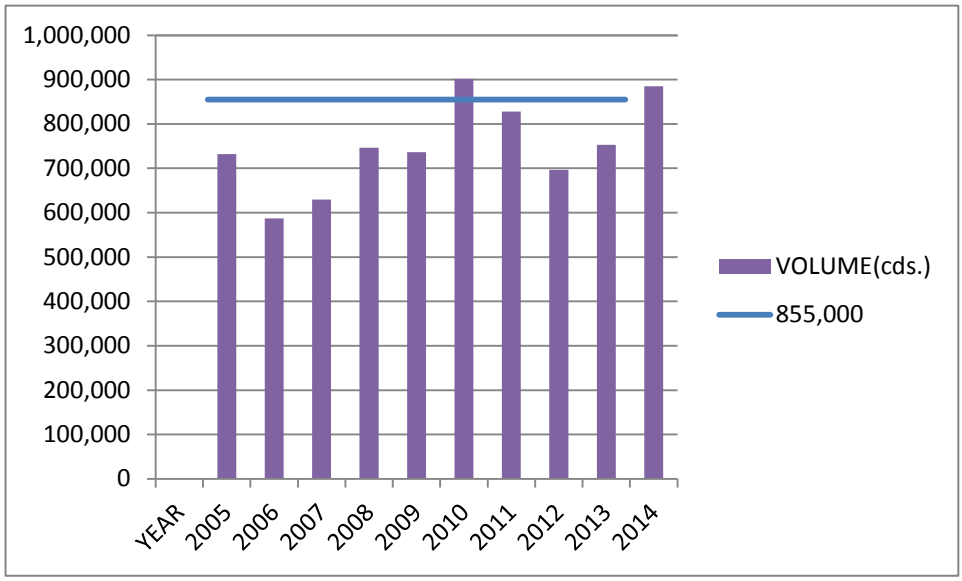
MICHIGAN DNR FOREST RESOURCES DIVISION
TIMBER PRODUCTION ON STATE FOREST LAND

fiscal years 2005 - 2014

YEAR	ACRES Prp'ed*2	Hrv'ed*5	VOLUME(cds.) Prp'ed*6	Hrv'ed*9	
2005	53,949	50,774	792,090	732,112	
2006	52,058	39,922	815,399	587,211	
2007	49,119	42,784	724,512	629,367	
2008	54,736	49,352	864,414	746,732	
2009	57,178	47,745	832,032	736,272	
2010	53,157	58,476	800,604	901,721	
2011	53,526	53,529	801,581	828,117	
2012	56,609	45,444	773,407	696,860	
2013	64,015	55,922	942,754	753,169	
2014	62,021	59,628	993,608	885,143	
				749,670	cords averaged for the decade
				855,000	estimate of annual growth on state forest timberland*10

*2 Prp'ed Acs.: Queried from TSale database (Prepared Sales report). Based on proposal date.
*5 Hrv'ed Acs.: From Cords and Acres report from the FMUs and is based on Payment Unit completion dates.
*6 Prp'ed Cds.: Queried from TSale database (Prepared Sales report). Based on proposal date.

*9 Hrv'ed Cds: From Cords and Acres report from the FMUs and is based on Payment Unit completion dates.
*10 Estimate of annual growth on timberland: From an analysis done by D. Price and L. Dygert, 2015.



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

☐ N/A ☒ Conformance ☐ Exceeds ☐ O.F.I. ☐ Major NC ☐ Minor NC

Audit Notes: A new forest inventory system (Michigan Forest Inventory: MiFi) was implemented in 2014. Annual yield is calculated in the Timber Sale/Vegetation Management System. Estimates of forest growth are provided through USDA Forest Service Forest Inventory Analysis (FIA) monitoring data. DNR applies the % growth/timber type FIA data to its various timber type acreages to determine annual growth.

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 ☒ Conformance ☐ Exceeds ☐ O.F.I. ☐ Major NC ☐ Minor NC

Audit Notes: Forest inventory is continually updated through each year of entry (one-tenth of the forest per year) with a complete re-inventory completed each decade. Re-calculation of planned harvests is accomplished through revisions to Regional State Forest Management Plans, which occur every 10 years. Out-of-Year of Entry salvage harvests are conducted in stands with forest health issues (e.g. decline/mortality caused by emerald ash borer, beech bark disease, oak wilt and spruce budworm). Corresponding updates of the forest inventory account for these out-of-YOE salvage harvests in future annual work plans.

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

☐ N/A ☒ Conformance ☐ Exceeds ☐ O.F.I. ☐ Major NC ☐ Minor NC

Audit Notes: 2016 is the year when the first RSFMP planned harvests will be implemented. Each annual Plan of Work (POW) is derived from MiFi, which documents prescribed treatments and all follow-on actions (site cultivation, planting, regeneration surveys, etc.).

Completed forest practices were previously documented in IFMAP. Completion reports are completed by the field

office level.

Performance Measure 1.2

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

Note: *Requirement is new or significantly revised. Transition rules apply until December 31, 2015.*

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; and
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.

Note: *Requirement is new or significantly revised. Transition rules apply until December 31, 2015.*

☐ N/A ☒ Conformance ☐ Exceeds ☐ O.F.I. ☐ Major NC ☐ Minor NC ☐ Transitional NC

Audit Notes: Any forest type conversions are based upon application of Michigan Kotar Forest Community and Habitat Type Classification System criteria. All known Forests with Exceptional Conservation Value and *native* forest types that are rare and ecologically significant at the *landscape* level are identified and designated as Ecological Reference Areas in the DNR Geo-spatial Database, with management direction provided in DNR Forest Certification Work Instruction 1.4.

Most conversions are partial and involve managing to encourage species already present that represent historical components.

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.

Note: *Requirement is new or significantly revised. Transition rules apply until December 31, 2015.*

☐ N/A ☒ Conformance ☐ Exceeds ☐ O.F.I. ☐ Major NC ☐ Minor NC ☐ Transitional NC

Audit Notes: Any forest type conversions are based upon application of Michigan Kotar Forest Community and Habitat Type Classification System criteria. Proposed conversions are subject to discussion and consensus decision through the multidisciplinary compartment review planning process, which includes a public input process. Issues related to the site such as invasive species, insect or disease issues, riparian *protection* needs, and any regeneration challenges as appropriate to site are addressed in the compartment review planning process.

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.

Note: *Requirement is new or significantly revised. Transition rules apply until December 31, 2015.*

☐ N/A ☒ Conformance ☐ Exceeds ☐ O.F.I. ☐ Major NC ☐ Minor NC ☐ Transitional NC

Audit Notes: Areas that primarily managed for other purposes (for instance 101,567 acres of long-term military lease lands) are excluded from the scope of certification. Any new permanent conversions to non-forest use (such as large-scale mineral development) are removed from the scope of certification.

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 ☒ Conformance ☐ Exceeds ☐ O.F.I. ☐ Major NC ☐ Minor NC

Audit Notes: Documentation of all forest regeneration plans is accomplished through the MIFi. DNR Forest Certification Work Instruction 2.1 (Reforestation) defines forest regeneration requirements on state forest lands.

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 ☒ Conformance ☐ Exceeds ☐ O.F.I. ☐ Major NC ☐ Minor NC

Audit Notes: Criteria to determine the adequacy of regeneration is provided in the DNR Forest Regeneration Survey Manual.

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

☒ N/A ☐ Conformance ☐ Exceeds ☐ O.F.I. ☐ Major NC ☐ Minor NC

Audit Notes: The use of non-native plants on public lands is prohibited by DNR Forest Certification Work Instruction 2.3 – Integrated Pest Management and Forest Health.

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

☐ N/A ☒ Conformance ☐ Exceeds ☐ O.F.I. ☐ Major NC ☐ Minor NC

Audit Notes: DNR has contract specifications to require protection of advance regeneration to enable the management objective for the stand.

Site visits confirmed advanced regen is protected.

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

☐ N/A ☒ Conformance ☐ Exceeds ☐ O.F.I. ☐ Major NC ☐ Minor NC

Audit Notes: The Michigan Kotar Forest Community and Habitat Type Classification System is used to help guide the planting of tree species upon appropriate sites.

DNR occasionally purchases/exchanges property and plants fields and unstocked areas with indigenous species.

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 ☒ Conformance ☐ Exceeds ☐ O.F.I. ☐ Major NC ☐ Minor NC

Audit Notes: Minimization of chemical use is directed in DNR Forest Certification Work Instruction 2.2. http://www.michigan.gov/documents/dnr/WI_2.2UsePesticides-OtherChemicals_320944_7.pdf
Non-chemical site preparation is extensively employed, particularly mechanical scarification and/or disc-trenching.

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

☐ N/A ☒ Conformance ☐ Exceeds ☐ O.F.I. ☐ Major NC ☐ Minor NC

Audit Notes: Direction in this regard and a list of chemicals approved for use on the state forest are provided in DNR Forest Certification Work Instruction 2.2. http://www.michigan.gov/documents/dnr/WI_2.2UsePesticides-OtherChemicals_320944_7.pdf

Glyphosate is the main chemical used on the state forest, as this chemical has low toxicity and is not a broad-spectrum pesticide when used according to the label.

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

☐ N/A ☒ Conformance ☐ Exceeds ☐ O.F.I. ☐ Major NC ☐ Minor NC

Audit Notes: Direction in this regard is provided in DNR Forest Certification Work Instruction 2.2. http://www.michigan.gov/documents/dnr/WI_2.2UsePesticides-OtherChemicals_320944_7.pdf
Records of use are held locally in FMU offices.

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 ☒ Conformance ☐ Exceeds ☐ O.F.I. ☐ Major NC ☐ Minor NC

Audit Notes: DNR Forest Certification Work Instruction 2.2 contains a list of the chemicals that are authorized for use on the state forest, which excludes World Health Organization (WHO) type 1A and 1B pesticides, except where a specific Forest Stewardship Council derogation request is pending or has been approved. http://www.michigan.gov/documents/dnr/WI_2.2UsePesticides-OtherChemicals_320944_7.pdf

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

☐ N/A ☒ Conformance ☐ Exceeds ☐ O.F.I. ☐ Major NC ☐ Minor NC

Audit Notes: DNR Forest Certification Work Instruction 2.2 contains a list of the chemicals that are authorized for use on the state forest, which excludes pesticides banned under the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (2001). http://www.michigan.gov/documents/dnr/WI_2.2UsePesticides-OtherChemicals_320944_7.pdf

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2.2.6. Use of *integrated pest management* where feasible.

☐ N/A ☒ Conformance ☐ Exceeds ☐ O.F.I. ☐ Major NC ☐ Minor NC

Audit Notes: Direction for use of integrated pest management is provided in DNR Forest Certification Work Instruction 2.3.

http://www.michigan.gov/documents/dnr/WI_2.3IntegratedPestMgt_320945_7.pdf

Sites visits confirm DNR is taking a proactive approach in dealing with EAD, BBD, oak wilt and spruce budworm by harvesting them.

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

☐ N/A ☒ Conformance ☐ Exceeds ☐ O.F.I. ☐ Major NC ☐ Minor NC

Audit Notes: Direction in this regard is provided in DNR Forest Certification Work Instruction 2.2.
http://www.michigan.gov/documents/dnr/WI_2.2UsePesticides-OtherChemicals_320944_7.pdf

Review of herbicide application contract indicates the applicator must be licensed.

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 ☒ Conformance ☐ Exceeds ☐ O.F.I. ☐ Major NC ☐ Minor NC

Audit Notes: Required reports include Pesticide Application Plans (R4029) and Pesticide Use Evaluation Reports (R4029-1), which are used to plan and monitor chemical use. Public notification, access control, and recommended buffers for sensitive areas (water bodies, etc.) are provided in DNR Forest Certification Work Instruction 2.2.
http://www.michigan.gov/documents/dnr/WI_2.2UsePesticides-OtherChemicals_320944_7.pdf

Standard practices prescribed in the work instructions include:
1. Herbicide applications are supervised by certified applicators. While not directly tied to environmental issues the certification assures a certain level of training has been met. The certification testing involves measures to protect the environment
2. Herbicide prescriptions intentionally minimize the use of pesticides (application rates, extent of application area) to achieve objectives
3. Pesticide application plans (PAP's) are required prior to application. PAP's include site specific information about environmental risks such as proximity to water bodies, human dwellings, livestock, recreation areas and public roads. PAP's specify buffer requirements, road control measures, presence and distance to dwellings etc. PAP's also specify acceptable weather conditions for application, normally in terms of maximum wind speed. Reentry intervals for personnel are also listed in the PAP.
4. Spill kits are required on site both in contractor vehicles and state vehicles.
5. Proper PPE is required.
14 Pesticide applications on state owned utility ROW's are handled through use permits which specify buffers on wetlands and water, herbicide selection and rates and application method. And, of course following label instructions

is mandatory on all applications.

Assessment for protection of RTE species is directed in DNR IC4172 - RARE SPECIES PROTECTION APPROACH AND ASSESSMENT GUIDELINES FOR DNR STAFF ON STATE FOREST LANDS
http://www.michigan.gov/documents/dnr/IC4172_RareSpeciesProtectionGuidelines_469023_7.pdf

Site visits did not identify any chemical application issues.

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 ☒ Conformance ☐ Exceeds ☐ O.F.I. ☐ Major NC ☐ Minor NC

Audit Notes: Soil maps are available to staff in GIS layers in the Geographic Decision Support Environment. DNR Timber Sale Proposal Checklist (R4031-6) contains provisions to assess potential soil impacts for prescribed treatments.

Site visits did not identify issues with rutting.

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

☐ N/A ☒ Conformance ☐ Exceeds ☐ O.F.I. ☐ Major NC ☐ Minor NC

Audit Notes: The MI DNR uses timber sale specifications as identified in the DNR Timber Sale Proposal Checklist (R4031-6) to minimize loss of soil and site productivity. DNR Forest Certification Work Instruction 3.1 directs the use of forestry BMPs (Sustainable Soil and Water Quality Practices on Forest Land).

The Resource Damage Report (RDR) process continues to be the primary mechanism to identify, inventory, prioritize, and track sites which have significant erosion or other resource issues. Four RDR incidents were visited.

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

☐ N/A ☒ Conformance ☐ Exceeds ☐ O.F.I. ☐ Major NC ☐ Minor NC

Audit Notes: The MI DNR uses rutting guidelines as described in forestry BMPs (Sustainable Soil and Water Quality Practices on Forest Land), and retention guidelines as provided in IC4110 Within-Stand Retention Guidance.

Field observations confirmed limited rutting, retained down woody debris, and minimized or well-planned skid trails. Where rutting was observed it was within the contract specifications (did not exceed 12-inch depth for more than 50 feet) and was well documented on the Timber Sale Inspection forms.

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

☐ N/A ☒ Conformance ☐ Exceeds ☐ O.F.I. ☐ Major NC ☐ Minor NC

Audit Notes: The MI DNR uses retention guidelines as provided in IC4110 Within-Stand Retention Guidance

Field observations confirmed limited rutting, retained down woody debris, and minimized or well-planned skid trails.

Where rutting was observed it was within the contract specifications (did not exceed 12-inch depth for more than 50 feet) and was well documented on the Timber Sale Inspection forms.

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

☐ N/A ☒ Conformance ☐ Exceeds ☐ O.F.I. ☐ Major NC ☐ Minor NC

Audit Notes: The MI DNR the DNR Timber Sale Proposal Checklist (R4031-6) to minimize loss of soil and site productivity. DNR Forest Certification Work Instruction 3.1 directs the use of forestry BMPs (Sustainable Soil and Water Quality Practices on Forest Land) to minimize impacts to soil productivity.

All contracts have "General Conditions & Requirements…Clause 5.4 Soil Protection: The Purchaser shall avoid operating equipment when soil conditions are such that excessive damage will result as determined by the Unit Manager or their representative".

Rutting criteria are available in the form of additional "Sale Specific Conditions & Requirements". These specify (5.4.1) "Operations are to cease immediately if equipment and weather conditions result in rutting of roads and skid trails which is 12 inches or greater in depth and 50 feet in length. The Unit Manager or his/her representative may restrict hauling and/or skidding if ruts exceed the specified depth. With the Unit Manager or his/her representative's approval, the Purchaser may return to the area when risk of rutting has decreased."

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

☐ N/A ☒ Conformance ☐ Exceeds ☐ O.F.I. ☐ Major NC ☐ Minor NC

Audit Notes: Log decks and skid trails are determined during the required preharvest consultation with the logger.

Site visits did not identify any issues with road or skid trail location.

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 ☒ Conformance ☐ Exceeds ☐ O.F.I. ☐ Major NC ☐ Minor NC

Audit Notes: The DNR Forest Resources Division has a Forest Health and Monitoring Unit with 5 staff persons that are responsible for addressing forest health issues. Details on the program can be found at: http://www.michigan.gov/dnr/0,4570,7-153-30301_30830---,00.html

Forest health-related work is summarized in the 2014 Forest Health Highlights: http://www.midnr.com/Publications/pdfs/ForestsLandWater/ForestHealth/Forest_Health_Highlights_2014.pdf

Foresters with forest protection training are involved in all phases of vegetation management. Specialists are available. Training is provided as needed, such as when new pests emerge, or existing pests flare up. Foresters are aware of the normal forest pest issues, and have ready access to forest health specialists.

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

☐ N/A ☐ Conformance ☒ Exceeds ☐ O.F.I. ☐ Major NC ☐ Minor NC

Audit Notes: Direction for proactive and reactive responses to potential or actual forest health issues on the state forest is provided in DNR Forest Certification Work Instruction 2.3.
http://www.michigan.gov/documents/dnr/WI_2.3IntegratedPestMgt_320945_7.pdf
Actions to address forest health issues are accomplished through the DNR compartment review process.
http://www.michigan.gov/documents/1_133198_7.6.pdf
As described in the 2014 Forest Health Highlights: Work continues to monitor and evaluate Beech Bark Disease resistant cultivars of American beech on a state forest test plot; a vibratory plow was used to help control the spread of oak wilt.

Field observations confirmed that management promotes healthy and productive forest conditions to minimize susceptibility to damaging agents. Most stand types (exceptions are for some lowland types) are rigorously maintained within desired stocking and rotation-length parameters, with allowance for ecosystem management goals and for access issues.

Field observations and interviews with Management Unit foresters indicate DNR is activity dealing with forest pests and other damaging agents.

DNR has created and filled a joint position between Forest Resources and Wildlife Divisions: Terrestrial Invasive Species Biologist. Interview with the biologist indicates his responsibilities include: working on the Invasive Grant Program, Promoting the Invasive Species Statewide Management Plan (in draft and expected to be finalized in 2016) and promoting invasive species management in general.

The Invasive Species Grant Program gave $4,000,000 in 2014 and $3,600,000 in 2015 to various entities to promote awareness, early detection and eradication.

DNR is a member of the Midwest Invasive Species Network.

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

☐ N/A ☒ Conformance ☐ Exceeds ☐ O.F.I. ☐ Major NC ☐ Minor NC

Audit Notes: The DNR has a cooperative relationship with several forest health partners – U.S. Forest Service Northern Research Station, USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development, Michigan State University, and Michigan Technological University. A synopsis of partnership work in 2014 can be found in the 2013 Forest Health Highlights:
http://www.midnr.com/Publications/pdfs/ForestsLandWater/ForestHealth/Forest_Health_Highlights_2014.pdf
The DNR has a fire prevention and control program: http://www.michigan.gov/dnr/0,4570,7-153-30301_30816---,00.html
The DNR also participates in The Great Lakes Forest Fire Compact. http://www.glffc.com/

Fire: Continued very clear conformance. Each FMU has several fire officers and an impressive collection of fire control vehicles. Pests: Specialists are available.

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 ☒ Conformance ☐ Exceeds ☐ O.F.I. ☐ Major NC ☐ Minor NC

Audit Notes: The DNR partners with Michigan State University and the USDA APHIS to develop and test cultivars of American beech for resistance to Beech Bark Disease. The DNR maintains seed orchards at the Brighton Tree Improvement Center to produce jack pine seedlings at the Wyman Nursery.

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 ☐ Conformance ☐ Exceeds ☒ O.F.I. ☐ Major NC ☐ Minor NC

Audit Notes: Requirements for implementation for soil and water best management practices are provided in DNR Forest Certification Work Instruction 3.1. http://www.michigan.gov/documents/3_133210_7.1.pdf
BMP Non-conformance reporting instructions are provided in DNR Forest Certification Work Instruction 3.2. http://www.michigan.gov/documents/3_133211_7.2.pdf
BMP non-conformances are reported and tracked using BMP Resource Damage Reports (R-4501).
The DNR-DEQ Sustainable Soil and Water Quality Practices on Forest Land (BMP Manual) is available at: http://www.michigan.gov/dnr/0,4570,7-153-31154_31261---,00.html

OFI: Interviews with loggers on the Spring Lake Jack Oak harvest in Atlanta and the Valley View harvest in Gaylord indicated they did not have a spill kit on-site.

Finding: The MI BMP Manual in part 3 under the Spill Prevention Best Management Practices Section states: *"At least one spill kit, as recommended by DEQ, **should** be available on every job site."*

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

☐ N/A ☒ Conformance ☐ Exceeds ☐ O.F.I. ☐ Major NC ☐ Minor NC

Audit Notes: Contracts contain provisions limiting the amount of rutting allowed or otherwise allow "Unit Manager or their representative" to halt operations that are causing excessive damage. See Timber Sale Contract Specification 5.4 in: http://www.michigan.gov/documents/GCR_155850_7.pdf?20140922102516.

DNR Rutting guidelines can be found at: http://www.michigan.gov/documents/dnr/InterimRuttingGuidance_Boyd-Moritz_080907_212142_7.pdf and in the DNR Soil and Water Quality BMP guide: http://www.michigan.gov/documents/dnr/IC4011_SustainableSoilAndWaterQualityPracticesOnForestLand_268417_7.pdf

Foresters match contract harvest dates with site conditions; for example some areas are designated for logging in winter or frozen conditions

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3.1.3. Monitoring of overall *best management practices* implementation.

☐ N/A ☒ Conformance ☐ Exceeds ☐ O.F.I. ☐ Major NC ☐ Minor NC

Audit Notes: BMP monitoring and reporting requirements are provided in DNR Forest Certification Work Instruction 3.2. http://www.michigan.gov/documents/3_133211_7.2.pdf

BMP effectiveness monitoring is conducted periodically in cooperation with the MI SFI Implementation Committee (SIC).

For roads and trails, for monitoring MDNR continues to utilize the Resource Damage Reporting (RDR) System, which is in the same format as other DNR programs, has automatic notifications via automatic emails, is tied to GIS; and flags other nearby RDRs already reported.

For timber harvests the form R4050E "Timber Sale Contract – Field Inspection Report" is used to record monitoring of all aspects of the harvest, including road issues, BMPs, cleanup, soil protection, aesthetic consideration, stump heights, and other aspects of utilization. Confirmed the use of the R4050 by field foresters via review of documents for harvests selected for field review.

BMP issues on state forests are handled by the Resource Damage Procedures which include a completing an RDR form and then the Unit Manager coordinates the response and corrective activity. The process is tracked in a database and prioritized.

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 ☒ Conformance ☐ Exceeds ☐ O.F.I. ☐ Major NC ☐ Minor NC

Audit Notes: DNR Forest Certification Work Instruction 3.1 directs the use of forestry BMPs (Sustainable Soil and Water Quality).

Foresters, wildlife biologists, and fisheries biologists work collaboratively to set up (foresters), review, and approve (all three disciplines) all proposed treatments and infrastructure development projects. Site-level planning commences with the forest inventory work in each compartment on the "year of entry" cycle. Resource conditions are discussed during compartment "pre-review"; proposed treatments are developed and then shared with the public; and treatments are finalized during compartment review. All three divisions (Forest Management, Wildlife, and Fisheries) are involved in these three planning stages. A focus is on protection of streams, lakes, other water bodies and riparian zones.

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 ☒ Conformance ☐ Exceeds ☐ O.F.I. ☐ Major NC ☐ Minor NC

Audit Notes: Maps of rivers, streams, lakes, wetlands and other water bodies are available to FRD staff in the DNR Geographic Decision Support Environment (GDSE) and are identified during timber sale preparation as provided in the DNR Timber Sale Proposal Checklist (R4031-6). MIFi also access this information.

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

☐ N/A ☒ Conformance ☐ Exceeds ☐ O.F.I. ☐ Major NC ☐ Minor NC

Audit Notes: Rivers, streams, lakes, wetlands and other water bodies are identified during timber sale preparation as provided in the DNR Timber Sale Proposal Checklist (R4031-6).

Field observations, supplemented by documents reviewed and interviews, confirm that most streams, lakes, and other waterbodies are protected during all operations, in most cases by leaving significant uncut buffer areas.

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 ☒ Conformance ☐ Exceeds ☐ O.F.I. ☐ Major NC ☐ Minor NC

Audit Notes: DNR Forest Certification Work Instruction 3.1 directs the use of forestry BMPs (Sustainable Soil and Water Quality Practices on Forest Land) to consider the timing of forestry operations.

Site visits confirmed that non-forested wetlands are identified on aerial photos and on harvest area maps and are excluded from harvest areas; when they are enclosed within a harvest area they are usually painted out.

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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 ☐ Conformance ☒ Exceeds ☐ O.F.I. ☐ Major NC ☐ Minor NC

Audit Notes: Program implementation confirmed through interviews, field observations and document review including for example observation of the fully implemented 2015 Gladwin Forest, 600-acre Kirtland Warbler habitat project (RTE) and the planned Rice Pond Pine Barrens (HCV community) enhancement project. The DNR Wildlife Division is a co-manager of the Michigan state forest and is responsible for the conservation of wildlife species and habitats. Information on wildlife species and habitat, featured species that are a priority for the MI DNR, and the Michigan Wildlife Action Plan are found at: http://www.michigan.gov/dnr/0,4570,7-153-10370---,00.html. Habitat specifications for featured species on state forest lands is provided for each management area in DNR Regional State Forest Management Plans: http://www.michigan.gov/dnr/0,4570,7-153-30301_30505_62551---,00.html. Direction for the conservation of biodiversity is provided in DNR Forest Certification Work Instruction 1.4- Biodiversity Management on State Forest Lands: http://www.michigan.gov/documents/dnr/WI_1.4BiodMgt_320943_7.pdf. Conservation of Ecological Community Types is accomplished by the proposed updated DNR network of Ecological Reference Areas: http://www.michigan.gov/dnr/0,4570,7-153-30301_30505_33360-333691--,00.html and further described in the proposed 2014 Amendment to the 2008 Michigan State Forest Management Plan.

The DNR developed partnerships with the USFWS, U.S. Forest Service and other partners to develop a Candidate Conservation Agreement with Assurances (CCAA) for the Eastern Massasauga Rattlesnake. The DNR developed partnerships with the USFWS and USFS to develop a new Kirtland's Warbler Breeding Range Conservation Plan and with the USFWS and USFS to develop a conservation plan for the Northern Long-eared bat. Michigan Department of Natural Resources' wildlife habitat biologists participate in Forest Compartment exams that are conducted by each Forest Management Unit yearly to plan future harvest sites. This compartment-level review guides most tactical planning involving timber harvests and other vegetation management at the stand level. At larger spatial scales a combination of species plans, special habitat initiatives, and the Regional State Forest Management Plans using featured species to identify a diverse set of habitat indicators, as well as the Wildlife Division Strategic Plan (Guiding Principles and Strategies) guide habitat biologists.

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 ☒ Conformance ☐ Exceeds ☐ O.F.I. ☐ Major NC ☐ Minor NC

Audit Notes: Management direction for within-stand retention and legacy trees is provided in DNR Forest Certification Work Instruction 1.4- Biodiversity Management on State Forest Lands: http://www.michigan.gov/documents/dnr/WI_1.4BiodMgt_320943_7.pdf , in DNR Within-Stand Retention Guidance http://www.michigan.gov/documents/dnr/WithinStandRetentionGuidelines-IC4110_175766_7.pdf , and Clarification of Within-Stand Retention Guidance for Aspen Stands

http://www.michigan.gov/documents/dnr/Clarification_WithinStand_Retention_Aspen_Memo_469200_7.pdf
Guidance for retention if biomass harvests is provided in Michigan Woody Biomass Harvesting Guidance: http://www.michigan.gov/documents/dnr/WGBH_321271_7.pdf

Confirmed through contract review and observations of retained habitat structural elements (snags, LWD and/or dens) during the 2015 audit including for example completed harvests at Cemetery Mix, Pumpkin Spice Pine and Witches Broom Pine/Oak.

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 ☒ Conformance ☐ Exceeds ☐ O.F.I. ☐ Major NC ☐ Minor NC

Audit Notes: An assessment of forest cover types, age and size classes in the state forest and planning for management is provided in DNR Regional State Forest Management Plans: http://www.michigan.gov/dnr/0,4570,7-153-30301_30505_62551---,00.html

A 5-step plan for updating the DNR network of Ecological Reference Areas (ERAs) was developed to conform to this requirement including: 1: Identify Rare or Sensitive/Vulnerable Natural Communities on in-scope state forest lands. 2: Identify Representative Examples of High Quality Common Natural Communities on in-scope State Forest Lands and High Quality Rare and Common Natural Communities on other Protected Lands. 3: Identify Interior Core Forest Habitat on in-scope state forest lands and other DNR administered lands. 4: Public Review and 5: Approval & Implementation. The DNR Director recently signed the 2014 Amendment to the 2008 Michigan State Forest Management Plan that approved the updated network of ERAs. During the 2015 audit interviews confirm the recent identification of a new old growth Rich Conifer Swamp. Observations of implemented projects that provide early successional habitat include the 2015 Gladwin Forest, 600-acre Kirtland Warbler habitat project (RTE) which also provides young age class structure for other more common well distributed species (grouse, turkey, rabbit).

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 ☒ Conformance ☐ Exceeds ☐ O.F.I. ☐ Major NC ☐ Minor NC

Audit Notes: The Michigan Wildlife Action Plan can be found at: http://www.michigan.gov/dnr/0,4570,7-153-10370---,00.html
The DNR has a partnership with the USFWS, U.S. Forest Service and other partners to develop a Candidate Conservation Agreement with Assurances (CCAA) for the Eastern Massasauga Rattlesnake.
The DNR has a partnership with the USFWS and USFS to develop a new Kirtland's Warbler Breeding Range Conservation Plan.

The DNR is coordinating with the USFWS to develop Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) for the Northern Long-Eared Bat, as related to a pending listing determination by the USFWS.

The state wildlife action plan has been completed and the DNR management plan recognizes goals and action steps of this priority setting effort and incorporates action steps. In addition, DNR ERA guidelines and unit management plans further define habitat conservation plans and recovery plans including for example observations of implemented projects that provide early successional habitat on the 2015 Gladwin Forest, 600-acre Kirtland Warbler

habitat project (RTE) and Elk management activities described during interviews and confirmed through document review.

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

☐ N/A ☒ Conformance ☐ Exceeds ☐ O.F.I. ☐ Major NC ☐ Minor NC

Audit Notes: The DNR Wildlife Division is a co-manager of the Michigan state forest and is responsible for the protection of RTE species: http://www.michigan.gov/dnr/0,4570,7-153-10370_12141---,00.html and http://www.michigan.gov/dnr/0,4570,7-153-10370_12141_12168---,00.html

Direction for the protection of RTE species is provided in DNR Forest Certification Work Instruction 1.4- Biodiversity Management on State Forest Lands: http://www.michigan.gov/documents/dnr/WI_1.4BiodMgt_320943_7.pdf and in

Assessment for protection of RTE species is directed in DNR IC4172 - RARE SPECIES PROTECTION APPROACH AND ASSESSMENT GUIDELINES FOR DNR STAFF ON STATE FOREST LANDS http://www.michigan.gov/documents/dnr/IC4172_RareSpeciesProtectionGuidelines_469023_7.pdf

All proposed forest treatments are reviewed for possible impact upon RTE species. See DNR Forest Certification Work Instruction 1.6: http://www.michigan.gov/documents/1_133198_7.6.pdf and DNR Guidance for Preparing Timber Sale Proposal Checklist (IC4031-6 and DNR Form R4031-6)

Known sites are identified in the Michigan Natural Heritage Database, which is managed under a MOU and DNR contract with the MSUE Michigan Natural Features Inventory: http://mnfi.anr.msu.edu/. Interviews and demonstration of the GIS system layers confirms that this program has been implemented.

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

☐ N/A ☒ Conformance ☐ Exceeds ☐ O.F.I. ☐ Major NC ☐ Minor NC

Audit Notes: Bogs, fens, and marshes are spatially delineated in the forest inventory (MiFi), in the Michigan Natural Features Inventory Element Occurrence database, and in the updated network of DNR Ecological Reference Areas. Direction for the protection of RTE species is provided in DNR Forest Certification Work Instruction 1.4- Biodiversity Management on State Forest Lands: http://www.michigan.gov/documents/dnr/WI_1.4BiodMgt_320943_7.pdf and in Sustainable Soil and Water Quality Practices on Forest Land http://www.michigan.gov/documents/dnr/IC4011_SustainableSoilAndWaterQualityPracticesOnForestLand_268417_7.pdf

Confirmed through GIS demonstration and field maps that these resources have been identified. Interviews confirm that procedures are in place for the protection of vernal pools (that are more common in the UP than regions visited during the 2015 audit).

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 ☒ Conformance ☐ Exceeds ☐ O.F.I. ☐ Major NC ☐ Minor NC

Audit Notes: Direction for proactive and reactive responses to potential or actual forest health issues on the state forest is provided in DNR Forest Certification Work Instruction 2.3.

http://www.michigan.gov/documents/dnr/WI_2.3IntegratedPestMgt_320945_7.pdf
The DNR has a cooperative relationship with several forest health partners – U.S. Forest Service Northern Research Station, USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development, Michigan State University, and Michigan Technological University. A synopsis of partnership work in 2014 can be found at:
http://www.midnr.com/Publications/pdfs/ForestsLandWater/ForestHealth/Forest_Health_Highlights_2014.pdf
Descriptions of other strategies and actions by the DNR Wildlife and Fisheries Divisions to address invasive terrestrial and aquatic plant and animal species can be found at: http://www.michigan.gov/dnr/0,4570,7-153-10370_59996-270795--,00.html

See 2.4.2.

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 ☒ Conformance ☐ Exceeds ☐ O.F.I. ☐ Major NC ☐ Minor NC

Audit Notes: The DNR Forest Resources Division has a program for the use of prescribed fire in management of forest resources: http://www.michigan.gov/dnr/0,4570,7-153-30301_30816-55955--,00.html

The use of prescribed fire is identified as a management tool for ERAs is provided in DNR Forest Certification Work Instruction 1.4- Biodiversity Management on State Forest Lands:
http://www.michigan.gov/documents/dnr/WI_1.4BiodMgt_320943_7.pdf

Fire has been documented as a natural disturbance factor in this region and this program incorporates the use of prescribed fire as confirmed through observation of the Kalkaska County Sharon Barrens RX burn and the prescription for the Rice Pond Pine Barrens.

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 ☒ Conformance ☐ Exceeds ☐ O.F.I. ☐ Major NC ☐ Minor NC

Audit Notes: The DNR Wildlife Division is a co-manager of the Michigan state forest and is responsible for the protection of RTE species: http://www.michigan.gov/dnr/0,4570,7-153-10370_12141---,00.html and http://www.michigan.gov/dnr/0,4570,7-153-10370_12141_12168---,00.html

Direction for the protection of RTE species is provided in DNR Forest Certification Work Instruction 1.4- Biodiversity Management on State Forest Lands: http://www.michigan.gov/documents/dnr/WI_1.4BiodMgt_320943_7.pdf and in Assessment for protection of RTE species is directed in DNR IC4172 - RARE SPECIES PROTECTION APPROACH AND ASSESSMENT GUIDELINES FOR DNR STAFF ON STATE FOREST LANDS
http://www.michigan.gov/documents/dnr/IC4172_RareSpeciesProtectionGuidelines_469023_7.pdf

All proposed forest treatments are reviewed for possible impact upon RTE species. See DNR Forest Certification Work

Instruction 1.6: http://www.michigan.gov/documents/1_133198_7.6.pdf
and DNR Guidance for Preparing Timber Sale Proposal Checklist (IC4031-6 and DNR Form R4031-6)

Michigan DNR's GIS layer identifies "Biodiversity Areas" including ecological reference areas, other high conservation value areas, and special conservation areas. The audit team visited several sites during the audit; each had a site-specific analysis and recommendations. For example, the audit team observed the Natural KW Scarification project that has been identified as a High Conservation Value Area including a listed species. Interviews and document review confirm that a new old growth Rich Conifer Swamp has been recently identified, verified and protected.

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 ☒ Conformance ☐ Exceeds ☐ O.F.I. ☐ Major NC ☐ Minor NC

Audit Notes: Known sites associated with viable occurrences of critically imperiled and imperiled species and communities are identified in the Michigan Natural Heritage Database, which is managed under a MOU and DNR contract with the MSUE Michigan Natural Features Inventory: http://mnfi.anr.msu.edu/ .
Conservation of Forests with Exceptional Conservation Value is accomplished by the updated DNR network of Ecological Reference Areas: http://www.michigan.gov/dnr/0,4570,7-153-30301_39170-343969--,00.html
and further described in the 2014 Amendment to the 2008 Michigan State Forest Management Plan: http://www.michigan.gov/documents/dnr/2014_Amendment_to_Michigan_State_Forest_Management_Plan_FinalDraft826142_4f
Management direction for ERAs is provided in DNR Forest Certification Work Instruction 1.4- Biodiversity Management on State Forest Lands: http://www.michigan.gov/documents/dnr/WI_1.4BiodMgt_320943_7.pdf

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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 ☒ Conformance ☐ Exceeds ☐ O.F.I. ☐ Major NC ☐ Minor NC

Audit Notes: The DNR updated network of Ecological Reference Areas includes old-growth forests located upon partnering Federal lands and conservancy lands:
http://www.michigan.gov/documents/dnr/FINAL_ERAs_listByNaturalCommunity_477323_7.pdf
Examples include the McCormick and Sylvania Wilderness Areas on the Ottawa National Forest and the Estivant Pines located upon property of the Michigan Nature Association.

Management direction for ERAs is provided in DNR Forest Certification Work Instruction 1.4- Biodiversity Management on State Forest Lands: http://www.michigan.gov/documents/dnr/WI_1.4BiodMgt_320943_7.pdf and in proposed DNR Ecological Reference Areas Definition and Principles of Management: http://www.michigan.gov/documents/dnr/ERA_DefinitionsPublic_Review_Draft_463865_7.pdf.

Interviews and document review confirm that a new old growth Rich Conifer Swamp has been recently identified, verified and protected.

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 ☒ Conformance ☐ Exceeds ☐ O.F.I. ☐ Major NC ☐ Minor NC

Audit Notes: Protection of ecologically important sites is accomplished through designated High Conservation Value Areas (HCVAs): http://www.michigan.gov/dnr/0,4570,7-153-30301_30505_33360_41834_68707-331538--,00.html
HCVAs include the updated DNR network of Ecological Reference Areas: http://www.michigan.gov/dnr/0,4570,7-153-30301_39170,00.html and Dedicated Habitat Areas for core interior forest dependent species http://www.michigan.gov/documents/dnr/FINAL_DHA_list_477604_7.pdf
and further described in the 2014 Amendment to the 2008 Michigan State Forest Management Plan: http://www.michigan.gov/documents/dnr/2014_Amendment_to_Michigan_State_Forest_Management_Plan_FinalDraft826142_4f
Management direction for ERAs and DHAs is provided in DNR Forest Certification Work Instruction 1.4- Biodiversity Management on Forest Lands: http://www.michigan.gov/documents/dnr/WI_1.4BiodMgt_320943_7.pdf

Work Instructions specify that foresters seek special sites during inventory and check existing databases for known sites. Field inter document review associated with field sites confirm that existing information is used, and that additional information on special site and used. Michigan Natural Heritage data and stakeholder consultation were used in the identification of a proposed updated netw Ecological Reference Areas: http://www.michigan.gov/dnr/0,4570,7-153-30301_30505_33360-333691--,00.html. Proposed forest t are reviewed by experts for possible impacts on special sites as confirmed through field interviews with biologists.

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

☐ N/A ☒ Conformance ☐ Exceeds ☐ O.F.I. ☐ Major NC ☐ Minor NC

Audit Notes: Data layers for HCVAs are housed within the DNR GDSE and are part of the DNR geo-spatial forest inventory system. Management direction for ecologically important sites is provided in DNR Forest Certification Work Instruction 1.4- Biodiversity Management on State Forest Lands: http://www.michigan.gov/documents/dnr/WI_1.4BiodMgt_320943_7.pdf

Work Instructions include the requirement for forestry staff to check existing databases for known sites before inventory and harvest prescriptions. Michigan Natural Heritage data and stakeholder consultations are used in the identification of a proposed updated network of Ecological Reference Areas: http://www.michigan.gov/dnr/0,4570,7-153-30301_30505_33360-333691--,00.html. Proposed forest treatments are reviewed for possible impacts.

During the 2015 audit, field interviews and document review confirm that existing information is used, and that additional information on special sites is sought and used including for example observation of the fully implemented 2015 Gladwin Forest, 600-acre Kirtland Warbler habitat project (RTE) and GIS map 'Biodiversity Areas - Atlanta Forest Management Unit'.

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 ☒ Conformance ☐ Exceeds ☐ O.F.I. ☐ Major NC ☐ Minor NC

Audit Notes: The Michigan Natural Features Inventory develops and maintains abstracts for forest communities in Michigan, which include Forests of Exceptional Conservation Value.

Known sites are identified in the Michigan Natural Heritage Database, which is managed under a MOU and DNR contract with the MSUE Michigan Natural Features Inventory: http://mnfi.anr.msu.edu/. Interviews and demonstration of the GIS system layers confirm that this program has been implemented.

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

☐ N/A ☒ Conformance ☐ Exceeds ☐ O.F.I. ☐ Major NC ☐ Minor NC

Audit Notes: As confirmed through document review and interviews with the Biodiversity and Conservation Program Leader, DNR participates in a variety of research programs with regional experts including for example hibernacula surveys, research treatments for enhancing bat populations, ERA management, the Rattlesnake Conservation Agreement and the Kirtland Warbler habitat restoration efforts. DNR incorporates research results into management prescriptions as confirmed through observation of the fully implemented 2015 Gladwin Forest, 600-acre Kirtland Warbler habitat project (RTE).

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 ☒ Conformance ☐ Exceeds ☐ O.F.I. ☐ Major NC ☐ Minor NC

Audit Notes: The MI DNR the DNR Timber Sale Proposal Checklist (R4031-6) addresses visual quality and timber sale specifications for harvest operations.

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 ☒ Conformance ☐ Exceeds ☐ O.F.I. ☐ Major NC ☐ Minor NC

Audit Notes: The MI DNR the DNR Timber Sale Proposal Checklist (R4031-6) addresses visual quality and timber sale specifications for harvest operations.

Field Visits did not identify any aesthetic issues.

Performance Measure 5.2

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

Indicators:

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

☐ N/A ☒ Conformance ☐ Exceeds ☐ O.F.I. ☐ Major NC ☐ Minor NC

Audit Notes: The MI DNR the DNR Timber Sale Proposal Checklist (R4031-6) addresses the size of clearcut harvests. The average size of DNR clearcut harvests in the past 12 months is 44 acres.

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

☐ N/A ☒ Conformance ☐ Exceeds ☐ O.F.I. ☐ Major NC ☐ Minor NC

Audit Notes: MI DNR uses timber sale records to calculate the average size of clearcuts

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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 ☒ Conformance ☐ Exceeds ☐ O.F.I. ☐ Major NC ☐ Minor NC

Audit Notes: DNR Forest Certification Work Instruction 2.1 (Regeneration) provides green-up requirements.

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

☐ N/A ☒ Conformance ☐ Exceeds ☐ O.F.I. ☐ Major NC ☐ Minor NC

Audit Notes: The Michigan Forest Inventory (MiFi) is used to track regeneration surveys and conformance with green-up requirements.

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 ☒ Conformance ☐ Exceeds ☐ O.F.I. ☐ Major NC ☐ Minor NC

Audit Notes: DNR Forest Certification Green-up guidelines ensure conformance with this indicator.

Site visits did not identify any issues.

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 ☐ Conformance ☒ Exceeds ☐ O.F.I. ☐ Major NC ☐ Minor NC

Audit Notes: Abundant year-round recreational opportunities are provided including fishing, hunting, and gathering (mushrooms), off-road vehicle (ORV) riding, snowmobiling, skiing, and ice fishing. This diverse recreational activity provides year-round benefits to the local economy. General trends from various data sources indicate that hunting, fishing, and power boating activities are relatively static or declining. Specifically, the trend of dispersed hunting recreation can be seen in the number of hunting license holders, which has been steadily decreasing over the past decade. Conversely, wildlife viewing, ORV and snowmobile riding have grown in the past decade. The use of state forest campgrounds has been relatively stable recently with most use occurring in the Northern Lower Peninsula Ecoregion. Observations during the 2015 audit confirm that recreational trails of all user-group types are abundant and well maintained.

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 Participant*s 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 ☒ Conformance ☐ Exceeds ☐ O.F.I. ☐ Major NC ☐ Minor NC

Audit Notes: Michigan Natural Heritage data and stakeholder consultation were used in the identification of a updated network of Ecological Reference Areas: http://www.michigan.gov/dnr/0,4570,7-153-30301_39170-343969--,00.html
All proposed forest treatments are reviewed for possible impact upon historic/cultural/ecological resources. See DNR Forest Certification Work Instruction 1.6: http://www.michigan.gov/documents/1_133198_7.6.pdf
and DNR Guidance for Preparing Timber Sale Proposal Checklist (IC4031-6 and DNR Form R4031-6)

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

☐ N/A ☒ Conformance ☐ Exceeds ☐ O.F.I. ☐ Major NC ☐ Minor NC

Audit Notes: Requirements for the preservation of cultural and historic sites are provided in DNR Forest Certification Work Instruction 3.1. http://www.michigan.gov/documents/3_133210_7.1.pdf
Cultural and historic sites, Natural Heritage Program element occurrence records, and DNR Special Conservation Area and High Conservation Value Areas are data layers in the DNR Geographic Decision Support Environment (GDSE).
Management direction for ERAs is provided in DNR Forest Certification Work Instruction 1.4- Biodiversity Management on State Forest Lands: http://www.michigan.gov/documents/dnr/WI_1.4BiodMgt_320943_7.pdf

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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 ☒ Conformance ☐ Exceeds ☐ O.F.I. ☐ Major NC ☐ Minor NC

Audit Notes: Specific utilization standards are incorporated in each harvest contract as confirmed through document review of sale # 73-010-14-01 section 2.2. Implementation of utilization standards program is confirmed through review of timber sale contracts and inspection reports for all harvest sites visited.

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 ☒ Conformance ☐ Exceeds ☐ O.F.I. ☐ Major NC ☐ Minor NC

Audit Notes: The 2007 Inland Consent Decree between 1868 Tribes and the DNR outlines DNR's commitment to, and recognition of, Indigenous Peoples rights.

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 ☒ Conformance ☐ Exceeds ☐ O.F.I. ☐ Major NC ☐ Minor NC

Audit Notes: The 2007 Inland Consent Decree between 1868 Tribes and the DNR specifies Indigenous Peoples rights.

Records of historic/cultural sites are maintain in the MI History Arts and Libraries (HAL) database, which is linked to the MI DNR Geographic Decision Support Environment (GDSE). All proposed forest treatments are reviewed for possible impact upon historic/cultural resources. See DNR Forest Certification Work Instruction 1.6: http://www.michigan.gov/documents/1_133198_7.6.pdf and DNR Guidance for Preparing Timber Sale Proposal Checklist (IC4031-6 and DNR Form R4031-6).

Communication with Native American Tribes are addressed in DNR Forest Certification Work Instruction 9.1: http://www.michigan.gov/documents/dnr/9.1_Tribal_Issues_282250_7.pdf

Hunting and gathering rights for several federally recognized Michigan tribes are established in the 2007 Inland Consent Decree (see evidence for indicator 9.1.2).

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 ☒ Conformance ☐ Exceeds ☐ O.F.I. ☐ Major NC ☐ Minor NC

Audit Notes: The 2007 Inland Consent Decree between 1868 Tribes and the DNR specifies Indigenous Peoples rights.

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

☐ N/A ☒ Conformance ☐ Exceeds ☐ O.F.I. ☐ Major NC ☐ Minor NC

Audit Notes: Each division in DNR has a Tribal Coordinator who acts as the central contact and provides comments when necessary. The Department has a Tribal Coordinator who maintains the 2015 Record of meetings, workshops, and other key interaction with Michigan Tribes.

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 ☒ Conformance ☐ Exceeds ☐ O.F.I. ☐ Major NC ☐ Minor NC

Audit Notes: Access to Michigan law, administrative rules and Department Orders is provided at: http://www.michigan.gov/dnr/0,1607,7-153-10366_37141---,00.html

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

☐ N/A ☒ Conformance ☐ Exceeds ☐ O.F.I. ☐ Major NC ☐ Minor NC

Audit Notes: Compliance with Federal, State and local laws is addressed in DNR Forest Certification Work Instruction 7.2: http://www.michigan.gov/documents/7_133228_7.2.pdf

State of Michigan Policy 2410: http://www.michigan.gov/dtmb/0,5552,7-150-9131_9347-29674--,00.html#2400.

Relations and legal requirements pertaining to Native American Tribes are addressed in DNR Forest Certification Work Instruction 9.1: http://www.michigan.gov/documents/dnr/9.1_Tribal_Issues_282250_7.pdf ; and the 2007 Inland Consent Decree: http://www.michigan.gov/documents/dnr/Proposed_Consent_Decreepages1-144_209977_7.pdf

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

☐ N/A ☒ Conformance ☐ Exceeds ☐ O.F.I. ☐ Major NC ☐ Minor NC

Audit Notes: Statement of commitment to Federal, State and local laws is stated in DNR Forest Certification Work Instruction 7.2: http://www.michigan.gov/documents/7_133228_7.2.pdf

Employee handbook requires compliance and DNR has 40 Work Rules that employees are required to follow and a detailed process to handle employee non-compliance.

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 ☒ Conformance ☐ Exceeds ☐ O.F.I. ☐ Major NC ☐ Minor NC

Audit Notes: A review of the contents of the Personnel Manual -Chapter 21: Michigan DNR Employee Handbook" and interview with the FRD HR Director, showed that nearly all of the listed items are included in policy and are part of the

program. Agenda for New employee orientation (New Employee Orientation September 26 & 27, 2012) covers equal employment, handbook/Civil service issues/rules. Civil service rules are also on the Michigan DNR internet.

The commitment to comply with social laws is clearly demonstrated.

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 ☒ Conformance ☐ Exceeds ☐ O.F.I. ☐ Major NC ☐ Minor NC

Audit Notes: Basically all staff except managers and supervisors are members of a union.

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 ☒ Conformance ☐ Exceeds ☐ O.F.I. ☐ Major NC ☐ Minor NC

Audit Notes: Coordinated natural resources management research is addressed in DNR Forest Certification Work Instruction 5.1: http://www.michigan.gov/documents/5_133216_7.1.pdf

A summary of DNR supported research as of the end of 2014 is provided at: http://www.michigan.gov/documents/dnr/Research_Summary__493018_7.pdf

DNR supports research and development projects that contribute to the management of Michigan's forest lands in such a way as to sustain those resources and associated values for future generations and develops an annual summary of those projects for the DNR's 2014 fiscal year (October 1, 2013 through September 30, 2014).

The report focuses on the research that occurs within forested landscapes considering one or more elements of forested ecosystems and or associated social and economic systems. Because of research's close association with effectiveness monitoring, the forested landscape research is considered within the monitoring framework for sustainable forests: that is, the criteria and indicator framework of the Montreal Process (http://www.montrealprocess.org/). However, since the suite of indicators is more of a moving target than the criteria under which they fall, the research projects are categorized only using the seven criteria. Projects that are related to more than one criterion are listed under the primary criterion with the other linkages being identified.

DNR has recently completed, or is currently funding/providing support for 51 research and 3 inventory forest management related projects.

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 ☐ Conformance ☐ Exceeds ☐ O.F.I. ☐ Major NC ☐ Minor NC

Audit Notes: The use of genetically modified organisms is not allowed on certified state forest lands per DNR Forest Certification Work Instruction 2.3: http://www.michigan.gov/documents/dnr/WI_2.3IntegratedPestMgt_320945_7.pdf

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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 ☒ Conformance ☐ Exceeds ☐ O.F.I. ☐ Major NC ☐ Minor NC

Audit Notes: Interview with the DNR Forest Certification Coordinator indicates the DNR conducts regeneration on state forests; review and edit the FIA reports; co-wrote the BMP manual with DEQ and partners with the MI SIC for conducting BMP conformance audits across all forest ownerships, and has biodiversity information for family forest owners on the website.

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 ☒ Conformance ☐ Exceeds ☐ O.F.I. ☐ Major NC ☐ Minor NC

Audit Notes: MIDNR participates in the USFS Northern Institute for Applied Climatic Science which is working on a process to develop a climate change response framework. Are using information on hand to make changes to management plans.

Regional plans contain a discussion on climate change.

Interviews with field staff indicate they are knowledgeable about climate change impacts.

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 ☒ Conformance ☐ Exceeds ☐ O.F.I. ☐ Major NC ☐ Minor NC

Audit Notes: See 10.3.1.

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 ☐ Conformance ☐ Exceeds ☐ O.F.I. ☐ Major NC ☒ Minor NC

Audit Notes: The commitment of the State of Michigan to forest certification is embodied in state law: http://www.legislature.mi.gov/(S(5lpisxm3xzejic45yhdcxinn))/mileg.aspx?page=getObject&objectName=mcl-324-52505

Minor NC: A written statement of commitment to the SFI standard has been communicated to all DNR staff on September 23, 2014. However, the statement didn't specify the 2015-2019 Standard.

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

☐ N/A ☒ Conformance ☐ Exceeds ☐ O.F.I. ☐ Major NC ☐ Minor NC

Audit Notes: The MI DNR Forest Resources Division has a full term employee assigned to the duty of Forest Certification Coordinator and also maintains a standing Forest Certification Team.

All of the SFI Performance Measures and Indicators are contained in a series of DNR Forest Certification Work Instructions, which are regularly reviewed and updated. These work instructions provide clear assignment of responsibilities by position. http://www.michigan.gov/dnr/0,4570,7-153-30301_33360_41834_68707-331517--,00.html

Interviews during the site visits and central office audit indicate employees are well aware of their responsibilities.

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

☐ N/A ☒ Conformance ☐ Exceeds ☐ O.F.I. ☐ Major NC ☐ Minor NC

Audit Notes: Both the Wildlife and Forestry Divisions develop and implement annual training plans which deal with broad training needs and which also list mandatory training identified to meet laws and priorities that are intended for selected employees.

The DNR Forest Resources Division uses an Individual Training Needs Assessment Worksheet to describe the training necessary for various employee classifications.

Formal training records are maintained in Lansing; employee records are maintained at the Management Unit level.

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

☐ N/A ☒ Conformance ☐ Exceeds ☐ O.F.I. ☐ Major NC ☐ Minor NC

Audit Notes: The DNR maintains a web site and provides training for contractors that assist in preparing DNR timber sales: http://www.michigan.gov/dnr/0,4570,7-153-10368_21637---,00.html

Foresters providing contract forestry services must have a professional forestry degree, pass a written test, and take an orientation test.

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 ☐ Conformance ☐ Exceeds ☐ O.F.I. ☐ Major NC ☒ Minor NC

Audit Notes: The MI DNR supports SFE training through membership on the MI SFI Implementation Committee: http://sfimi.org/ DNR timber sale contract specification 6.3 requires a SFE or FISTA qualified foreman to supervise logging operations on DNR timber sales: http://www.michigan.gov/documents/GCR_155850_7.pdf?20140922102516 and http://www.michigan.gov/dnr/0,4570,7-153-10368_22594-126057--,00.html

Minor NC: The pre-harvest planning form has a checkbox used to indicate logger completion of the core training requirements. The new SFI Standard has changed this requirement such that annual update training is now required. The MI SIC has defined this requirement to mean that a trained individual must have direct responsibility and must be on-site regularly. It wasn't evident that DNR has incorporated this change in the Work Instruction 7.1 or communicated it to field staff. In addition, the check box on the pre-harvest planning form was not being used consistently.

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 ☒ Conformance ☐ Exceeds ☐ O.F.I. ☐ Major NC ☐ Minor NC

Audit Notes: This requirement is satisfied by MIDNR's participation in, the MI SIC. Confirmed by review of meeting minutes and attendance lists.

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 ☒ Conformance ☐ Exceeds ☐ O.F.I. ☐ Major NC ☐ Minor NC

Audit Notes: Confirmed the MI SFE logger training has a core requirement and annual update requirement.

11.2.3. Participation in or support of *SFI Implementation Committees* to establish criteria for recognition of logger certification *programs*, where they exist, that include:

a. completion of *SFI Implementation Committee* recognized logger training *programs* and meeting continuing education requirements of the training *program*;
b. independent in-the-forest verification of conformance with the logger certification *program* standards;
c. compliance with all applicable laws and regulations including responsibilities under the U.S. Endangered Species Act, the Canadian Species at Risk Act and other measures to protect *wildlife habitat*;
d. use of *best management practices* to protect water quality;
e. logging safety;
f. compliance with acceptable *silviculture* and utilization standards;
g. aesthetic management techniques employed where applicable; and
h. adherence to a management or harvest plan that is site specific and agreed to by the forest landowner.

☐ N/A ☒ Conformance ☐ Exceeds ☐ O.F.I. ☐ Major NC ☐ Minor NC

Audit Notes: Michigan does have such a program, and it is recognized by the Michigan SFI Implementation Committee.

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 ☒ Conformance ☐ Exceeds ☐ O.F.I. ☐ Major NC ☐ Minor NC

Audit Notes: This requirement is satisfied by MIDNR's participation in, the MI SIC. Confirmed by review of meeting minutes and attendance lists.

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 ☒ Conformance ☐ Exceeds ☐ O.F.I. ☐ Major NC ☐ Minor NC

Audit Notes: The MI DNR has several full time employees that support this function: a webmaster, a promotional agent, an educational coordinator (Adopt-A-Forest; Project learning Tree), a forest stewardship coordinator, a Forest Health and Monitoring Unit, an Urban and Community Forestry Coordinator, and a Community Wildfire Protection coordinator.

Field offices have displays of brochures and pamphlets for public distribution.

Work with the SFI IC includes a partnership with The Greening of Detroit.

Web site resources include:
Adopt-A-Forest http://www.michigan.gov/dnr/0,1607,7-153-10366_10871-27529--,00.html
Project Learning Tree http://www.michigan.gov/dnr/0,4570,7-153-10369_53507---,00.html
Forest Stewardship Program http://www.michigan.gov/dnr/0,4570,7-153-30301_34240_68762---,00.html
Urban and Community Forestry http://www.michigan.gov/dnr/0,4570,7-153-30301_40936---,00.html
General Forest Information http://www.michigan.gov/dnr/0,4570,7-153-30301_69181---,00.html

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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 ☐ Conformance ☐ Exceeds ☐ O.F.I. ☐ Major NC ☐ Minor NC

Audit Notes: The DNR FRD administers the Michigan Commercial Forest Program. http://www.michigan.gov/dnr/0,4570,7-153-30301_34240_68191---,00.html. This program is a tax incentive program for industrial and private landowners.

The DNR FRD administers a Forest Legacy Program. http://www.michigan.gov/dnr/0,4570,7-153-30301_34240_68250---,00.html.

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 ☐ Conformance ☒ Exceeds ☐ O.F.I. ☐ Major NC ☐ Minor NC

Audit Notes: The MI DNR has several full time employees that support this function: a webmaster, a promotional agent, an educational coordinator (Adopt-A-Forest; Project learning Tree), a forest stewardship coordinator, a Forest Health and Monitoring Unit, an Urban and Community Forestry Coordinator, and a Community Wildfire Protection coordinator.

The Department's website contains significant forest management information for landowners.

Field offices have displays of brochures and pamphlets for public distribution.

Work with the SFI SIC includes a partnership with The Greening of Detroit.

Web site resources include:
Adopt-A-Forest http://www.michigan.gov/dnr/0,1607,7-153-10366_10871-27529--,00.html
Project Learning Tree http://www.michigan.gov/dnr/0,4570,7-153-10369_53507---,00.html
Forest Stewardship Program http://www.michigan.gov/dnr/0,4570,7-153-30301_34240_68762---,00.html
Urban and Community Forestry http://www.michigan.gov/dnr/0,4570,7-153-30301_40936---,00.html
General Forest Information http://www.michigan.gov/dnr/0,4570,7-153-30301_69181---,00.html

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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 ☒ Conformance ☐ Exceeds ☐ O.F.I. ☐ Major NC ☐ Minor NC

Audit Notes: The DNR FRD works with the MI SFI IC to maintain a toll-free number to report inconsistent forestry practices http://www.michigan.gov/dnr/0,4570,7-153-30301_33360_41834_68707-331508--,00.html .

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 ☒ Conformance ☐ Exceeds ☐ O.F.I. ☐ Major NC ☐ Minor NC

Audit Notes: Confirmed the 2014 MI SIC has an inconsistent practices section.

Objective 13 *Public Land* Management Responsibilities

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

Performance Measure 13.1

*Program Participant*s 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 ☒ Conformance ☐ Exceeds ☐ O.F.I. ☐ Major NC ☐ Minor NC

Audit Notes: Section 4.1.2.2 of the 2008 Michigan State Forest Management plan (amended in 2014) contains objectives for consultation with government and non-government entities and individuals. Examples of involvement in public land planning and management processes include:

- Participation in the Climate Changes Response Framework with the USFS Northern Research Station and other partners. http://www.fs.fed.us/nrs/pubs/gtr/gtr_nrs129.pdf
- Partnership with the USFWS and other partners to develop a Candidate Conservation Agreement with Assurances (CCAA) for the Eastern Massasauga Rattlesnake.
- Partnership with the USFWS and USFS to develop a new Kirtland's Warbler Breeding Range Conservation Plan.
- Coordination with the USFWS to develop Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) for the Northern Long-Eared Bat, as related to a pending listing determination by the USFWS.

MI DNR works with local and federal agencies to ensure that planning and management activities are coordinated to the degree possible. The state forest management program is open to public input in various ways. Evidence was provided of regular open houses held to "provide information and receive public comment on proposed forest management treatments". Considerable efforts are made to publicize these events (press releases, emails, web sites) but attendance continues to be low. Examples include Compartment review open houses, regional management plan review and ERA

The MI DNR has a web site where stakeholders can learn about proposed and planned management practices.

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

☐ N/A ☐ Conformance ☒ Exceeds ☐ O.F.I. ☐ Major NC ☐ Minor NC

Audit Notes: The DNR maintains a Guide to Participation for local stakeholders that describes the DNR compartment review process and opportunities for participation. http://www.michigan.gov/dnr/0,4570,7-153-30301_30505-123392--,00.html

Press releases, GovDelivery emails, and other forms of public notification are annually made for public open houses at the Forest Management Unit level.

MI DNR works with local and federal agencies to ensure that planning and management activities are coordinated to the degree possible. The state forest management program is open to public input in various ways. Evidence was provided of regular open houses held to "provide information and receive public comment on proposed forest management treatments". Considerable efforts are made to publicize these events (press releases, emails, web

sites) but attendance continues to be low. Examples include Compartment review open houses, regional management plan review and ERA

The MI DNR has a web site where stakeholders can learn about proposed and planned management practices.

Objective 14 Communications and Public Reporting

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

Performance Measure 14.1

A *Program Participant* shall provide a summary audit report, prepared by the *certification body*, to *SFI Inc.* after the successful completion of a certification, recertification or surveillance audit to the *SFI 2015-2019 Forest Management Standard.*

Indicator:

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

a. a description of the audit process, *objectives* and scope;
b. a description of substitute *indicators*, if any, used in the audit and a rationale for each;
c. the name of *Program Participant* that was audited, including its *SFI* representative;
d. a general description of the *Program Participant's* forestland included in the audit;
e. the name of the *certification body* and *lead auditor* (names of the *audit team* members, including *technical experts* may be included at the discretion of the *audit team* and *Program Participant*);
f. the dates the audit was conducted and completed;
g. a summary of the findings, including general descriptions of evidence of conformity and any nonconformities and corrective action plans to address them, opportunities for improvement, and exceptional practices; and
h. the certification decision.

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

☐ N/A ☒ Conformance ☐ Exceeds ☐ O.F.I. ☐ Major NC ☐ Minor NC

Audit Notes: The 2014 Michigan DNR SFI Public Summary Surveillance Audit Report is posted on the SFI program webpage at: http://www.sfiprogram.org/audit-reports/michigan-dept-of-natural-resources-october-2014/

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 ☒ Conformance ☐ Exceeds ☐ O.F.I. ☐ Major NC ☐ Minor NC

Audit Notes: The 2014 Annual SFI Report for MI DNR was submitted to Rachel Dierolf on April 9, 2015.

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

☐ N/A ☐ Conformance ☐ Exceeds ☒ O.F.I. ☐ Major NC ☐ Minor NC

Audit Notes: All categories of information for the annual report are covered by computerized record keeping systems (databases or reports) which are periodically updated.

OFI: The research portion of the annual report includes projects and expended funds that are not directly related to forest research.

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 ☒ Conformance ☐ Exceeds ☐ O.F.I. ☐ Major NC ☐ Minor NC

Audit Notes: Past copies of reports are maintained by the MI DNR Forest Certification Coordinator. Results of external and

internal audits and management review reports are also maintained on the DNR Forest Certification web page. http://www.michigan.gov/dnr/0,4570,7-153-30301_33360_41834_68707-331520--,00.html

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 Participant*s 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 ☒ Conformance ☐ Exceeds ☐ O.F.I. ☐ Major NC ☐ Minor NC

Audit Notes: The MI DNR has an internal audit process for this purpose, as described in DNR Forest Certification Work Instruction 1.2. http://www.michigan.gov/documents/dnr/WI_1.2MgtReview_320940_7.pdf

Results of internal audits may be viewed at: http://www.michigan.gov/dnr/0,4570,7-153-30301_33360_41834_68707-331520--,00.html.

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 ☒ Conformance ☐ Exceeds ☐ O.F.I. ☐ Major NC ☐ Minor NC

Audit Notes: The system is described in MI DNR Work Instruction 1.2, and includes employment of a Forest Certification Coordinator, involvement of managers from all levels of the department, many programs for monitoring and recording plans and results of activities, mandatory annual reports to the Michigan Legislature. Also see evidence for indicators 15.1.1 and 15.1.3.

Michigan Department of Natural Resources has a robust and very well documented process of conducting internal audits and Internal NCRs. The auditor reviewed the Internal Audit Reports for Atlanta (2015 Internal Audit Report July 14-15, 2015), Baraga (2015 Internal Audit Report June 29-July 1, 2015) and Cadillac (2015 Internal Audit Report August 4-6, 2015).

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 ☒ Conformance ☐ Exceeds ☐ O.F.I. ☐ Major NC ☐ Minor NC

Audit Notes: The MI DNR has an annual management review process for this purpose, as described in DNR Forest Certification Work Instruction 1.2. http://www.michigan.gov/documents/dnr/WI_1.2MgtReview_320940_7.pdf.

Work Instruction 1.2 established a management review process to promote continual improvement in the management of the state forest system. Its purpose is to establish a systematic process for evaluation of forest management practices. The review includes a review of the previous year's implementation efforts and a formal management review meeting. The review was initiated by FRD and WLD Field Coordinators which complied a draft report on February 2, 2014. The initial report was then reviewed by the management team and finally approved by the DNR Resource Bureau Management Team on June 23, 2014. The report includes a thorough discussion of the 2013 internal and external audit results and recommendations on how to improve the program and how to deal with issues identified in the audits.

Management Review Reports may be viewed at: http://www.michigan.gov/dnr/0,4570,7-153-30301_33360_41834_68707-331520--,00.html

Sub-Checklist 9-1-A: Eligibility Criteria Established in IAF-MD1

☒ **Applicable** ☐ **Not Applicable**

Auditor Instructions:

1. This sub-checklist applies to Multi-Site Organizations using the IAF-MD1 eligibility criteria. If not using the approach then the checklist below may be deleted.

2. Auditor should delete these instructions when compiling the audit report.

4.1.1 Multi-site organizations using IAF-MD1 as the basis for sampling shall meet the eligibility criteria established in IAF-MD1, including, but not limited to, the following:

a. The processes at all sites have to be substantially of the same kind and have to be operated to similar methods and procedures.

☒ Yes ☐ No ☐ N/A

Audit Notes: There are 15 Management Units and all are administered by the central office in Lansing. All management units share share similar methods and procedures.

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b. The organization's management system shall be under a centrally controlled and administered plan and be subject to central management review and all relative sites (including the central administration function) shall be subject to the organization's internal audit program.

☒ Yes ☒ No ☐ N/A

Audit Notes: The central office function is located in Lansing and confirmed by review of internal audit reports that internal audits were conducted in 2015.

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c. It shall be demonstrated that the central office of the organization has established a management system in accordance with the SFI 2015-2019 Standards and that the whole organization meets the requirements of the standard.

☒ Yes ☒ No ☐ N/A

Audit Notes: This audit has confirmed that the central office functionally is very strong. The management system consists of numerous policies, procedures and work orders.

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d The organization should demonstrate its ability to collect and analyze data (including, but not limited to, the items listed below) from all sites including the central office and its authority and also demonstrate its authority and ability to initiate organizational change if required:

System documentation and system changes;

Management review;

Complaints;

Evaluation of corrective actions;

Internal audit planning and evaluation of the results;

Changes to aspects and associated impacts for environmental management systems and

Different legal requirements.

☒ Yes ☐ No ☐ N/A

Audit Notes: The management system procedures address the required elements and the central office audit confirms they are adequately implemented.

5.1 Sampling Approaches

5.1.1 Certification bodies auditing multi-site organizations using IAF -MD1 as the basis for sampling shall meet the sample selection and intensity criteria established in IAF -MD1. (Note: The Sampling requirements under IAF-MD1 are provided below in italics and using the numbering system from IAF-MD1)

☒ Yes ☐ No ☐ N/A ☐ O.F.I.

Audit Notes: Based on a review of the applicable Sampling Requirements under IAF-MD1 as detailed below the organization was determined to meet/not meet the sample selection and intensity criteria for MD1.
DNR conducted internal audits at the Atlanta, Baraga and Cadillac and will conduct an audit of the Timber Sale Monitoring across all the districts in October or November 2015.

***Note**: The Sampling Requirements under IAF-MD1 are provided; only the requirements which apply to the organization and which are mandatory ("must…") were included.*

5 SAMPLING

5.1 Methodology

5.1.1 The sample should be partly selective based on the factors set out below and partly nonselective, and should result in a representative range of different sites being selected, without excluding the random element of sampling.

5.1.2 At least 25% of the sample should be selected at random.

5.1.3 Taking into account the provisions mentioned below, the remainder should be selected so that the differences among the sites selected over the period of validity of the certificate is as large as possible.

5.2 Size of Sample

5.2.1 The certification body shall have a documented procedure for determining the sample to be taken when auditing sites as part of the audits and certification of a multi-site organization. This should take into account all the factors described in this document.

5.2.2 The certification body shall have records on each application of multi-site sampling justifying it is operating in accordance with this document.

5.2.3 The following calculation is an example based on the example of a low to medium risk activity with less than 50 employees at each site. The minimum number of sites to be visited per audit is:

Initial audit: the size of the sample should be the square root of the number of remote sites: (y=Mx), rounded to the upper whole number.

Surveillance audit: the size of the annual sample should be the square root of the number of remote sites with 0.6 as a coefficient (y=0.6 Mx), rounded to the upper whole number.

Re-certification audit: the size of the sample should be the same as for an initial audit. Nevertheless, where the management system has proved to be effective over a period of three years, the size of the sample could be reduced by a factor 0.8, i.e.: (y=0.8 Mx), rounded to the upper whole number.

5.2.4 The certification body should define within its management system the risk levels of activities as applied above.

5.2.5 The central office shall be audited during every initial certification and recertification audit and at least annually as part of surveillance.

5.2.6 The size or frequency of the sample should be increased where the certification body's risk analysis of the activity covered by the management system subject to certification indicates special circumstances in respect of factors such as:

The size of the sites and number of employees (eg. more than 50 employees on a site);

The complexity or risk level of the activity and of the management system;

Variations in working practices (eg. shift working);

Variations in activities undertaken;

Significance and extent of aspects and associated impacts for environmental management systems (EMS);

Records of complaints and other relevant aspects of corrective and preventive action;

Any multinational aspects; and

Results of internal audits and management review.

5.2.7 When the organization has a hierarchical system of branches (e.g. head/central office, national offices, regional offices, local branches), the sampling model for initial audit as defined above applies to each level.

Example:
1 head office: visited at each audit cycle (initial or surveillance or recertification)
4 National offices: sample = 2: minimum 1 at random
27 regional offices: sample = 6: minimum 2 at random
1700 local branches: sample = 42: minimum 11 at random.

5.3 Audit Times

5.3.1 The audit time to spend for each individual site is another important element to consider, and the certification body shall be prepared to justify the time spent on multisite audits in terms of its overall policy for allocation of audit time.

5.3.2 The number of man-days per site, including the central office, should be calculated for each site using the most recently published IAF document for the calculation of man-days for the relevant standard.

5.3.3 Reductions can be applied to take into account the clauses that are not relevant to the central office and/or the local sites. Reasons for the justification of such reductions shall be recorded by the certification body.

***Note**: Sites which carry out the most or critical processes are not subject to reductions (clause 3.1.1).*

5.3.4 The total time expended on initial assessment and surveillance is the total sum of the time spent at each site plus the central office and should never be less than that which would have been calculated for the size and complexity of the operation if all the work had been undertaken at a single site (i.e. with all the employees of the company in the same site).

5.4 Additional Sites

5.4.1 On the application of a new group of sites to join an already certified multi-site network, each new group of sites should be considered as an independent set for the determination of the sample size. After inclusion of the new group in the certificate, the new sites should be cumulated to the previous ones for determining the sample size for future surveillance or recertification audits.

(END Sub-Checklist 9-1-A: Eligibility Criteria Established in IAF-MD1)

End of Forest Management Checklist

Appendix 4

Site Visit Notes

Atlanta FMU Recertification Audit 9/28/15 - Tour 1			
Site #	**Name**	**Feature of interest**	**Audit team notes**
	Auditors arrive @ Atlanta FO	Opening Meeting and FMU & District Briefs	Ann Marie Kittredge
4	Lake Sixteen	Troll Knoll Mix Tsale, and Lake Sixteen ERA	Lake Sixteen ERA (Troll Knoll) Prescribed clear cut in >80-year old oak stand with retention of Oak and pine. Observed retained pocket of legacy WP and RP (28-30" and ~140 year old individuals with dens and a stick nest. Observed GIS map layer of this permanent polygon of retention. Prescription includes buffer around historic State Forest HQ building foundation and a retention pocket that buffers the nearly adjacent Lake 16 ERA.
2	SeaBass Aspen	Aspen Timbersale, has been cut and Recreation impacts	Summer 2016 completed clear cut with retention of RP, RO and WP in groups. Irregular stand edges implemented as a wildlife habitat and aesthetics consideration. Buffer strip maintained on hiking trail that runs through the timber sale. One section of the stand has intentionally not yet been harvested as a recreational consideration and will be harvested at a later date. Snags, dens and LWD observed.
3	C176 RPP Again	Red Pine Timbersale, Regen Concerns and Rec Impacts	Completed 2008 shelterwood in 81-year old red pine plantation. RP regeneration lacking. Current prescription includes a clear cut with RP and aspen retention in pockets near recreational trail and followed by herbicide treatment and planting of red pine.
1	Feral Cat Oak	Oak Timbersale	LT marked 39-acre shelterwood in an 86-year old oak stand. Retains WP, RP, HK and selected oaks in small groups. Aesthetic considerations associated with nearby subdivision. Aspen within stand will be removed to stimulate sprouts for wildlife habitat. Project not yet sold.
6	Pumpkin Spice Pine	Red Pine Sale, has been cut	(ST-28) 2014 completed shelterwood in a 60-year old red pine plantation with RO retention. Some RP and abundant RO regeneration observed. A regeneration survey will follow in 2 years to confirm status of regeneration. Snags observed. (ST-19)

5	Krouse Rd Lowland Stand	Lowland Conifer Type being prepped for Sale	Prescribed clear cut with pockets of retention in mixed lowland forest (with cedar). Retention groups centered on low/wet spots and hemlock/cedar pockets. Prescription part of the FME's Lowland Harvesting Initiative. Observed regen monitoring database (data not in association with this site).

Atlanta FMU Recertification Audit 9/28/15 - Tour 2 Kyle Mister			Kyle Meister
Site #	**Name**	**Feature of interest**	**Audit team notes**
	Auditors arrive @ Atlanta FO	Opening Meeting and FMU & District Briefs	FMU consists of 280,000 acres. Special features beyond timber production include an elk herd, habitat for Kirtland's warbler and other RTE species, game species, the Black River habitat improvement area, and several recreational opportunities.
1	Blind Squirrel	Red Pine Sale already cut, follow up cultivation treatments in progress	Discussion on compartment and public review processes, HR issues, and remuneration. Natural red pine stand with oak component that received overstory removal. Little to no retention within unit, but retention relegated to edge of unit and tracked in state databases for long-term tracking. Site was herbicided and will be replanted with red pine.
2	Spring Lake Jack Oak	Active Timber Sale	Interview with logger. Discussion of training, safety, site specifications, and marketing of forest products. Jack pine-oak stand clearcut with retention islands and oak-aspen stand thinning to promote oak and remove declining aspen. Discussion with DNR staff on training plans and implementation of training plans, as well as the types and amount of trainings conducted annually.
	Lunch	Shupac Lake SF Campground	Observation of recreation area.
3	Loon Lake	ERA	Karst topography complex. Discussion of plant communities and measures for delineating and protecting this ERA.

3A	Roller Chop Site (extra site)	Red Pine cultivation work	Observation of active trenching operation to replant with red pine. Discussion with operator about how to operate around retention elements, such as snag and retention islands. Discussion with operator about remuneration and safety measures, and observation of safety measures such as First AID kit, spill kit, and tools.
4	634 Bruised Oblique Timber Sale	Aspen Timber Sale, already cut	Aspen regeneration cut with retention of oak and pine (scattered and island)
5	6 Mile Combo	Hdwd Thinning, Aspen harvest	Aspen clearcut with at least two retention islands adjacent to hardwood thinning. Discussion about stakeholder communications over impacts of operations.
6	Rib Rack Timber Sale	Oak and Aspen Harvests, adjacent to Bear Den Lake	Aspen clearcut with lake 100' lake zone buffer and retention of white and red pine within stand. Aspen and jack pine retention at edges of unit. Other area of sale was a clearcut with several two-acre retention islands of oak-jack pine prepared years prior for wildlife management.
7	Road Work Project	Fixed several mud holes and a hill side spring	Road regraded, elevated in some spots, and graveled. Catch basins installed in strategic areas to keep adjacent stands dry.
8	Decheau Lake, Wildlife Opening Maintenance	Planted rye and buckwheat in maintained opening, would be at end of tour. Elk Management	Discussion of elk herd management and protection, and rotation of associated crops

Atlanta FMU Recertification Audit 9/28/15 - Tour 3 Alpena County			Paul Pingrey
Site #	**Name**	**Feature of interest**	**Audit team notes**
1	Cranberry Creek sale, near Devils Lake on Piper Road	Stakeholder complaint regarding regeneration harvest	Cranberry Creek sale, near Devils Lake on Piper Road: ~34 acre clearcut harvest of jack pine-scrub oak timber cut during winter 2014-2015. The harvest was included in the 2011 compartment review and open house, generating considerable stakeholder interest. The tract is in an area of recreational cabins about a mile west of the Lake Huron shoreline. The harvest area is linear in shape, positioned between a township road and a railroad track on the east and a shallow wetland lake and alder/willow marsh (known as "Devil's Lake", a former cranberry farm) on the west. Stakeholder comments at the time indicated concern about aesthetic management (some referring to the area as a "park") and perceived loss of deer habitat. To help explain the department's harvest proposal, a stakeholder meeting was convened at a neighbor's cabin in 2011. Email's after the event say that about 50 people came, including a local State Representative. The tour included the proposed harvest and a nearby stand that had received a similar treatment a few years earlier. Speakers included forestry and wildlife staff. DNR notes indicate that most tour attendees (including the State Representative) seemed to appreciate the reasons and benefits of the harvest. A few, however, did not and they petitioned the DNR Director to review the case. The Director delegated Chief State Forester Lynn Boyd to respond, and her letter affirms the department's decision to proceed with the harvest. According to Michigan regulations, the Director's decision is final. The only other recourse would have been for the complainants to seek a court injunction, which they did not pursue. The organization has a dispute resolution process, which was followed. Some stakeholders responding to the SCS input request suggest that a trail leading to the old cranberry farm water control structure was a "stagecoach road" that should have been protected. DNR says there is no historic road record in the archeological/cultural features database. Auditor observed that the trail is still visible and was not damaged during the harvest. The old water control structure continues to be accessible. The harvest itself is also consistent with

			responsible silviculture for the timber type, aspen-oak regeneration is developing, and the site will provide desirable wildlife habitat.

FMU Recertification Audit 9/29/15 - Indian River Tour Kyle Meister			Kyle Meister
Site #	**Name**	**Feature of interest**	**Audit team notes**
	Auditors arrive @ ** FO	Opening Meeting and FMU & District Briefs	Presentation on MiFi System used to track forest inventory and stand treatments over time.
1	DC Hardwood	HWD selection closed, Motorcycle Trail	Interviews with staff on training, HR issues, and remuneration. Hardwood selection harvest with slash levels reduced to heights conducive to motorized recreation.
2	Sunshine Hardwood	HWD Selection active, Motorcycle Trail	Hardwood selection harvest. Discussion on monitoring and contract conditions allowed for flexibility due to weather and timing constraints. Contract marked and reviewed after marking for den tree and other retention specifications. Interviews with staff on training, HR issues, and remuneration.
3	LUNCH	At roadside park south of Wolverine	Interview with state park staff.
4	Gastrocnemius Red Pine	RP clearcut/removal, plant RP, partially cut but not active	Low part of site managed for higher quality red pine and ridge area for red pine-hardwood mix. Discussion of invasive species prevention and treatment.
5	Pretzel Logic Red Pine	RP clearcut, HWD MO, planted with oak saps, SFCG nearby	Discussion of invasive species prevention and treatment. Interviews with staff on training, HR issues, and remuneration. Unit of red pine clearcut with retention island of red pine; unit will be allowed to revert to aspen and hardwood for wildlife objectives. Some conifer component will remain. Other unit was clearcut and had oak retention. Supplemental planting of red oak was done due to forest health concerns over loss of beech.

5A	Unscheduled Resource Damage Report		Interviews with law enforcement and fisheries staff about repairs conducted to remedy damage to hill entrance to a lake. Cooperation between various departments to install boulders and gate, regrade slope, and plant trees and grasses to hinder unauthorized access.
7	Witches Broom Pine/Oak	Jack pine/oak clearcut, closed, natural regen, RX burn after harvest, snowmobile trail, ORV trail, Trailhead	Jack pine-oak clearcut. Discussion of possible use of prescribed fire to reduce soft-mast competition and slash and favor jack pine-oak regeneration for wildlife. Retention of scattered oak and pine for mast.
7	Schmelting Oak	Oak clearcut, open but not active, natural regen	Clearcut to release established oak regeneration. Retention of scattered oak and pine for mast. Discussion of operations and forest health, such as any measures taken to prevent the spread of oak wilt.
8	Woodcock Mix	Active clearcut, stakeholder complaint	Examination of stream buffer on marginal trout stream flowing over glacial outwash sand. Buffer is over 100'. Red pine and hardwood removal within unit. Complaint received over trout mortality during hot weather and active operations. Fisheries biologist explained to stakeholder that fish likely died due to heat not linked to harvest operations.

FMU Recertification Audit 9/29/15 - Gaylord Tour			Norman Boatwright
Site #	**Name**	**Feature of interest**	**Audit team notes**
	Auditors arrive @ Gaylord FO	Opening Meeting and FMU & District Briefs	
1	Manuka Lk	Hdwd final harvest- MO is mx deciduous & aspen & aspen/oak-open	Aspen and upland hardwood clearcut with good snag and single/group retention placed as a visual buffer along public road. Well documented timber sale inspections.
2	Valleyview	Hdwd selection-active/rec trails/trespass	Active northern hardwood timber stand improvement cut. Interview with Corey Yoder - logger. No spill kit on-site. Timber Sale Inspection form dated 8/27/15 did not indicate whether the SFI logger core training had been verified. Well documented timber sale inspections.
3	Missed Buck	Hdwd - eagle occurrence/modify contract/RDR	Poor quality aspen clearcut with no live retention and good snag retention. Active eagle nest approx. 1,000 from the sale boundary. The National Bald Eagle Management Guidelines were followed. Timber Sale Inspection form dated 5/16/15 did not indicate whether the SFI logger core training had been verified although the file did contain a printout of the loggers training history. Well documented timber sale inspections.
4	Demannu	open-clean up	Northern hardwood timber stand improvement cut with no issues. Good stocking and minimal damage to residuals. Well documented timber sale inspections.
6	Dontzs' Delight	closed /aspen regen	Aspen regen with white pine retention. No issues. Well documented timber sale inspections.
7	Old Hardwood nursery (historic)	snowmobile, NCT, pathway trails,	Old hardwood nursery with concrete dam and foundation remnants.

Bonus Site	Spring Brook Bridge Replacement	Snowmobile	Replaced matt bridge with 12' wide steel bridge. Partially funded by the snowmobile association. Grant approved because DNR will donate the equipment and labor to install.
9	Flatlander Hdwds	Hdwd selection-open/ash salvage	Northern hardwood timber stand improvement cut with no issues. Good stocking and minimal damage to residuals. Well documented timber sale inspections.

TC FMU Recertification Audit 9/30/15 - Tour 1 (Kalkaska County)				Paul Pingrey
Site #	**Comp #**	**Name**	**Feature of interest**	**Audit team notes**
1	160	Oakey Pokey (sold, inactive sale)	Recreation, arch site, oak silviculture	67 acres – Marked oak shelterwood harvest (sold but not cut). Historic Preservation Officer helped field staff buffer a native archeological feature, found after checking the related GIS layer during the stand exam. Sale modifications were made to address potential impacts on adjacent recreational uses (designated quiet area, North Country hiking trail, and a campground). Although it might have been easier to regenerate oaks using a clearcut regeneration system, the foresters chose a less disruptive shelterwood system that leaves more trees. They also coordinated remove of decadent trees from a contiguous county road ROW at the request of the county road department.
2	164	Smith Lake	RDR, oak wilt, recreation MTB proposal	Two issues – an oak wilt control pocket and a Resource Damage Report related to repair of an unauthorized sand trail along an undeveloped lake shore. A vibratory plow will sever the roots of infected oak trees to create a barrier zone barrier to stop disease spread. Unauthorized lake access trail was blocked with cedar logs, and jack pine seedlings were planted in the exposed sandy soil. Youths (apprehended and cited by a Conservation Officer) who were responsible for some of the site damage after a drinking party are providing restitution through labor to clean up the site.
3	163	Log Local (sold, inactive sale)	Recreation, silviculture, RTE sp., salvage	28 acres – Marked regeneration/blowdown salvage harvest, sold but not cut. The timber sale adjoins an equestrian camp, prompting appropriate reserves and careful placement of a log landing. Seasonal restrictions on cutting will also help minimize conflicts with recreational users. Auditors walked around the tract and observed excellent retention of hemlock inclusions and marked hardwoods. Discussion on-site covered use of Wildlife Action Plan and other training to help foresters be aware of habitat improvement opportunities.
4		Garfield Twnshp Park	Manistee River access site	Manisteee River Access: A few years ago, the County Highway Department and DNR recognized a dangerous situation where boaters were accessing the Manistee River from a highway road bank. A recreation grant funded a new parking area, access ramp and toilets. Stair steps were installed to prevent erosion of a sandy hill descending to the river. An invasive species warning sign is posted next to the river ramp advising boaters to check for

				zebra mussels.
5	243	243 Northern Blend (active sale)	BMPs, wetland silv.	80 acres – Timber sale composed of four blocks, including aspen clearcuts and red pine plantation thinning. The harvest was mostly complete, but the cutter recently moved equipment to another site to avoid excessive rutting. Forester indicated concern about soil compression in one wet spot and had the logger block the route with brush to prevent further damage. Auditors observed excellent retention including mature aspen, snags and wetland buffer strips.
6	145	S. Sharon Barrens rx burn	rx burn, wildlife objective	131 acres – Grasslands Barrens maintenance. This sandy flatland grass/brushland was burned in spring 2015 to set back cherry brush and ferns. The work provides habitat for wild turkeys and a variety of birds including Kirtland warblers, meadowlarks, bobolinks, sparrows and woodcock. Wildlife manager said a grant funded by turkey hunting license fees paid for the work. Burns will be conducted of a 3-5 year rotation. Burn plans are included in the annual compartment review and are open to stakeholder comment. Maps of prior-year burns are also posted on the Internet as mushroom gathering prospects.
7	146	Should-a Wood-a (active sale)	Auditor choice; mult. stops; BMPs, recreation	52 acres. The aspen/oak harvest is traversed by Big Cannon Creek, and so the auditors focused on RMZ protection. A buffer, sometimes exceeding the 100' minimum, had been marked by the foresters and avoided by the loggers. Access roads from the north and south negated the necessity of a stream crossing. Auditors observed excellent green tree retention within the sale area. The foresters brought in a wildlife biologist to locate a raptor nest that had previously been located in the block, but it was no longer present and so the record was updated.

8	152	Where is North Oak (active sale)	ORV route, salvage, HW/oak silv.	200 acres – Variable density, oak-northern hardwood intermediate thinning and group selection harvest designed to encourage oak regeneration. The sale was active at the time of the site visit. Residual stand is composed of well-space small sawtimber and pole-sized hardwoods. Auditors observed a careful harvest with little damage to the site or the residual trees. Auditors interviewed the timber producer. He stated that he had taken the state logging core training and annual refresher. The logger had a bag of "Absorb-All" material, rags and spill kit pads to deal with oil leaks. He said spill kits are not located on processors in the woods because there is no place to put them.

Traverse City FMU Recertification Audit 9/30/15 - Tour 2				Kyle Meister
Site #	**Comp**	**Name**	**Feature of interest**	**Audit team notes**
		Auditors arrive @ Traverse City FO	Opening Meeting and FMU & District Briefs	330,000 acres spread over five counties with two field offices. Forestry, fire, fishery, and wildlife staff. Majority of FMU is within Kalkaska County. High level of recreation (16 camp grounds, trails, mountain bike races, etc.). Primary cover types are aspen, northern hardwoods, red pine, oak, grass openings, and jack pine. Kirtland's Warbler management areas in Kalkaska County. Military lands are outside of the scope of the certificate, but managed the same as other DNR lands.
1		Vasa-Bunker Hill Trail Head	Recreation area with sanitation-salvage selection cut due to oak wild and wind storm damage.	Discussion of DNR's strategic plan as it related to HR objectives, which will allow younger staff to transition into higher level position in anticipation of retirements. Interview with logger about safety and training; observation of proper safety equipment onsite.
2	44	Twin Lakes Mix	clearcut w/resid., riparian buffer; recently completed	Oak-pine-aspen clearcut with objective to regenerate the same composition. Retention of red and white pine and oak throughout diameter class to secure growth and allow aspen to regenerate.
3	44	Hot Scrape Mix	active sale, oak thinning (replaces Backwoods Oak)	Red and white oak thinning with retention of white and red pine. Objective to free growing space for residual stand through removal of aspen and red maple. Some openings created to allow aspen to persist. Interview with logger. Logger had training and safety equipment onsite. Logger was able to describe clean-up process from start to finish using spill kit.

4	53	Carpenter Creek Burn	wildlife burn: oak-pine barrens ERA; rec. trails	175 acres of oak-pine barren complex maintained through rotational prescribed burns conducted every 3-5 years in different blocks. Discussion of public review processes. Inspection of Carpenter Creek bridge replacement and cooperation with local townships and NGOs.
5	56	Overview Red Pine	completed RP thin; rec. trails	Third red pine thinning with retention of established hardwood and white pine. Stand is favoring hardwood and will likely be managed for a hardwood-pine mix. Small clearing made due to beetle damage to pine. Slash piled near bog to prevent recreational impacts to it and thwart motorized access.
6	58	Townline Red	RP final harvest replanted	Red pine clearcut with retention of oaks and pine. Trenching recently completed. Large woody debris distributed over site.
7	59	Badger Pine	active RP thinning	Third red pine thinning and aspen removal; some gaps created to allow aspen to regenerate. Interview with logger and observation of machinery repair. Spill kit located onsite.
8	50	Jaxon Creek Aspen	recently completed lowland aspen removal, road closure	Road closure due to recreational impacts; sand burm installed. Road will be repaired once road stabilizes. Aspen removed and pine-maple retained due to proximity to lowland areas. Managed for mast and cover for wildlife. Objective to maintain a multi-aged pine-maple stand.

Gladwin FMU Recertification Audit 10/1 - Tour 1 - WEST				Paul Pingrey
Site #	**Comp #**	**Name**	**Feature of interest**	**Audit team notes**

5	4	Jonesville ORV Parking Lot	trail proposal, tsales near rec infrastructure	Access point for a number of ORV trails, adjacent to the Muskego River. Auditors viewed a trail bridge over the river, including a concrete paved approach designed to prevent soil erosion into the water. Parking area included fences and barriers to keep ORVs on the trails and off the river banks. Discussion focused on a proposed six-mile Leota-Denton ORV connector trail that would originate here. The new trail would provide a legal access between two popular trails and help keep ORVs off State Forest roads, which are not open to their use.
6	4	Rice Pond Barrens	ERA's, biodiversity, etc	Proposed 78 acre Pine Barrens restoration project. Tract includes a small, moderate quality barrens patch surrounded by a mix of jack pine and scrub oak timber. The timber is scheduled for harvest, with scattered large reserves. DNR intends to seek stakeholder input in an upcoming annual open house on designating the tract as an Ecological Reference Area. If approved, the entire tract will be burned after the anticipated harvest in 2017. Prescribed fire would likely be enough to help restore barrens conditions to the entire tract.

4	9	Natural Kirtland's Warbler habitat site scarification	Testing different silvicultural systems, HCVA's, RTE's	503 acre clearcut in Kirtland's Warbler Block 114. This is part of a 90,000 acre warbler habitat area where about 1,500 acres are regenerated annually for a mosaic of young jack pine – oak forest necessary for Kirtland's warbler breeding. Anchor chain scarification of the soil, the technique used here to stimulate natural jack pine regeneration as an alternative to the usual disk and plant scenario, appears initially to have been successful. DNR will make a survival survey next year, but they anticipate well above a minimum 800 seedlings per acre will be present. The good results may have been a function of favorable spring moisture. Overall, the Kirtland's warbler recovery effort is going well, with an estimated 2,365 singing males compared to the original goal of 1,000.
3	10	Cemetery Mix Timber Sale	Closed tsale planted to red pine, Floodwood SCA	266 acre tract of jack pine and scrub oak was clearcut in 2014 and planted in spring 2015 with supplemental red pines (in addition to natural oaks and jack pines). Groups of mature, representative trees and snags were retained. Project records show the provenance of the seedlings, dates planted, contractor, weather conditions and other pertinent information that will be useful for evaluating results. This harvest illustrates the Area's decision to combine stands into larger timber harvest offerings. Staff point to economies of scale, higher bids, better natural regeneration survival (by overwhelming deer browse risks) and other management benefits related to combined stands.

2	5	Haskel Lake ORV Restoration	Successful restoration project, BMP's, etc.	Haskell Lake ORV Restoration: This project was designed to restore damaged lake shorelines and hills that had been torn up by unauthorized ORV traffic in an area closed to ORV use. Concrete barrier blocks were donated by a local business, and a $15,000 grant was utilized to support contracted and volunteer efforts to make site repairs, install barriers and implement road improvements that discourage further abuse. A DNR Conservation Officer explained the enforcement actions being taken against violators.

Appendix 5

SFI Forest Management Public Summary Report

2015 Michigan DNR SFI Public Summary Recertification Audit Report

The SFI Program of the Michigan DNR has achieved continuing conformance with the SFI 2015-2019 Standards and Rules®, Section 2 according to the NSF SFIS Certification Audit Process.

NSF initially certified Michigan DNR to the SFIS in 2005 and recertified the organization on November 9, 2010 and again on October 11, 2013. This report describes an out sequence Recertification Audit in order to align with the joint FSC Recertification Audit. This audit was designed to focus on changes in the standard, changes in operations and practices, the management review system, and efforts to resolve past non-conformances and to respond to identified "Opportunities for Improvement". In addition, all of SFI the requirements were selected for detailed review this year.

The Recertification audit was performed by NSF on September 28 - October 2, 2015 by an audit team headed by Norman Boatwright, SFI Lead Auditor, Kyle Meister, FSC Lead Auditor and Anne Marie Kittredge and Paul Pingrey as Team Auditors. Audit team members fulfill the qualification criteria for conducting SFIS Certification Audits of Section 9. SFI 2015-2019 Audit 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 Standards and Rules®, Section 2.

The scope of the SFIS Audit included land management operations. Forest practices that were the focus of field inspections included those that have been conducted since the previous field audit conducted in October 2014. Practices conducted earlier were also reviewed as appropriate (regeneration and BMP issues, for example). In addition, all of the SFI obligations to promote sustainable forestry practices (to ensure appropriate training of people involved in the forest management program, to seek legal compliance, and to incorporate continual improvement systems) were reexamined during the audit. Use of the SFI logo and the requirement to provide public access to audit reports were also reviewed.

The audit reviewed the central management and field practices at four of the fifteen Forest Management Units (FMUs): Atlanta FMU, Gaylord FMU, Traverse City FMU and Gladwin FMU.

As with the initial certification, several of the SFI Performance Measures were outside of the scope of Michigan DNR's SFI program and were excluded from the scope of the SFI Certification Audit as follows:

- Indicator 2.1.3 involving planting exotic species
- Indicator 10.1.2 involving research on genetically engineered trees

None of the indicators were modified; the SFI Standard's relevant indicators and performance measures were used as published (available on-line at http://www.sfiprogram.org/).

Scope

Forest Management Activities on approximately 3.9 million acres of Michigan State Forest. Exclusions: Long-term military lease lands, lands leased to Luce County, and Wildlife Areas that do not go through the

compartment review process are not included in the scope of the certificate. The SFI Certificate Number is NSF-SFIS-5Y031.

Note: The certified State Forest system includes all lands which are inventoried under the MiFI forest inventory system, are identified in a State Forest Compartment, and go through the Michigan DNR compartment review process.

Overview of Michigan DNR's Lands and Sustainable Forestry Programs

The Michigan Department of Natural Resources Forest Resources Division (FRD) and Wildlife Division (WD) co-manage the approximately 4 million Michigan State Forest System. The certified State Forest system includes all lands which are inventoried under the Michigan Forest inventory systems, are identified in a State Forest Compartment, and go through the Michigan DNR compartment review process.

The FRD has organized the State Forest system into 15 forest management units which constitute the sampling units for the multi-site audit sampling program employed by NSF, the SFI Certification Body. These units are the basis of the internal audits conducted by Michigan DNR that serve to help drive continuous improvement in the programs.

Excerpts from Michigan DNR documents (updated as necessary with newer information and references) provide the remainder of this overview.

<u>Source: Michigan State Forest Management Plan, April 10, 2008</u>

"A primary management objective for the landscape of northern Michigan during the 20th century was to restore the forest resource that was devastated from over-exploitation in the late 19th century. This restoration has laid the basis for a rich array of opportunities for our forests in the 21st century.

Michigan's forests are healthy and still growing, with many options for future uses. There are multiple objectives for our forests, including continuing with use and restoration within a framework of long-term sustainability, while also enabling an expanding diversity of uses. This plan is intended to focus on future management and use of one large part of Michigan's forest resources: the 3.9 million acre state forest system administered by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR).

Part 525, Sustainable Forestry on State Forest Lands, of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act, 1994 PA 451, as amended, requires the MDNR to manage the state forest in a manner that is consistent with the principles of sustainable forestry, and to prepare and implement a management plan that states long-term management objectives and the means of achieving these objectives. Components of the management plan include:

1. Identification of the interests of local communities, outdoor recreation interests, the tourism industry, and the forest products industry, which are addressed in Section 3 of the plan.
2. Identification of the annual production capability of the state forest and management goals based on that level of productivity, which are addressed in Sections 3, 4 and 5 of the plan.
3. Methods to promote and encourage the use of the state forest for outdoor recreation, tourism, and the forest products industry, which are addressed in Sections 3, 4 and 5 of the plan.
4. A landscape management plan for the state forest incorporating biodiversity conservation goals, indicators, and measures, which are addressed in Sections 4 and 5 of the plan.

5. Standards for sustainable forestry consistent with section 52502 of Part 525, which are addressed in Sections 4 and 5 of the plan.
6. Identification of environmentally sensitive areas, which is addressed in Sect. 5 of the plan.
7. Identification of the need for forest treatments to maintain and sustain healthy, vigorous forest vegetation and quality habitat for wildlife and environmentally sensitive species, which are addressed in Sections 4 and 5 of the plan.

Part 525 also required the MDNR to seek and maintain third party certification of the management of the state forest that satisfies sustainable forestry standards of at least one credible certification program. Subsequently, the MDNR was certified under the standards of the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) and the Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI).

FY 2014 state forest harvests were 59,628 acres, producing 993,608 cords. Timber harvest trends differ by species. The current conditions and trends for the state forest as a whole indicate that the annual production capacity for timber harvests will remain similar to what it has been or slightly increased. Harvests have predominantly occurred in five cover types: the aspen association, jack pine, the oak association, red pine, and northern hardwoods. The occurrence of the emerald ash borer, beech bark disease and oak wilt have caused harvest plans to be altered as ash and beech are being removed on harvest sites in infected areas. Special management prescriptions are being used to manage oak wilt.

Volume of production from the northern hardwoods, red pine, and white pine cover types have increased since 1996. In contrast, production from mixed swamp conifers has dropped off sharply beginning in 2001, in part reflecting changes in cover type coding. Thus, the composition of timber sales has changed over time.

Major trends in forest health include increasing numbers of both native and nonnative insects and diseases, cervid herbivory effects on understory composition and regeneration, and the emerging environmental issue of global climate change. Some epidemic nonnative pathogens such as Dutch elm disease, the emerald ash borer, beech bark disease and oak wilt pose threats across the entire landscape of the state. Others are more localized in the range of their effect. The current management strategy is to contain and eradicate newly identified pathogens; however, some agents are now securely entrenched into ecosystems of the state. The effects of cervid herbivory (deer, moose, and elk) upon the composition and structure (particularly regeneration) of herbaceous and shrub strata of forest ecosystems are becoming an increasing concern in certain areas**.** Global climate change due to global warming has the potential to disrupt the natural composition, function, and health of native ecosystems. It could affect the range of native plant and animal species, and could potentially interact with other forest health threats by causing environmental stressors (such as the incidence and severity of drought) that can in turn trigger outbreaks of insect and disease infestations. All of these pose increasing threats to the health of the state's forest ecosystems, which may be expressed by potential major ecological changes in the composition of native forest communities and substantial economic effects.

Forest recreation now involves year-round use, as the popularity increases for spring activities such as fishing for migratory steelhead, wild turkey and mushroom hunting, off-road vehicle (ORV) riding and for many winter sports such as snowmobiling, skiing, and ice fishing. This diversified activity provides year-round benefits to many local economies that were previously more seasonal in nature. Wildlife viewing, ORV, and snowmobile riding have grown in the past decade. The use of state

forest campgrounds has been relatively stable over the past four years, with most use occurring in the Northern Lower Peninsula ecoregion.

Status of Current Operations Systems

Michigan's current system of management and operational planning includes a computerized forest inventory that is updated annually for approximately one-tenth of the State Forest area. The Michigan Forest Inventory System (MiFi) is a GIS-based inventory and stand description system that provides tracking of a wide range of resource variables, treatment activities, and conditions. The system also has the functionality to allow staff to make queries to facilitate management decisions.

Likewise, timber sale treatments are proposed and tracked in a computerized system known as the Vegetative Management System (VMS) which is being expanded in scope and improved functionality. The DNR plans to link the MiFi and VMS systems for tracking harvest treatments, as they are proposed, reviewed, and approved in a formal process (with formalized policies, procedures, and approvals) that involves an increasing amount of public involvement at various levels from proposal through treatment completion. These efforts are ongoing at this time.

Status of Planning

The Annual Plan of Work is derived from the 10-year planning cycle for forest compartments. The Annual plan of work is operationally implemented Compartment Review Procedures, as contained in DNR Policy and Procedure 32.22-15 State Forest Inventory and Compartment Review dated August 21, 2015. Annual compartment reviews by year of entry are conducted at the Forest Management Unit level, and the aggregate of all forest prescriptions from compartment reviews are contained in the Annual Plan of Work, which represents the tactical level of planning for State Forest operations.

Approved Regional State Forest Management Plans for the Northern Lower, Eastern Upper, and Western Upper Peninsula ecoregions are being implemented in the current year of entry compartment review process. The MDNR has many other plans that are related to specific program areas, including the Michigan's Wildlife Action Plan, the Michigan Off-Road Vehicle Plan, the Michigan State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan, Natural River plans, and others.

Policy & Procedures

Formal policies and procedures exist and are documented in policy manuals for MDNR-FRD and Wildlife Division, as well as other Department of Natural Resources policies. The MDNR forest certification internet site has links to MDNR policy and procedure and other information.

Forest Certification Work Instructions

Work instructions are new or updated Department operational procedures initially developed in 2005 that helped close the forest certification gaps at that time and ensured compliance with all indicators in the forest certification standards. All proposed actions identified in the Department's Forest Certification Action Plan are implemented through 20 work instructions.

Work instruction implementation is an important focus of the MDNR's management review system, and is an important focus of MDNR internal audits. The work instructions make forest certification more manageable for Department staff and they are refined as needed in order to maintain conformance with forest certification standards. Current versions of the work instructions can be found on the MDNR forest certification web page.

SFIS Recertification Audit Process

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

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

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

Overview of Audit Findings

The SFI Program of the Michigan DNR has achieved continuing conformance with SFI 2015-2019 Standard and Rules®, Section 2, according to the NSF SFIS Certification Audit Process. Two transitional minor non-conformances and two opportunities for improvement were identified:

Transitional Minor Non-conformances

CI 11.1.1 A written statement of commitment to the SFI standard has been communicated to all DNR staff on September 23, 2014.

Finding: The statement didn't specify the 2015-2019 Standard.

CI 11.1.5 The pre-harvest planning form has a checkbox used to indicate logger completion of the core training requirements.

Findings: The new SFI Standard has changed this requirement such that annual update training is now required. The MI SIC has defined this requirement to mean that a trained individual must have direct responsibility and must be on-site regularly. It wasn't evident that DNR has incorporated this change in the Work Instruction 7.1 or communicated it to field staff. In addition, the check box for logger training on the pre-harvest planning form was not being used consistently.

Opportunities For Improvement

CI 3.1.1 Interviews with loggers on the Spring Lake Jack Oak harvest in Atlanta and the Valley View harvest in Gaylord indicated they did not have a spill kit on-site.

Finding: The MI BMP Manual in part 3 under the Spill Prevention Best Management Practices Section states: "*At least one spill kit, as recommended by DEQ,* ***should*** *be available on every job site."*

CI 14.2.2 All categories of information for the annual report are covered by computerized record keeping systems (databases or reports) which are periodically updated.

Finding**:** The research portion of the annual report includes projects and expended funds that are not directly related to forest research.

<u>The following list indicates requirements where the Michigan DNR exceeds the Standard requirements</u>

CI 2.4.2 MI DNR's efforts to manage to promote healthy and productive forest conditions to *minimize* susceptibility to damaging agents is exemplary and includes: Proactive and reactive responses to potential or actual forest health issues on the state forest is provided in DNR Forest Certification Work Instruction 2.3; actions to address forest health issues are accomplished through the DNR compartment review process; DNR has created and filled a joint position between Forest Resources and Wildlife Divisions: Terrestrial Invasive Species Biologist.

CI 4.4.1 The MI DNR program to incorporate the *conservation* of *native biological diversity*, including species, *wildlife habitats* and ecological community types at *stand* and *landscape* levels is exemplary and includes: The fully implemented 2015 Gladwin Forest, 600-acre Kirtland Warbler habitat project (RTE) and the planned Rice Pond Pine Barrens (HCV community) enhancement project. In addition, the inter-departmental cooperation relative to this issue is outstanding.

CI 5.4.2 MI DNR's efforts to provide recreational opportunities for the public, where consistent with forest management objectives is exemplary and includes: Abundant year-round recreational opportunities are provided including fishing, hunting, and gathering (mushrooms), off-road vehicle (ORV) riding, snowmobiling, skiing, and ice fishing. This diverse recreational activity provides year-round benefits to the local economy.

CI 12.2.1 MI DNR's efforts to periodic educational opportunities promoting *sustainable forestry* is exemplary and includes: The MI DNR has several full time employees that support this function: a webmaster, a promotional agent, an educational coordinator (Adopt-A-Forest; Project learning Tree), a forest stewardship coordinator, a Forest Health and Monitoring Unit, an Urban and Community Forestry Coordinator, and a Community Wildfire Protection coordinator.

CI 13.1.2 MI DNR's efforts to involve stakeholders in the forest management process is exemplary and includes: A Guide to Participation for local stakeholders that describes the DNR compartment review process and opportunities for participation; press releases, GovDelivery emails, and other forms of public notification are annually made for public open houses at the Forest Management Unit level; MI DNR works with local and federal

agencies to ensure that planning and management activities are coordinated to the degree possible.

Review of 2014 Surveillance Audit Findings and Disposition in 2015 Recertification Audit

In 2014 NSF determined that there were no adverse findings.

The next audit is a surveillance audit, scheduled for the week of August 8, 2016. This will be a review of a portion of the standard covering central office functions and operations at the Baraga, Crystal Falls and Gwinn Forest Management Units.

***

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 2008 Michigan State Forest Management Plan, Compartment Plans for all compartments visited, the state's Wildlife Division Strategic Plan, many other plans supporting particular species, species groups, issues or sites, the associated inventory data and growth models, and progress on the Regional State Forest Management Plans were sufficient to determine conformance with the requirements of Objective 1.

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

Summary of Evidence – Field observations and associated records were used to confirm practices. Michigan Department of Natural Resources has programs for reforestation, for protection against wildfire and against many insects and diseases including Emerald Ash Borer, Beech Bark Disease, Gypsy Moth, and for careful management of activities which could potentially impact soil and long-term productivity.**Objective 3. Protection and Maintenance of Water Resources -** To protect the water quality of rivers, streams, lakes, wetlands and other water bodies through meeting or exceeding best management practices.

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

Objective 4. Conservation of Biological Diversity including Forests with Exceptional Conservation Value - To manage the quality and distribution of wildlife habitats and contribute to the conservation of biological diversity by developing and implementing stand- and landscape-level measures that promote a diversity of types of habitat and successional stages, and the conservation of forest plants and animals, including aquatic species, as well as threatened and endangered species, Forests with Exceptional Conservation Value, old-growth forests and ecologically important sites.

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

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

Summary of Evidence – Field observations of completed operations and policies/procedures for visual quality were assessed during the evaluation. Further maps of recreation sites, combined with field visits, helped confirm a strong recreation program. Recreational use and esthetics were priority concerns where appropriate.

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

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

Objective 7. Efficient Use of Forest Resources - To minimize waste and ensure the efficient use of fiber resources.

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

Objective 8 - Recognize and Respect Indigenous Peoples' Rights - To recognize and respect Indigenous Peoples' rights and traditional knowledge.

Summary of Evidence: The agency's attempts to solicit input from Indigenous Peoples provided the key evidence

Objective 9. Legal and Regulatory Compliance - To comply with applicable federal, provincial, state and local laws and regulations.

Summary of Evidence – Field reviews of ongoing and completed operations were the most critical evidence. Most of the requirements were not edited this year, but the ready availability of BMP manuals and access to laws were factors in finding conformance.

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

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

Objective 11. Training and Education - To improve the implementation of sustainable forestry practices through appropriate training and education programs.

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

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

Summary of Evidence – Michigan DNR has an extensive program of outreach and landowner education, including a website and is active in the MI SIC.

Objective 13: Public Land Management Responsibilities - To participate and implement sustainable forest management on public lands.

Summary of Evidence – Interviews and review of documents were used to confirm the requirements. Interviews with MDNR staff and with stakeholders, as well as review of documents 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 Inc. website provided the key evidence.

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

Summary of Evidence – Records of program reviews, agendas and notes from management review meetings, and interviews with personnel from all involved levels in the organization were assessed. Records of program reviews including formal internal audits, agendas and notes from management review meetings, and interviews with personnel from all involved levels in the organization were assessed to determine strong performance regarding management review. Records of internal audits and management review of these audits were key to developing the audit findings for this objective.

Relevance of Forestry Certification

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

1. Sustainable Forestry

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

2. Forest Productivity and Health

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

3. Protection of Water Resources

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

4. Protection of Biological Diversity

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

5. Aesthetics and Recreation

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

6. Protection of Special Sites

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

7. Responsible Fiber Sourcing Practices in North America

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

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

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

9. Legal Compliance

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

10. Research

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

11. Training and Education

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

12. Public Involvement

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

13. Transparency

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

14. Continual Improvement

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

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

For Additional Information Contact:

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(End of Public Summary Report)

Appendix 6

Meeting Attendance

9/28/15

MI DNR 2015 OPENING MEETING
ATLANTA FIELD OFFICE

NAME	POSITION
NORMAN BOATWRIGHT	SFI LEAD
Kyle Meister	FSC Lead
Paul Pingrey	FSC - support
David Price	DNR-FRD
AnneMarie Kittredge	SCS - NSF SFI/FSC
Ruthann Schulte	Observer
Amy Clark Fogle	FRD Biodiv. + Cons. Prog Leader
Penney Melchoir	Wildlife Field Coordinator
Dennis Nezich	FRD
LORI BURFORD	FRD TRESPASS SPECIALIST
SCOTT JONES	FRD - PLANNING SPECIALIST
Jason Stephens	FRD - State Forest Inventory Specialist
Anna Sylvester	PRD Field Operations Chief, No. MI.
Blake Gingrich	PRD - HOEFT S.P. Supervisor
Rich Hill	PRD - Gaylord District
Paine Perry	PRD - Traverse Gaylord District
TIM GRECO	FRD - TIMBER MGMT SPECIALIST
Chad Fale	FRD - Atlanta FMU Forester
David Borgeson	Fisheries - Northern Lake Huron Unit Mgr
Brian Mastenbrook	WLD - Field Operations Manager
Dan Heckman	FRD - Forest Inventory & planning spec.
Durrick Coy	FRD - Forester
Cody Stevens	FRD - Atlanta Unit Manager

Jim Gorno	DNR - Law Enf.
Jim Rosochacki	DNR - Law Enf.
RICHARD BARBER	DNR FRD
Jennifer Hansen	DNR FRD
Robert Pelton	DNR FRD
Steve Milford	DNR FRD
Shelby Hiestand	~~FRD~~ DNR WLD
REX AINSLIE	DNR - WLD
Andrew Krugh	DNR - FRD
Tom Peterson	DNR - FRD
Dale Parris	DNR - FRD

9/29 GAR LORD
OPENING MEETING

NAME	POSITION
NORMAN BORTNUKENT	SFI LEAD AUDITOR
Penney Melchior	WD Field Coordinator
SCOTT JONES	FRD - Planning Specialist - Zensing
Ruthann Schulte	Observer
Anne Marie Kittredge	SFI - FSC Audit team
DAVID PRICE	DNR - FRD
Dan Heckman	FRD - Forest INV. & planning sp.
Steve Milford	FRD - ELP Dist sup.
MARK MONROE	WLD TECH
Dennis Nezich	FRD
NEAL GODBY	FISHERIES
Paige Perry	PRD - trails Specialist
TIM GREGG	FRD - TIMBER MGMT SPECIALIST
Jim GORNO	DNR - LED
Rich Hill	DNR - PRD
Heather Hettinger	Fisheries Biologist
Jennifer Kleitch	DNR WILDLIFE BIOLOGIST
REX AINSLIE	DNR WLD NLR SUPERVISOR
Amy Clark Eagle	DNR FRD Biod. + Cons. Prog Ldr
K. Meista	FSC
Paul Pingrey	FSC

9/30/15 MI DNR
TRAVERSE CITY
OPENING MEETING

NAME	POSITION
NORM BOATWRIGHT	SFI LEAD
Penney Melchior	WD Field Coord.
Kyle Meister	FSC Lead
Paul Pingrey	FSC support
Ruthann Schulte	Observer
ROBERT TORRES	SGT Law Enforcement Division
PATRICK RUPPEN	FORESTER T.C. OFFICE
PATRICK COMANT	FORESTER/ACTING PLANNER - TC
Tim Lyon	Wildlife Technician
Steve Griffith	Wildlife Biologist
DAVID PRICE	FRD
Anne Marie Kittredge	SCS FSC Team
Tim Schreiner	PRD Cadillac Dist Supervisor
MARK DOUGLASS	FIRE OFFICER
Todd Neiss	Recreation Specialist - PRD - Cadillac
Kelly Standefer	Forester Kalkaska
Steven Cameron	Fire Supervisor /TC
TIM WEBB	FORESTER - TC
Donna Hagan	Forester - Kalkaska
Keith Kintigh	WLD Sup - NLP
REX AINSLIE	WLD - NLP - SVPV.
Scott Jones	FRD Planning Specialist.
Bill Sterrett	FRD Dist Supervisor WLP
Amy Clark Eagle	FRD Biodiv + Cons Prog Leader

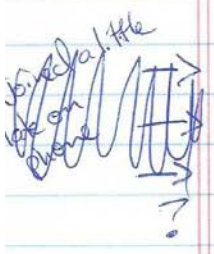
Name	Position
Scott Throop	FRD TMS WNLP
Steve Crieger	Forester - Kalkaska
KATIE ARMSTRONG	Forester - Kalkaska
Craig Allen	Forester - Traverse City
CHARLOTTE KIEFER	Park Supervisor - TBSP/LSP
Heather Hettinger	Fisheries biologist
David Lemmien	FRD - Traverse City

Gladwin Sign-In Oct 1, 2015

Penney Melchoir	WLD Field Coord
ANN-MARIE & PAUL	
Amy Swainston	- PRD Rec. Specialist
Richard Hennen	- PRD Clare F.O.
Tressa Hubbard	- FRD AmeriCorps member
Jessica Holley	Admin Asst. Gladwin
Rick Myricki	GLADWIN FRD
Amy Clark Eagle	FRD Biodiv+Cons Prog Ldr
Tim Gallagher	FRD Gladwin
Bruce Barton	WLD Gladwin
Scott Throop	FRD Cadillac WNGP
Scott Shoolte	FRD Gladwin.
Blair Tweedale	FRD Cadillac
Jeff Vasher	FRD Gladwin
Derek Cross	FRD CADILLAC
Sgt Jon Wood	LED - Rosc
CO Mark Papineau	LED - GLADWIN
Bill Starrett	FRD - Cadillac OSC
Steven Nyhoff	FRD Gladwin
Keith Kintigh	WLD - NLP
Jason Hartman	FRD - NLP
Chris Wasserman	FRD - Gladwin
Dennis Beebe	FRD Gladwin

10/2/15 MI DNR
SFI/FSC FM 2015 RECERTIFICATION AUDIT
CLOSING MEETING

NAME	POSITION
NORMAN BORTWRIGHT	SFI LEAD AUDITOR
Kyle Meister	FSC Lead
Paul Pingrey	FSC support
Dennis Neyer	FRD Field Coordinator
Deb Begalle	FRD Asst Chief
Penney Melchoir	WD Field Coord.
SCOTT JONES	FRD Planning Specialist
Ruthann Schulte	Observer
Amy Clark Eagle	FRD Biodiv+Cons Prog Ldr



Phone

Closing 10/2/15
Session

Atlanta - Cody Stephens
Rex Ainslie
David Price
Cadillac - Todd Neiss
Scott Throop
Gaylord - Joyce Angel
Gladwin - Jason Hartman
Traverse City - Pat Ruppen
Steve Milford, Tim Greco - Gaylord
Patrick Cotan
Tim Lyon
Bill O'Neill

Appendix 7

Form for Reporting SFI FM/FS Certification

(not included as there are no changes)

(End of Audit Report)