



Recertification Audit Report

2010-2014 Sustainable Forestry Initiative® Standard

November 18, 2013

A. Michigan Department of Natural Resources

FRS #5Y031

B. Scope: No Change Changed

SFI Objectives 1-7 and 14-20 on approximately 4 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 either the Operations Inventory or IFMAP 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 and JoAnn Hanowski, SFI Auditor; Robert Hrubes, FSC Lead Auditor and Kyle Meister, FSC Auditor

D. Audit Dates: October 7-11, 2013

E. Reference Documentation:

2010-2014 SFI Standard®; Michigan DNR SFI Documentation: Forest Certification Work Instructions (Complete Set), Updated 6-19-12; many other miscellaneous documents

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

- Acceptable with no nonconformances; or
- Acceptable with minor nonconformances to be corrected before the next scheduled audit visit;
- Not acceptable with one or two major nonconformances - corrective action required;
- Several major nonconformances - certification may be canceled unless immediate action is taken

G. Changes to Operations or to the SFI Standard:

Are there any significant changes in operations, procedures, specifications, FRS, etc. from the previous visit? Yes No Note: Transition of recreational facility and trail management from FRD to PRD;

H. Other Issues Reviewed:

- Yes No Public report from previous audit(s) is posted on SFB web site.
- Yes No N.A. SFI and other relevant logos or labels are utilized correctly.
- Yes** **No** The program is a Multi-site Organization:
Multi-Site Organization: A n organization having an identified central function (hereafter referred to as a central office — but not necessarily the headquarters of the organization) at which certain activities are planned, controlled or managed and a network of local offices or branches (sites) at which such activities are fully or partially carried out.
 Source: SFI Requirements, Section 9, Appendix: Audits of Multi-Site Organizations
 IAF-MD1 or The alternate approach outlined in SFI Requirements, Section 9, Appendix 1 was assessed by NSF’s Lead Auditor during the certification audit.
 Yes **No** Concerns/ issues are listed in the checklist
 (if yes these are to be reviewed by NSF Forestry Program Manager)

I. Corrective Action Requests:

Corrective Action Requests issued this visit (through NSF’s on-line OASIS audit tool):

1. Felling trees into 2 vernal pools and removing a significant portion of the canopy around the pools (CIs 3.1.1 and 3.2.4)
2. Failure to complete the Living Legacies initiative in a timely manner (CI 4.1.5)
 - Corrective Action Plan is not required.
 - Corrective Action Plan is required within sixty days of this visit (for Minor Nonconformances). CARs will be verified during the next Surveillance Audit.
 - Corrective Action Plan is required within thirty days of this visit (for Major Nonconformances). The auditor will make arrangements to verify the corrective action has been effectively implemented. All major nonconformance(s) must be closed by the auditor prior to the next scheduled surveillance audit by a special verification visit or by desk review if possible, or the certificate may be withdrawn.

Your Corrective Action Plans should be provided through your NSF On-line Interface. Any questions should be directed to Dan Freeman, NSF Client Relations Manager (CRM), 734-214-6228, dfreeman@nsf-isr.org or the customer service number for NSF-ISR at 734-769-8010.

At the conclusion of this Surveillance Audit visit, the following CARs remain open:
MAJOR(S): 0 MINOR(S): 2. No Opportunities For Improvement (OFIs) were identified.

H. Future Audit Schedule:

Annual or follow-up audits are required by the 2010-2014 Sustainable Forestry Initiative Standard ®. The next surveillance audit is scheduled for October 7-9, 2014 and will focus on the Escanaba, Newberry and Shingleton FMUs. The assigned lead auditor will contact you 2-3 months prior to this date to reconfirm and begin preparations. Recertification must be completed before November 8, 2016. Michigan DNR is considered to be a multi-site organization; the sampling plan requires audits of the central function and at least 3 of the 15 Forest Management Units during surveillance audit years, but 4 units during re-certification years such as 2013.

Appendices:

Appendix I: Surveillance Notification Letter and Audit Schedule

Appendix II: Public Surveillance Audit Report

Appendix III: Audit Matrix

Appendix IV: Field Sites

Appendix V: SFI Reporting Form

Appendix I



Surveillance Notification Letter and Audit Schedule



October 04, 2013

Re: Confirmation of 2013 SFI Recertification and FSC Surveillance Audits, Michigan DNR

David Price - MI DNR Forest Resources Division
Michigan Department of Natural Resources
1990 US-41 South, Marquette, MI 49855

Dear Mr. Price:

We are scheduled to conduct the Annual Surveillance Audits of the Michigan DNR on Monday October 7 to Friday October 11, 2013. This is a full review of your SFI Program to confirm that it continues to be in conformance with the SFI Standard and that continual improvement is being made. The audit 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 Michael Ferrucci, NSF Lead Auditor, JoAnn Hanowski, NSF Team Auditor, Dr. Robert Hrubes, SCS Lead Auditor and Kyle Mister, SCS Team Auditor.

We have worked together to develop the following tentative schedule:

Audit Plan
2013 SFI Re-certification and FSC Surveillance Audit
Michigan Department of Natural Resources
(Draft 10/4/2013)

Sunday October 6, 2013 – Travel Day

Norman Boatwright arrives in Traverse City and transits to St. Ignace via rental car

Monday October 7, 2013 – Sault Ste. Marie (West) FMU

7:30 am Depart Hotel (1/4 hour drive)
8:00 am SFI Office Review
11:00 am District Overview and Issues
11:30 am Soo FMU Overview and Update
Noon Lunch and prepare for field
1-5 pm Field
5:00 pm Return to St. Ignace
Evening Dinner and daily briefing
Robert Hrubes and JoAnn Hanowski arrive in Traverse City and transit to Gaylord via rental car; Kyle arrives from his Father's house.

Tuesday October 8, 2013 – Pigeon River Country (PRC) FMU

6:30 am Depart Hotel (1 hour drive)
8:00 am Opening Meeting – Status of major DNR initiatives (Planning, etc.)
10:00 am District Overview and Issues
10:30 am PRC FMU Overview and Update
11:00 am Early lunch and prepare for field
12:00 am – 5 pm Field
5:00 pm Transit to Grayling
Evening Dinner and daily briefing

Wednesday October 9, 2013 – Grayling FMU

7:30 am Depart Hotel (1/4 hour drive)
8:00 am Grayling FMU Overview and Update
8:30 am Prepare for field
9:00 am – 5 pm Field
5:00 pm Return to Grayling
Evening Dinner and daily briefing

Thursday October 10, 2013 – Roscommon FMU

7:30 am Depart Hotel (1/4 hour drive)
8:00 am Roscommon FMU Overview and Update
8:30 am Prepare for field

9:00 am–5 pm Field all day for Norman
12:00 pm?? FSC Closing Meeting (to end no later than 1:30 pm)
JoAnn will attend and ride to the TC airport with Robert and Kyle

5:00 pm Return to Grayling
Evening Dinner and daily briefing

Friday October 11, 2013 – Grayling FMU

7:30 am Depart Hotel (1/4 hour drive)
8:00 am SFI Auditor prepares for closing meeting, possible additional information request
9:30 am SFI Closing Meeting
10:30 am SFI Auditor departs for 12:00 flight out of TC

FSC Program: Provided separately.

Both Programs:

- A review of the outstanding findings from the 2013 Surveillance Audit (3 OFIs 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 2013:

Review progress on achieving SFI objectives and performance measures and continual improvement and the results of the management review of your SFI Program; there were three SFI Minor Non-conformances issued in 2012:

- Previous Findings: There is an opportunity to improve response times to internal audit findings. SFI Indicator 20.1.3 requires “Annual review of progress by management and determination of changes and improvements necessary to continually improve conformance to the SFI 2010-2014 Standard.”
- There is an opportunity to improve road maintenance, including frequency of road grading. SFI Indicator 2.3.3 requires “Use of erosion control measures to minimize the loss of soil and site productivity.”
- There is an opportunity to improve protection of regeneration from adverse effects of deer on natural regeneration. SFI Indicator 2.1.3 requires “Clear criteria to judge adequate regeneration and appropriate actions to correct understocked areas and achieve acceptable species composition and stocking rates for both planting and natural regeneration.”
- 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 the non-field components of your SFI program per these Performance Measures:
 - Objective 1. Forest Management Planning
 - Objective 14. Legal and Regulatory Compliance
 - Objective 15. Forestry Research, Science, and Technology
 - Objective 16. Training and Education
 - Objective 17. Community Involvement in the Practice of Sustainable Forestry
 - Objective 18: Public Land Management Responsibilities
 - Objective 19. Communications and Public Reporting
 - Objective 20. Management Review and Continual Improvement

Multi-Site Sampling Plan

The DNR is being audited as a multi-site organization per “Requirements for the SFI 2010-2014 Program: Standards, Rules for Label Use, Procedures, and Guidance, Section 9, Annex 1”. There are 15 Forest Management Units. This Recertification Audit must cover the requirements of the central organization and four of the units selected: SOO FMU, PRC FMU, Grayling FMU and Roscommon FMU. These sites were selected based on proximity and due to length of time since previous audits.

Logistics

- As during the certification audit 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 initial 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 certification 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

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Appendix II



2013 Michigan DNR SFI Summary Recertification Audit Report

The SFI Program of the Michigan DNR has achieved continuing conformance with the SFI Standard®, 2010-2014 Edition, according to the NSF-ISR SFIS Certification Audit Process.

NSF-ISR initially certified Michigan DNR to the SFIS in 2005 and recertified the organization on November 9, 2010. This report describes the second recertification audit designed to focus on changes in the standard, changes in operations and practices, the management review system, and efforts to respond to identified “Opportunities for Improvement”. In addition, all of the SFI Standard elements applicable the MI DNR SFI program were reviewed, including Objectives 1-7 and Objectives 14-20.

The recertification audit was performed by NSF-ISR on October 7-11, 2013 by an audit team headed by Norman Boatwright, Lead SFI Auditor supported by Dr. Robert Hrubes, who led the simultaneous FSC Annual Audit. Additional audit team members included JoAnn Hanowski, SFI Team Auditor and Kyle Meister, FSC Team Auditor. Audit team members fulfill the qualification criteria for conducting SFIS Certification Audits of “Section 9. SFI 2010-2014 Audit Procedures and Auditor Qualifications and Accreditation” contained in Requirements for the SFI 2010-2014 Program: Standards, Rules for Label Use, Procedures, and Guidance.

The objective of the audit was to assess conformance of the MI DNR’s SFI Program to the requirements of the Sustainable Forestry Initiative® Standard, 2010-2014 Edition.

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, 2012. Practices conducted earlier were also reviewed as appropriate (regeneration and BMP issues, for example). In addition, a subset of 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 a public of audit reports were also reviewed.

The audit reviewed the central management and field practices at four of the fifteen Forest Management Units (FMUs): Sault Ste. Marie (West), Pigeon River Country, Grayling, and Roscommon.

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 2.1.4 involving planting exotic species
- Indicator 2.1.7 involving planting non-forested areas
- Indicator 3.2.5 involving situations where the state lacks BMPs
- Objectives 8 through 13 for procurement

None of the indicators were modified; the SFI 2010-2014 Standard's relevant indicators and performance measures were used as published (available on-line at <http://www.sfiprogram.org/>).

Scope

SFI Objectives 1-7 and 14-20 on approximately 4 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.

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 4 million Michigan State Forest System. The certified State Forest system includes all lands which are inventoried under either the Operations Inventory or IFMAP 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 also serve as the basis for the internal audits conducted by Michigan DNR that 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.

Source: Michigan State Forest Management Plan, April 10, 2008

“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 4 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).

Recent state forest average harvests have been close to 53,000 acres per year, with a 9-year average of about 731,112 cords and 47,950 acres per year. 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 increase. Harvests have predominantly occurred in five cover types: the aspen association, jack pine, the oak association, red pine, and northern hardwoods. Some significant trends can be noted since the mid-1990s for aspen, northern hardwoods, red pine, white pine and mixed swamp conifers. Due to intensive harvests in the late 1980s and early 1990s, the number of acres of aspen sold gradually decreased after 1997 and reached a low in 2003. Throughout this period, aspen volumes per acre remained steady at close to 20 cords per acre.

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 the past decade, with the most significant change being more

acres of selectively-harvested upland hardwoods sold as the number of clear-cut aspen acres declined. This tradeoff has resulted in less volume harvested per acre.

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 and beech bark disease 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. 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 is now trending toward year-round use, as the popularity increases for spring activities such as fishing for migratory steelhead, wild turkey and mushroom hunting, and 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. General trends from various data sources indicate that hunting, fishing, and power boating recreation 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 over the past four years, with most use occurring in the Northern Lower Peninsula Ecoregion.

“Unbalanced age-class distributions in early successional forest types are continuing relative “booms and busts” of wildlife populations that are dependent upon these habitats. This will continue for some time until the age class distributions are much more balanced...”

Excerpts from Michigan Department of Natural Resources Request for Proposals

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. There are two inventory systems in place, an older technology called Operations inventory (OI), and a new technology termed Integrated Forest Monitoring, Assessment and Prescription (IFMAP) system. Operations inventory utilizes older technology and has been phased out as of 2012 and replaced by IFMAP which is an updated GIS-based inventory. The new inventory will provide closer tracking of a wider range of resource variables, treatment activities, and conditions than is currently kept.

Likewise, timber sale treatments are proposed and tracked in a computerized system that is also in the process of being rewritten and updated to improve functionality. Treatments and other management actions tracked in both these systems are proposed, reviewed, and approved in a formal process with formalized policies, procedures, and approvals that involve 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 by Operations Inventory and Compartment Review Procedures, as contained in Forest, Resources Division (FRD) Policy and Procedure 441 dated January 10, 2000. 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.

Draft Regional State Forest Management Plans have been written for the Northern Lower, Eastern Upper, and Western Upper peninsula ecoregions, and are currently being reviewed by the public. 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 Natural Resources Commission policies. These are not all maintained in an up-to-date condition, and some gaps likely exist vis-a-vis forest certification standards. The MDNR forest certification internet site has links to MDNR policy and procedure and other information related to this RFP (see "Forest Certification Audits") at: http://www.michigan.gov/dnr/0,1607,7-153-30301_33360---.00.html

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 were implemented through 21 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 internet:

http://www.michigan.gov/dnr/0,1607,7-153-30301_33360-144865--.00.html

SFIS Surveillance Audit Process

The review was governed by a detailed audit protocol designed to enable the audit team determine conformance with the applicable SFI requirements. The process included the assembly and review of audit evidence consisting of documents, interviews, and on-site inspections of ongoing or completed forest practices. Documents describing these activities 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-ISR reviewed a sample of the written documentation assembled to provide objective evidence of SFIS Conformance. NSF-ISR randomly selected a number of field sites to visit at each FMU and MI DNR personnel selected field sites for inspection based upon the risk of environmental impact, likelihood of occurrence, special features, and other criteria outlined in the NSF-ISR SFI-SOP. NSF-ISR also selected and interviewed stakeholders such as contract loggers, landowners and other interested parties, and interviewed employees within the organization to confirm that the SFI Standard was understood and actively implemented.

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

Overview of Audit Findings

The SFI Program of the Michigan DNR has achieved continuing conformance with the SFI Standard®, 2010-2014 Edition, according to the NSF-ISR SFIS Certification Audit Process.

Two new minor non-conformances were identified and no opportunities for improvement were identified.

1. *Core Indicators 3.1.1 (BMP implementation) and 3.2.4 (protection of non-forested wetlands)*. The site visit to the active Russell Lake Aspen timber sale (sale #71-005 Roscommon FMU) identified BMP issues on 2 vernal ponds in an area that had recently been harvested (the ponds were not painted out). Two (2) trees were cut and dropped in one (1) of the ponds and approximately 80% of the tree canopy around both ponds was removed. The MIDNR BMP manual “*Sustainable Soil and Water Quality Practices on Forest Land*” (Rev. 2/24/2009) on page 29 under the Vernal Pools, Seeps, and Intermittent Steams Section, states: “All equipment, trees and tops should be kept out of this area” and “Timber harvesting can occur in the area, but the canopy closure should not be reduced to less than 70% to minimize the effect of sun and wind”. A larger vernal pond in the harvested area had been painted out and had no issues.
2. *Core Indicator 4.1.5 (landscape level habitat management)*. The Living Legacies initiative (formerly the Biodiversity Conservation Planning Process) has suffered from numerous delays since at least 2008. Completion of the initiative, including key tasks such as delineating Living Legacy areas on the state forests and identifying compatible land uses for them, has not been accomplished.

Review of 2012 Audit Findings and Disposition in the 2013 Recertification Audit

Three opportunities for improvement were identified during the 2012 audit:

1. There is an opportunity to improve response times to internal audit findings. *SFI Indicator 20.1.3 requires “Annual review of progress by management and determination of changes and improvements necessary to continually improve conformance to the SFI 2010-2014 Standard.”* Resolved: Annual management review occurred in May 2013 and the report, including internal/external findings and DNR recommendations, was distributed to appropriate staff.
2. There is an opportunity to improve road maintenance, including frequency of road grading. *SFI Indicator 2.3.3 requires “Use of erosion control measures to minimize the loss of soil and site productivity.”* Resolved: Site visits and a review of 2013 RDR and Road and Bridge Projects indicates ample road construction projects are conducted. MI DNR is also seeking additional funding sources for road maintenance.
3. There is an opportunity to improve protection of regeneration from adverse effects of deer on natural regeneration (carryover from 2011). *SFI Indicator 2.1.3 requires “Clear criteria to judge adequate regeneration and appropriate actions to correct understocked areas and achieve acceptable species composition and stocking rates for both planting and natural regeneration.”* Resolved: MI DNR has clear criteria and defined time lines to ensure natural regeneration success in northern hardwood stands.

Exceptional Practices:

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

MIDNR provides and promotes (through advertising, brochures, maps, etc.) extensive, high-quality recreation opportunities.

SFI Performance Measure 5.4 “Program Participants shall support and promote recreational opportunities for the public.”

Financial and in-kind support of research exceeds the requirements.

SFI Indicator 15.1.1 “Financial or in-kind support of research to address questions of relevance in the region of operations.”

Employee training, recordkeeping and annual training reviews exceed the requirements..

SFI Indicator 16.1.3: “Staff education and training sufficient to their roles and responsibilities.”

MI DNR conducts considerable outreach through its forest extension and CFM programs.

SFI Performance Measure 17.2: “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.”

The audit team commends the Michigan Department of Natural Resources for these exemplary practices and for the fine work done throughout the organization to ensure that the lands under its stewardship are sustainably managed.

The next audit is a surveillance audit, scheduled for October 2014. This will be a review of portions of the standard covering central office functions and operations at a sample of 3 of the 15 Forest Management Units.

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General Description of Evidence of Conformity

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

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

Summary of Evidence – The 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, soil conservation, afforestation and other measures.

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 water quality in streams, lakes and other water bodies.

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

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

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

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

Summary of Evidence – Field observations of completed operations and policies/procedures for visual quality were assessed during the evaluation. Additionally, maps and brochures for recreation sites, combined with field visits, helped confirm a strong recreation program.

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 – Foresters use data from the Michigan Natural Features Inventory and consult with the Office of the State Archeologist as part of the program to protect special sites. Field observations of completed operations, records of special sites, training records, and written protection plans were all assessed during the evaluation.

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

Summary of Evidence –Field observations of completed operations which showed good utilization of harvested trees, contract clauses, and discussions with supervising field foresters and with loggers provided the key evidence.

Objective 14. Legal and Regulatory Compliance -

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

Summary of Evidence – Field reviews of ongoing and completed operations were the most critical evidence. Programs are in place to carefully plan and review all activities in advance, in part to assure legal compliance.

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

Summary of Evidence – Support for research as confirmed by review of records of research and research summaries.

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

Summary of Evidence – Training records of selected personnel, records associated with harvest sites audited, and logger interviews were the key evidence for this objective. The team also reviewed training records associated with revised programs, such as the legacy tree effort and the draft silviculture manual.

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

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

Summary of Evidence – Conformance was supported by interviews with staff and stakeholders in the community. The Michigan DNR has an extensive outreach program through extension.

Objective 18: Public Land Management Responsibilities -

To support and implement sustainable forest management on public lands.

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

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

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

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

Summary of Evidence – Records of program reviews 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, 2010-2014 Edition

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Appendix III



Audit Matrix

2013 Michigan DNR - NSF-ISR SFI 2010-2014 MATRIX

Findings and Instructions:

C	Conformance
Exr	Exceeds the Requirements
Maj	Major Non-conformance
Min	Minor Non-conformance
OFI	Opportunity for Improvement (can also be in Conformance)
NA	Not Applicable
Likely Gap *	Likely Gap Against 2010-2014 SFIS*
Likely Conf. *	Likely Conformance With 2010-2014 SFIS*
	* formerly used for transition issues; Gap columns retained for use during Baseline Audits.
Auditor	Optional; may be used for audit planning.
10, 11	Date Codes, for example: 11= July 2011; 12=Aug. 2012
Other	Words in <i>italics</i> are defined in the standard.

Objective 1. Forest Management Planning

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

	2010-2014 Requirement	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap *</u>	<u>Likely Conf. *</u>
1.1	Program Participants shall ensure that forest management plans include long-term harvest levels that are sustainable and consistent with appropriate growth-and-yield models.	NB	13						
Notes	<p>13: A summary of the department’s planning approach “A Comprehensive Summary of the Department of Natural Resources Planning Processes for Natural Resource Management in Michigan” including links to the plans is on the website http://michigan.gov/dnr/0,4570,7-153-30301_30505-146029--,00.html . The three Draft Regional State Forest Management Plans are complete and undergoing a final public review, beginning on October 14, 2013.</p> <p>13 Plans include sustainable harvest levels which appear to be slightly conservative but which are consistent with growth models and with the ecosystem-management approach being implemented. Proposal is increase allowable cut from around 53,000 to 61,000 acres/year.</p>								

	2010-2014 Requirement (Performance Measures bold)	Audit or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap *</u>	<u>Likely Conf. *</u>
1.1.1	Forest management planning at a level appropriate to the size and scale of the operation, including: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. a long-term resources analysis; b. a periodic or ongoing forest inventory; c. a land classification system; d. soils inventory and maps, where available; e. access to growth-and-yield modeling capabilities; f. up-to-date maps or a geographic information system; g. recommended sustainable harvest levels for areas available for harvest; and h. a review of non-timber issues (e.g. recreation, tourism, pilot projects and economic incentive programs to promote water protection, carbon storage, bioenergy feedstock production, or biological diversity conservation, or to address climate-induced ecosystem change). 	NB	13						
Notes	<p>13 The State Forest Plan Harvest levels are based on area control; thinning or selection intervals are conservative; rotation lengths are appropriate.</p> <p>13 Wildlife Division has completed a strategic plan (GPS) and updated the Elk Management Plan.</p>								
1.1.2	Documentation of annual harvest trends in relation to the sustainable forest management plan in a manner appropriate to document past and future activities.	NB	13						

Notes	<p>13 62,022 acres offered 2103 FY with a volume of 965,408 cords.</p> <p>13 Monitoring reports on the Michigan DNR’s web site (Performance and Monitoring Reports) provide evidence of harvest and volume trends.</p> <p>2004- 53,522 acres; 721,579 cds 2007- 42,784 acres; 629,367 cds 2010- 58,476 acres; 901,721 cds</p> <p>2005- 50,744 acres; 732,112 cds 2008- 49,352 acres; 746,732 cds 2011- 43,529 acres; 828,117 cds</p> <p>2006- 39,922 acres; 587,211 cds 2009- 47,745 acres; 736,272 cds 2012 – 45,444 acres; 696,900 cds</p> <p>There is also language in statute to report acres and cords harvested from state forest land: <i>“Part 525, P.A. 451, 1994, as amended. Sec. 52506. By January 1 of each year, the department shall prepare and submit to the commission of natural resources, the standing committees of the senate and the house of representatives with primary jurisdiction over forestry issues, and the senate and house appropriations committees a report that details the following from the previous state fiscal year: ... The number of acres of the state forest that were harvested and the number of cords of wood that were harvested from the state forest.”</i> Source: Michigan DNR Timber Harvest Determination Process provided to audit team in 2010.</p>								
	2010-2014 Requirement	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap *</u>	<u>Likely Conf. *</u>
1.1.3	A forest inventory system and a method to calculate growth and yield.	NB	13						
Notes	<p>13 The “2011 Michigan State Forest Timber Harvest Trends Report” provides an analysis of trends in long-term harvest levels: “Combining current information about the nature and extent of the proportion of the State Forest managed for timber with recent age class and timber sale trends, it appears likely that there may be a modest increase of three to five thousand acres prepared for harvests over the next decade, largely due to more harvests in the red pine and aspen types. Given the increases in these two types, volumes harvested will increase more than the rate of increase in acres prepared”.</p> <p>13 Also reviewed the “Maximum Sustained Yield Estimate - based upon combining State Forest Inventory acres with FIA growth estimates” Source: “MI DNR State Forest Growth and Yield 2011_TAC_FMAC” which estimated annual net growth on the lands available and suited to harvest to be Annual Working Forest Net Growth 840,164 cords (Est. Current Annual Net Growth - weighted average adjusted for limited lowland forest)</p>								

	2010-2014 Requirement	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap *</u>	<u>Likely Conf. *</u>
1.1.4	Periodic updates of forest inventory and recalculation of planned harvests to account for changes in growth due to productivity increases or decreases (e.g. improved data, long-term drought, fertilization, climate change, forest land ownership changes, etc.).	NB	13						

Notes	<p>13 Foresters interviewed report that the inventory work (10% of the land base each year) is prioritized and is being completed.</p> <p>13 Harvests are planned using area control to determine acres treated. These are recalculated prior to developing harvest prescriptions.</p> <p>13 The inventory system is based on compartments of 1-3,000 acres. 10% of the compartments are considered for treatment each year. Harvest levels are based on up-to-date qualitative compartment inventory (IFMAP) conducted 1-2 years prior to development of compartment plans and stand prescriptions. Changes in growth, or unexpected growth increases or decreases are factored in immediately during development of compartment plans and stand prescriptions. Also see indicators above, which cover inventory methods. The audit team confirmed the continued, robust use of these inventory and harvest planning approaches across the system by means of interviews and review of documents for selected compartments.</p>
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	2010-2014 Requirement	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap *</u>	<u>Likely Conf. *</u>
<i>1.1.5</i>	Documentation of forest practices (e.g., planting, fertilization, and thinning) consistent with assumptions in harvest plans.	NB	13						
Notes	<p>13 Area control is used; there is no “allowable cut effect”. The harvest plans do not assume accelerated growth based on fertilization or other intensive stand silvicultural practices. The key assumptions that might affect harvest levels are that stands will be regenerated promptly and planted stands will be released as needed; forest practices associated with these assumptions are well documented, both in the compartment planning process and in the associated forest treatment process. This includes Forest Treatment Proposals (FTP) and Forest Treatment Completion Reports that provide acres treated, treatment method, objectives, cover types, basal area removed if appropriate, equipment and materials used, and cost.</p> <p>13 Completed forest practices are documented in IFMAP. Completion reports are completed by the field office level.</p>								

Objective 2. Forest Productivity.

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

	2010-2014 Requirement	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap *</u>	<u>Likely Conf. *</u>
2.1	Program Participants shall promptly reforest after final harvest.	NB	13						
<i>Notes</i>	13 Michigan DNR has a comprehensive program to ensure regeneration after final harvests. Foresters in the field units conduct recon, do inventories, and develop and implement prescriptions. Each district has a Timber Management Specialist available to provide advice and to support any site preparation or planting needs. The Wildlife Division supports this program, with investments in some difficult to regenerate species having special habitat value (for example Hemlock). Also see indicators.								

	2010-2014 Requirement	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap *</u>	<u>Likely Conf. *</u>
2.1.1	Designation of all harvest areas for either natural regeneration or by planting.	NB	13						
<i>Notes</i>	13 Confirmed by field observations and interviews that regeneration approach is determined during planning for all harvest sites. Forest Treatment Proposals (FTP) were also confirmed for regeneration harvests for which planting and/or site preparation was expected to be needed, based on the Compartment Review – approved treatment prescription. Reviewed some planting sites and the processes for planning overseeing planting. Confirmed designation of regeneration method for sites visited, and for other sites where paperwork was requested but time did not allow field visits of planting sites.								

	2010-2014 Requirement	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap *</u>	<u>Likely Conf. *</u>
2.1.2	Reforestation, unless delayed for site-specific environmental or forest health considerations or legal requirements, through planting within two years or two planting seasons, or by planned natural regeneration methods within five years.	NB	13						
<i>Notes</i>	13 Regeneration delays are uncommon in the FMUs audited in 2013; most sites visited had good stocking levels.								

	2010-2014 Requirement	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap *</u>	<u>Likely Conf. *</u>
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2.1.3	Clear criteria to judge adequate regeneration and appropriate actions to correct understocked areas and achieve acceptable species composition and stocking rates for both planting and natural regeneration.	NB	13						
Notes	<p>13 Standards exist for all regeneration treatments. Criteria for regeneration by species or forest type are found in the “Regeneration Survey Manual”. For artificial regeneration, stocking is checked at years 1 and 3 (data gathered includes # planted. # natural by species.</p> <p>13 Deer impacts to regeneration are highly variable, but are reported as being significant in some areas. Auditors observed no such areas during the 2013 audit.</p> <p>13 For natural regeneration, checks for stands that were originally prescribed for a regeneration harvest under the OI system are scheduled using the regeneration time clock spreadsheet. The time clock spreadsheet is maintained until the stands have successfully regenerated AND compartments have been converted to IFMAP. For the IFMAP system, a list of stands requiring a walk through regeneration survey is provided to stand examiners by the FMU at the Pre-inventory meeting.” The appropriate actions are in place.</p>								

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

	2010-2014 Requirement	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap *</u>	<u>Likely Conf. *</u>
2.1.5	Protection of desirable or planned advanced natural regeneration during harvest.	NB	13						
Notes	<p>2012: Field observations confirmed good results in this indicator.</p> <p>2011: Field observations confirmed good results in this indicator. An effective system is in place to ensure that this indicator is met. The pre-timber sale checklist, a key part of the timber sale planning process, has question 20: “Is desirable (advanced) natural regeneration present?” If yes, then the “Related Sale Spec” #3.4.1 is checked and the specification is inserted into the timber sale contract. The specification provides for financial penalty if too much regeneration is disturbed during harvest.</p>								

	2010-2014 Requirement	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap *</u>	<u>Likely Conf. *</u>
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2.1.6	Planting programs that consider potential ecological impacts of a different species or species mix from that which was harvested.	NB	13						
Notes	13 Consideration of composition goals for regeneration is a routine part of sale planning, with site analysis tools available and widely used. Biologists are involved in planning of harvests, most of which do not change species composition. When changes in species composition are intended they are often accomplished by natural regeneration, but also can be done by planting. Either way the decision is based on soil types, the Kotar habitat classification, ecological considerations (habitat needs, stand development pathways), and a robust review process that includes silviculture and wildlife specialists.								

	2010-2014 Requirement	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap *</u>	<u>Likely Conf. *</u>
2.1.7	Afforestation programs that consider potential ecological impacts of the selection and planting of tree species in non-forested landscapes.	NA							
Notes	No afforestation is being conducted. Instead, some forested areas are converted to open or brush landscapes, but only after multi-disciplinary review and only if there is a demonstrated habitat need, often to support populations of rare, threatened, or declining species. In some areas adjacent or nearby small patches of forest and non-forested cover types are “swapped” to consolidate small patches into large patches while also attempting to more closely match vegetation to soil and site potential. These efforts are based on careful analysis and are primarily driven by ecological goals, but have ancillary economic benefits including more efficient management and harvesting.								

	2010-2014 Requirement	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap *</u>	<u>Likely Conf. *</u>
2.2	Program Participants shall minimize chemical use required to achieve management objectives while protecting employees, neighbors, the public and the environment, including wildlife and aquatic habitats.	NB	13						
Notes	See indicators below.								

	2010-2014 Requirement	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap *</u>	<u>Likely Conf. *</u>
2.2.1	Minimized chemical use required to achieve management objectives.	NB	13						
Notes	13 Chemicals are used in right of ways, site prep and invasive control. 13 Site visits included 2 site prep herbicide applications. Both used an herbicide labeled for forestry use at appropriate rates. There is ample documentation of pre application planning, conditions during the application and post application follow up.								

	2010-2014 Requirement	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap *</u>	<u>Likely Conf. *</u>
2.2.2	Use of least-toxic and narrowest-spectrum pesticides necessary to achieve management objectives.	NB	13						
<i>Notes</i>	13 Review of herbicide use on the FMUs visited indicates they meet this requirement.								

	2010-2014 Requirement	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap *</u>	<u>Likely Conf. *</u>
2.2.3	Use of pesticides registered for the intended use and applied in accordance with label requirements.	NB	13						
<i>Notes</i>	13 Site visits and review of application documentation confirms this requirement is met.								

	2010-2014 Requirement	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap *</u>	<u>Likely Conf. *</u>
2.2.4	Use of integrated pest management where feasible.	NB	13						
<i>Notes</i>	<p>Forest health staff helps ensure that insect pests are detected and treated early and only when and where necessary.</p> <p>Forest silviculture specialists review FTP requests and prepare detailed plans for herbicide use, and supervise their implementation. They have developed expertise that allows them to ensure that herbicide treatments are used only when necessary and cost-effective.</p> <p>Non-chemical site preparation is extensively employed, particularly mechanical scarification and/or disc-trenching.</p>								

	2010-2014 Requirement	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap *</u>	<u>Likely Conf. *</u>
2.2.5	Supervision of forest chemical applications by state- or provincial-trained or certified applicators.	NB	13						
<i>Notes</i>	13 Review of herbicide application contract for 2 site prep treatments visited indicates the applicator must be licensed.								

	2010-2014 Requirement	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap *</u>	<u>Likely Conf. *</u>
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2.2.6	<p>Use of management practices appropriate to the situation, for example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. notification of adjoining landowners or nearby residents concerning applications and chemicals used; b. appropriate multilingual signs or oral warnings; c. control of public road access during and immediately after applications; d. designation of streamside and other needed buffer strips; e. use of positive shutoff and minimal-drift spray valves; f. aerial application of forest chemicals parallel to buffer zones to minimize drift; g. monitoring of water quality or safeguards to ensure proper equipment use and protection of streams, lakes and other water bodies; h. appropriate storage of chemicals; i. filing of required state or provincial reports; and/or j. use of methods to ensure protection of threatened and endangered species. 	NB	13							
Notes	<p>13 Chemical use is outlined in the work instructions. Certified applicators are required.</p> <p>13 Standard practices prescribed in the work instructions include</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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. <p>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.</p>									

	2010-2014 Requirement	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap *</u>	<u>Likely Conf. *</u>	
2.3	Program Participants shall implement forest management practices to protect and maintain forest and soil productivity.	NB	13							
Notes	See indicators.									

	2010-2014 Requirement	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap *</u>	<u>Likely Conf. *</u>
2.3.1	Use of soils maps where available.	NB	13						
Notes	13 Soils are a layer in GIS and are considered in the Timber Sale Proposal Checklist.								

	2010-2014 Requirement	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap *</u>	<u>Likely Conf. *</u>
2.3.2	Process to identify soils vulnerable to compaction, and use of appropriate methods to avoid excessive soil disturbance.	NB	13						
Notes	<p>13 Soils maps, Kotar Habitat/Vegetation Classification System, topographic maps, and air photos are used during planning. Combined with field evaluations of the sites these tools help foresters to plan harvest units to avoid wetlands and vulnerable soils within upland units or to specify that harvesting can only occur during frozen conditions.</p> <p>13 The pre-timber sale checklist, a key part of the timber sale planning process, has provisions for recording risk of soil compaction and/or rutting. If these risks are identified then seasonal restrictions and/or related sale specifications (5.4.1, 5.4.2, 5.4.3, 5.4.4, 5.4.5, or, 5.4.6) can be inserted into the timber sale contract and enforced during harvest administration.</p>								

	2010-2014 Requirement	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap *</u>	<u>Likely Conf. *</u>
2.3.3	Use of erosion control measures to <i>minimize</i> the loss of soil and site productivity.	NB	13						
Notes	<p>13 Site visits did not identify any erosion issues.</p> <p>13 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. Two impressive RDR-related road repairs or upgrades were inspected during the audits.</p>								

	2010-2014 Requirement	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap *</u>	<u>Likely Conf. *</u>
2.3.4	Post-harvest conditions conducive to maintaining site productivity (e.g. limited rutting, retained down woody debris, minimized skid trails).	NB	13						

Notes	13 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.								
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	2010-2014 Requirement	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap *</u>	<u>Likely Conf. *</u>
2.3.5	Retention of vigorous trees during partial harvesting, consistent with scientific silvicultural standards for the area.	NB	13						
Notes	13 Confirmed by field observations that proper silvicultural methods are employed in thinning treatments. When conducting thinning treatments foresters mark to remove overtopped or intermediate crown class trees first, as well as crooked, forked, or damaged trees.								

	2010-2014 Requirement	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap *</u>	<u>Likely Conf. *</u>
2.3.6	Criteria that address harvesting and site preparation to protect soil productivity.	NB	13						
Notes	<p>13 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”.</p> <p>13 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.”</p>								

	2010-2014 Requirement	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap *</u>	<u>Likely Conf. *</u>
2.3.7	Road construction and skidding layout to minimize impacts to soil productivity and water quality.	NB	13						
Notes	<p>13 Log decks and skid trails are determined during the required preharvest consultation with the logger.</p> <p>13 Site visits did not identify any issues with road or skid trail location.</p>								

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

2.4	Program Participants shall manage so as to protect forests from damaging agents, such as environmentally or economically undesirable wildfire, pests, diseases and invasive exotic plants and animals, to maintain and improve long-term forest health, productivity and economic viability.	NB	13						
<i>Notes</i>	See indicators.								

	2010-2014 Requirement	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap *</u>	<u>Likely Conf. *</u>
2.4.1	Program to protect forests from damaging agents.	NB	13						
<i>Notes</i>	<p>13 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.</p> <p>13 Forest Management Division Policy 591: Forest Pest Management specifies a program consistent with Performance Measure 2.4 and the Indicators.</p> <p>13 Foresters are aware of the normal forest pest issues, and have ready access to forest health specialists.</p>								

	2010-2014 Requirement	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap *</u>	<u>Likely Conf. *</u>
2.4.2	Management to promote healthy and productive forest conditions to minimize susceptibility to damaging agents.	NB	13						
<i>Notes</i>	<p>13 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.</p>								

	2010-2014 Requirement	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap *</u>	<u>Likely Conf. *</u>
2.4.3	Participation in, and support of, fire and pest prevention and control programs.	NB	13						
<i>Notes</i>	<p>13 Fire: Continued very clear conformance. Each FMU has several fire officers and an impressive collection of fire control vehicles.</p> <p>Pests: Specialists are available.</p>								

	2010-2014 Requirement	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap *</u>	<u>Likely Conf. *</u>
2.5	Program Participants that deploy improved planting stock, including varietal seedlings, shall use sound scientific methods.	NB	13						
<i>Notes</i>	See indicator below.								

	2010-2014 Requirement	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap *</u>	<u>Likely Conf. *</u>
2.5.1	Program for appropriate research, testing, evaluation and deployment of improved planting stock, including varietal seedlings.	NB	13						
<i>Notes</i>	13 Michigan Tree Improvement Center in Brighton, Michigan has a tree improvement program. 13 MIDNR have identified resistant beech trees, propagated disease-resistant cultivars at a nursery in Ohio, and began out-planting.								

Objective 3. Protection and Maintenance of Water Resources

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

	2010-2014 Requirement	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap *</u>	<u>Likely Conf. *</u>
3.1	Program Participants shall meet or exceed all applicable federal, provincial, state and local water quality laws, and meet or exceed best management practices developed under Canadian or U.S. Environmental Protection Agency–approved water quality programs.	NB	13						
Notes	See indicators.								

	2010-2014 Requirement	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap *</u>	<u>Likely Conf. *</u>
3.1.1	Program to implement state or provincial best management practices during all phases of management activities.	NB				13			
Notes	<p>13 Foresters plan and oversee harvests and cultural treatments, and work with engineers on larger road/bridge projects. Fisheries and wildlife biologists sign off on all treatments and conduct field reviews as needed. BMPs are designed into all projects.</p> <p>13 Minor CAR (in conjunction with 3.2.4): The site visit to the active Russell Lake Aspen timber sale (sale #71-005) identified BMP issues on 2 vernal ponds in an area that had recently been harvested (the ponds were not painted out). Two (2) trees were cut and dropped into one of the ponds and approximately 80% of the tree canopy around both ponds was removed. The MIDNR BMP manual “Sustainable Soil and Water Quality Practices on Forest Land” (Rev. 2/24/2009) on page 29 under the Vernal Pools, Seeps, and Intermittent Steams Section, states: “All equipment, trees and tops should be kept out of this area” and “Timber harvesting can occur in the area, but the canopy closure should not be reduced to less than 70% to minimize the effect of sun and wind”. A larger vernal pond in the harvested area was painted out and had no issues.</p>								

	2010-2014 Requirement	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap *</u>	<u>Likely Conf. *</u>
3.1.2	Contract provisions that specify conformance to best management practices.	NB	13						
Notes	13 The standard contract contains such provision.								

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

3.1.3	Plans that address wet-weather events (e.g. forest inventory systems, wet-weather tracts, definitions of acceptable operating conditions).	NB	13						
<i>Notes</i>	<p>13 Fire officers and others monitor road conditions regularly, with special efforts made following major storms.</p> <p>13 Foresters match contract harvest dates with site conditions; for example some areas are designated for logging in winter or frozen conditions.</p> <p>13 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.</p>								

	2010-2014 Requirement	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap *</u>	<u>Likely Conf. *</u>
3.1.4	Monitoring of overall best management practices implementation.	NB	13						
<i>Notes</i>	<p>13 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.</p> <p>13 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.</p>								

	2010-2014 Requirement	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap *</u>	<u>Likely Conf. *</u>
3.2	Program Participants shall have or develop, implement and document riparian protection measures based on soil type, terrain, vegetation, ecological function, harvesting system and other applicable factors.	NB	13						
<i>Notes</i>	See indicators below.								

	2010-2014 Requirement	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap *</u>	<u>Likely Conf. *</u>
3.2.1	Program addressing management and protection of rivers, streams, lakes, and other water bodies and riparian zones.	NB	13						

Notes	13 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.								
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	2010-2014 Requirement	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap *</u>	<u>Likely Conf. *</u>
3.2.2	Mapping of rivers, streams, lakes, and other water bodies as specified in state or provincial best management practices and, where appropriate, identification on the ground.	NB	13						
Notes	13 Streams, lakes, etc. are shown on maps and sale offering and administrative documents (contract specifications). They are generally identified on the ground by paint marks on trees.								

	2010-2014 Requirement	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap *</u>	<u>Likely Conf. *</u>
3.2.3	Implementation of plans to manage or protect rivers, streams, lakes, and other water bodies.	NB	13						
Notes	13 Field observations, supplemented by documents reviewed and interviews, confirmed that most streams, lakes, and other waterbodies are protected during all operations, in most cases by leaving significant uncut buffer areas.								

	2010-2014 Requirement	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap *</u>	<u>Likely Conf. *</u>
3.2.4	Identification and protection of non-forested wetlands, including bogs, fens and marshes, and vernal pools of ecological significance.	NB				13			
Notes	<p>13 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.</p> <p>13 Minor CAR (in conjunction with 3.1.1): The site visit to the active Russell Lake Aspen timber sale (sale #71-005 Roscommon Area) identified BMP issues on 2 vernal ponds in an area that had recently been harvested (the ponds were not painted out). Two (2) trees were cut and dropped in one (1) of the ponds and approximately 80% of the tree canopy around both ponds was removed. The MIDNR BMP manual “Sustainable Soil and Water Quality Practices on Forest Land” (Rev. 2/24/2009) on page 29 under the Vernal Pools, Seeps, and Intermittent Steams Section, states: “All equipment, trees and tops should be kept out of this area” and “Timber harvesting can occur in the area, but the canopy closure should not be reduced to less than 70% to minimize the effect of sun and wind”. A larger vernal pond in the harvested area had been painted out and had no issues.</p>								

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3.2.5	Where regulations or best management practices do not currently exist to protect riparian areas, use of experts to identify appropriate protection measures.	NA							
<i>Notes</i>	NA, BMPs do exist.								

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

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

	2010-2014 Requirement	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap *</u>	<u>Likely Conf. *</u>
4.1	Program Participants shall have programs to promote biological diversity at stand- and landscape-levels.	JH	13						
<i>Notes</i>	<p>The revised “Living Legacies” initiative to develop a network of Biodiversity Stewardship Areas (BSAs) was assessed by the audit team. This revised approach is consistent with the requirements under both Objective 4 (Conservation of Biodiversity) and Objective 6 (Protection of Special Sites). The audit team reviewed these documents:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quick Summary of Living Legacies Milestones and Current Status • Michigan DNR ‘Living Legacies’ Communications Plan • Michigan DNR Revised Living Legacies Implementation Process <p>Also see indicators below.</p>								

	2010-2014 Requirement	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap *</u>	<u>Likely Conf. *</u>
4.1.1	Program to promote the conservation of native biological diversity, including species, wildlife habitats and ecological community types.	JH	13						
<i>Notes</i>	<p>13 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.</p> <p>13 Michigan DNR spent over 7 million dollars in 2012 for wildlife habitat improvements, focused on grasslands, openings, savannas, wetlands and forests.</p>								

	2010-2014 Requirement	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap *</u>	<u>Likely Conf. *</u>
4.1.2	Program to protect threatened and endangered species.	JH	13						

Notes	13 The Wildlife Division of MDNR and Michigan Natural Features Inventory, house biologists that have assignments for protection of threatened and endangered species of wildlife and plants.. Field audits confirmed that biologists check this database prior to forest management activities on the site. Noteworthy accomplishments of endangered species recovery are illustrated by Kirtland Warblers and Gray Wolves, two species where populations now exceed recovery goals. The Department has developed forest management plans for a number of T And E species including the Red-shouldered Hawk and field staff have been trained to identify and report locations of stick nests
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	2010-2014 Requirement	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap *</u>	<u>Likely Conf. *</u>
4.1.3	Program to locate and protect known sites associated with viable occurrences of critically imperiled and imperiled species and communities also known as Forests with Exceptional Conservation Value. Plans for protection may be developed independently or collaboratively, and may include Program Participant management, cooperation with other stakeholders, or use of easements, conservation land sales, exchanges, or other conservation strategies.	JH	13						
Notes	13 Michigan DNR has a GIS layer that identifies “Biodiversity Areas” including ecological reference areas, 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, Grindstone Creek is a special conservation area that has been designated a potential old growth forest.								

	2010-2014 Requirement	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap *</u>	<u>Likely Conf. *</u>
4.1.4	Development and implementation of criteria, as guided by regionally appropriate best scientific information, to retain stand-level wildlife habitat elements such as snags, stumps, mast trees, down woody debris, den trees and nest trees.	JH	13						
Notes	<p>13 Michigan DNR has a new “Within-Stand Retention Guidance” (previous version 10/05/06). A new guidance document was completed and distributed to staff in Jan 2012.</p> <p>13 Most sites visited in 2013 appear to meet guidelines and was ample and varied at sites visited during the audit. Efforts to retain some Aspen (generally all harvested to promote sprouting) to grow old and eventually die were evident, although more could be done. In addition, the department could officially adapt a policy to track retention islands that are located at the edges of stands so that they are protected from harvest until the next rotation.</p> <p>13 The Pre-Timber Sale Checklist includes an item for stand level habitat elements and a selection of three pre-written sale specifications that can be checked and then inserted into the “Sale Specific Conditions and Requirements” for the timber sale contract.</p>								

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4.1.5	Program for assessment, conducted either individually or collaboratively, of forest cover types, age or size classes, and habitats at the individual ownership level and, where credible data are available, across the landscape, and take into account findings in planning and management activities.	NB				13			
<i>Notes</i>	2013: Minor CAR - The Living Legacies initiative (formerly the Biodiversity Conservation Planning Process, BCPP) has suffered from numerous delays since at least 2008. Completion of the initiative, including key tasks such as delineating Living Legacy areas on the state forests and identifying compatible land uses for them, has not been accomplished.								

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4.1.6	Support of and participation in plans or programs for the conservation of old-growth forests in the region of ownership.	JH	13						
<i>Notes</i>	13 Procedures exist to protect existing old growth stands or old growth elements (such as individual “legacy trees”). Possible Type 1 old growth and potential old growth areas are designated as special conservation areas and are protected from harvest.								

	2010-2014 Requirement	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap *</u>	<u>Likely Conf. *</u>
4.1.7	Participation in programs and demonstration of activities as appropriate to limit the introduction, impact and spread of invasive exotic plants and animals that directly threaten or are likely to threaten native plant and animal communities.	JH	13						
<i>Notes</i>	<p>13 Staff have been trained to identify and to report locations of invasive species. At least one invasive species treatment site was visited in 2013-herbicide was applied to a stand of Japanese Barberry. The Department is collaborating with Ohio State on EAB research and have projects to conduct research on beech bark disease, oak-wilt, Asian long-horn beetle, and hemlock woody adelphid.</p> <p>13 “Forest Management Division (FMD) Invasive Species Project 2011 (Ron Murray, 10-12-11)” summarized: FMD Invasive Species Projects (ARRA Funding, Pest & Disease Loan Funding, and Great Lakes Restoration Initiative Funding described separately); Training; and Application Development (“Forest Health Program Leader Roger Mech worked with Lisa Dygert, RAU, to develop a Forest Health Reporting application for Nomads and other handheld units that run Windows Mobile 5.0 or better. The application allows quick easy reporting of forest health symptoms and problems in a format that is easily imported into IFMAP. Lisa and others have also developed a similar application that easily allows reporting of Invasive Plants to MISIN in a format that is also compatible with IFMAP. Solo Forest software is required to run this application. A similar application is under development that will not require Solo Forest, but will give the same reporting functionality.”)</p>								

	2010-2014 Requirement	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap *</u>	<u>Likely Conf. *</u>
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4.1.8	Program to incorporate the role of prescribed or natural fire where appropriate.	JH	13						
Notes	<p>13 Fire is commonly prescribed when appropriate, especially in the management of Jack Pine communities, but also to maintain openings and grassland plant species (Site in Atlanta FMU). Prescribed fire is an essential activity in the management of Kirtland's Warbler, an endangered species. Managers would like to use fire on more sites, but personnel and financial resources limit further use.</p> <p>13 Auditors did not visit any burn sites in 2013, but interviews confirmed that the program continues. Michigan DNR has a strong fire control program, and this program is involved in prescribed burning when not busy with control of wildfires.</p>								

	2010-2014 Requirement	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap *</u>	<u>Likely Conf. *</u>
4.2	Program Participants shall apply knowledge gained through research, science, technology and field experience to manage wildlife habitat and contribute to the conservation of biological diversity.	JH	13						
Notes	<p>13 Managers interviewed during field visits frequently demonstrated application of research results to the management of wildlife. Research occurs on the state forest lands; biologists are aware of such research and were able to discuss the results with the auditors. Copies of some of the published results of these studies were provided to the audit team.</p> <p>13 MDNR, in the Wildlife Division, has a small team of research biologists. More significantly, though, the Department funds the PERM program at Michigan State University, supporting two research faculty positions and graduate students. Faculty and graduate students from other universities also conduct research on State Forests.</p>								

	2010-2014 Requirement	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap *</u>	<u>Likely Conf. *</u>
4.2.1	Collection of information on Forests with Exceptional Conservation Value and other biodiversity-related data through forest inventory processes, mapping or participation in external programs, such as NatureServe, state or provincial heritage programs, or other credible systems. Such participation may include providing non-proprietary scientific information, time and assistance by staff, or in-kind or direct financial support.	JH	13						
Notes	<p>13 Interviews and documentation show that the program continues to use the Michigan Natural Features Inventory database.</p> <p>13 DNRE supports the state Natural Features Inventory, in cooperation with Michigan State University, thus natural heritage information is readily available to staff in FMD.</p>								

	2010-2014 Requirement	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap *</u>	<u>Likely Conf. *</u>
4.2.2	A methodology to incorporate research results and field applications of biodiversity and ecosystem research into forest management decisions.	JH	13						
<i>Notes</i>	13 Michigan DNR employs professionally-trained biologists who specialize in both terrestrial and aquatic species. Field biologists (first line managers) are often specialists, or can consult with agency specialists. Most biologists are members of professional associations, and some present on their work at professional meetings. A science-based approach is evident throughout the program. Some examples of research projects are included in the Wildlife Division Annual Report for fiscal year 2012.								

Objective 5. Management of Visual Quality and Recreational Benefits.

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

	2010-2014 Requirement	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap *</u>	<u>Likely Conf. *</u>
5.1	Program Participants shall manage the impact of harvesting on visual quality.	NB	13						
<i>Notes</i>	13 Field observations helped confirm that Michigan DNR continues to manage the impact of harvesting on visual quality.								

	2010-2014 Requirement	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap *</u>	<u>Likely Conf. *</u>
5.1.1	Program to address visual quality management.	NB	13						
<i>Notes</i>	13 Trained foresters plan all harvests; guidelines exist to address visual management; senior managers review all proposed treatments. Sale planning checklist includes visual provisions. 13 Visual management programs are in place and generally very effective – forests visited were being managed with visual considerations.								

	2010-2014 Requirement	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap *</u>	<u>Likely Conf. *</u>
5.1.2	Incorporation of aesthetic considerations in harvesting, road, landing design and management, and other management activities where visual impacts are a concern.	NB	13						

<i>Notes</i>	<p>13 Sale planning checklist includes visual provisions.</p> <p>13 Confirmed that aesthetic management is employed by field observations of selected sales and observations of large sections of the certified forests observed while traveling between selected audit sites. Practices observed include requirements for scattering slash or moving it out of landings or away from roads, retained visual buffers, including visual considerations in the decisions regarding retention primarily designed for biodiversity enhancement, landings cleaned, and adjustments to the size, shape, and placement of clearcuts.</p>								
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	2010-2014 Requirement	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap *</u>	<u>Likely Conf. *</u>
5.2	Program Participants shall manage the size, shape and placement of clearcut harvests.	NB	13						
<i>Notes</i>	See indicators.								

	2010-2014 Requirement	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap *</u>	<u>Likely Conf. *</u>
5.2.1	Average size of clearcut harvest areas does not exceed 120 acres (50 hectares), except when necessary to meet regulatory requirements or to respond to forest health emergencies or other natural catastrophes.	NB	13						
<i>Notes</i>	<p>13 For the period 2009 through 2011, the average size of stand that was clearcut ranged between 39 and 41 acres, and the average size of clearcut acres per contract ranged between 53 and 57. 2011 report: 41 acres.</p> <p>13 Clearcuts observed at selected sites as well as those observed while traveling between sites were generally less than 40 acres, with a small number of larger clearcuts.</p>								

	2010-2014 Requirement	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap *</u>	<u>Likely Conf. *</u>
5.2.2	Documentation through internal records of clearcut size and the process for calculating average size.	NB	13						
<i>Notes</i>	13 Review of GIS indicates that MIDNR documents all harvest size.								

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

5.3	Program Participants shall adopt a green-up requirement or alternative methods that provide for visual quality.	NB	13						
<i>Notes</i>	See indicators below.								

	2010-2014 Requirement	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap *</u>	<u>Likely Conf. *</u>
5.3.1	Program implementing the green-up requirement or alternative methods.	NB	13						
<i>Notes</i>	13 Trained foresters set up and review of all proposed projects by a multi-disciplinary team. Tools are in place to allow them to address the green-up requirements; key tools include a robust GIS, the IFMAP (Computerized Timber Sale Treatment Tracking System), and remote-sensing data.								

	2010-2014 Requirement	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap *</u>	<u>Likely Conf. *</u>
5.3.2	Harvest area tracking system to demonstrate conformance with the green-up requirement or alternative methods.	NB	13						
<i>Notes</i>	13 Maps are developed that show the cut unit boundaries and retention areas. These maps are available when adjacent compartments are treated. Foresters are instructed to look at stands in adjacent compartments. The “Pre-Timber Sale Checklist” has a section on Aesthetics, including provisions for clearcut size and adjacency.								

	2010-2014 Requirement	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap *</u>	<u>Likely Conf. *</u>
5.3.3	Trees in clearcut harvest areas are at least 3 years old or 5 feet (1.5 meters) high at the desired level of stocking before adjacent areas are clearcut, or as appropriate to address operational and economic considerations, alternative methods to reach the performance measure are utilized by the Program Participant.	NB	13						
<i>Notes</i>	13 Conformance was confirmed by field observations.								

	2010-2014 Requirement	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap *</u>	<u>Likely Conf. *</u>
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5.4	Program Participants shall support and promote recreational opportunities for the public.	NB		13					
<i>Notes</i>	MDNR provides and promotes (through advertising, brochures, maps, etc.) many extensive, high-quality recreation opportunities.								

	2010-2014 Requirement	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap *</u>	<u>Likely Conf. *</u>
5.4.1	Provide recreational opportunities for the public, where consistent with forest management objectives.	NB		13					
<i>Notes</i>	13 Confirmed recreational facilities at all Forest Management Units visited, including extensive trails networks, campgrounds, boat launch areas, and day use areas. The program supports dispersed recreation; these activities are widespread and diverse. The Michigan DNR continues to be creative and flexible in finding methods to finance the development and maintenance of recreation infrastructure. The ORV trail upgrades visited are very well done and holding up well to use.								

Objective 6. Protection of Special Sites.

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

	2010-2014 Requirement	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap *</u>	<u>Likely Conf. *</u>
6.1	Program Participants shall identify special sites and manage them in a manner appropriate for their unique features.	JH	13						
<i>Notes</i>	See indicators below.								

	2010-2014 Requirement	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap *</u>	<u>Likely Conf. *</u>
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.	JH	13						
<i>Notes</i>	13 Work Instructions specify that the requirements of this indicator are met, with foresters the first part of the process. Foresters seek special sites during inventory and check existing databases for known sites. Field interviews and some documents associated with field sites helped confirm that existing information is used, and that additional information on special sites is sought and used. Foresters and biologists also report locations of new special sites.								

	2010-2014 Requirement	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap *</u>	<u>Likely Conf. *</u>
6.1.2	Appropriate mapping, cataloging and management of identified special sites.	JH	13						
<i>Notes</i>	13 Designated sites within the SCA/ERA/HCVA hierarchy are mapped (GIS, printed maps) and cataloged. 13 Foresters report new special sites to the appropriate entity, including the department's archeologist or the MNFI. Work instructions cover this. Visited some special sites during the audit.								

Objective 7. Efficient Use of Forest Resources.

To promote the efficient use of forest resources.

	2010-2014 Requirement	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap *</u>	<u>Likely Conf. *</u>
<i>7.1</i>	Program Participants shall employ appropriate forest harvesting technology and in-woods manufacturing processes and practices to minimize waste and ensure efficient utilization of harvested trees, where consistent with other SFI Standard objectives.	NB	13						
<i>Notes</i>	See indicators below.								

	2010-2014 Requirement	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap *</u>	<u>Likely Conf. *</u>
<i>7.1.1</i>	Program or monitoring system to ensure efficient utilization, which may include provisions to ensure: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. management of harvest residue (e.g. slash, limbs, tops) considers economic, social and environmental factors (e.g. organic and nutrient value to future forests) and other utilization needs; b. training or incentives to encourage loggers to enhance utilization; c. cooperation with mill managers for better utilization of species and low-grade material; d. exploration of markets for underutilized species and low-grade wood and alternative markets (e.g. bioenergy markets); or e. periodic inspections and reports noting utilization and product separation. 	NB	13						
<i>Notes</i>	<p>13 Confirmed by field observations generally very good utilization. Contracts require appropriate utilization.</p> <p>13 Each harvest is regularly inspected by the sale administration forester, who fills out the Timber Sale Contract –Field Inspection Report. This process includes inspection of utilization. Michigan DNR has guidelines for biomass retention.</p>								

Objectives 8-13 are Not Applicable

Objective 14. Legal and Regulatory Compliance.

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

	2010-2014 Requirement	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap *</u>	<u>Likely Conf. *</u>
<i>14.1</i>	Program Participants shall take appropriate steps to comply with applicable federal, provincial, state and local forestry and related social and environmental laws and regulations.	NB	13						
<i>Notes</i>	See indicators below.								

	2010-2014 Requirement	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap *</u>	<u>Likely Conf. *</u>
<i>14.1.1</i>	Access to relevant laws and regulations in appropriate locations.	NB	13						
<i>Notes</i>	13 Internet provides access to all Michigan statutes. 13 Intranet contains director's orders.								

	2010-2014 Requirement	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap *</u>	<u>Likely Conf. *</u>
<i>14.1.2</i>	System to achieve compliance with applicable federal, provincial, state or local laws and regulations.	NB	13						
<i>Notes</i>	13 Trained foresters and biologists, supported by very experienced supervisors, plan and oversee all treatments.								

	2010-2014 Requirement	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap *</u>	<u>Likely Conf. *</u>
<i>14.1.3</i>	Demonstration of commitment to legal compliance through available regulatory action information.	NB	13						
<i>Notes</i>	13 Employee handbook requires compliance. No cases of non-compliance or violations were reported.								

	2010-2014 Requirement	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap *</u>	<u>Likely Conf. *</u>
14.2	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.	NB	13						
Notes	See indicators below.								

	2010-2014 Requirement	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap *</u>	<u>Likely Conf. *</u>
14.2.1	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.	NB	13						
Notes	<p>13 A review of the contents of the Personnel Manual -Chapter 21: Michigan DNR Employee Handbook'' 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.</p> <p>13 The commitment to comply with social laws is clearly demonstrated.</p>								

	2010-2014 Requirement	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap *</u>	<u>Likely Conf. *</u>
14.2.2	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.	NB	13						
Notes	13 There have not been any ILO-related complaints. If any occur Michigan DNR must notify NSF, who must pass these along to SFI Inc.								

Objective 15. Forestry Research, Science, and Technology.

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

	2010-2014 Requirement	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap *</u>	<u>Likely Conf. *</u>
<i>15.1</i>	Program Participants shall individually and/or through cooperative efforts involving SFI Implementation Committees, associations or other partners provide in-kind support or funding for forest research to improve forest health, productivity, and sustainable management of forest resources, and the environmental benefits and performance of forest products.	NB	13						
<i>Notes</i>	See indicators below.								

	2010-2014 Requirement	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap *</u>	<u>Likely Conf. *</u>
<i>15.1.1</i>	Financial or in-kind support of research to address questions of relevance in the region of operations. The research shall include some of the following issues: a. forest health, productivity, and ecosystem functions; b. chemical efficiency, use rate and integrated pest management; c. water quality and/or effectiveness of best management practices including effectiveness of water quality and best management practices for protecting the quality, diversity and distributions of fish and wildlife habitats; d. wildlife management at stand- and landscape-levels; e. conservation of biological diversity; f. ecological impacts of bioenergy feedstock removals on productivity, wildlife habitat, water quality and other ecosystem functions; g. climate change research for both adaptation and mitigation; h. social issues; i. forest operations efficiencies and economics; j. energy efficiency; k. life cycle assessment; l. avoidance of illegal logging; and m. avoidance of controversial sources.	NB		13					
<i>Notes</i>	<p><u>Michigan DNR exceeds the standard in its support for research.</u></p> <p>13 On website under forestry certification link. Summary of Sustainable Forestry Research FY2012 (3.22.13) was reviewed by the auditor and shows a far-reaching and well-funded range of research including issues in forest management, wildlife and biodiversity, fisheries, and recreation. At least half of the issues listed in this indicator are being funded at significant levels (multiples of hundred thousand dollars) and several of the other issues are funded to some degree. Items a, b, c, d, e, g, and h are being funded.</p>								

	2010-2014 Requirement	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap *</u>	<u>Likely Conf. *</u>
15.1.2	Research on genetically engineered trees via forest tree biotechnology shall adhere to all applicable federal, state, and provincial regulations and international protocols.	NA							
<i>Notes</i>	NA								

	2010-2014 Requirement	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap *</u>	<u>Likely Conf. *</u>
15.2	Program Participants shall individually <u>and/or</u> through cooperative efforts involving SFI Implementation Committees, associations or other partners develop or use state, provincial or regional analyses in support of their sustainable forestry programs.	NB	13						
<i>Notes</i>	See indicators below.								

	2010-2014 Requirement	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap *</u>	<u>Likely Conf. *</u>
15.2.1	Participation, individually and/or through cooperative efforts involving SFI Implementation Committees and/or associations at the national, state, provincial or regional level, in the development or use of some of the following: a. regeneration assessments; b. growth and drain assessments; c. best management practices implementation and conformance; d. biodiversity conservation information for family forest owners; and e. social, cultural or economic benefit assessments.	NB	13						
<i>Notes</i>	13 This requirement is satisfied by MIDNR's support of, and participation in, the MI SIC. 13 Confirmed by review of meeting minutes attendance lists.								

	2010-2014 Requirement	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap *</u>	<u>Likely Conf. *</u>
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15.3	Program Participants shall individually and/or through cooperative efforts involving SFI Implementation Committees, associations or other partners broaden the awareness of climate change impacts on forests, wildlife and biological diversity.	NB	13						
<i>Notes</i>	See indicators below.								

	2010-2014 Requirement	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap *</u>	<u>Likely Conf. *</u>
15.3.1	Where available, monitor information generated from regional climate models on long-term forest health, productivity and economic viability.	NB	13						
<i>Notes</i>	13 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 13 Interviews with field staff indicate they are knowledgeable about climate change impacts.								

	2010-2014 Requirement	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap *</u>	<u>Likely Conf. *</u>
15.3.2	Program Participants are knowledgeable about climate change impacts on wildlife, wildlife habitats and conservation of biological diversity through international, national, regional or local programs.	NB	13						
<i>Notes</i>	13 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 13 Interviews with field staff indicate they are knowledgeable about climate change impacts.								

Objective 16. Training and Education.

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

	2010-2014 Requirement	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap *</u>	<u>Likely Conf. *</u>
16.1	Program Participants shall require appropriate training of personnel and contractors so that they are competent to fulfill their responsibilities under the SFI 2010-2014 Standard.	NB	13						
Notes	See indicators below.								

	2010-2014 Requirement	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap *</u>	<u>Likely Conf. *</u>
16.1.1	Written statement of commitment to the SFI 2010-2014 Standard communicated throughout the organization, particularly to facility and woodland managers, fiber sourcing staff and field foresters.	NB	13						
Notes	13 Commitment clearly communicated pdf titled “Michigan State Forest and Forest Certification: A Message from Rodney A Stokes, Director (former) of the Department of Natural Resources”. This was found at the top of the DNR Forest Certification web page which can be reached from: http://www.michigan.gov/dnr/ .								

	2010-2014 Requirement	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap *</u>	<u>Likely Conf. *</u>
16.1.2	Assignment and understanding of roles and responsibilities for achieving SFI 2010-2014 Standard objectives.	NB	13						
Notes	13 All of the SFI Performance Measures and Indicators are contained in a series of Forest Certification Work Instructions, which are regularly reviewed and updated. These work instructions provide clear assignment of responsibilities by position. Auditor reviewed “Forest Certification Work Instructions (Complete Set), Updated 6-19-12” which show that this program continues to be adjusted and improved.								

	2010-2014 Requirement	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap *</u>	<u>Likely Conf. *</u>
16.1.3	Staff education and training sufficient to their roles and responsibilities.	NB		13					
Notes	13 Review of training policy and training records of selected MIDNR employees indicate a robust and well documented training program.								

	2010-2014 Requirement	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap *</u>	<u>Likely Conf. *</u>
16.1.4	Contractor education and training sufficient to their roles and responsibilities.	NB	13						
<i>Notes</i>	13 Foresters who oversee timber harvests check to ensure that trained loggers are present. Timber sales contract requires a SFI trained individual with responsibility be on-site.								

	2010-2014 Requirement	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap *</u>	<u>Likely Conf. *</u>
16.1.5	Forestry enterprises shall have a program for the use of certified logging professionals (where available) and qualified logging professionals.	NB	13						
<i>Notes</i>	<p>13 Buyers don't have to have training to purchase timber from the State of Michigan but a trained person must be part of the logging crew. Confirmed by field interviews with loggers on active harvests and by review of documents including the pre-sale meeting notes listing the "Trained Individual(s)" on the form R4050E "Timber Sale Contract – Field Inspection Report" that the system requiring use of trained loggers is effective. One worker on the harvest must have the Michigan SFI Training or Wisconsin FISTA Training before the cutting begins; this is covered in the TS prospectus, in the contract, and on the field inspection report.</p> <p>13 The audit team visited numerous active harvest jobs and confirmed that trained individuals were involved in all.</p>								

	2010-2014 Requirement	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap *</u>	<u>Likely Conf. *</u>
16.2	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.	NB	13						
<i>Notes</i>	See indicators below.								

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

16.2.1	Participation in or support of SFI Implementation Committees to establish criteria and identify delivery mechanisms for wood producers' training courses 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. logging safety; f. U.S. Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) and Canadian Centre for Occupational Health and Safety (COHS) regulations, wage and hour rules, and other provincial, state and local employment laws; g. transportation issues; h. business management; i. public policy and outreach; and j. awareness of emerging technologies.	NB	13						
Notes	13 This requirement is satisfied by MIDNR's participation in, the MI SIC. 13 Confirmed by review of meeting minutes attendance lists.								

	2010-2014 Requirement	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap *</u>	<u>Likely Conf. *</u>
16.2.2	Participation in or support of SFI Implementation Committees to establish criteria for recognition of logger certification programs, where they exist, that include (remainder deleted)...	NB	13						
Notes	13 Michigan does have such a program, and it is recognized by the Michigan SFI Implementation Committee.								

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

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

	2010-2014 Requirement	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap *</u>	<u>Likely Conf. *</u>
<i>17.1</i>	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.	NB	13						
<i>Notes</i>	See indicators below.								

	2010-2014 Requirement	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap *</u>	<u>Likely Conf. *</u>
<i>17.1.1</i>	Support, including financial, for efforts of SFI Implementation Committees.	NB	13						
<i>Notes</i>	13 SFI policy does not require governmental agencies to pay SIC dues. 13 13 Confirmed by review of meeting minutes attendance lists that the MI DNR supports the MI SIC.								

	2010-2014 Requirement	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap *</u>	<u>Likely Conf. *</u>
<i>17.1.2</i>	Support for the development of educational materials for use with forest landowners (e.g. information packets, websites, newsletters, workshops, tours, etc.).	NB	13						
<i>Notes</i>	13 Michigan SFI Implementation Committee has set up a web site. http://www.sfimi.org/ 13 Michigan DNR has a Cooperative Forest Management Program.								

	2010-2014 Requirement	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap *</u>	<u>Likely Conf. *</u>
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17.1.3	Support for the development of regional, state or provincial information materials that provide forest landowners with practical approaches for addressing special sites and biological diversity issues, such as invasive exotic plants and animals, specific wildlife habitat, Forests with Exceptional Conservation Value, and threatened and endangered species.	NB	13						
<i>Notes</i>	See above.								

	2010-2014 Requirement	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap *</u>	<u>Likely Conf. *</u>
17.1.4	Participation in efforts to support or promote conservation of managed forests through voluntary market-based incentive programs such as current-use taxation programs, Forest Legacy Program or conservation easements.	NB	13						
<i>Notes</i>	123 Commercial Forest Act and Qualified Forest Act provide current-use tax status; Michigan DNR is involved in Forest Legacy. Crisp Point Forest Legacy Project was purchased.								

	2010-2014 Requirement	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap *</u>	<u>Likely Conf. *</u>
17.1.5	Program Participants are knowledgeable about credible regional conservation planning and priority-setting efforts that include a broad range of stakeholders and have a program to take into account the results of these efforts in planning.	NB	13						
<i>Notes</i>	13 Confirmed completion of draft regional state forest plans. A review helped confirm that these plans comprise “credible regional conservation planning and priority-setting efforts” and whether they are being implemented, or will be soon.								

	2010-2014 Requirement	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap *</u>	<u>Likely Conf. *</u>
17.2	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.	NB		13					
<i>Notes</i>	13 Michigan DNR conducts considerable outreach through its forest extension and CFM programs.								

	2010-2014 Requirement	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap *</u>	<u>Likely Conf. *</u>
17.2.1	Periodic educational opportunities promoting sustainable forestry, such as a. field tours, seminars, websites, webinars or workshops; b. educational trips; c. self-guided forest management trails; d. publication of articles, educational pamphlets or newsletters; or e. support for state, provincial, and local forestry organizations and soil and water conservation districts.	NB	13						
<i>Notes</i>	13 See above; these issues are included in the forest extension and CFM programs.								

	2010-2014 Requirement	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap *</u>	<u>Likely Conf. *</u>
17.3	Program Participants shall establish, at the state, provincial, or other appropriate levels, procedures to address concerns raised by loggers, consulting foresters, employees, unions, the public or other Program Participants regarding practices that appear inconsistent with the SFI Standard principles and objectives.	NB	13						
<i>Notes</i>	See indicators below.								

	2010-2014 Requirement	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap *</u>	<u>Likely Conf. *</u>
17.3.1	Support for SFI Implementation Committees (e.g. toll free numbers and other efforts) to address concerns about apparent nonconforming practices.	NB	13						
<i>Notes</i>	13 Overall support for SFI Implementation Committee documented elsewhere in this checklist.								

	2010-2014 Requirement	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap *</u>	<u>Likely Conf. *</u>
17.3.2	Process to receive and respond to public inquiries. SFI Implementation Committees shall submit data annually to SFI Inc. regarding concerns received and responses.	NB	13						
<i>Notes</i>	13 Confirmed by review Inconsistent Practices Section of the MI SIC SFI Annual Progress Report that a system is in place to respond to public inquiries.								

Objective 18. Public Land Management Responsibilities.

To promote and implement sustainable forest management on public lands.

	2010-2014 Requirement	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap *</u>	<u>Likely Conf. *</u>
<i>18.1</i>	Program Participants with forest management responsibilities on public lands shall participate in the development of public land planning and management processes.	NB	13						
<i>Notes</i>	See indicators below.								

	2010-2014 Requirement	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap *</u>	<u>Likely Conf. *</u>
<i>18.1.1</i>	Involvement in public land planning and management activities with appropriate governmental entities and the public.	NB	13						
<i>Notes</i>	<p>13 Michigan 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.</p> <p>The MI DNR has a web site where stakeholders can learn about proposed and planned management practices.</p>								

	2010-2014 Requirement	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap *</u>	<u>Likely Conf. *</u>
<i>18.1.2</i>	Appropriate contact with local stakeholders over forest management issues through state, provincial, federal or independent collaboration.	NB	13						
<i>Notes</i>	13 Michigan DNR provides ample opportunity for stakeholder input. Efforts includes: webinar, serious of public meetings around the state, Natural Resource Commission meetings include public involvement. MI DNR provides an email address to receive public comments.								

	2010-2014 Requirement	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap *</u>	<u>Likely Conf. *</u>
<i>18.2</i>	Program Participants with forest management responsibilities on public lands shall confer with affected indigenous peoples.	NB	13						

<i>Notes</i>	See indicator below.
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	2010-2014 Requirement	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap *</u>	<u>Likely Conf. *</u>
<i>18.2.1</i>	Program that includes communicating with affected indigenous peoples to enable Program Participants to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. understand and respect traditional forest-related knowledge; b. identify and protect spiritually, historically, or culturally important sites; and c. address the use of non-timber forest products of value to indigenous peoples in areas where Program Participants have management responsibilities on public lands. 	NB	13						
<i>Notes</i>	13 MI DNR has an active program for communicating with affected indigenous peoples including providing special opportunities to comment, direct contacts, and special meetings. On November 4, 2011 the department met to review methods used to reach out to native American tribes. Four approaches were determined: tribal coordinators invited to a FRD statewide managers meeting to present on building relationships and trust with the tribes; local FRD staff will offer to meet locally with the 7 treaty-rights tribes, further assistance by the specialists of Michigan DNR to assist FRD; and an annual meeting of the Michigan DNR tribal coordinators.								

Objective 19. Communications and Public Reporting.

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

	2010-2014 Requirement	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap *</u>	<u>Likely Conf. *</u>
<i>19.1</i>	A Certified Program Participant shall provide a summary audit report, prepared by the certification body, to SFI Inc. after the successful completion of a certification, recertification or surveillance audit to the SFI 2010-2014 Standard.	NB	13						
<i>Notes</i>	See indicators.								

	2010-2014 Requirement	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap *</u>	<u>Likely Conf. *</u>
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19.1.1	The summary audit report submitted by the <i>Program Participant</i> (one copy must be in English), shall include, at a minimum, a. a description of the audit process, <i>objectives</i> and scope; b. a description of substitute <i>indicators</i> , if any, used in the audit and a rationale for each; c. the name of <i>Program Participant</i> that was audited, including its SFI representative; d. a general description of the <i>Program Participant's</i> forestland and manufacturing operations included in the audit; e. the name of the <i>certification body</i> and <i>lead auditor</i> (names of the <i>audit team</i> members, including <i>technical experts</i> may be included at the discretion of the <i>audit team</i> and <i>Program Participant</i>); f. the dates the certification was conducted and completed; g. a summary of the findings, including general descriptions of evidence of conformity and any nonconformities and corrective action plans to address them, opportunities for improvement, and exceptional practices; and h. the certification decision.	NB	13							
Notes	13 Provided following 2012 audit and required under NSF audit protocols for this 2013 Recertification Audit.									

	2010-2014 Requirement	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap *</u>	<u>Likely Conf. *</u>	
19.2	Program Participants shall report annually to SFI Inc. on their conformance with the SFI 2010-2014 Standard.	NB	13							
Notes	See indicators below.									

	2010-2014 Requirement	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap *</u>	<u>Likely Conf. *</u>	
19.2.1	Prompt response to the SFI annual progress report.	NB	13							
Notes	13 Rachel Dierolf, Manager of Statistics and Labeling, SFI confirmed that the 2012 SFI annual progress report was provided promptly.									

	2010-2014 Requirement	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap *</u>	<u>Likely Conf. *</u>
19.2.2	Recordkeeping for all the categories of information needed for SFI annual progress reports.	NB	13						
<i>Notes</i>	13 Categories of information for the report are covered by computerized record keeping systems (databases) which appear to be kept up to date and accurate. Timber sale related records were checked for many field sites.								

	2010-2014 Requirement	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap *</u>	<u>Likely Conf. *</u>
19.2.3	Maintenance of copies of past reports to document progress and improvements to demonstrate conformance to the SFI 2010-2014 Standard.	NB	13						
<i>Notes</i>	13 Confirmed by review of prior year reports.								

Objective 20. Management Review and Continual Improvement.

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

	2010-2014 Requirement	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap *</u>	<u>Likely Conf. *</u>
<i>20.1</i>	Program Participants shall establish a management review system to examine findings and progress in implementing the SFI Standard, to make appropriate improvements in programs, and to inform their employees of changes.	NB	13						
<i>Notes</i>	13 MI DNR has a very strong management review and continual improvement program, with one opportunity for improvement described below.								

	2010-2014 Requirement	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap *</u>	<u>Likely Conf. *</u>
<i>20.1.1</i>	System to review commitments, programs and procedures to evaluate effectiveness. Note: For multi-site programs the auditing requirements of Section 9 or the ISO MD-1 requirements must be followed (see Multi-site Checklist); at a minimum internal audits or monitoring that spans all sites and addresses the relevant part of the SFI Standard is expected.	NB	13						
<i>Notes</i>	13 The system is described in the Michigan Work Instructions (Section 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, Internal audits (see 20.1.2) and Management Review (20.1.3). The Forest Certification Coordinator tracks progress on dealing with and closing all NCRs, internal or external. This has resulted in regular, and often significant, program improvements. One example from 2011 internal audits that resulted in a change to the Work Instructions was the recognition that the timeline for completion of the Regional State Forest Management Plans was not likely to be met; the timeline was updated to reflect more accurate assessment of workloads and timing.								

	2010-2014 Requirement	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap *</u>	<u>Likely Conf. *</u>
<i>20.1.2</i>	System for collecting, reviewing, and reporting information to management regarding progress in achieving SFI 2010-2014 Standard objectives and performance measures.	NB	13						
<i>Notes</i>	13 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 Gladwin (2013 Internal Audit Report 6-18-13), Grayling (2013 Internal Audit Report 6-25-13) and Pigeon River (2013 Internal Audit Report 9-18-13). They document a robust internal audit program which includes OFIs and internal NCRs. The Forest Certification Coordinator tracks NCRs using "Status" spreadsheets.								

	2010-2014 Requirement	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap *</u>	<u>Likely Conf. *</u>
20.1.3	Annual review of progress by management and determination of changes and improvements necessary to continually improve conformance to the SFI 2010-2014 Standard.	NB	13						
<i>Notes</i>	13 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 compiled a draft report on May 7, 2013. The initial report was then reviewed by the management team and finally approved by the DNR Resource Bureau Management Team on October 1, 2013. The report includes a thorough discussion of the 2012 internal and external audit results and recommendations on how improve the program and how to deal with issues identified in the audits.								

Multi-site Certification – Two Options

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

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

- a) What specific activities are planned, controlled or managed at the central office?
Budgeting, inventory, support for research, management review, policies, procedures, guidance, and management planning.
- b) For each activity, provide evidence:
See main checklist on preceding pages.

General Eligibility Criteria:

A legal or contractual link shall exist between all sites.

Yes No Evidence the authority of the Michigan DNR and the powers of the Michigan State Forester to manage these lands extend across all sites. "Sites" are considered, for purposes of this checklist, to be the Forest Management Units within which state forests have been combined for management.

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

Yes No Evidence All sites (Forest Management Units) are very similar in size, scope of activities, and use the same policies, procedures, etc.

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

Yes No Evidence Field observations confirmed that land management is carried out for the same goals and using the same procedures and tools at all sites. See main checklist.

Central Function Requirements:

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

Yes No Evidence: The commitment is documented in the Michigan DNR Director's directive to pursue dual certification (SFI and FSC) dated 10.20.10.

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

Yes No Evidence: Guidance flows through various channels, with the Forest Certification Team and the Management Review Committee (aka The Integration Committee) being central to the management of certification-related issues. The Michigan DNR has a comprehensive set of Work Instructions which detail a broad range of procedures, including provisions specific to certification. Field personnel know what they need to do. These work instructions are regularly updated, with changes communicated to the sites (FMUs).

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

Yes No Evidence Michigan DNR has the legal authority to exclude sites as needed.

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

Yes No Evidence A detailed list of lands within the scope is included in the documentation, and summarized in the scope statement.

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

Yes No Evidence Monitoring protocols are varied and widespread, with a focus on timber harvests and vegetation treatments. The internal audit program covers the complete range of issues and activities, including activities conducted at the dispersed sites (field) and those managed centrally. The internal audit program here is one of the strongest seen by the lead auditor.

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

Yes No Evidence Periodic monitoring, coupled with annual internal audits and regular monitoring, clearly meet the requirements. The auditor reviewed the Internal Audit Reports for Gladwin (2013 Internal Audit Report 6-18-13), Grayling (2013 Internal Audit Report 6-25-13) and Pigeon River (2013 Internal Audit Report 9-18-13).

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

Yes No Evidence DNR Management Review Field Meeting, May 7, 2013 (see notes under SFI Indicator 20.1.3).

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

Yes No Evidence Corrective and preventive measures stemming from the internal audits have been issued, and are revised regularly. Issues raised during third-party audits are addressed with other issues from internal audits or in various program's reviews and management processes. A review of the three internal audit reports demonstrated that internal NCRs (corrective action requests) and Observations were issued, but none were elevated to "statewide" status. Report of DNR Management Review Field Meeting and individual internal audit reports document follow-up actions.

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

Yes No Evidence All appropriate lands are included; when lands are purchased they are added as appropriate. Auditors work with Michigan DNR each year to understand scope.

Individual Site Functions and Responsibilities

Sites implement and maintain the requirements of the relevant standard.

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

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

Yes No Evidence Sites appear to comply with changes in the program driven by third-party audits, internal audits or other centrally-directed changes. Report of DNR Management Review Field Meeting and individual internal audit reports document follow-up actions.

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

Yes No Evidence Sites are compliant and cooperative with centrally-issued directives and appear to be cooperating with the internal audit program; they clearly were fully-invested in the third-party audits.

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

Yes No Evidence Responses to CARs indicate sites implement CAR plans which stem from third-party or internal audits. David Price, Forest Certification Coordinator, maintains a "CAR Tracking Form". Report of DNR Management Review Field Meeting and individual internal audit reports show that units have been responding to internal audit NCRs. Auditors reviewed some aspects of the internal audit NCRs.

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

Sampling and Non-sampling

Option 1 was selected; Option 2 questions were deleted.

End of Multi-site Checklists

Appendix IV



Field Sites

Soo Re-Certification Audit 10/7/13							
NB only							
Stop #	Start	Time	End	Comp	Name	Feature of interest	Comment
	8:00		8:00		Auditors arrive @ Naubinway FO	Office Review and FMU & District Briefs	
	8:00	180	11:00		SFI Office Review		
	11:00	60	12:00		FMU & District Briefs		
	12:00	45	12:45		Lunch @ Naubinway FO		
	12:45	15	13:00		Prepare for field		
	13:00	15	13:15		Travel to Field		
1				145	Plumber Popple	Active Final Harvest with reserves, Strickler Grouse Mgt Area. Interviewed logger, Jack Gribbell. Uses processor and forwarder. Good job debrining skid trails. No issues	Timber sale administrator - Forest Technician Cory Luoto/Wildlife Biologist Dave Jentoft
					Travel	Interview DNR staff	
2				153	Borgstrom Nomad	Aspen Final Harvest with reserves, Chipping, Hwd selection cut, completed June 2013. Good RMZ along periennial creek. Good aspen regen.	Timber sale administrator - Forest Technician Cory Luoto
					Travel	Interview DNR staff	
3				152	Missing Corner Pine RPP	Final harvest, Chipping, Site prep with herbicide and trench. Planted in Red Pine. Rodeo 52.8% 2 qts/acre. Review Forest Treatment Proposal and Pesticide Application Plan	Timber sale administrator - Forest Technician Cory Luoto/ Don Kuhr Timber Management Specialist - site prep
					Travel	Interview DNR staff = Steve Scott - fisheries.	
4				133	Fiborn Caves	Long term lease - Karst features. Cave entrance is leased to the MI Karst Conservancy.	Unit Manager - Karen Rodock
					Travel	Interview DNR staff	
5				120	BBD Resistant Beech Planting	FTP # C44-593 & PAP - Planting of BBD resistant beech cultivar planting & chemical release. .	Timber Management Specialist Don Kuhr
					Travel	Interview DNR staff	
6				142	Beech Barrens Firewood	Hwd selection cut - Beech salvage. Well marked removing beech and leaving a well stocked maple/birch stand	Timber sale administrator - Forester Matt Edison
					Travel	Interview DNR staff	
7				159/136	Hog Island State Forest Campground	Tent/RV campground on the Lake Michican shore.	Parks - Tom Paquim, District Supervisor Parks and Rec
					Return to Naubinway FO		

PRC Re-Certification/Surveillance Audit 10/8/13 - Audit Route 2 (South Route)							
Audited with Robert Hrubes							
Stop #	Start	Time	End	Comp	Name	Feature of interest	Comment
	8:00		8:00		Auditors arrive @ PRC FO	Opening Meeting and FMU & District Briefs	
	8:00	120	10:00		Opening Meeting		
	10:00	60	11:00		FMU & District Briefs		
	11:00	45	11:45		Early lunch at PRC FO		
	11:45	15	12:00		Prepare for field		
	12:00	15	12:15		Travel to Field		
1				53	Blue Paint Special Tsale	Aspen clearcut completed 9/2013. TS Proposal indicated aspen retention but none was left.	FRD staff
					Travel	Interview DNR staff	
2				53	Saunders Dam	Dam removal, stream restoration, partnerships. Headwaters of Blsck River, one of 3 Blue Ribbon Trout Streams in the forest. Partnered with Huron Pines to obtain funding.	FD staff
					Travel	Interview DNR staff	
3				50	Option 1: Super Spruce Tsale	Open timber sale, no activity yet, lowland harvest. Black spruce leaving red and white pine along edges	FRD staff
					Travel	Interview DNR staff	
4				47	2 Little Pigs Tsale	Hwd selection cut set up by contractors. Well marked. Visited a 5 ac retention area that is a known red shoulder hawk nest site.	FRD staff
					Travel	Interview DNR staff Tim, Steve and Amy Beth Greg	
					Travel	Interview DNR staff	
5				54	Option 1: Heavy Snow Hardwood Tsale	N. Hardwood selection, active sale. Interviewed logger, Gary Haskell - SFI logger certified. Will leave a nice balsam/maple stand with 80 sqft BA.	FRD staff
					Travel		
					Arrive at PRC FO		

Grayling Re-Certification/Surveillance Audit 10/9/13 - Audit Route 1						NW Crawford Co.	
Audited with Kyle Meister							
Stop #	Start	Time	End	Comp	Name	Feature of interest	Comment
	8:00		8:00		Auditors arrive @ Grayling FO	FMU Brief	
	8:00	30	8:30		FMU Brief		
	8:30	15	8:45		Prepare for field		
	8:45	20	9:05		Travel to Field		
1					Travel through Howes Lake Fire Area	Large fire burnt a lot of Kirtland warber enhanced habitat. Left areas unsalvaged for woodpeckers and research.	Sale administrator Forester Tom Barnes
					Travel	Interview DNR staff	
2				177	Sale 72-033-09-01 Howes Manistee Oak Jack Sale	Active harvest. Very good retention and no issues.	Sale administrator Forester Tom Barnes
					Travel	Interview DNR staff	
3				176	Sale 72-029-10-01 Valley Pine	Completed 3rd Red Pine thinning with little damage to residuals. JP final harvest with good retention.	Sale administrator Craig Farrer who is no longer working for MDNR. Discussed the new natural regen stocking procedure with Joan Charlebois
					Travel	Interview DNR staff	
4				169	Sale 72-038-10-01 Lost Lake Aspen	Final Harvest aspen type with wetland and water interface, sale closed. Good retention with snags and RMZ buffer along lake and outlet stream.	Sale administrator Forester Joan Charlebois
					Travel	Interview DNR staff	
5					Goose Creek SFC, Equestrian Camp, and new access site	Tour recreation site and lunch stop	
					Travel	Interview DNR staff	
6				169	DeWard Special Mgt Area and visit to recently drilled wellsite	State Frederic 12-8 Permit No. 72-402-2013. No issues - 1/10 ac mud pond.	Land Use Specialist Ken Phillips
					Travel	Interview DNR staff	
7				212	Mt Frederic RDR site	RDR #72212202006033. Interesting site with 2 large hills on both sides of public road that experienced a lot of ORV use with damage and erosion. DNR constructed barriers and regenerated with pine.	FO Jack Money, CO John Huspen
					Travel	Interview DNR staff	
8					Wellsite RDR	Well Permit no. 72-093 ST Fred A1-36 & RDR #72209202013001. Gas pad sloped downhill towards steep road, which had washed out. Road has been fixed by the gas company but water diversion has not been installed.	Land Use Specialist Ken Phillips
					Travel	Interview DNR staff	

Roscommon Re-Certification/Surveillance Audit 10/10/13 - Audit Route 1						East Tour	
Audited with Robert Hrubes							
Stop #	Start	Time	End	Comp	Name	Feature of interest	Comment
					Auditors arrive @ Roscommon FO	FMU & District Briefs	
					FMU & District Briefs		
1					602 and Sunset Road project	Road maintenance culvert replacement. Old pipe removed. Installation looks good - covered with crush and run.	Figley/Anderson
					Travel	Interview DNR staff	
2				1	Roscommon Red Pine Natural area	HCVA, Possible Type 1 Old Growth site. Very nice old growth red pine site with a trail and trail head signage.	Anderson/Ekdom/Figley
					Travel		
3					Herbicide FTP 71-887	Herbicide application in red pine plantation. Pla	Scott Throop
					Travel	Interview DNR staff	
4					Meridian Rd Road project	Road maintenance project. Put crush & run in several wallowed out spots.	Figley/Anderson
					Travel on Ogemaw Hills Snowmobile Trail past Ogemaw 5 & 6 Wildlife Openings	2 nice food plots planned in rye.	Boersen
5					Red Barrens Pine/Refuge forest fire/Meridian Rd RDR	Old RDR; closed old clay pit; barrens restoration; 2012 wildfire. Nice job of placing debris from adjoining timber sale to prevent access to an abandoned clay pit and closed road that mud bidders were destroying.	Figley/Anderson (was Lewicki's sale)
					Travel	Interview DNR staff	
				7	FSC Closing Meeting		

Pigeon River Country (PRC) Re-Certification/Surveillance Audit 10/8/13 - Audit Route 1 (North Route)					Hanowski & Meister
Stop #	Comp	Name	Feature of interest	Notes	
		Auditors arrive @ PRC FO	Opening Meeting and FMU & District Briefs		
		Opening Meeting			
		FMU & District Briefs			
1	14	Grindstone Creek Natural Area SCA	Type 2 Old Growth - Mesic Northern Forest (SCA)	Hardwood Natural area; 300 acres. No harvest zone, treatment of invasive and road management allowed to retain structure and access.	
2	9	Option 1: Campsite Road Ash/Shore to Shore Ash	Active N. Hardwood selection & ash salvage sales,	Ash salvage; observation of selection system to reduce ash density and maintain non-affected species; interview with two logging crews	
3	9	Pine Grove Campground/High Country Pathway Bridge	State Forest Campground, pathway, footbridge	In process of upgrading bridge; example of foot trail	

4	17	CCC Elk Viewing Area	Designated elk viewing area, elk management	80 acre elk viewing area; prescribed burns conducted every 3-4 years; plant annual rye and buckwheat for elk herd; elk monitoring discussion
5	35	Tomahawk Sites	Oil and Gas use, land use issues, well site restoration	Reclamation area planted with oak and jack pine to be similar to adjacent stands; objective to reduce invasive spp density
6	28	Badgerville Aspine Tsale	Open sale Red Pine shelterwood, aspen clearcut	Discussion of monitoring timber sale progress and contract completion; road access plan discussion and roadless area discussion
7	18	Clark Bridge Rd.	Natural Red Pine Reproduction	Red pine seed-tree harvest; snag and woody debris retention; discussion of retention policy on clearcuts >40 acres and director's orders
8	33	Lost Lake	Sinkhole Lake Erosion Site, RDR, conservation partners	Resource damage report area with straw wattles and downed trees installed to block trails and curb erosion into karst sinkhole.
PRC Re-Certification/Surveillance Audit 10/8/13 - Audit Route 2 (South Route)				Boatwright & Hrubes
Stop #	Comp	Name	Feature of interest	Notes
		Auditors arrive @ PRC FO	Opening Meeting and FMU & District Briefs	
		Opening Meeting		
		FMU & District Briefs		
1	53	Blue Paint Special Tsale	Recently cut timber sale, aspen clearcut	Aspen clearcut completed 9/2013. TS Proposal indicated aspen retention but none was left.
2	53	Saunders Dam	Dam removal, stream restoration, partnerships	Dam removal, stream restoration, partnerships. Headwaters of Black River, one of 3 Blue Ribbon Trout Streams in the forest. Partnered with Huron Pines to obtain funding.

3	50	Super Spruce Tsale	Open timber sale, no activity yet, lowland harvest	Open timber sale, no activity yet, lowland harvest. Black spruce leaving red and white pine along edges
4	47	2 Little Pigs Tsale	Hwd selection cut set up by contractors	Hwd selection cut set up by contractors. Well marked. Visited a 5 ac retention area that is a known red shoulder hawk nest site.
8	54	Heavy Snow Hardwood Tsale	N. Hardwood selection, active sale	N. Hardwood selection, active sale. Interviewed logger, Gary Haskell - SFI logger certified. Will leave a nice balsam/maple stand with 80 sqft BA.

Grayling Re-Certification/Surveillance Audit 10/9/13 - Audit Route 1 NW Crawford Co.				Boatwright & Meister
Stop #	Comp	Name	Feature of interest	Notes
		Auditors arrive @ Grayling FO	FMU Brief	
		FMU Brief		
1		Travel through Howes Lake Fire Area	Large fire burnt a lot of Kirtland warbler enhanced habitat. Left areas unsalvaged for woodpeckers and research.	Sale administrator Forester Tom Barnes
2	177	Sale 72-033-09-01 Howes Manistee Oak Jack Sale	Active harvest. Very good retention and no issues.	Sale administrator Forester Tom Barnes
3	176	Sale 72-029-10-01 Valley Pine	Completed 3rd Red Pine thinning with little damage to residuals. JP final harvest with good retention.	Sale administrator Craig Farrer who is no longer working for MDNR. Discussed the new natural regen stocking procedure with Joan Charlebois
4	169	Sale 72-038-10-01 Lost Lake Aspen	Final Harvest aspen type with wetland and water interface, sale closed. Good retention with snags and RMZ buffer along lake and outlet stream.	Sale administrator Forester Joan Charlebois
5		Goose Creek SFC, Equestrian Camp, and new access site	Tour recreation site and lunch stop	
6	169	DeWard Special Mgt Area and visit to recently drilled wellsite	State Frederic 12-8 Permit No. 72-402-2013. No issues - 1/10 ac mud pond.	Land Use Specialist Ken Phillips
7	212	Mt Frederic RDR site	RDR #72212202006033. Interesting site with 2 large hills on both sides of public road that experienced a lot of ORV use with damage and	FO Jack Money, CO John Huspen

			erosion. DNR constructed barriers and regenerated with pine.	
8		Wellsite RDR	Well Permit no. 72-093 ST Fred A1-36 & RDR #72209202013001. Gas pad sloped downhill towards steep road, which had washed out. Road has been fixed by the gas company but water diversion has not been installed.	Land Use Specialist Ken Phillips
9	212	Mt Frederic RDR site	RDR #72212202006033	FO Jack Money, CO John Huspen
	207/208	Compt 207 & 208 BBD #72-003-11-01	NH thin with contract open. Nice NH thin. Some skins <5% along skids trails and minor rutting which was noted on the TSI form.	
10	207	Sale 72-036-11-01 Black Canker Aspen	Aspen Final Harvest- may be active during audit. Black canker on aspen. Leaving pine and a good buffer along public road and per stream. Good retention.	Sale administrator Forester Scott Shooltz
Grayling Re-Certification/Surveillance Audit 10/9/13 - Audit Route 2 SW Crawford Co.				Hanowski & Hrubes
Stop #	Comp	Name	Feature of interest	Notes
		Auditors arrive @ Grayling FO	FMU Brief	
		FMU Brief		
1	224	Sale no. 72-021-11-01 4-Mile Oak	Final harvest oak sale, harvest done.	<p>A 27-acre oak clearcut harvested in the summer of 2013. Retention was by prescription, finalized in compartment review, and was to leave all red pine and marked scattered oak. A visual buffer was left along the highway (1.8 acres) and will be retained until the next overstory removal harvest. There were some nice pockets of advanced regeneration left on the site but, overall, retention did not exceed 3-5% of pre-harvest basal area.</p> <p>Illegal ORV use of the site was discussed. A large "tank trap" was constructed at the main entrance but there are other access points that make control of unauthorized activities very difficult.</p>

2	234	Sale 72-020-12-01 Warbler Oak	48 acre final harvest of oak stand completed in April 2013	<p>This 46.9 acre clearcut with reserves in an oak stand was completed in 2013. Red pine and oak islands were left as retention. Water bars on a steep access road were inspected and found to be sufficient in protecting soil erosion.</p> <p>Habitat enhancement techniques (“vortices” and wave patterns of disking and planting) were observed and discussed.</p>
3	234	Sale 72-044-10-01 Three Men & Warbler	KW Final Harvest, harvest recently completed and sale contract still open, Trenched under FTP W72-725 and to be planted in 2014.	<p>This 301 acre clearcut in jack pine for Kirtland’s Warbler habitat. The site was trenched following harvest and will be planted in the spring of 2014. A weave pattern was constructed to promote the formation of small openings in the dense planting that the warbler utilizes for nesting and foraging. We also observed retention vortices. Strips of mature jack pine left on the landscape that are retained to mimic natural fire patterns in the region.</p>
4		C 293 Mason Tract Herbicide Application	FTP 72-711 + PAP for barberry eradication	<p>This 5 acre area was treated with Rodeo (glyphosate) to eradicate Japanese Barberry. The site had a detailed pesticide application plan and the treatment was completed by a licensed applicator, a DNR employee, who demonstrated a solid understanding of the FSC pesticide use policies. The auditors confirmed that the applicator had checked the approved chemical list and had posted signs in the area before applying the herbicide.</p>
Unscheduled stop				<p>Canoe Harbor SFC (cedar plantings and in-stream structure placement)</p> <p>A citizens group “Cedars for Au Sable” has been planting young white cedars in riparian areas along both the Au Sable and Manistee Rivers. The groups are associated with Trout Unlimited and the Sierra Club. Locations for the plantings were selected by foresters and trees have had up to 90% viability.</p>

5		Woody Debris Fisheries Habitat Project	FTP F72-726	Division of Forestry cooperated with fisheries to identify sites where whole trees could be harvested for use in an in stream fish habitat improvement project on the Au Sable River. A helicopter was used to pick the trees up and strategically place them along an 11 mile stretch of stream to create trout habitat.
6	297	Sale 72-046-11-01 Thayer Creek Mix	Final harvest of aspen and Q types, contains a wet sale unit and interfaces with wetland. Partly harvested. May be active during audit.	This active sale was an oak/aspen clearcut with reserves. This site had a 150 foot no-cut buffer along a stream and retention trees were marked based on vigor. Wolfy trees are also commonly marked for retention. We interviewed Marty Muma, an employee of Chris Muma. He had good training (they are required to have at least 8 hours/year) and there was appropriate spill clean-up and first aid equipment located in a trailer on the site.
7	297	Sale 72-050-11-01 Durant Durant Remix	Final harvest, sale recently completed and closed	An aspen clearcut recently completed with red, white and jack pine retention. There were also three retention islands and a boundary line retention in a riparian buffer along Thayer Creek. The 150 ft wide buffer had balsam fir and aspen. Riparian buffers are prescribed dependent upon the stream type.
8	193	Sale no 72-014-10-01 Big Pine Small Aspen Sale	Final harvest red pine and aspen, one unit cut, one unit turned back in and is in process of being readvertised.	<p>This site was an overstory removal of red pine and aspen. The goal is to regenerate aspen. The purchaser had piled up tops for a biomass chipping but went out of business before completing the task, defaulting on the contract. The piles remain on the site despite efforts to have them burned (could not complete due to power line and oil/gas line issues). One of the two stands that were purchased by the contractor was not harvested and will be put up for rebid that includes chipping the brush piles. A reduced bid price will be put on the new sale to entice bidders.</p> <p>A discussion ensued about the inadequacy of the performance bond—5%--to protect the state's interests in the event of contract</p>

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Roscommon Re-Certification/Surveillance Audit 10/10/13 - Audit Route 1 East Tour				Boatwright & Hrubes
Stop #	Comp	Name	Feature of interest	Notes
		Auditors arrive @ Roscommon FO	FMU & District Briefs	
		FMU & District Briefs		
1		602 and Sunset Road project	Road maintenance culvert replacement	A 14"-16" replacement culvert was installed. Installation was completed effectively. Dale ---- is to be commended for his efforts to retrieve some litter, as he ended up in mud up to his hips and needed help in being extricated.
2	1	Roscommon Red Pine Natural area	HCVA, Possible Type 1 Old Growth site	This area requires a State of Michigan recreational user's Passport for access. This site, near a community college, receives limited use but it nonetheless is a notable example of the diversity of values the DNR is managing for.
3		Herbicide FTP 71-887	Herbicide application in red pine plantation	Contractor: Skyline. Chemical herbicide: glyphosate. Applied by helicopter in the fall, in part due to logistics. Some snags were retained despite desire of helicopter pilot to have no retention. The operation, overall, demonstrated conformance with Indicator 6.6.d. A side-issue was raised and discussed at this stop: the County requested authorization to aerially apply permethrin on the state forests. As this chemical is on the FSC prohibited list, DNR appropriately denied the request but the County is continuing to seek authorization.

4		Meridian Rd Road project	Road maintenance project	The main focus of this stop was wildlife plots planted with rye in an effort to build up the soil layer. Rape seed and turnip were also planted. Targeted wildlife species are deer and turkey. Seed mix was checked to be sure it did not contain GMOs. Invasive issue on this site--spotted knapweed. Across the road, a poorly stocked clearcut site was examined on an impromptu basis. Issue: the unit has been understocked and essentially non-productive for approximately 10 years.
5		Red Barrens Pine/Refuge forest fire/Meridian Rd RDR	Old RDR; closed old clay pit; barrens restoration; 2012 wildfire	Pine Barrens restoration project--harvested in 2010. A wildfire in Spring 2011 burned up most of the project area.
6		St Helen Township Park Lunch	SF land leased to township	Discussion of ORV use on the state forests as well as importance of outdoor recreation to the local economy.
7	87	Option 1: Clay Bottom Aspen and Road TSale	Road maintenance project; aspen clearcut open but ready to close	Not visited
	89	Option 2: Russell Lake Aspen Tsale	Active aspen clearcut	Final harvest of 70 acres. Leave trees: pine and oak. Overall, retention levels were not impressive except in one perimeter retention area. A vernal pool was not adequately protected, violating BMPs. There was also a hydraulic fluid spill that was not attended to, also violating BMPs and terms of the sale contract--both situations constitute FSC Non-Conformities.
	7	FSC Closing Meeting		
Roscommon Re-Certification/Surveillance Audit 10/10/13 - Audit Route 2 West Tour				Hanowski & Meister
Stop #	Comp	Name	Feature of interest	Notes
		Auditors arrive @ Roscommon FO	FMU & District Briefs	
		FMU & District Briefs		
1		Everett Rd RDR	RDR Project	Discussion of recreation management. Camp access restricted through barrier installation to reduce ORV effects to camp sites and streams.

2	64	Beyond 20 Timber Sale	Oak selection and aspen CC sale, not active	Two harvest areas involving harvest near adjacent private land; discussion of oak thinning and regeneration strategy
3	69	Alligator Ash Timber Sale	Ash salvage sale, wet area, not active	Sale closed due to rutting. Attempts at wet and dry season logging. DNR will examine alternatives for this site.
4		RDR near US 127	Illegal ORV use	Signage installed, damaged site planted and road upgraded to accommodate ORV use while restricting access to productive forest.
5	78	Reedsburg Mix Timber Sale	Closed jack pine sale, wet area	Oak and overstory jack pine retention in clumps and individuals; winter logged for regeneration objectives (stump sprouting)
6	151	402 Aspen Tsale	Aspen final harvest, not active	Group and individual tree retention in aspen clearcut (3-10% area retention). Retain larger aspens at sale boundary
7	115	Porcupine Red Pine Tsale	Closed Red Pine thinning	2nd thinning of Red pine stand; work with adjacent landowners on access and road upgrade. Retain midstory oaks and other hardwoods for diversity.
		Arrive at Roscommon FO		
		FSC Closing Meeting		

Appendix V



SFI Reporting Form (no other changes)

Scope: SFI Objectives 1-7 and 14-20 on 4 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.

Reporting Guidelines for a SFI 2010-2014 or CSA Z809 Certificate

Certification bodies are asked to complete this form with input from the organization having achieved certification to SFI 2010-2014 or CSA Z809. The form should be reviewed and revised as appropriate during surveillance audits. **Certification bodies are asked to send a copy of the certificate and the completed form to Rachel Dierolf (rachel.dierolf@sfi-program.org).** Reporting SFI and CSA information in the form is a requirement of PEFC International and will be included on the PEFC International searchable database. Once SFI certificates and the following form are received, companies are provided with access and guidelines for logo use and all SFI certificates are listed on the SFI website. Rachel Dierolf is responsible for tracking and reporting forest management and chain of custody statistics on behalf of PEFC US and PEFC Canada to PEFC International.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Certified Organization		Michigan Department of Natural Resources		
Organization Main Contact		Debbie Begalle		
Address	Street, No.	530 W. Allegan St	Zip/Postal Code	48933
	City, State/Province	Lansing, MI	Country	USA
Telephone		517.335.3354	Fax	517.373.2443
E-mail		begalled@michigan.gov	Web	

CERTIFIED FOREST INFORMATION

Forest Certification achieved (mark one)	SFI 2010-2014	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	SFI 2010-2014 Section 2 only	<input type="checkbox"/>
	CSA Z809	<input type="checkbox"/>
Forest area (to which certification applies)¹	State/Province MI 4,000,000 acres/hectares (circle one) ²	
Is this same area certified to another forest management standard?	Yes/No (circle) If Yes, to which standard: <input type="checkbox"/> CSA <input type="checkbox"/> SFI <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FSC	Land Ownership 100% public land
Canada Only: What percentage of certified land is located in the Boreal?	% ___ Boreal	AAC in m³ (AAC to which certification applies. For private lands use annual average harvest)

DATA VERIFICATION

Certified Organization Representative <i>I agree that the information listed above is accurate. Any changes will be communicated to SFI Inc.</i>	Signature: <i>David Price</i>	Date: 12/05/13
	Name (Printed): David Price	(mm/dd/yy)
Certification Body Representative <i>I agree that the information listed above is accurate. Any changes will be communicated to SFI Inc.</i>	Signature: <i>Norman Boatwright</i>	Date: 12/04/13
	Name (Printed): Norman Boatwright	(mm/dd/yy)

CERTIFICATE INFORMATION (Certification Body Office Use Only)

Certificate Number		CB Name	NSF-ISR
Certificate Issue Date	(mm/dd/yy)	Certificate Expiry Date	(mm/dd/yy)
Text in Scope Line of Certificate	SFI Objectives 1-7 and 14-20 on 4 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		

¹ Please refer to Principles on pages 2-3 on Reporting Guidelines

² Please list by State/Province if certificate covers forestland located in more than one state or province for accounting purposes.

Add as required.

³ Please refer to Principle 6 for AAC reporting guidelines

Reporting Guidelines for a SFI 2010-2014 or CSA Z809 Certificate

	compartment review process are not included in the scope of the certificate. The SFI Certificate Number is NSF-SFIS-5Y031.	
# of Sites and Locations Certified		
CSA Only: Notification Fee collected and paid to PEFC Canada	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No

North America

- **Principle 1 – Changes to certification status.** Please report certifications, de-certifications, as well as changes to the scope of a certification or in ownership as soon as you are aware of this status. In the case of a change of ownership, the new entity's certification will only be included when a certificate is issued in the new organization's name by an accredited certification body.
- **Principle 2 - Reporting Frequency.** The certification bodies are responsible to complete the reporting form at the time of a certification audit, surveillance audit and/or a recertification audit. The completed form and copy of certificate should be forwarded to rachel.dierolf@sfiprogram.org. Organizations should remind and/or encourage this reporting by their certification body to ensure their achievements are recorded on status reports and search engines noted on page 1.
- **Principle 3 - Continual Improvement** – If you would like to propose a new reporting rule or a change to reporting rules that you feel will benefit the transparency and consistency of reporting Canada-wide or in your province, all suggestions are welcome and will be considered. Likewise, if you are aware of a certification that appears to be reported incorrectly, or not in a manner consistent with the principles above, please bring it to my attention so that I can work with the organizations involved to ensure consistent and accurate reporting.
- **Principle 4 – Forest Area Certified vs. Procured Wood** - In the case of a SFI forest certification, procured wood and the associated landbase is NOT to be included in the area reported. Only forests that have been certified against all of the SFI 2005-2009 or SFI 2010-2014 standard objectives are to be reported.
- **Principle 5– Document any variances in principles.** Reasonable exceptions to these reporting principles will be considered. Submit an explanation and rationale for a proposed exception along with a short footnote to potentially be included in the status report to explain the exception, as appropriate.

Canada Specific

- **Principle 6 – Forest area (to which certification applies).** Gross area includes productive and non-productive lands (i.e. the license area on crown lands). The rationale being that forest managers are responsible for management and conservation of biodiversity, wildlife habitat, soil and water quality maintenance – all of this is relevant in promoting sustainable forest management objectives. Protected areas are included in the gross area reported if the protected area is included within the certified forest area (CFA) / defined forest area (DFA) boundaries. If private land is embedded within an organization's license area, then that land should be excluded from the reported gross area unless that land is part of the CFA/DFA to which the certification applies and the owner is aware of this fact.
- **Principle 7 – Align the area reported in this report against others in the same operating area.** When several CFAs/DFAs are part of a larger forest management area, such as a timber supply area (TSA) in B.C., or a CAAF (Forest Management Agreements) in QC, the total area reported for the various CFAs/DFAs must not be greater than the total area of the larger forest management area of which the CFAs/DFAs are a part. To ensure this is the case, it is requested that a certificate holder, usually the largest certificate holder in terms of hectares certified, take the lead to ensuring that the total cumulative area reported as certified across the various CFAs/DFAs does not exceed the larger forest management area (e.g. TSA/CAAF). Where an inconsistency is noted, please bring it to my attention (rachel.dierolf@sfiprogram.org) for further investigation and clarification.

- **Principle 8 – Volume-based areas are prorated based on cut.** The area to be calculated is based on the % cut allocation. For example, if the total volume-based area is 1,000,000 hectares, with an AAC of 2,000,000 m³, and the organization reporting a certification has 25% of the AAC (500,000 m³) then the organization should claim 25% of the area or 250,000 hectares.
- **Principle 9 – Overlapping areas are prorated based on cut.** Refer to Principle above.
- **Principle 10 – Fluctuating volumes related to AAC are expected and accepted.** Volumes can fluctuate for a variety of reasons including but not limited to beetle uplifts, clawbacks, new allocations, temporary AAC reductions and so forth. Please report changes to volumes at the time they come into effect for your operation and to the extent that they apply to the CFA/DFA.