

Michigan Department of Natural Resources

525 West Allegan Street
Lansing, MI 48909-7952

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

Surveillance Audit



NSF International

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NSF Forestry Program Audit Report

A. Certificate Holder

Michigan Department of Natural Resources

NSF Customer Number

5Y031

Contact Information (Name, Title, Phone & Email)

David Price, Section Manager, Forest Planning and Operations, 517-284-5891, priced1@michigan.gov

B. Scope of Certification

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

The SFI Forest Management number is NSF-SFI-FM-5Y031.

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

C. Audit Team

Mike Ferrucci, NSF Lead Auditor; Beth Jacquain, FSC Lead Auditor

Audit Dates

Tuesday, October 9, 2018 – Introductions, Program Overview

Wednesday, October 10, 2018 – Roscommon FMU

Thursdays, October 11, 2018 – Grayling FMU

Friday, October 12, 2018 – Sault Ste. Marie – West FMU

D. Significant Changes to Operations or to the Standard

2018 Michigan Forestry BMP Practices for Soil and Water Quality; Strategic Plan Revision is underway

E. Audit Results

No nonconformities or opportunities for improvement were identified.

There was one opportunity for improvement identified.

There is an Opportunity for Improvement of the maintenance program for the permanent road system.

Issues identified at previous audits reviewed for continued conformance.

Soil disturbance, compaction and rutting; application of BMPs; roads; development of ERA plans

Yes No N/A (not using)

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

F. Appendices

[Appendix 1:](#) Audit Notification Letter and Audit Agenda

[Appendix 2:](#) SFI Forest Management Public Summary Report

[Appendix 3:](#) Audit Standard Checklist - SFI Forest Management Standard

[Appendix 4:](#) Site Visit Notes

[Appendix 5:](#) Meeting Attendance



Appendix 1

Audit Notification Letter and Audit Agenda

August 30, 2018

Keith Kintigh, Forest Conservation and Certification Specialist, Forest Resources Division
Michigan Department of Natural Resources, Gaylord Customer Service Center
1732 W. M-32nd
Gaylord, MI 49735

Re: Confirmation of 2018 SFI and FSC Surveillance Audits, Michigan DNR

Dear Mr. Kintigh:

As we have discussed, we are scheduled to conduct the Annual Surveillance Audits of the Michigan DNR on Tuesday October 9th through Friday October 12th 2018. These audits will include the Roscommon, Grayling, and Sault Ste. Marie Forest Management Units.

This is a partial review of your SFI Program to confirm that it continues to be in conformance with the SFI 2015-2019 Standards and Rules, Section 2 and that continual improvement is being made. The audit also includes a similar review of the FSC Requirements. The FSC audit will be described in more detail in a separate document provided by SCS.

The audit team will consist of Mike Ferrucci, NSF Lead Auditor and Beth Jacquemain, SCS Lead Auditor.

We have worked together to develop a tentative schedule, provided on the final page.

FSC Program: Audit plan provided separately.

Both Programs:

- A review of the outstanding findings from the 2017 Surveillance Audit.
- 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 2018:

Review progress on achieving SFI objectives and performance measures and continual improvement as well as the results of the management review of your SFI Program.

- Review logo and/or label use;
- Confirm public availability of public reports;
- Evaluate the multi-site requirements;
- Field reviews covering relevant aspects of SFI Objectives 2, 3, 5, 6 and 7 (depending on characteristics of sites selected) and a portion of the non-field components of your SFI program, including:
 - Performance Measure 2.1: Program Participants shall promptly reforest after final harvest.
 - Performance Measure 2.2: Program Participants shall minimize chemical use required to achieve management objectives while protecting employees, neighbors, the public and the environment, including wildlife and aquatic habitats.
 - Performance Measure 2.3: Program Participants shall implement forest management practices to protect and maintain forest and soil productivity.
 - Performance Measure 2.4: Program Participants shall manage so as to protect forests from damaging agents, such as environmentally or economically undesirable wildfire, pests, diseases and invasive exotic plants and animals, to maintain and improve long-term forest health, productivity and economic viability.

- Performance Measure 2.5: Program Participants that deploy improved planting stock, including varietal seedlings, shall use best scientific methods.
- Performance Measure 3.1: Program Participants shall meet or exceed all applicable federal, provincial, state and local water quality laws, and meet or exceed best management practices developed under Canadian or U.S. Environmental Protection Agency–approved water quality programs.
- Performance Measure 3.2: Program Participants shall implement water, wetland and riparian protection measures based on soil type, terrain, vegetation, ecological function, harvesting system, state best management practices (BMPs), provincial guidelines and other applicable factors.
- Performance Measure 5.1: Program Participants shall manage the impact of harvesting on visual quality.
- Performance Measure 5.2: Program Participants shall manage the size, shape and placement of clearcut harvests.
- Performance Measure 5.3: Program Participants shall adopt a green-up requirement or alternative methods that provide for visual quality.
- Performance Measure 5.4: Program Participants shall support and promote recreational opportunities for the public.
- Performance Measure 6.1: Program Participants shall identify special sites and manage them in a manner appropriate for their unique features.
- Performance Measure 7.1: Program Participants shall employ appropriate forest harvesting technology and in-woods manufacturing processes and practices to minimize waste and ensure efficient utilization of harvested trees, where consistent with other SFI Standard objectives.
- Performance Measure 8.1: Program Participants shall recognize and respect Indigenous Peoples’ rights.
- Performance Measure 8.2: Program Participants with forest management responsibilities on public lands shall confer with affected Indigenous Peoples with respect to sustainable forest management practices.
- Performance Measure 8.3: Program Participants are encouraged to communicate with and shall respond to local Indigenous Peoples with respect to sustainable forest management practices on their private lands.
- Performance Measure 10.3: Program Participants shall individually and/or through cooperative efforts involving SFI Implementation Committees, associations or other partners broaden the awareness of climate change impacts on forests, wildlife and biological diversity.
- Performance Measure 11.1, Indicator 3: Staff education and training sufficient to their roles and responsibilities.
- Performance Measure 12.1: Program Participants shall support and promote efforts by consulting foresters, state, provincial and federal agencies, state or local groups, professional societies, conservation organizations, Indigenous Peoples and governments, community groups, sporting organizations, labor, universities, extension agencies, the American Tree Farm System® and/or other landowner cooperative programs to apply principles of sustainable forest management.
- Performance Measure 12.2: Program Participants shall support mechanisms for public outreach, education and involvement related to sustainable forest management
- Performance Measure 12.3: Program Participants shall support 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.
- Performance Measure 13.1: Program Participants with forest management responsibilities on public lands shall participate in the development of public land planning and management processes.
- Performance Measure 14.1: A Program Participant shall provide a summary audit report, prepared by the certification body, to SFI Inc. after the successful completion of a certification, recertification or surveillance audit to the SFI 2015-2019 Forest Management Standard.
- Performance Measure 14.2: Program Participants shall report annually to SFI Inc. on their conformance with the SFI 2015-2019 Forest Management Standard.
- Performance Measure 15.1: Program Participants shall establish a management review system to examine findings and progress in implementing the SFI 2015-2019 Forest Management Standard, to make appropriate improvements in programs, and to inform their employees of changes.

Multi-Site Sampling Plan

The DNR is being audited as a multi-site organization per requirements for the SFI 2015-2019 Standards and Rules, Section 5: - Rules for Use of SFI On-Product Labels and Off-Product Marks and Section 9: Annex 1 - Audits of Multi-Site Organizations. There are 15 Forest Management Units. This Surveillance Audit must cover the requirements of the central organization and 3 of the FMUs selected. These sites were selected based on proximity and due to length of time since previous audits.

Logistics



- Please arrange for lunches each day.
- 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 will provide additional information. The lead auditors will narrow the selections and will request additional suggested sites based on the location of those selections. We would ask that your unit staff develop an appropriate itinerary for each day. On the day of each site audit we would ask your local forestry staff to tell us about any sales that are being worked at that time, and we would add one or two of these if possible. Thus there may be more sites than we can get to, so the lead auditors will help shorten the list if needed.

Documentation Requested

When we arrive each day please provide documentation for the selected sites as was done during the previous audits (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 (in advance, to the extent possible):

- Documentation for Internal Audit Reports and Management Review
- Procedures/work instructions
- For each unit visited training records for 2-3 staff including one most-recent full-time person and one person with 5-15 years' experience
- SFI Annual Report, normally provided to SFI in the first quarter
- 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 me.

Sincerely yours,

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

Mike Ferrucci, 203-887-9248, mferrucci@iforest.com



Audit Plan: 2018 SFI and FSC Surveillance Audit Michigan Department of Natural Resources October 9-12

Tuesday, October 9, 2018 – Travel Day

Mike Ferrucci (SFI) will be met by MI DNR staff at Cherry Capital Airport (Delta Flight DL3613) then transit to hotel in Traverse City. Beth Jacqmain (FSC) arrangements to be determined. Dinner together if logistics allow.

Wednesday, October 10, 2018 – Roscommon FMU

- 0630 Depart Hotel in TC
- 0800 Opening Meeting – MDNR Roscommon Customer Service Center
- 1000 Prepare for field
- 1030 Field. One audit team first day
- 1700 Transit to hotel in Grayling
- Evening Dinner

Thursday, October 11, 2018 – Grayling FMU

- 0745 Depart Hotel for Grayling Field Office
- 0800 Baraga FMU Overview
- 0830 Prepare for field
- 0900 Field: Two audit teams
- 1700 Transit to hotel in St. Ignace
- Evening Dinner

Friday, October 12, 2018 – Sault Ste. Marie – West FMU

- 0700 Depart Hotel for Nabinway Field Office
- 0800 Sault Ste. Marie FMU Overview
- 0830 Prepare for field
- 0900 Field: Two audit teams
- 1530 Closing meeting – TBD
- 1700 Return to Lower Peninsula

Departing Travel

Keith Kintigh will drop Mike Ferrucci to hotel near Pellston Airport (6:30 AM departure the following day) and will return Beth Jacqmain to the hotel in Traverse City

Ferrucci: Delta Flight DL7369 departs 6:37 AM, Emmet County Airport, Pellston, Michigan, USA

Appendix 2

Michigan Department of Natural Resources 2018 SFI Forest Management Public Summary Report

Introduction

The Sustainable Forestry Initiative® (SFI) Program of the Michigan DNR has achieved continuing conformance with the SFI 2015-2019 Standards and Rules, Sections 2 and 5 according to the NSF audit process.

NSF initially certified Michigan DNR to the SFI Standard in 2005 and recertified the organization on November 9, 2010, October 11, 2013 and on October 2, 2015 (out of phase recertification). This report describes the third surveillance audit since the 2015 recertification. This audit was designed to focus on changes in operations and practices, the management review system, and efforts to resolve past non-conformances and to respond to identified "Opportunities for Improvement". In addition, a portion of SFI the requirements were selected for detailed review this year.

The audit was performed by NSF on October 10-12, 2018 by an audit team headed by Mike Ferrucci, SFI Lead Auditor and Beth Jacquain, FSC Lead Auditor. Audit team members fulfill the qualification criteria for conducting SFI audits of Section 9. SFI 2015-2019 Audit Procedures and Auditor Qualifications and Accreditation.

The objective of the audit was to assess conformance of the firm's SFI Program to the requirements of the SFI 2015-2019 Standards and Rules, Sections 2 – Fiber Sourcing and 5 – Label Use.

The scope of the 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 2017. Practices conducted earlier were also reviewed as appropriate (regeneration and BMP issues, for example). In addition, all of the SFI obligations to promote sustainable forestry practices (to ensure appropriate training of people involved in the forest management program, to seek legal compliance, and to incorporate continual improvement systems) were reexamined during the audit. Use of the SFI logo and the requirement to provide public access to audit reports were also reviewed.

The audit reviewed the central management and field practices at three of the fifteen Forest Management Units (FMUs): Roscommon FMU, Grayling FMU and Sault Ste. Marie FMU.

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

Indicator 2.1.3 involving planting exotic species

Indicator 10.1.2 involving research on genetically engineered trees

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

Scope

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

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

Overview of Michigan DNR's Lands and Sustainable Forestry Programs

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

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

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

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 3.9 million acre state forest system administered by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR).

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

1. Identification of the interests of local communities, outdoor recreation interests, the tourism industry, and the forest products industry, which are addressed in Section 3 of the plan.
2. Identification of the annual production capability of the state forest and management goals based on that level of productivity, which are addressed in Sections 3, 4 and 5 of the plan.
3. Methods to promote and encourage the use of the state forest for outdoor recreation, tourism, and the forest products industry, which are addressed in Sections 3, 4 and 5 of the plan.
4. A landscape management plan for the state forest incorporating biodiversity conservation goals, indicators, and measures, which are addressed in Sections 4 and 5 of the plan.
5. Standards for sustainable forestry consistent with section 52502 of Part 525, which are addressed in Sections 4 and 5 of the plan.
6. Identification of environmentally sensitive areas, which is addressed in Sect. 5 of the plan.
7. Identification of the need for forest treatments to maintain and sustain healthy, vigorous forest vegetation and quality habitat for wildlife and environmentally sensitive species, which are addressed in Sections 4 and 5 of the plan.

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

Timber harvest trends differ by species. FY 2017 state forest harvests were 49,744 acres, producing 674,300 cords. The current conditions and trends for the state forest as a whole indicate that the annual production capacity for timber harvests will remain similar to what it has been or slightly increased. Harvests have predominantly occurred in five cover types: the aspen association, jack pine, the oak association, red pine, and northern hardwoods. The occurrence of the emerald ash borer, beech bark disease and oak wilt have caused harvest plans to be altered as ash and beech are being removed on harvest sites in infected areas. Special management prescriptions are being used to manage oak wilt.

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

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

ecosystems, which may be expressed by potential major ecological changes in the composition of native forest communities and substantial economic effects.

Forest recreation now involves year-round use, as the popularity increases for spring activities such as fishing for migratory steelhead, wild turkey and mushroom hunting, off-road vehicle (ORV) riding and for many winter sports such as snowmobiling, skiing, and ice fishing. This diversified activity provides year-round benefits to many local economies that were previously more seasonal in nature. Wildlife viewing, ORV, and snowmobile riding have grown in the past decade. The use of state forest campgrounds has been relatively stable over the past four years, with most use occurring in the Northern Lower Peninsula ecoregion.”

Status of Current Operations Systems

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

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

Status of Planning

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

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

Policy & Procedures

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

Forest Certification Work Instructions

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

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

Surveillance Audit Process

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

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

The multi-site certificate covers 15 total Forest Management Units (FMUs). The 2018 audit included office reviews of the central office and FMU office functions and field reviews in 3 FMUs. These units were selected by a date rotation. This sample size was determined using the guidelines set forth in IAF-MD1.

Within the three selected FMUs NSF's lead auditor selected field sites for inspection based upon the risk of environmental impact, likelihood of occurrence, special features, and other criteria outlined in NSF's protocols. Fifty-one (51) discrete field visit stops were visited and assessed during the 3 day audit, including 20 completed timber harvest blocks, 6 active timber harvest blocks, 12 planned, sold timber harvest blocks with no harvest activity yet, 7 roads, 1 road wetland crossing, 11 sections of recreational trail (most near harvests), 3 other recreation sites, 4 burn units, 5 planting/mechanical site preparation sites, 6 chemical site preparation or release sites, 4 sites for leasing/other land management/boundaries, 1 research site, and 6 special sites (many field visit stops fit into more than one category). Auditors also observed extensive sections of state forest while traveling between field stops, but it is not possible to quantify this portion of the sample into discrete field sites.

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

Overview of Audit Findings

The SFI Program of the Michigan DNR has achieved continuing conformance with SFI 2015-2019 Standard and Rules®, Sections 2 and 5, according to the NSF SFIS Certification Audit Process. No minor non-conformances, one opportunity for improvement and five areas where the program exceeds the standard were identified:

Review of 2017 Surveillance Audit Findings and Disposition in 2018 Surveillance Audit

Minor Non-conformance 2017-01: Baraga Quattro's First Timber Sale (Sale Number 11-013-16), Units 5 and 6 had multiple sections of skid trails with rutting that exceeds the MDNR's limit of rutting which is 12-inches deep by 50 feet long. The rutting was not noted in sale administration notes nor was there any evidence of attempts to repair the ruts. Also on the Gwinn Yellow Rock East timber sale, Unit 3, deep but "acceptable" rutting was observed in many locations within the cutting unit, with one location where the limit (both depth and length) was exceeded. Information from the department on these sites was reviewed and the rutting and disturbance were addressed.

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

Minor Non-conformance 2017-02: The road drainage provisions on Little Garlic Forest Road, Gwinn Management Unit were not maintained per Michigan BMPs for "Road Management Measures on Active Timber Sales for Permanent and Temporary Roads", notably the fourth bullet on page 38: "Perform maintenance when conditions warrant, including ... sedimentation control structures." The auditor observed many potholes (some large), surface water ponding, lack of road crown, some surface road unraveling, and inadequate ditching. The road was repaired with grading and addition of road surface material, bringing the road to BMP standards.

SFI Performance Measure 3.1 states: "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.

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

2017 Opportunity for Improvement

There was an Opportunity for Improvement related to implementation of existing department and division policies and procedures on training plans. The program implemented several training efforts including sale administration, biodiversity training, and other efforts to ensure knowledge of Work Instructions.

SFI Indicator 11.1.3 requires "Staff education and training sufficient to their roles and responsibilities."

2018 Opportunity for Improvement:

There is an Opportunity for Improvement to the maintenance program for the permanent road system.

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

2018 Exceptional Practices:

SFI Indicator 5.4.1: Provide recreational opportunities for the public, where consistent with forest management objectives.

Michigan DNR's Program is exceptional by providing an extensive range of quality recreational activities within and associated with their forests and lands.

SFI Indicator 12.2.1: Periodic educational opportunities promoting sustainable forestry

MDNR is implementing an exceptional range of programs for public outreach, education and involvement related to sustainable forest management.

SFI Indicator 13.1.1: Involvement in public land planning and management activities with appropriate governmental entities and the public.

Michigan DNR's Forest Resource Division engages in an exceptional amount of involvement with and support for land planning and management activities on public lands.

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

MDNR has developed an exceptional program for contact with local stakeholders over forest management issues.

The next audit is a surveillance audit, scheduled for October, 2018. This will be a review of a portion of the standard covering central office functions and operations at three of the fifteen Forest Management Units.

General Description of Evidence of Conformity

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

Objective 1. Forest Management Planning - To ensure forest management plans include long-term sustainable harvest levels and measures to avoid forest conversion.

Summary of Evidence – The 2008 Michigan State Forest Management Plan with 2014 Amendments, Compartment Plans for all compartments visited, the state's Wildlife Division Strategic Plan, plans for Ecological Reference Areas, Forest Treatment Proposals, and many other plans supporting particular species, species groups, issues or sites, the associated inventory data and growth models, and progress on the Regional State Forest Management Plans were sufficient to determine conformance with the requirements of Objective 1.

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

Summary of Evidence – Field observations and associated records were used to confirm practices. Michigan Department of Natural Resources has programs for reforestation, for protection against wildfire and against many insects and diseases including Emerald Ash Borer, Beech Bark Disease, Gypsy Moth, and for careful management of activities which could potentially impact soil and long-term productivity.

Objective 3. Protection and Maintenance of Water Resources - To protect the water quality of rivers, streams, lakes, wetlands and other water bodies through meeting or exceeding best management practices.

Summary of Evidence – Field observations of a range of sites were the key evidence. Auditors visited the portions of many field sites that were close to water resources, based on a field sample that was oriented heavily towards such sites. Harvest prescriptions and plans, sale contracts, sale administration procedures, and harvest inspection notes document a robust process for protecting water quality.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Summary of Evidence: *This Objective was not reviewed in 2017. The agency's attempts to solicit input from Indigenous Peoples provided the key evidence in past audit.*

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

Summary of Evidence – *This Objective was not reviewed in 2017. Field reviews of ongoing and completed operations were the most critical evidence provided the key evidence in past audits.*

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

Summary of Evidence – *Interviews and review of background research papers provided evidence for Performance Measure 10.3. The remainder of this Objective was not reviewed in 2017. In past audits financial records were confirmed, and some field research sites were visited.*

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

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

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

Summary of Evidence – *The audit showed that Michigan DNR has an extensive program of outreach and landowner education, including a newly-redesigned website containing an enormous amount of information. Of note is the superb "Mi State Forest Map" tool, an ARCGIS-based map viewing tool that allows users to easily determine, for any location or address, general information about proposed or ongoing forest management activities, with links to the Michigan DNR Forestry Page or Special Management Areas page for more information. Evidence was provided that Michigan DNR is active in the MI SIC.*

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

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

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

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

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

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

Relevance of Forestry Certification

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

1. Sustainable Forestry

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

2. Forest Productivity and Health

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

3. Protection of Water Resources

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

4. Protection of Biological Diversity

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

5. Aesthetics and Recreation

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

6. Protection of Special Sites

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

7. Responsible Fiber Sourcing Practices in North America

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

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

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

9. Legal Compliance

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

10. Research

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

11. Training and Education

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

12. Public Involvement

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

13. Transparency

To broaden the understanding of forest certification to the SFI 2015-2019 Standard by documenting certification audits and making the findings publicly available.

14. Continual Improvement

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

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

For Additional Information Contact

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(End of Public Summary Report)



Appendix 3

SFI 2015-2019 Forest Management Standard Audit Checklist

FRS# 5Y031– Michigan Department of Natural Resources

Date of audit: October 10-12, 2017

Auditor: Mike Ferrucci

1.2 Additional Requirements

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

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

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

Audit Notes: The Department does not source fiber to support a forest products facility within scope.

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

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

Audit Notes: 2018: Michigan DNR’s redesigned public-facing website at www. http://michigan.gov/forestry includes a “certification” web page. The logo use on this page was approved by SFI through the on-line logo approval tool.

2017: The SFI Trademark on the Michigan DNR’s website now has the required license code http://www.michigan.gov/dnr/0,4570,7-153-30301_30505_33360---.00.html . The 2016 Minor NC has been resolved, closed, and confirmed. The web page with the SFI Trademark also has a link to the SFI’s website, which is a recommended good practice (it helps further explain the standard).

2016: The DNR used the SFI Trademark on its website without the required license code.

Objective 1 Forest Management Planning

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

Performance Measure 1.1

Program Participants shall ensure that forest management plans include *long-term* harvest levels that are sustainable and consistent with appropriate *growth-and-yield models*.

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

Audit Notes: MI DNR State Forest Growth and Yield - Working Version 7-26-2016.

1.1.1. Forest management planning at a level appropriate to the size and scale of the operation, including:

- a. a *long-term* resources analysis;
- b. a periodic or ongoing *forest inventory*;
- c. a land classification system;
- d. biodiversity at *landscape* scales;
- e. soils inventory and maps, where available;
- f. access to *growth-and-yield modeling* capabilities;
- g. up-to-date maps or a geographic information system (GIS);
- h. recommended sustainable harvest levels for areas available for harvest; and
- i. a review of non-timber issues (e.g., recreation, tourism, pilot projects and economic incentive *programs* to promote water *protection*, carbon storage, *bioenergy feedstock* production, or *biological diversity conservation*, or to address climate-induced ecosystem change).

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

Audit Notes: **2018:** A partial review was conducted, based on a review.

c. The cover types for all stands within the YOE portion are reviewed annually as the compartments move through planning process; Site-condition inventory (driven by the factor-limited stand issue) to determine operable area; moving towards finer-grained and more-precise system for classifying forest cover types.

i. Reviews of non-timber issues confirmed by review of many documents, including:

ECOLOGICAL REFERENCE AREA (ERA) PLANNING FRAMEWORK FOR ERAS ON STATE FOREST LANDS. 10.06.15.
 This document describes the “planning process that will provide management direction for ERAs on State Forest lands”. Several resulting plans were reviewed:

- Roscommon Unit: Dyer Red Pine ERA Plan_2017
- Frost Pocket ERA and Barrens
- Seiners Point - Simmons Woods

Good progress is being made on the long-term project to update ERA plans.

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

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

Audit Notes: **2018:** Not reviewed during 2018 third-party audit.

2017: MI DNR State Forest Growth and Yield - Working Version 7-26-2016 and the implementation of an area-control system confirm that harvest levels are sustainable.

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

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

Audit Notes: **2018:** Not reviewed during 2018 third-party audit.

2017: Interviews and documentation support the continued operation of a robust inventory system that is set up to inventory ten percent of the land each year as part of the compartment review process.

“FRD inventories and evaluates one-tenth, about 400,000 acres, of the state forest each year, ensuring a complete and comprehensive review of the entire state forest system over a continuous 10-year cycle. This state-of-the-art inventory program provides key decision-making information for resource managers to propose needed treatments. Each of the 15 Forest Management Units that comprise the state forest system conducts an annual open house to present information to the public to solicit comments regarding proposed treatments. A compartment review follows in which staff weighs input and resource objectives and formally approves treatments.” Source: Seeing The Forest, The Trees & Beyond. Forest Resources Division Strategic Plan. 2014-2018. Michigan Department of Natural Resources.”

1.1.4. Periodic updates of *forest inventory* and recalculation of planned harvests to account for changes in growth due to *productivity* increases or decreases, including but not limited to: improved data, *long-term* drought, fertilization, *climate change*, changes in forest land ownership and tenure, or *forest health*.

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

Audit Notes: **2018:** Interviews and review of records confirmed a strong program of inventory.

Via a pre-audit questionnaire MiDNR stated “Regional State Forest Management Plans specify an average annual proposed harvest rate of 61,128 acres over the next decade (which is expected to vary for each year of entry), with a sustainable harvest of approximately 867,318 cords.” This was discussed during the opening meetings.

2017: See notes for 1.1.4 above.

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

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

Audit Notes: **2018:** Via a pre-audit questionnaire MiDNR stated “49,744 acres were harvested in FY17 with an estimated volume of 674,300 cords. The most recent maximum sustained yield estimate for state forest timber production is based upon a calculation of approximate current state forest annual net growth from lands that are suitable for timber production, which is about 867,318 cords.” A system is in place to report sales of products from certified lands, which is compared to the allowable harvest levels.

Performance Measure 1.2

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

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

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

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

Audit Notes: **2018, 2017:** Any forest type conversions must be approved through a formal interdisciplinary review process that includes wildlife and fisheries biologists, ecologists, recreation specialists, and foresters. Decisions are based in part on application of Michigan Kotar Forest Community and Habitat Type Classification System criteria, supplemented by field observations and foresters’ local experience. All known Forests with Exceptional Conservation Value and native forest types that are rare and ecologically significant at the landscape level are identified and designated as Ecological Reference Areas in the DNR Geo-spatial Database, with management direction provided in DNR Forest Certification Work Instruction 1.4.

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

-
- 1.2.2. Where a *Program Participant* intends to convert another *forest cover type*, an assessment considers:
- a. *Productivity* and *stand* quality conditions and impacts which may include social and economic values;
 - b. Specific ecosystem issues related to the site such as invasive species, insect or disease issues, riparian *protection* needs and others as appropriate to site including regeneration challenges; and
 - c. Ecological impacts of the conversion including a review at the site and *landscape* scale as well as consideration for any appropriate mitigation measures.
- N/A Conformance Exceeds O.F.I. Major NC Minor NC

Audit Notes: **2018, 2017:** Proposed conversions are subject to discussion and consensus decision through the multidisciplinary compartment review planning process, which includes a public input process. Issues related to the site such as invasive species, insect or disease issues, riparian *protection* needs, and any regeneration challenges as appropriate to site are addressed in the compartment review planning process.

Performance Measure 1.3

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

- 1.3.1. Forest lands converted to other land uses shall not be certified to this *SFI Standard*. This does not apply to forest lands used for forest and *wildlife* management such as *wildlife* food plots or infrastructure such as forest roads, log processing areas, trails etc.
- N/A Conformance Exceeds O.F.I. Major NC Minor NC

Audit Notes: **2018, 2017:** Areas that are primarily managed for other purposes (for instance 101,567 acres of long-term military lease lands) are excluded from the scope of certification. Any new permanent conversions to non-forest use (such as large-scale mineral development) are removed from the scope of certification.

Objective 2 Forest Health and Productivity

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

Performance Measure 2.1

Program Participants shall promptly reforest after final harvest.

Indicators:

- 2.1.1. Documented *reforestation* plans, including designation of all harvest areas for either natural, planted or direct seeded regeneration and prompt *reforestation*, unless delayed for site-specific environmental or *forest health* considerations or legal requirements, through *planting* within two years or two *planting* seasons, or by planned *natural regeneration* methods within five years.

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

Audit Notes: **2018:** Documentation of all forest regeneration plans is accomplished through MiFi, as verified by a sample of recently-harvested stands. DNR Forest Certification Work Instruction 2.1 (Reforestation) defines forest regeneration requirements on state forest lands. Prescriptions found in Compartment Plans, supplemented by Forest Treatment Proposal (FTP) documents support conformance. Many examples of FTP documentation and results were viewed during field site visits.

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

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

Audit Notes: **2018; 2017:** Audit sites included many Forest Treatment Projects (FTPs) showing investments in site preparation, planting, and chemical release. Auditors also reviewed documentation for many other FTPs not visited.

Some prescriptions for selection harvests include: "Check regeneration per work instructions" with a list of species which are acceptable as regeneration.

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

Stocking plot tally sheets were reviewed for some of the planting sites visited.

The protocol for stocking surveys to be done 1 and 3 years following planting of red pine is being revised.

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

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

Audit Notes: **2018:** The use of non-native plants on public lands is prohibited by DNR Forest Certification Work Instruction 2.3 – Integrated Pest Management and Forest Health. Plantings of exotic trees were not observed during the audit.

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

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

Audit Notes: **2018, 2017; 2016:** DNR has contract specifications to require protection of advance regeneration to enable the management objective for the stand. Confirmed by review of contracts for the harvest sites visited.

Site visits confirmed advanced regeneration is protected. In many cases this includes important lower canopy layer or slower-growing species such as hemlock, fir, or spruce in mixed hardwood softwood stands.

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

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

Audit Notes: **2018:** Planting of trees in non-forested landscapes is rarely if ever done. DNR occasionally purchases/exchanges property and plants fields and understocked areas with indigenous species. When trees are planted soils maps and the Michigan Kotar Forest Community and Habitat Type Classification System is used to help guide the planting of tree species upon appropriate sites.

Performance Measure 2.2

Program Participants shall minimize chemical use required to achieve management objectives while protecting employees, neighbors, the public and the environment, including wildlife and aquatic habitats. Indicators:

2.2.1. Minimized chemical use required to achieve management objectives.

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

Audit Notes: **2018:** Review of spray rates for chemical treatment sites visited indicates rates are not excessive.

Minimization of chemical use is directed in DNR Forest Certification Work Instruction 2.2:

Non-chemical site preparation is extensively employed, particularly mechanical scarification and/or disc-trenching, often in combination with chemical site preparation. Due to a long-term imbalance in the age class distribution of red pine, exacerbated by more recent (past ten years) challenges in cultivating planted red pine stands so that a reasonable percentage of the planted seedlings are in a free-to-grow position FRD is examining options that likely will include somewhat more-intensive herbicide site preparation and release treatments for planted red pine.

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

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

Audit Notes: **2018:** DNR Policy 28.46-03 - PESTICIDES AND OTHER TOXIC AND/OR PERSISTENT CHEMICALS - USE OF IN DEPARTMENT PROGRAMS (ISSUED: 07/11/2005): "The basic responsibility of the Department in its use of pesticides is to assure that they are used wisely and only after all other feasible alternatives have been decided against. The Department shall use only the most selective pesticides, at minimum effective dosage rates, with the safest carriers, and applied under conditions that minimize possible harmful side effects. Label restrictions shall be strictly adhered to, and applicators must be familiar with current laws regarding pesticide use. Persistent chemicals toxic to wildlife and human beings, or those known to concentrate in living organisms, will be avoided (e.g., chlorinated hydrocarbons)."

And "A Critical Materials Register must be maintained by the Department on a current basis to be used for guidance with regard to pesticides and other toxic and persistent chemicals."

DNR Policy 28.46-03 - PESTICIDES AND OTHER TOXIC AND/OR PERSISTENT CHEMICALS - USE OF IN DEPARTMENT PROGRAMS (ISSUED: 07/11/2005): "

Red Pine Release, C132, Stand 25, Dinky Lake Road, FTP C44-558: Pesticide Application Plan, Forest Treatment Completion Report and observations showed effective control of targeted red maple, cherry, and Aspen.

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

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

Audit Notes: **2018:** The most commonly-used pesticides are glyphosate (Rodeo formulation) and Triclopyr (Garlon 4 Ultra) for release or for site preparation. Less commonly used chemicals include Imazapyr (Arsenal AC), Aminopyralid (either Milestone or Escort) often for invasive control or control of vegetation in ROWs (often also invasive species). All of these uses are authorized on the respective labels.

Records of use are held locally in FMU offices. Confirmed by review of records at the 3 FMU offices visited.

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

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

Audit Notes: **2018:** DNR Policy 28.46-03 - PESTICIDES AND OTHER TOXIC AND/OR PERSISTENT CHEMICALS - USE OF IN DEPARTMENT PROGRAMS (ISSUED: 07/11/2005): "A Critical Materials Register must be maintained by the Department on a current basis to be used for guidance with regard to pesticides and other toxic and persistent chemicals."

DNR Forest Certification Work Instruction 2.2 contains a list of the chemicals that are authorized for use on the state forest, which excludes World Health Organization (WHO) type 1A and 1B pesticides, except where a specific Forest Stewardship Council derogation request is pending or has been approved:

http://www.michigan.gov/documents/dnr/WI_2.2UsePesticides-OtherChemicals_320944_7.pdf

Review of the Annual Summary Pesticide Use State Forest Lands confirms prohibitive pesticides are not used.

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

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

Audit Notes: **2018:** NR Forest Certification Work Instruction 2.2 contains a list of the chemicals that are authorized for use on the state forest, which excludes World Health Organization (WHO) type 1A and 1B pesticides, except where a specific Forest Stewardship Council derogation request is pending or has been approved.

Review of the Annual Summary Pesticide Use State Forest Lands confirms prohibitive pesticides are not used.

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

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

Audit Notes: **2018:** Direction for use of integrated pest management is provided in Forest Certification Work Instruction 2.3.

Sites visits confirm DNR is taking a proactive approach in dealing with EAD, BBD, oak wilt and spruce budworm by harvesting by harvesting infected or at risk stands.

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

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

Audit Notes: **2018:** Direction in this regard is provided in DNR Forest Certification Work Instruction 2.2. Licensed contractors apply most herbicides.

Review of herbicide application contract indicates the applicator must be licensed. Review of herbicide application for herbicide sites visited confirm they require applicators to be licensed.

2.2.8. Use of management practices appropriate to the situation, for example:

- a. notification of adjoining landowners or nearby residents concerning applications and chemicals used;
- b. appropriate multilingual signs or oral warnings;
- c. control of public road access during and immediately after applications;
- d. designation of streamside and other needed buffer strips;
- e. use of positive shutoff and minimal-drift spray valves;
- f. aerial application of forest chemicals parallel to buffer zones to *minimize* drift;
- g. monitoring of water quality or safeguards to ensure proper equipment use and *protection* of streams, lakes and other water bodies;
- h. appropriate transportation and storage of chemicals;
- i. filing of required state or provincial reports; and/or
- j. use of methods to ensure *protection of threatened and endangered species*.

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

Audit Notes: **2018:** Required reports include Pesticide Application Plans (R4029) and Pesticide Use Evaluation Reports (R4029-1), which are used to plan and monitor chemical use. Public notification, access control, and recommended buffers for sensitive areas (water bodies, etc.) are provided in DNR Forest Certification Work Instruction 2.2.

http://www.michigan.gov/documents/dnr/WI_2.2UsePesticides-OtherChemicals_320944_7.pdf.

Standard practices prescribed in the work instructions include:

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

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 following label instructions is mandatory on all applications.

Assessment for protection of RTE species is directed in DNR IC4172 - RARE SPECIES PROTECTION APPROACH AND ASSESSMENT GUIDELINES FOR DNR STAFF ON STATE FOREST LANDS

Site visits did not identify any chemical application issues.

Performance Measure 2.3

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

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

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

Audit Notes: **2018:** Rutting was present on some portions of several timber sales being actively harvested at the time of the audits. Despite several weeks of above average rainfall the observed rutting did not exceed contract specifications (excessive rutting is defined as ruts deeper than 12 inches for more than 50 feet). Interviews with staff confirmed consistent knowledge of rutting guidelines. When the specifications are exceeded harvests are halted and repairs made.

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

2017: While many efforts are employed to avoid rutting, including specifying time of year of harvest and the use of low-impact techniques some excessive rutting was observed in some locations (see Indicator 2.3.3).

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

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

Audit Notes: **2018:** MI DNR uses timber sale specifications as identified in the DNR Timber Sale Proposal Checklist (R4031-6) to minimize loss of soil and site productivity. DNR Forest Certification Work Instruction 3.1 directs the use of forestry BMPs (Michigan Forestry Best Management Practices for Soil and Water Quality). Auditors observed consistent use of erosion control practices such as placement of slash, use of waterbars, planning of treatments as needed.

The Resource Damage Report (RDR) process continues to be the primary mechanism to identify, inventory, prioritize, and track sites (normally not associated with timber harvest areas) which have significant erosion or other resource issues. Several (five) RDR incidents were visited.

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

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

Audit Notes: **2018:** The MI DNR implements rutting guidelines as described in forestry BMPs (Michigan Forestry Best Management Practices for Soil and Water Quality), implemented through additional "Sale Specific Conditions & Requirements (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." and retention guidelines as provided in IC4110 Within-Stand Retention Guidance.

Field observations confirmed retained down woody debris and minimized or well-planned skid trails, and on most sites visited during the audit, limited rutting within the general harvest area, although several active sites had considerable soil disturbance near loading areas and on main skid roads; all were within contract specifications.

2017: During the winter 2016-2017 logging season unusually warm weather hampered logging operations, and the summer was unusually wet. Some sites visited had numerous short ruts, but management practices described elsewhere in this checklist helped minimize the impacts.

Minor Non-conformance: Baraga Quattro's First Timber Sale (Sale Number 11-013-16), Units 5 and 6 have multiple sections of skid trails with rutting that exceeds the MDNR's limit of rutting which is 12-inches deep by 50 feet long. The rutting was not noted in sale administration notes nor was there any evidence of attempts to repair the ruts.

Also on the Gwinn Yellow Rock East timber sale, Unit 3, deep but “acceptable” rutting was observed in many locations within the cutting unit, with one location where the limit (both depth and length) was exceeded.

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

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

Audit Notes: **2018:** A few of the harvest sites selected for auditing included hardwood stands managed using the selection system. The marking and the post-harvest results in such units reviewed involved removing poorly-formed, defective, or unhealthy trees, releasing desirable trees of target species, and reducing stocking to 70-90 sf/acre, in accordance with the silvicultural standards of the program (Silvics Guide and Complete Marker) and with scientific research. Likewise sites with pine stands that had been thinned met the requirement.

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

Field observations confirmed few residual trees were damaged during harvest operations, and always at levels within the 5% threshold.

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

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

Audit Notes: **2018, 2017, 2016:** The MI DNR Timber Sale Proposal Checklist (R4031-6) to minimize loss of soil and site productivity. DNR Forest Certification Work Instruction 3.1 directs the use of forestry BMPs (Michigan Forestry Best Management Practices for Soil and Water Quality) to minimize impacts to soil productivity.

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

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

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

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

Audit Notes: **2018:** Log decks and skid trails are determined during the required pre-harvest consultation with the logger.

Site visits did not identify any issues with road or skid trail location. One road being used while upgrades are not yet complete (Sault Ste. Marie FMU, Giddings Road Project) has surface erosion and movement of sediment off the road, as well as sections of ponding, and several culverts that have sediment filling half or more of them.

These issues will be resolved when the project work resumes. Some of the delay on this important road project is due to vacancies in key positions (fire officers, who do much of the road work outside of fire season) and challenges associated with filling vacancies in a timely manner.

The re-construction and maintenance of permanent, open forest roads continues to be a challenge in this program. Recent changes to ORV access in the NLP are likely to increase the challenges. Conformance was found, with a related OFI under SFI Indicator 3.1.1. The comprehensive road and bridge replacement, repair and maintenance plan discussed in 2017 notes has not yet been completed.

“Pubic Act 288 Forest Road Inventory & Motorized Use

PA 288 of 2016 requires the Department to complete a comprehensive inventory of state-managed forest roads that will identify locations, condition, development level, and types and times of restrictions existing on motorized and non-motorized use. The two most northerly regions in the Lower Peninsula were completed by December 31, 2017, and the remaining Upper Peninsula and Southern Lower Peninsula regions will be completed by December 31, 2018. Two tribal consultation sessions were held in the Lower Peninsula in 2017 and two in the Upper Peninsula in 2018. An annual review of motorized use restrictions will occur and tribal consultation will be part of that process.” Source: Department Of Natural Resources (DNR) Tribal Affairs Briefing. August 30, 2018.

2017: Following on the comprehensive road inventory being conducted as part of the FDR’s response to PA 288 the department has requested a \$3.5 million capital outlay, part of which would continue with a full inventory of

infrastructure, and \$1.5 million for road and bridge repairs and infrastructure. The next step will be the development of a comprehensive road and bridge replacement, repair and maintenance plan. This approach is consistent with the objective from the strategic plan:

“Objective 4: Develop a comprehensive road and bridge replacement, repair and maintenance plan. There are over 1,800 miles of improved department roads, 6,000 miles of unimproved roads, hundreds of bridges, and thousands of culverts that comprise the transportation system on state forest land. This transportation system provides access for public safety; public hunting, fishing and recreation opportunities; timber and wildlife management; wildfire protection; law enforcement; access to private and corporate lands; and more. A comprehensive plan will be developed to identify department-managed roads and infrastructure and formulate a strategy for continued sustainable management.”

Source: Seeing The Forest, The Trees & Beyond. Forest Resources Division Strategic Plan. 2014-2018. Michigan Department of Natural Resources.

Performance Measure 2.4

Program Participants shall manage so as to protect forests from damaging agents, such as environmentally or economically undesirable wildfire, pests, diseases and *invasive exotic plants and animals*, to maintain and improve *long-term forest health, productivity and economic viability*. Indicators:

2.4.1. Program to protect forests from damaging agents.

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

Audit Notes: **2018:** The DNR Forest Resources Division has a Forest Health and Monitoring Unit with a supervisor, a Lansing-based specialist and 4 field staff positions that are responsible for addressing forest health issues. Details on the program can be found at https://www.michigan.gov/dnr/0,4570,7-350-79136_79237_81077---,00.html.

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

Forest health-related work is summarized in the 2017 Forest Health Highlights with excerpts provided:

- Hemlock Woolly Adelgid: continued slow spread, quarantines, pesticide applications;
- Beech Bark Disease: disease resistant saplings being raised in a U.S. Forest Service lab with some outplantings in Michigan; evaluating insecticides for use to control beech scale and prevent or delay fungal infections;
- Oak Wilt: training in oak wilt diagnosis and treatment;
- Asian Longhorned Beetle: not yet found in Michigan, but present in Ohio;
- Spruce Budworm continues to defoliate spruce and fir trees in Michigan’s Upper Peninsula and isolated areas in the northeastern Lower Peninsula;
- Heterobasidion Root Disease: surveys continue, and a map viewer tool is available to help understand locations and epidemiology
- Emerald Ash Borer: devastating in much of the state, but still not present in far western part of the UP;
- Forest Tent Caterpillar: not currently in outbreak mode;
- Gypsy Moth: 2017 had significant defoliation to oak and, in some cases, aspen in the northeastern Lower Peninsula; outbreaks are shorter and more localized than in previous decades due to viral/fungal pathogens;
- Redheaded pine sawfly: “... collapsed in 2017 after damaging young red and jack pine plantations for several years.”

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

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

Audit Notes: **2018:** Field observations allowed the audit team to conclude that forest management practices develop and maintain healthy forests. Most stands observed were properly stocked to slightly over-stocked; overstocked stands are treated during their “year of entry” per prescriptions designed in part with forest health considerations. 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.

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

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

Actions to address forest health issues are accomplished through the DNR compartment review process.
http://www.michigan.gov/documents/1_133198_7.6.pdf.

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

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

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

Audit Notes: **2018:** “2017 Forest Health Highlights” lists and describes the status of and options for dealing with the 16 main forest health pests, and provides a summary of resources. Specialists are available to provide support to foresters, who receive regular pest alerts via email.

2017: Compartment plans prepared recently associated with sites reviewed during the audit generally include a section on Fire Protection that provide the fire dispatch district and other information regarding fire protection.

Each FMU has a Fire Management Supervisor and several Fire Officers and an impressive collection of fire control vehicles. For the Gwinn FMU there is one supervisor and 3 officers. The organization operates a Forest Fire Experiment Station where specialized fire-fighting equipment is designed and fabricated.

The DNR has a cooperative relationship with several forest health partners – U.S. Forest Service Northern Research Station, USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development, Michigan State University, and Michigan Technological University. .

Performance Measure 2.5

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

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

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

Audit Notes: **2018:** Reviewed “MICHCOTIP DNR FY2017 Annual Report” which is the “Annual Report of Cooperative Projects Between Michigan Cooperative Tree Improvement Program (MICHCOTIP) and Michigan Department of Natural Resources. Fiscal Year 2017”. It describes “progress on red pine, jack pine, beech, and hemlock improvement work from the Michigan Cooperative Tree Improvement Program at the State Forest Tree Improvement Center”.

Interviews confirmed: Via a pre-audit questionnaire MiDNR stated “All seed used at the DNR nursery originates from Michigan. Purchased red pine seedlings originate from Ontario. Wildlife Division under-plantings of oak and mesic conifers are sourced from Michigan or the Great Lakes region. Plantings of Beech Bark Disease resistant beech originate from cuttings in Michigan.”

The DNR partners with Michigan State University and the USDA APHIS to develop and test cultivars of American beech for resistance to Beech Bark Disease.

Objective 3 **Protection and Maintenance of Water Resources**

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

Performance Measure 3.1

Program Participants shall meet or exceed all applicable federal, provincial, state and local water quality laws, and meet or exceed *best management practices* developed under Canadian or U.S. Environmental Protection Agency–approved water quality *programs*.

Indicators:

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

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

Audit Notes: **2018: There is an Opportunity for Improvement to the maintenance program for the permanent road system.**

Michigan Forestry BMPs for Soil and Water Quality page 25 “In areas having little or no slope, road drainage is often a problem. Crown these sections of road to get the water off and away from the roadway; page 26: Ensure good road drainage with properly constructed and spaced turnouts, broad-based dips, and cross-drainage culverts.”

Many portions of permanent forest road observed and/or traveled on during the audit do not have drainage provisions in place consistent with the above two BMP items. However no cases of inadequate road BMPs leading to sedimentation of streams or wetland were observed. Many sections of road are embedded slightly below grade, have two-track ruts, have a grading berm, and/or have no crown to disperse surface water. One road which had significant road improvements done recently (Giddings Road, Nabinway) has not been graded in over a year and has significant potholes and some surface unraveling.

Minor Non-conformance 2017-02 has been closed; repairs were made and training programs have been implemented.

2017: Minor Non-conformance 2017-02: The road drainage provisions on Little Garlic Forest Road, Gwinn Management Unit are not maintained per Michigan BMPs for “Road Management Measures on Active Timber Sales for Permanent and Temporary Roads”, notably the fourth bullet on page 38: “Perform maintenance when conditions warrant, including ... sedimentation control structures. The auditor observed many potholes (some large), surface water ponding, lack of road crown, some surface road unraveling, and inadequate ditching.

Foresters are trained on BMPs and their use is closely integrated into the entire program.

2017, 2016: Requirements for implementation for soil and water best management practices are provided in DNR Forest Certification Work Instruction 3.1. http://www.michigan.gov/documents/3_133210_7.1.pdf.

BMP Non-conformance reporting instructions are provided in DNR Forest Certification Work Instruction 3.2. http://www.michigan.gov/documents/3_133211_7.2.pdf.

BMP non-conformances are reported and tracked using BMP Resource Damage Reports (R-4501).

The DNR-DEQ Sustainable Soil and Water Quality Practices on Forest Land (BMP Manual) is available at: http://www.michigan.gov/dnr/0,4570,7-153-31154_31261---,00.html.

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

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

Audit Notes: **2018, 2017:** Contracts contain Clause 5.3 Stream Protection requiring use of BMPs and other provisions limiting the amount of rutting allowed or otherwise allow “Unit Manager or their representative” to halt operations that are causing excessive damage. Refer to Timber Sale Contract Specification 5.4. When sales are set up Sale Specific Condition & Requirement (5.4.1) may be added to the contract to explicitly include the rutting maximum of 12 inches and 50 feet.

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

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

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

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

Audit Notes: **2018, 2017:** 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. The first page of the form includes the checklist item “BMP Applications” supported by date-specific inspection remarks. Confirmed the use of the R4050 by field foresters via review of documents for harvests selected for field review.

BMP effectiveness monitoring is conducted periodically in cooperation with the MI SFI Implementation Committee (SIC). A recent report on results is Michigan Forestry Best Management Practices. 2016 Monitoring Study Results, Region 2 (Eastern Upper Peninsula) and Region 3 (Lower Peninsula), and Statewide Summary Results. “In summary, the results of the statewide BMP monitoring effort found a high level of conformance with the current guidelines. Compliance through ratings of Applied Correctly (A) and Acceptable Variation (V) exceed 97 percent for all three regions (Table 21). The 2016 efforts found the highest levels of compliance, with Region 2 having positive ratings 98.7 percent of the time (Table 5). Statewide monitoring teams found only two percent of the sites did not meet overall water quality expectations, as defined by the site-level supplemental questionnaire (Table 24).”

2017: BMP monitoring and reporting requirements are provided in DNR Forest Certification Work Instruction 3.2. For BMP issues on state forests roads and trails 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. The Unit Manager coordinates the response and corrective activity. The process is tracked in a database and prioritized. The RDR process is not always used, and was not used for the road subject to the 2017 Minor Non-conformance issued against SFI Indicator 3.1.1 above.

Performance Measure 3.2

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

Indicators:

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

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

Audit Notes: **2018, 2017:** DNR Forest Certification Work Instruction 3.1 directs the use of forestry BMPs (Michigan Forestry Best Management Practices for Soil and Water Quality).

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

Observed sizeable buffers protecting trout streams and interviewed Fisheries Division personnel who review proposed harvests and other activities to ensure adequate protection of aquatic resources.

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

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

Audit Notes: **2018:** A review of the GIS resources and resulting detailed and high-quality maps confirmed that the required features are included in data layers. All maps reviewed included pertinent wetland/watercourse features.

2017, 2016: Maps of rivers, streams, lakes, wetlands and other water bodies are available to FRD staff in the DNR Geographic Decision Support Environment (GDSE) and are identified during timber sale preparation as provided in the DNR Timber Sale Proposal Checklist (R4031-6). MiFi also has access to this information.



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

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

Audit Notes: **2018, 2017, 2016:** Rivers, streams, lakes, wetlands and other water bodies are identified during timber sale preparation as provided in the DNR Timber Sale Proposal Checklist (R4031-6).

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

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

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

Audit Notes: **2018:** DNR Forest Certification Work Instruction 3.1 directs the use of forestry BMPs (Michigan Forestry Best Management Practices for Soil and Water Quality) to consider the timing of forestry operations.

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

Objective 4 Conservation of Biological Diversity

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

Performance Measure 4.1

Program Participants shall conserve biological diversity. Indicators:

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

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

Audit Notes: **2018:** Not reviewed during 2018 third-party audit.

2017: Michigan DNR’s program to incorporate the conservation of native biological diversity at stand and landscape levels is exceptional. All activities are planned and implemented within a robust, interdisciplinary management system framework that prioritizes biodiversity conservation and that works at many scales including small special sites, stands, compartments, landform-based Management Areas, regions, and state-wide. Some efforts are tied by federal laws or programs to multi-state scales.

The state forests are co-managed with the Wildlife Division. Biologists are involved the development of all large-scale management plans as well as tactical planning done at the compartment level.

The regional state forest management plans include forest management areas based mostly on landforms, facilitating the development of plans and practices that vary appropriately across the landscape. Each management area has five featured wildlife species, which provides the “umbrella” for management of all species.

Special Conservation Areas are described in compartment plans and shown on maps.

A new planning framework has been developed, and recently rolled out, for the expanded ERA system, implemented for individual or multiple ERAs. The “Little Presque Isle-Harlow Lake ERA Complex Ecological Reference Area (ERA) Plan” was reviewed and a portion of the ERA was observed during the audit.

MDNR, USDA Forest Service, US Fish and Wildlife Service. Strategy for Kirtland's warbler Habitat Management. October 5, 2001.

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

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

Audit Notes: **2018:** Not reviewed during 2018 third-party audit.

2017: Harvest prescriptions include cut-unit (stand in most cases) specific provisions for retention of live trees driven by wildlife habitat needs as directed by wildlife biologists who review, comment on, and adjust as needed all harvest proposals. Oak, cherry, white pine, hemlock, and cedar are commonly retained, depending on the stand and the presence and abundance of these important wildlife species in the general area surrounding the treated stand(s). Standard contract provisions require that snags and den trees are retained, and some prescriptions include requirements to maintain higher levels of woody debris, often by precluding biomass harvesting.

Retention of stand-level wildlife elements in harvest units was consistently excellent.

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

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

Audit Notes: **2018:** Not reviewed during 2018 third-party audit.

2017: Foresters, supported by biologists, consider habitat at multiple spatial scales. The multi-level management planning approach (see notes for Indicator 1.1.1) ensures conformance.

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

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

Audit Notes: **2018:** Discussed “Departmental Guidance for Red Pine Management. Red Pine Guidance Team. 4.05.2017”.

2017: Planning and operations are clearly tied to several planning efforts which meet the indicator:

Michigan Wildlife Action Plan

- Michigan Forest Resource Assessment and Strategy (aka Forest Action Plan)
- Strategy for Kirtland’s Warbler Habitat Management
- Michigan’s Deer Management Plan

The DNR has a partnership with the USFWS, U.S. Forest Service and other partners to develop a Candidate Conservation Agreement with Assurances (CCAA) for the Eastern Massasauga Rattlesnake.

Michigan is leading a tri-state (with Wisconsin and Minnesota) effort to develop a Habitat Conservation Plan for bat species listed or with potential to be listed due to white-nose syndrome.

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

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

Audit Notes: **2018:** Not reviewed during 2018 third-party audit.

2017: The DNR Wildlife Division is a co-manager of the Michigan state forest and is responsible for the protection of RTE species. Interviews with field personnel supported considerable information provided by the program of a superb program for protection of RTE species and communities that encompasses significant species of concern. With 4 million acres of land the Michigan State Forest system has the scope to support conservation programs for every species which relies on forested habitat and/or wetlands or open lands complexes associated with forested landscapes. A short list (there are many others) of species which are addressed includes deer, bear, wolf, pine marten, Bald Eagle, salmon and trout, and many species of song-birds.

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

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

Audit Notes: **2018:** Not reviewed during 2018 third-party audit.

2017: Field observations confirm that non-forested wetlands and some but not all small pocket forested wetlands are excluded from harvest areas on maps and on the ground using blue paint lines. In some cases very micro-scale, generally wet, non-forested opening are recognized by loggers and avoided; in others cases such sites are protected by scheduling harvests when the ground is frozen and covered by snow, often deep snow.

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

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

Audit Notes: **2018:** Michigan’s Invasive Species Newsletter. Summer 2018.

Via a pre-audit questionnaire MiDNR stated the following “

- Michigan’s Invasive Species Program was formalized by establishing a charter agreement within DARD, DEQ, and DNR in order to accomplish Invasive Species Program goals, ensure coordinated state efforts, and solicit input from industries, nongovernmental organizations, and universities. The Invasive Species Program Charter was signed by the Department Directors in January, 2015.
- The Michigan Invasive Species Grant Program was established in 2014 and funded 3.6 million dollars for 23 projects to prevent, detect, eradicate and control terrestrial and aquatic invasive species throughout the state in FY17.
- AIS and TIS Core Teams updated the Invasive Species Watch List to signal urgency in reporting species that pose immediate and significant threats to Michigan’s natural resources. These species either have never been

confirmed in the wild in Michigan or are known to be in limited areas only. Early detection and timely reporting of watch list species can limit potential ecological, social and economic impacts.

- Drafted the first ever Michigan Terrestrial Invasive Species State Management Plan. The plan was made available for public review in spring, 2016 and completed in the same year.
- A new invasive species website, www.michigan.gov/invasivespecies launched in January, 2016, serves as a single portal for invasive species and captures all information from the Quality of Life departments. The user-friendly format is designed to help citizens understand the state's invasive species laws and help in efforts to prevent, detect and control these invaders."

And

In the last year "a committee was established to create a coordinated statewide strategy to respond to Hemlock Woolly Adelgid. Priorities include: prevention, detection, treatment, biological control, research, data collection/management, coordination/communication and identifying long-term ways to pay for it. Both long and short-term objectives are being considered. The committee includes representatives from the Michigan departments of Agriculture and Rural Development and Natural Resources, USDA-Forest Service Michigan State University and Ottawa County Parks and Recreation."

Michigan Invasive Species Grant Program: "More than \$3.5 million in grants went to help prevent and control invasive species, thanks to the Michigan Invasive Species Grant Program. The program is administered by the Michigan departments of Natural Resources, Environmental Quality and Agriculture and Rural Development."

2017: Foresters are aware of common invasive plants, and some have taken detailed training. Compartment plans and other department programs address control of invasive plants, insects and diseases.

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

The audit team assessed the response to an "Observed Nonconformity from the Crystal Falls Forest Management Unit - 2017 Draft Forest Certification Internal Audit Report: No specific and coordinated guidance on how to detect and limit the spread of exotic invasive species. The Unit has proactively managed forest health issues (oak wilt, spruce budworm) in consultation with Forest Resources Division forest health specialists and the audit team observed good examples of local exotic invasive species management, but a coordinated forest level effort on early detection and rapid response to exotic invasive species was lacking."

A substantive response to this finding has been developed, providing a good summary of the organization's many efforts with respect to challenges with invasive species:

"Each year all 20 million acres of forest land in Michigan are surveyed from the air for new outbreaks of native and invasive forest pests and diseases. In addition, the state maintains a watch list of high threat aquatic and terrestrial invasive species that are not yet present in Michigan or not known to be widespread: http://www.michigan.gov/documents/dnr/InvasiveSpecies-WatchList_498319_7.pdf. The state is currently updating its Early Detection and Response Policy to include terrestrial invasive species: http://www.michigan.gov/documents/deq/wrd-ais-response-plan_455659_7.pdf. In addition, an early alert system is set up in MISIN, the state's invasive species database. It is available for any manager to add species for which they would like to receive alerts for in a given region or county when reported to MISIN. Finally all of the state forest system falls into the borders of a Cooperative Invasive Species Management Area (CISMA) <http://www.michiganinvasives.org/>. Michigan provide core funding to all the CISMAs in the state as part of the Michigan Invasive Species Grant Program. As part of their funding, they: 1.) provide education and outreach about invasive species to limit their spread, 2.) survey their areas for invasive species, 3.) respond to reports of new invasive species in their areas, and 4.) conduct invasive species control projects."

The 2018 SFI Audit Team should review progress made by the department in effecting reasonable control measures through the above-described measures and others as applicable.

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

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

Audit Notes: **2018:** Via a pre-audit questionnaire MiDNR stated “There have been 8 prescribed fires on 1,366 acres on state forest lands for purposes of fuel reduction, site preparation, habitat restoration, and invasive species control in FY16. There was a statewide total of 271 wildfires that burned 699 acres in FY17.”

2017: Natural disturbance regimes are factored into all large-scale plans, into silvics and silviculture guides, and are implicit factors in compartment plans, harvest prescriptions, and in approaches to FTPs.

Foresters are aware of the role of fire in forest ecology, and prescribed burning is used as a management tool, generally to maintain early-seral stages or fire-adapted types. The Burn Plan for the Lake Mary Unit 13 Burn (FTP-w12-406) and observations of the results of the burn demonstrate the use of fire to maintain opening and promote blueberry, emulating natural disturbance to some degree.

“Prescribed fire — the controlled application of fire by experts under specified weather conditions — plays an important role in the sustainable management of forested lands, wildlife habitat and the restoration of natural communities. FRD staff provides prescribed burning leadership and expertise on all state-managed lands.

Staff at the DNR’s Forest Fire Experiment Station (FFES) researches and develops equipment for fighting wildfires. The FFES works with wildfire fighting entities to develop prototype specialized equipment used across the nation.

A new era of exotic forest pests continues to challenge the health and sustainability of Michigan’s forests. FRD works with other state and federal agencies and universities to prevent, evaluate and manage the occurrence and impacts of both native and exotic forest insects and diseases.”

Source: Seeing The Forest, The Trees & Beyond. Forest Resources Division Strategic Plan. 2014-2018. Michigan Department of Natural Resources.

Performance Measure 4.2

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

4.2.1. Program to protect threatened and endangered species.

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

Audit Notes: **2018:** Via a pre-audit questionnaire MiDNR stated “RTE species surveys were conducted in association with ERA surveys in FY18 (see 9.4). In addition, new occurrences of Kirtland’s warbler were documented on State Forest Lands. Updates were made to the network of Ecological Reference Areas (ERAs) FY18. Some new areas were provided to the Archeological Concerns Database in FY18. Some Type 1 and Type 2 Old Growth Special Conservation Areas (SCAs) were verified in FY18 field inventory.

Measures taken to protect any RTE species, habitats and/or plant communities is evaluated on a case by case basis during the Compartment inventory process using SCA and HCVA layers in our GDSE and our Rare Species guidelines. Data bases for RTE species are routinely checked for ROW maintenance requests, use permits, event permits, burn plans, etc., and special management requirements are provided when known species are identified for an area.”

The DNR Wildlife Division is a co-manager of the Michigan state forest and is responsible for the protection of RTE species. Interviews with field personnel supported considerable information provided by the program of a superb program for protection of RTE species and communities

All proposed forest treatments are reviewed for possible impact upon RTE species. See DNR Forest Certification Work Instruction 1.6: http://www.michigan.gov/documents/1_133198_7.6.pdf.

Michigan DNR’s GIS layer 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.

4.2.2. Program to locate and protect known sites flora and fauna associated with viable occurrences of *critically imperiled* and *imperiled* species and communities also known as *Forests with Exceptional Conservation Value*. Plans for *protection* may be developed independently or collaboratively, and may include *Program Participant* management, cooperation with other stakeholders, or use of easements, *conservation* land sales, exchanges, or other *conservation* strategies.

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

Audit Notes: **2018:** The program has devoted significant resources for decades to develop, improve, and maintain KW habitat, with excellent results. The species is being considered for delisting.

2017: Several field sites (see field notes) were associated with protected species, but not species at the G1/G2 level.

2017; 2016: Known sites associated with viable occurrences of critically imperiled and imperiled species and communities are identified in the Michigan Natural Heritage Database, which is managed under a MOU and DNR contract with the MSUE Michigan Natural Features Inventory: <http://mnfi.anr.msu.edu/>.

Conservation of Forests with Exceptional Conservation Value is accomplished by the updated DNR network of Ecological Reference Areas and further described in the proposed Michigan State Forest Management Plan (2008, with 2014 Amendment).

Management direction for ERAs is provided in DNR Forest Certification Work Instruction 1.4- Biodiversity Management on State Forest Lands: http://www.michigan.gov/documents/dnr/WI_1.4BiodMgt_320943_7.pdf.

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

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

Audit Notes: **2018:** Via a pre-audit questionnaire MiDNR stated “No harvests occur in old growth designations. Treatment of stands adjacent to OG stands are evaluated on a case by case basis during the compartment review process.”

2017: Interviews and unsolicited comments from staff on the field tours show that they are aware of the definitions of old growth and seek opportunities to protect any instances, documented or newly-found.

2017; 2016: The DNR updated network of Ecological Reference Areas includes old-growth forests located upon partnering Federal lands and conservancy lands:

http://www.michigan.gov/documents/dnr/FINAL_ERAs_listByNaturalCommunity_477323_7.pdf.

Examples include the McCormick and Sylvania Wilderness Areas on the Ottawa National Forest and the Estivant Pines located upon property of the Michigan Nature Association.

Management direction for ERAs is provided in DNR Forest Certification Work Instruction 1.4- Biodiversity Management on State Forest Lands: http://www.michigan.gov/documents/dnr/WI_1.4BiodMgt_320943_7.pdf.

and in proposed DNR Ecological Reference Areas Definition and Principles of Management: http://www.michigan.gov/documents/dnr/ERA_DefinitionsPublic_Review_Draft_463865_7.pdf.

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

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

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

Audit Notes: **2018:** Not reviewed during 2018 third-party audit.

2017: Michigan Natural Heritage data and stakeholder consultation were used in the identification of an updated network of Ecological Reference Areas: http://www.michigan.gov/dnr/0,4570,7-153-30301_39170-343969--00.html and are used regularly during planning.

Foresters can and do propose sites for special protection or as ERAs. Botanists, biologists, ecologists, or other specialists with the Michigan Natural Features Inventory (State Natural Heritage program) review these proposed sites as part of process for the network. This program also periodically reviews each ERA to assess conditions and can recommend practices as needed.

2016: The DNR updated network of Ecological Reference Areas includes old-growth forests located upon partnering Federal lands and conservancy lands:

http://www.michigan.gov/documents/dnr/FINAL_ERAs_listByNaturalCommunity_477323_7.pdf.

Examples include the McCormick and Sylvania Wilderness Areas on the Ottawa National Forest and the Estivant Pines located upon property of the Michigan Nature Association.

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

Interviews and document review confirm that a new old growth Rich Conifer Swamp has been identified, verified and protected since the 2015 audit.

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

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

Audit Notes: **2018:** Reviewed 4 ERA sites and several other ecologically important sites and associated plans.

2017: Sites of ecological significance have various types of management plans and monitoring programs, depending on the significance of the resources and their sensitivity to impacts or changes. In all cases Compartment Plans provide information; Compartment plans prepared recently and associated with sites reviewed during the audit generally include:

- Unique Natural Features
- Archeological, Historical, and Cultural Features
- Special Management Designations or Considerations
- Existing and proposed Special Conservation Areas with descriptions or rationale for protection

The Compartment 32204 Plan covering the Little Presque Isle Management Area/Recreation Area includes appropriate detail on the many special sites within the compartment. This is supplemented by a Trails Plan and by the Little Presque Isle-Harlow Lake ERA Complex Ecological Reference Area Plan with detailed descriptions of the “Element Occurrences” that comprise the ERA complex, supporting ecological context, analysis of threats, and management recommendations and actions. Evidence was provided that many of the actions have been taken. The entire compartment (204) has been prescribed for invasive control to expedite needed treatments. Interviews and documents show very careful attention by the foresters to plan and implement harvests in ways to reduce trail/recreation use conflicts, and extra effort by staff from all divisions to consult with and inform the public and to manage the site and its users to protect resources and serve the public.

2016: Data layers for HCVAs are housed within the DNR GDSE and are part of the DNR geo-spatial forest inventory system. Management direction for ecologically important sites is provided in DNR Forest Certification Work Instruction 1.4- Biodiversity Management on State Forest Lands: http://www.michigan.gov/documents/dnr/WI_1.4BiodMgt_320943_7.pdf.

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

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

Performance Measure 4.4

Program Participants shall apply knowledge gained through research, science, technology and field experience to manage *wildlife habitat* and contribute to the *conservation of biological diversity*. Indicators:

- 4.4.1. Collection of information on *Forests with Exceptional Conservation Value* and other *biodiversity*-related data through *forest inventory* processes, mapping or participation in external *programs*, such as NatureServe, state or provincial heritage *programs*, or other credible systems. Such participation may include providing non-proprietary scientific information, time and assistance by staff, or in-kind or direct financial support.

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

Audit Notes: **2018:** Confirmed that foresters and other specialists occasionally request special biological surveys, and that MNFI activities continue to add information to the database.

2017: The Michigan Natural Features Inventory develops and maintains abstracts for forest communities in Michigan, which include Forests of Exceptional Conservation Value. Known sites are identified in the Michigan Natural Heritage Database, which is managed under a MOU and DNR contract with the MSUE Michigan Natural Features Inventory: <http://mnfi.anr.msu.edu/>. Interviews and demonstration of the GIS system layers confirm that this program has been implemented.

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

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

Audit Notes: **2018:** Not reviewed during 2018 third-party audit.

2017: Due to the interdisciplinary and multi-tier management program field personnel have access to research results, analysis and planning from throughout the Michigan DNR, which they incorporate into their forest management decisions. Biologists with a range of expertise are directly involved in all forestry decisions, and these staff have ties to the research community. Good working relationships were witnessed.

The department participates in a variety of research programs with regional experts including for example hibernacula surveys, research treatments for enhancing bat populations, ERA management, the Rattlesnake Conservation Agreement and the Kirtland Warbler habitat restoration efforts. DNR incorporates research results into management prescriptions.



Objective 5 *Management of Visual Quality and Recreational Benefits*

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

Performance Measure 5.1

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

5.1.1. Program to address visual quality management.

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

Audit Notes: **2018:** Procedures, interviews, and observations confirmed an effective program.

2017: Procedures, interviews, and observations confirmed an effective program. The social and economic character of the FMUs reviewed in 2017 results in few public concerns outside of a few developed and heavily-used recreation areas.

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

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

Audit Notes: **2018, 2017:** Field Visits did not identify any aesthetic issues. The MI DNR Timber Sale Proposal Checklist (R4031-6) addresses visual quality and timber sale specifications for harvest operations. Clauses in contracts address utilization and where needed special practices in sensitive areas.

Performance Measure 5.2

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

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

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

Audit Notes: **2018:** In 2017 the average clearcut size was 41.7 acres. Most clearcuts observed contained green trees retained for wildlife habitat purposes, and these trees help address visual impacts.

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

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

Audit Notes: **2018:** In 2017 the average clearcut size was 41.7 acres. Most clearcuts observed contained green trees retained for wildlife habitat purposes, and these trees help address visual impacts.

The MI Timber Sale Proposal Checklist (R4031-6) addresses the size of clearcut harvests.

Performance Measure 5.3

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

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

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

Audit Notes: **2018, 2017:** Field sites did not reveal any issues with adjacency or green-up.

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

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

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

Audit Notes: **2018, 2017:** Field sites did not reveal any issues with adjacency or green-up. The Michigan Forest Inventory (MiFi) is used to track regeneration surveys and conformance with green-up requirements.

5.3.3. Trees in clearcut harvest areas are at least 3 years old or 5 feet (1.5 meters) high at the desired level of stocking before adjacent areas are clearcut, or as appropriate to address operational and economic considerations, alternative methods to reach the *performance measure* are utilized by the *Program Participant*.

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

Audit Notes: **2018, 2017:** Field sites did not reveal any issues with adjacency or green-up.

2015: DNR Forest Certification Green-up guidelines ensure conformance with this indicator.

Site visits did not identify any issues.

Performance Measure 5.4

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

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

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

Audit Notes: Michigan DNR's Program is exceptional by providing an extensive range of quality recreational activities within and associated with their forests and lands.

2018: Observations during the 2018 audit confirm that recreational trails of all types are abundant and well maintained. Abundant year-round recreational opportunities are provided including camping, fishing, hunting, and gathering (mushrooms), off-road vehicle (ORV) and motorcycle riding, snowmobiling, skiing, and ice fishing. This diverse recreational activity provides year-round benefits to the local economy.

Discussed work to implement PA 288 of 2016 pertaining to ORV use on state lands. DNR has completed its inventory of all state forest roads, including classification and mapping. The process included public consultation during both assessment and decision-making.

Objective 6 *Protection of Special Sites*

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

Performance Measure 6.1

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

6.1.1. Use of information such as existing natural heritage data, expert advice or stakeholder consultation in identifying or selecting *special sites* for *protection*.

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

Audit Notes: **2018, 2017:** All proposed forest treatments are reviewed for possible impact upon historic/cultural/ecological resources. See DNR Forest Certification Work Instruction 1.6 and DNR Guidance for Preparing Timber Sale Proposal Checklist (IC4031-6 and DNR Form R4031-6). This was confirmed by reviewing the documentation for several sites reviewed, and by interviewing staff.

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

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

Audit Notes: **2018:** Cultural and historic sites are listed in databases and protected during management activities.

Requirements for the preservation of cultural and historic sites are provided in DNR Forest Certification Work Instruction 3.1. http://www.michigan.gov/documents/3_133210_7.1.pdf.

Cultural and historic sites, Natural Heritage Program element occurrence records, and DNR Special Conservation Area and High Conservation Value Areas are data layers in the DNR Geographic Decision Support Environment. Maps and plans for special sites visited were detailed and accurate, and management practices appropriate:

- Scott's Point Archaeological Site
- DeWard Orchard



Objective 7 Efficient Use of Fiber Resources

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

Performance Measure 7.1

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

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

- a. management of harvest residue (e.g., slash, limbs, tops) considers economic, social and environmental factors (e.g., organic and nutrient value to future forests and the potential of increased fuels build-up) and other utilization needs;
- b. training or incentives to encourage loggers to enhance utilization;
- c. exploration of markets for underutilized species and low-grade wood and alternative markets (e.g., bioenergy markets); or
- d. periodic inspections and reports noting utilization and product separation.

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

Audit Notes: **2018, 2017:** Specific utilization standards are incorporated in each harvest contract (Clause 2.2 Utilization). A review of timber sale contracts and inspection reports for completed harvest sites visited confirmed that foresters monitor utilization closely using the form R4050E “Timber Sale Contract – Field Inspection Report”. Page 1 of this form has checklist items for “Utilization”, “Removal of cut products”, and “Piling of forest products” and detailed notes cover these and other aspects of utilization.

Objective 8 Recognize and Respect *Indigenous Peoples'* Rights

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

Performance Measure 8.1

Program Participants shall recognize and respect Indigenous Peoples' rights.

Indicator:

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

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

Audit Notes: **2018:** Via a pre-audit questionnaire MiDNR stated that no department management activities affected any resources or tenure rights of indigenous peoples.

Department Of Natural Resources (DNR) Tribal Affairs Briefing. August 30, 2018.

2007 Inland Consent Decree FAQs. The 2007 Inland Consent Decree between 1868 Tribes and the DNR outlines DNR's commitment to, and recognition of, Indigenous Peoples rights will expire in a few years.

Performance Measure 8.2

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

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

- a. understand and respect traditional forest-related knowledge;
- b. identify and protect spiritually, historically, or culturally important sites;
- c. address the use of non-timber forest products of value to Indigenous Peoples in areas where Program Participants have management responsibilities on public lands; and
- d. respond to Indigenous Peoples' inquiries and concerns received.

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

Audit Notes: **2018:** Via a pre-audit questionnaire MiDNR stated that no department management activities affected any resources or tenure rights of indigenous peoples. 2018 MDNR Summary of Tribal Interactions provides a "Record of FRD field meetings, workshops, and other key interaction with Michigan Tribes"

Department Of Natural Resources (DNR) Tribal Affairs Briefing. August 30, 2018.

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

Communication with Native American Tribes are addressed in DNR Forest Certification Work Instruction 9.1.

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

Performance Measure 8.3

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

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

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

Audit Notes: **2018:** Hunting and gathering rights for several Federally recognized Michigan tribes are established in the 2007 Inland Consent Decree.

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

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

Audit Notes: **2018:** Each division in DNR has a Tribal Coordinator who acts as the central contact and provides comments when necessary. The Department has a Tribal Coordinator who maintains records of meetings, workshops, and other key interaction with Michigan Tribes.

Objective 9 Legal and Regulatory Compliance

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

Performance Measure 9.1

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

9.1.1. Access to relevant laws and regulations in appropriate locations.

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

Audit Notes: **2018:** Not reviewed during 2018 third-party audit.

2017: Access to Michigan law, administrative rules and Department Orders is provided at: http://www.michigan.gov/dnr/0,1607,7-153-10366_37141---,00.html. This site was reviewed 10.12.17.

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

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

Audit Notes: **2018:** Not reviewed during 2018 third-party audit.

2017: Management system for all actions on forests (plans, investments in cultural activities, infrastructure upgrades, timber sales) involves wildlife and fisheries biologists, ecologists, recreation specialists, timber management specialists and foresters as well as experienced managers at various levels (FMU, district, state office) to review and approve projects. This system is designed to ensure that activities are consistent with laws, regulations, policies, and plans.

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

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

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

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

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

Audit Notes: **2018:** Not reviewed during 2018 third-party audit.

2017: Auditors reviewed web sites and conducted a Google search for violations, and asked the Certification Coordinator to disclose any violations; response below was edited to retain pertinent information.

“From: Kintigh, Keith (DNR) [mailto:KINTIGHK@michigan.gov]

Sent: Thursday, October 12, 2017 2:01 PM

Subject: RE: Legal Compliance and SFI Indicator 9.1.3

Many agencies potentially regulate state and federal laws on Michigan State Forest land. A few important agencies include: MI Department of Environmental Quality, Water Resources Division, US Fish and Wildlife Services, East Lansing Ecological Services Field Office: <https://www.fws.gov/midwest/eastlansing/>, MI Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs, MI Department of Civil Rights.

I am not aware of any State or Federal violations on State Forest Land in the last 2 years.”

Performance Measure 9.2

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

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

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

Audit Notes: **2018:** Not reviewed during 2018 third-party audit.

2017: A selection of Michigan's employment policies was reviewed. Employment posters were observed.

2015: A review of the contents of the Personnel Manual -Chapter 21: Michigan DNR Employee Handbook" and interview with the FRD HR Director, showed that nearly all of the listed items are included in policy and are part of the program. Agenda for New employee orientation (New Employee Orientation September 26 & 27, 2012) covers equal employment, handbook/Civil service issues/rules. Civil service rules are also on the Michigan DNR internet.

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

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

Audit Notes: **2018:** Not reviewed during 2018 third-party audit.

2017: All staff except managers and supervisors are members of a union.

Objective 10 Forestry Research, Science and Technology

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

Performance Measure 10.1

Program Participants shall individually and/or through cooperative efforts involving *SFI Implementation Committees*, associations or other partners provide in-kind support or funding for forest research to improve *forest health, productivity* and sustainable management of forest resources, and the environmental benefits and performance of forest products. Indicators:

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

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

Audit Notes: **2018:** Not reviewed during 2018 third-party audit.

2017: Project to evaluate alternative silvicultural systems to promote tree regeneration in Northern hardwood forests; 4 treatments: single-tree selection and small group selection; large group and patch harvests, shelterwood, and clearcut. Funded MSU \$600,000; also cooperators are GMO and Hancock Natural Resources

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

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

Audit Notes: **2018:** Not reviewed during 2018 third-party audit.

2017; 2016: The use of genetically modified organisms is not allowed on certified state forest lands per DNR Forest Certification Work Instruction 2.3:

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

Performance Measure 10.2

Program Participants shall individually and/or through cooperative efforts involving *SFI Implementation Committees*, associations or other partners develop or use state, provincial or regional analyses in support of their *sustainable forestry programs*. Indicator:

10.2.1. Participation, individually and/or through cooperative efforts involving *SFI Implementation Committees* and/or associations at the national, state, provincial or regional level, in the development or use of some of the following:

- a. regeneration assessments;
- b. growth and drain assessments;
- c. *best management practices* implementation and conformance;
- d. *biodiversity conservation* information for family forest owners; and
- e. social, cultural or economic benefit assessments.

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

Audit Notes: **2018:** FRD employs a forest economist who is completing a social-economic assessment of state forest lands. He presented an update on status and initial findings following the opening meeting.

MDNR personnel conduct regeneration assessments on state forests; help review and edit FIA reports; co-wrote the BMP manual with DEQ. The department website has biodiversity information for family forest owners.

Performance Measure 10.3

Program Participants shall individually and/or through cooperative efforts involving *SFI Implementation Committees*, associations or other partners broaden the awareness of *climate change* impacts on forests, *wildlife* and *biological diversity*. Indicators:

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

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

Audit Notes: **2018:** Evidence reviewed:

- “MDNR Participates in NIACS Climate Change Response Framework which offers workshops and related management documents (<https://forestadaptation.org/northwoods/mi>)...”
- Reviewed the “Michigan Climate Action Council Climate Action Plan. March 2009”

Regional state forest management plans contain a discussion on climate change.

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

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

Audit Notes: **2018:** Reviewed the “3564_Climate_Vulnerability_Division_Report_4.24.13” more fully titled “Changing Climate, Changing Wildlife - A Vulnerability Assessment of 400 Species of Greatest Conservation Need and Game Species in Michigan. Wildlife Division Report No. 3564. April, 2013.” This report, from 2013, indicates that the MDNR has invested in a vulnerability analysis.

Also see "Michigan State Wildlife Action Plan 2015-2025, Michigan's Climate Action Plan.

MDNR has Adaptation Specialist on staff within Wildlife Division (Chris Hoving).

Objective 11 Training and Education

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

Performance Measure 11.1

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

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

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

Audit Notes: **2018:** Not reviewed during 2018 third-party audit.

2017: Memo sent on September 23, 2014; TO: All DNR Staff; FROM: Keith Creagh, Director

SUBJECT: Statement of Commitment to Forest Certification

The commitment of the State of Michigan to forest certification is embodied in state law: NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION ACT (EXCERPT) Act 451 of 1994

324.52505 Third-party certification that forestry standards satisfied; report. Sec. 52505.

(1) The department shall seek and maintain third-party certification that the management of the state forest and other state owned lands owned or controlled by the department satisfies the sustainable forestry standards of at least 1 credible nonprofit, nongovernmental certification program and this part.

2016: A written statement of commitment to the SFI standard has been most recently communicated to all DNR staff on December 17, 2015.

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

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

Audit Notes: **2018:** Not reviewed during 2018 third-party audit.

2017: All of the SFI Performance Measures and Indicators are contained in a series of DNR Forest Certification Work Instructions, which are regularly reviewed and updated. These work instructions provide clear assignment of responsibilities by position.

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

The MI DNR Forest Resources Division has a full term employee assigned to the duty of Forest Certification Coordinator and also maintains a standing Forest Certification Team which includes representatives from every resource division and law enforcement. Interviews during the site visits including central office and district staff showed that employees are well aware of their responsibilities.

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

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

Audit Notes: **2018:** Formal training records are maintained in Lansing; employee records are maintained at the Management Units.

FRD is developing a classification-specific training guide (excluding Fire-Related Personnel). "When completed the guide will summarize minimum training requirement by classification and describe current opportunities to assist with development/updating of individual training plans."

MDNR implemented several training programs in response to the 2017 OFI:

- Agenda and participant lists for four 2-day District Trainings in July and August on Timber Sale Administration and BMPs. Training was mandatory for Foresters and Forest Techs and included both classroom and field components.
- Agenda and participant lists for 2 Regional trainings on Biodiversity Management on State Forest Lands

2017: There is an Opportunity for Improvement related to implementation of existing department and division policies and procedures on training plans.

Biologists, other specialists, foresters and technicians have degrees from institutions known to have strong programs in the various fields; an unusually diverse collection of colleges are represented. Most members of the forestry management team all have at least BS in Forestry degrees from SAF-accredited programs. Some staff in each division and at all levels have multiple and/or advanced degrees. Interviews also revealed that most staff have long experience in their jobs and/or previous jobs with relevant, related duties. Staff have the opportunity to take specialized training, and the organization provides regular formal internal training, with a particularly strong and well-documented fire training program (many of the skills learned in the fire program readily transfer to other duties). The many interdisciplinary meetings and less-formal interactions among wildlife biologists, fisheries biologists, recreation specialists, ecologists, planners, foresters, and forestry specialists ensure that informal and on-the-job training that occurs is regular, broad, deep, and very effective.

Internal audits found that training plans were not always in place and that there are some gaps in training. For example the Crystal Falls Internal Audit Report contains the following: "Requirement of Audited Standard/Work Instruction: 8.1.1.d "Supervisors will determine job training needs in conjunction with employees. As part of the annual performance appraisal process, supervisors must identify employee training needs per DNR Personnel Manual 21.10.02 and divisions' policies. Observed Nonconformity: Forest Resources Division staff has not had an annual performance appraisal in over a year; therefore, training needs have not been adequately identified." The Draft 3 Grayling Audit Report contains two Minor Non-Conformances directly related to training and others which could be related to training needs (corrective plan is not in place). Likewise the Traverse City Audit Report Draft 3.1 includes several findings related to training.

Efforts to address these self-identified training issues are underway. Training scheduled in 2018 will address Biodiversity and sale administration, per information from DFR and as listed in "2018 Annual Training PlanV2_JP updates".

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

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

Audit Notes: **2018:** Not reviewed during 2018 third-party audit.

2017: There is a formal system for training, testing, and assessing the work of timber marking contractors. The DNR maintains a web site and provides training for contractors that assist in preparing DNR timber sales: http://www.michigan.gov/dnr/0,4570,7-153-10368_21637---,00.html. Foresters providing contract forestry services must have a professional forestry degree, pass a written test, and take an orientation test.

Road building and road maintenance are mostly done by staff associated with the fire program, with assistance and direction from staff foresters. Road contractors are also working on forester-developed projects with follow-up reviews ensuring appropriate work, an approach that meets the requirement for sufficient training.

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

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

Audit Notes: **2018:** DNR timber sale contract specification 6.3 requires a SFE or FISTA qualified foreman to supervise logging operations on DNR timber sales.

Every timber harvest reviewed had an identified Qualified Logging Professional, as confirmed by information found on the "Pre-Sale Meeting" portion of the "Timber Sale Contract – Field Inspection Report". Interviews confirmed that foresters check the on-line databases maintained by the SFI Implementation Committees for Michigan and for Wisconsin as needed to confirm credentials. Auditors reconfirmed training records for some contractors.

Performance Measure 11.2

Program Participants shall work individually and/or with *SFI Implementation Committees*, logging or forestry associations, or appropriate agencies or others in the *forestry* community to foster improvement in the professionalism of *wood producers*.

Indicators:

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

- a. awareness of sustainable forestry principles and the SFI program;
- b. best management practices, including streamside management and road construction, maintenance and retirement;
- c. reforestation, invasive exotic plants and animals, forest resource conservation, aesthetics and special sites;
- d. awareness of responsibilities under the U.S. Endangered Species Act, the Canadian Species at Risk Act, and other measures to protect wildlife habitat (e.g., Forests with Exceptional Conservation Value);
- e. awareness of rare forested natural communities as identified by provincial or state agencies, or by credible organizations such as NatureServe, The Nature Conservancy, etc.
- f. logging safety;
- g. U.S. Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) and Canadian Centre for Occupational Health and Safety (CCOHS) regulations, wage and hour rules, and other provincial, state and local employment laws;
- h. transportation issues;
- i. business management;
- j. public policy and outreach; and
- k. awareness of emerging technologies.

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

Audit Notes: **2018:** Not reviewed during 2018 third-party audit.

2017: Keith Kintigh, Forest Conservation and Certification Specialist regularly provides the Biodiversity training module as part of the SFI Implementation Committee’s logger training program, and over the past year has provided this module at four separate locations.

A stakeholder (forest industry): “Yes, the MDNR participates in SIC meetings and supports many activities with the SIC. One of the biggest contributions the DNR does is donate staff time and expertise for logging training classes.”

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

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

Audit Notes: **2018:** Not reviewed during 2018 third-party audit.

2017: Confirmed the MI SFE logger training has a core requirement and annual update requirement.

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

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

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

Audit Notes: **2018:** Not reviewed during 2018 third-party audit.

2017: Michigan does have such a program, and it is recognized by the Michigan SFI Implementation Committee.

Objective 12 Community Involvement and Landowner Outreach

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

Performance Measure 12.1

Program Participants shall support and promote efforts by consulting foresters, state, provincial and federal agencies, state or local groups, professional societies, *conservation* organizations, *Indigenous Peoples* and governments, community groups, sporting organizations, labor, universities, extension agencies, the *American Tree Farm System*® and/or other landowner cooperative *programs* to apply *principles* of sustainable forest management. Indicators:

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

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

Audit Notes: **2018:** Confirmed MIDNR’s financial support by review of payment information. Confirmed participation by MIDNR in the MI SIC by review of meeting minutes showing participation by Keith Kintigh (attendee lists).

Keith Kintigh also provides training classes for the biodiversity portion of the SFE and other MDNR staff teach portions related to BMPs and stream crossings, forest health, and fish and forest interaction.

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

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

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

Audit Notes: **2018:** The Michigan Landowners Guide was developed by the Michigan SFI Implementation Committee with support from MDNR. This guide, which is passed out to members and loggers for distribution to landowners, provides much of the information listed in this indicator.

Michigan DNR’s redesigned public-facing website at [www. http://michigan.gov/forestry](http://michigan.gov/forestry) includes pages or links providing significant forest management information for landowners

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

12.1.3. Participation in efforts to support or promote *conservation* of managed forests through voluntary market-based incentive *programs* such as current-use taxation *programs*, *Forest Legacy Program* or *conservation* easements.

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

Audit Notes: **2018:** The DNR FRD administers the Michigan Commercial Forest Program, a tax incentive program for industrial and private landowners.

The DNR FRD also administers the state’s Forest Legacy Program.

Performance Measure 12.2

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

12.2.1. Periodic educational opportunities promoting *sustainable forestry*, such as

- a. field tours, seminars, websites, webinars or workshops;
- b. educational trips;
- c. self-guided forest management trails;
- d. publication of articles, educational pamphlets or newsletters; or
- e. support for state, provincial, and local *forestry* organizations and soil and water *conservation* districts.

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

Audit Notes: **2018:** MDNR is implementing an exceptional range of programs for public outreach, education and involvement related to sustainable forest management.

MDNR has launched a campaign to promote importance of sustainable forestry. A public-relations firm was hired to conduct market research, and used the results to develop 4 versions of attractive signs explaining forest harvesting, timber marking, etc. as well as a video (<https://youtu.be/TdEntizuyYk>) and press releases.

Michigan DNR's redesigned public-facing website at [www. http://michigan.gov/forestry](http://www.michigan.gov/forestry) includes pages or links covering:

- Certification page (https://www.michigan.gov/dnr/0,4570,7-350-79136_79237_80915---,00.html)
- How & Why We Manage Forests (https://www.michigan.gov/dnr/0,4570,7-350-79136_79237_80916---,00.html)
- Forest Management Plans
- Mi State Forest Map, an ARCGIS-based map viewing tool that allows users to easily determine, for any location or address, general information about proposed or ongoing forest management activities, with links to the Michigan DNR Forestry Page or Special Management Areas page for more information. (<https://midnr.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=e11c61b5db454a7cb9491854cf0e4a23>)
- Public Input (https://www.michigan.gov/dnr/0,4570,7-350-79136_79237_81036---,00.html), and
- Significant forest management information for landowners

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

MDNR staff working in the Roscommon FMU annually participate in the "Forest Fest" at Hartwick Pine State Park (<https://www.michigan.org/event/hartwick-pines-state-park-forest-fest>)

Several foresters and biologists described regular efforts to speak with members of the public about forest and wildlife management programs, practices, and issues, including informal contacts and more-formal events including talks at schools or with community groups.

MDNR has several full time employees that support outreach and public education regarding sustainable forestry: a webmaster who also works in promotion, an educational coordinator (Adopt-A-Forest; Project learning Tree), a forest stewardship coordinator, a Forest Health and Property Programs Unit, an Urban and Community Forestry Coordinator, and a Community Wildfire Protection Coordinator.

Performance Measure 12.3

Program Participants shall establish, at the state, provincial, or other appropriate levels, procedures to address concerns raised by loggers, consulting foresters, employees, unions, the public or other *Program Participants* regarding practices that appear inconsistent with the *SFI Standard principles and objectives*. Indicators:

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

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

Audit Notes: **2018:** The FRD works with the MI SFI IC to maintain the SFI "Inconsistent Practices Hotline": 1-800-474-1718 (<http://sfimi.org/hotline>).

Confirmed participation in the MI SIC by MIDNR by review of meeting minutes and attendee lists.

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

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

Audit Notes: **2018:** Confirmed the MI SFI Implementation Committee has an inconsistent practices program which includes a phone number that is publicized through the SIC's website and in the Michigan Landowners Guide which is passed out to members and loggers for distribution to landowners.

Objective 13 *Public Land Management Responsibilities*

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

Performance Measure 13.1

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

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

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

Audit Notes: **2018:** Michigan DNR’s Forest Resource Division engages in an exceptional amount of involvement with and support for land planning and management activities on public lands.

Procedures, interviews, and review of documents confirm an emphasis on public awareness and involvement in all aspects of planning and management. For example, Section 4.1.2.2 of the 2008 Michigan State Forest Management plan (amended in 2014) contains objectives for consultation with government and non-government entities and individuals. The ERA Planning Framework includes a significant amount of public consultation and involvement in the development of management plans for these special sites.

MDNR has developed a robust program to support forest management on the three National Forests located within the state, working within the federal “Good Neighbor Authority” program. The program has grown steadily, is expected to continue to grow. Currently an estimated 4 full-time equivalent field foresters are assigned.

From pre-audit questionnaire: “Since October 1 of FY18, FRD has received 28 logged-letters, 20 legislative requests, and 494 e-mail requests for information. These requests for information are forwarded to appropriate staff and addressed as a part of routine work responsibilities. FRD also received and addressed 3 specific requests for information under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) and assisted with 10 others since October 1st in FY18. Other social interactions include:

- Compartment reviews for Year of Entry 2020 were held in each Forest Management Unit.
- Nearly 180,000 followers on the DNR Facebook account, 20,900 on Instagram, and 4,700 subscribers on the DNR YouTube channel.
- Over 34,500 Twitter followers with over 8,700 tweets on the general DNR Twitter feed, and over 7,300 followers with 2,000 tweets for the Upper Peninsula-specific feed.
- Issuance of forest-related press releases across the following GovDelivery subjects since Oct. 1st 2017:
 - Forest planning: 28
 - Private Forest lands: 12
 - Urban and community forestry programs: 9
 - Forest health: 27
 - Forest Marketing and Utilization Newsletter: 7

Total GovDelivery subscriptions to forest-related topics are as follows:

- Assistance to Private Forestland Owners – 14,663
- Forest Health – 14,161
- Forest Industry – 348
- Forest Marketing and Utilization – 4,586
- Forest Planning – 17,130
- Prescribed burn notices – 14,519
- Statewide DNR News – 52,275
- Upper Peninsula DNR News – 29,504
- Urban and community forestry – 12,016
- Wildfire incident updates – 16,413

In FY 18, MDNR continued to participate in significant stakeholder engagement in the decision-making process regarding which state forest roads would be open or remained closed to ORV use in response to PA 288 of 2016. In FY 18, consultation efforts focused on the Upper Peninsula and included dedicated stakeholder meetings, which included extensive contact from the UP Citizen Advisory Councils; tribal consultation; four public meetings; an interactive web map that provided the opportunity for comments to be submitted on specific roads; dedicated

email address; and traditional mailing address. The Upper Peninsula stakeholder meetings and public meetings were sparsely attended with few concerns expressed by participants. Once the few attendees learned that most roads were going to remain open to ORV use they were satisfied with the process. Less than 100 comments were received during the public input period and ranged from general comments expressing concerns about ORV use, about the process and PA 288, to specific comments about individual road segments.

Thousands of routine inquiries, comments, complaints via email and telephone calls that are also received and respond to by District Forest Managers and Unit Managers, but these interactions are not comprehensively documented.”

From the same source:

“The Michigan DNR and the State of Michigan have been involved in a number high-profile public engagement processes in the last year including:

- Participation with the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality, the Michigan Agency for Energy, and the Michigan Office of Attorney General to develop an Independent Risk Analysis for the Straits Pipelines. MDNR staff from the EUP have been involved as subject experts with this project.
- Changes in white-tailed deer regulations as a result of Chronic Wasting Disease.
- Continued public involvement with State Forest roads planning in the UP and NLP as an outcome of Public Act 288.
- Several meeting statewide with producers regarding possible timber sale restrictions associated with Heterobasidion root disease (HRD) in red pine.”

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

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

Audit Notes: **2018:** MDNR has developed an exceptional program for contact with local stakeholders over forest management issues.

The program maintains a high level of contact with local stakeholders over forest management issues through state, federal, advisory group, and individual collaboration and via a robust set of web-based information tools.

The MI DNR has a web site https://www.michigan.gov/dnr/0,4570,7-350-79136_79237_80916---,00.html that describes the DNR compartment review process and opportunities for participation with tools that stakeholders can learn about proposed and planned management practices in specific, searchable locations.

Compartment reviews for Year of Entry 2020 were held in each Forest Management Unit and are open to the public. Press releases, GovDelivery emails, and other forms of public notification are annually made for public open houses at the Forest Management Unit level. Confirmed some of the publicity for the road planning process: <https://www.uppermichiganssource.com/content/news/DNR-seeking-input-on-state-forest-roads-planning-497854811.html>.

FRD often posts information signs when harvesting timber near significant recreation areas, and is rolling out a new set of larger, improved signs that explain various forest management practices, including versions designed to explain “Marking”, “Harvesting”, and “Thinning”.

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

The Michigan Department of Natural Resources has two 20-member Citizens’ Advisory Councils (CAC) in the Upper Peninsula, which were created in 2007 and first convened the following year. The two councils (east and west) are designed to provide local input to advise the DNR on regional programs and policies, identify areas in which the department can be more effective and responsive and offer insight and guidance from members’ own experiences and constituencies. CACs are coordinated by a Regional Deputy Director and meet every-other month.

The Wildlife Division consults and collaborates with numerous citizen groups and shares information gained through such collaborations with forestry personnel. For example at the statewide level the Wildlife Division

works with the Upper Peninsula Sportsman's Alliance and with the Michigan United Conservation Clubs. Likewise, the Forest Resource Division works with several key groups:

“Two appointed forest resource advisory groups work with FRD giving their time and talent to help the division meet its goals and mission. The Timber Advisory Council (TAC) provides advice to the governor, the Department of Natural Resources (DNR), the Michigan Economic Development Corporation (MEDC) and the Michigan Department of Agriculture & Rural Development (MDARD) on issues and concerns related to timber management in Michigan. The DNR director appoints members of the Forest Management Advisory Committee (FMAC) who assist in balancing environmental, social and economic issues related to managing Michigan's state forest system.” Source: Seeing The Forest, The Trees & Beyond. Forest Resources Division Strategic Plan. 2014-2018. Michigan Department of Natural Resources.

Objective 14 Communications and Public Reporting

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

Performance Measure 14.1

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

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

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

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

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

Audit Notes: **2018:** The 2017 Michigan DNR SFI Public Summary Surveillance Audit Report is posted on the SFI program webpage: <http://www.sfiprogram.org/audit-reports/michigan-dept-of-natural-resources-august-2016/>.

Performance Measure 14.2

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

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

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

Audit Notes: **2018:** Rachel Hamilton, Coordinator, Statistics and Label Use reported that survey was submitted on time.

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

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

Audit Notes: **2018:** All categories of information for the annual report are covered by computerized record keeping systems (databases or reports) which are periodically updated. Confirmed by review of the 2017 Annual Progress Report and other documents, procedures, and systems.

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

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

Audit Notes: **2018:** Past copies of reports are maintained by the MI DNR Forest Certification Coordinator, confirmed by response when Mike Ferrucci emailed Keith K a request for 2017 reports. This was provided as a pdf, confirming maintenance of past reports.

Results of external and internal audits and management review reports are also maintained on the DNR Forest Certification web page (https://www.michigan.gov/dnr/0,4570,7-350-79136_79237_80915---,00.html).

Objective 15 Management Review and Continual Improvement

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

Performance Measure 15.1

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

Indicators:

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

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

Audit Notes: **2018:** MDNR conducts many monitoring activities, as listed on its Monitoring Reports web page (https://www.michigan.gov/dnr/0,4570,7-350-79136_79237_80915-331525--,00.html):

1. Yield of forest products harvested.
 - Commercial Timber Sale Bid Summary Reports
 - Acres and Cords Cut Summaries
 - View DNR Legislative Reports on the About Us Page
2. Composition, condition, growth rates, regeneration and changes in forest flora and fauna.
 - 2008 Michigan State Forest Management Plan - Current Forest Conditions, Uses, and Trends (ten year plan).
 - Michigan State Forest Management Plan Amendment
 - Regional State Forest Management Plans
 - Michigan Forest Resource Assessment and Strategy (Forest Action Plan)
3. Environmental and social effects of harvesting and other operations.
 - Social and Economic Assessment for Michigan's State Forests
 - Compartment Reviews
 - 2011 Monitoring of Forestry BMPs in Michigan
 - 2014 Monitoring of Forestry BMPs in Michigan
 - Resource Damage Reports (Available upon request in Forest Management Unit offices)
 - Timber Sale Inspection Reports (Available upon request in Forest Management Unit offices)
 - FRD Accomplishments Report - 2015
 - Wildlife Division Annual Report - 2015
 - Fisheries Division Annual Report - 2015
4. Identification, maintenance/protection, and enhancement/restoration of ecological values including:
 - Identification and protection of Rare, Threatened and Endangered Species
 - Maintenance, enhancement and restoration of under-represented successional stages, rare ecological communities, Type 1 and Type 2 old growth, plant and animal species habitat components and associated stand structures, and riparian management zones
 - Protection of Ecological Reference Areas
 - Maintenance and enhancement of High Conservation Value Areas
5. Monitoring of ecological values is conducted in several areas and the results of which can be viewed at:
 - Compartment Review Narratives and Reports
 - Michigan Forest Health Highlights
 - Statewide Analysis and Surveys to Develop an Approach for Identifying Priority Conservation Areas in Michigan: 2008 Progress Report
 - Michigan Natural Features Inventory Natural Community Surveys

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

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

Audit Notes: **2018:** The State Forest Management Review Processes "is described in the DNR Forest Certification Work Instruction 1.2 - Management Review Process for Continual Improvement in the Management of Forest Resources. The work instruction describes internal audit schedules, annual Forest Certification Surveillance Audits, Field Management Reviews, and procedures for implementing improvements.

Results of internal audits may be viewed at https://www.michigan.gov/dnr/0,4570,7-350-79136_79237_80915-331520--,00.html. A summary of the internal audit results was provided in the 2018 Management Review Report:

“The internal audits were conducted in June through mid-August on the Traverse City, Grayling and Crystal Falls FMUs. The audits found no major non-conformances, 16 minor non-conformances, and 15 opportunities for improvement:

1. Traverse City FMU – The audit identified no major non-conformances, 3 multi-unit non-conformances, 1 minor non-conformances, and 8 opportunities for improvement.
2. Grayling FMU – The audit identified no major non-conformances, 2 multi-unit non-conformances, 4 minor non-conformances, and 3 opportunities for improvement.
3. Crystal Falls FMU – The audit identified no major non-conformances, 3 multi-unit non-conformances, 6 minor non-conformances, and 9 opportunities for improvement.”

When the report was published it documented the closure of 7 minor non-conformances, with assignments and deadlines for many of the other findings.

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

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

Audit Notes: The most recent Annual review is thoroughly documented in the “2018 Forest Certification Management Review Report. Fifth Draft Report. April 4, 2018. Approved by the DNR Resource Bureau Management Team. July 10, 2018.”

A summary of the internal audit results was provided in the 2018 Management Review Report:

“The internal audits were conducted in June through mid-August on the Traverse City, Grayling and Crystal Falls FMUs. The audits found no major non-conformances, 16 minor non-conformances, and 15 opportunities for improvement...”

When the report was published it documented the closure of 7 minor non-conformances, with assignments and deadlines for many of the other findings. Of the 12 findings that had remained at that time the status as of the end of the third-party audit, the status reported by Michigan DNR was: 4: Complete; 4: Near completion; 3: Progress made, deadline will be extended; and 1: Significant Progress made, deadline will be extended.

(End of the checklist)

Appendix 4

Site Visit Notes

Date: October 10, 2018 – Roscommon Management Unit	
FMU / location / sites visited	Features of Interest / Notes
Program-wide Opening Meeting 8:00 am – 10:00 am Both Auditors (all sites)	Introductions, client update, review scope of evaluation, audit plan, intro/update to FSC and SCS standards, confidentiality and public summary, conformance evaluation methods and review of open CARs/OBS, emergency and security procedures for evaluation team, reviewed audit itinerary.
Roscommon Management Unit	Overview of unit's land base and forest and land management programs.
Site 1: Keno Hardwoods	21 acre timber sale marked and sold but not harvested. Marking of this northern hardwood stand to a residual basal area of 80 to 100 square feet per acre with some canopy gaps is consistent with silvicultural guidelines. Confirmed removal of poor-quality, lower vigor trees and retention of some trees with habitat value.
Site 2: Keno Oil Aspen, Unit 1	90.5 acre, 4-unit timber sale marked and sold but not harvested. All units are Aspen-dominated stands prescribed for clearcutting with various types and patterns of retention. Confirmed Unit 1 has two interior "islands" marked for no treatment and one edge area also excluded. The islands have lowland brush or grass cover, while the edge area contains timber representative of harvest area.
Site 3: Running Deer Red Pine	25 acre red pine predominant stand was clear cut in the 2016-2017 winter, with follow-up chipping of tops during May 2017. Site-preparation furrowing done in the fall of 2017, but planned spring 2018 planting did not occur due to lack of planting stock. Site received chemical herbicide site preparation in September 2018 to prepare for spring 2019 planting, using planting stock from a large, commercial nursery.
Site 4: Roscommon Red Pines Natural Area/ERA and Trail	Small parking area, 1.3 mile trail, and core area of old-growth (140+ years old) red pine and white pine with associated species comprising a dry northern forest. This special site is reserved from timber harvest and managed to allow natural processes, control invasive species, and monitor conditions. The Roscommon Red Pines ERA Plan has been completed and is undergoing final review.
Site 5: Rasmer Trespass	A trespass originally closed in July 2017 following survey work. The owner of the adjoining property continues to trespass despite two surveys (one by MiDNR and one by a surveyor for the owner) which show the same results. Matter was referred to a Conservation Officer. Access to a nearby timber harvest affected with no impact.
Site 6: Cut Units 7 & 8, School Road KW Sale	Completed harvests in Units 7 (37 acres) and 8 (11 acres) of a mature red pine-dominated stand near an area long managed for Kirtland's warbler (KW). KW is federally-listed, but under consideration for de-listing after decades of management to create dense, pure stands of Jack Pine. These units were prescribed an alternative treatment promoting red pine natural regeneration and including the retention of scattered, large mature red pine as an attempt to balance habitat, esthetic, and economic goals. Observed many young red and jack pine that loggers avoided. Scarification between this regeneration will promote more natural pine regeneration. Post-harvest esthetics far superior to normal KW jack pine treatments.
Site 7: Unit 9, School Road KW	This 98 acre unit was sold but not yet cut. The prescription is to clear cut, scatter the tops, scarify, and allow natural regeneration.



Site 8: Unit 11, School Road KW	This 97 acre unit was sold but not yet cut. The prescription is to clear cut, leaving several uncut patches dominated by red pine, and then trench and plant jack pine in the conventional KW opposing weave pattern.
Site 9: Unit 12, School Road KW	This 66 acre unit was sold but not yet cut. The prescription is to clear cut, leaving several uncut patches dominated by red pine, and then trench and plant jack pine in the conventional KW opposing weave pattern.
Site 10: Unit 9, Boy Scout Aspen	This 6.5 acre unit was clear cut harvested during the summer of 2018. Many mature oak trees were retained comprising near-shelterwood level structure. There are many oak stump sprouts and oak seedlings, with Aspen root suckers less prevalent.
Site 11: Unit 8, Boy Scout Aspen	This 6.6 acre unit was clear cut harvested during the summer of 2018. Scattered mature oak trees were retained. There are some oak stump sprouts and oak seedlings, with Aspen root suckers more prevalent. The wood from these and other units was moved to an existing grassy opening, preventing compaction that often leads to significant delays in natural regeneration.
Site 12: Unit 11, Boy Scout Aspen	This 33 acre unit was clear cut harvested during the summer of 2018. Retention includes scattered and clumped trees, but unit is generally very open. Aspen root suckering covers entire unit.
Site 13: Unit 1, Landfill Oak	This 37 acre unit was recently thinned to a residual of 70 square feet of basal area per acre. Tops have been piled and are awaiting a follow-up chipping operation. No rutting and minimal damage to residual trees were observed.
Site 14: Unit 2, Landfill Oak	This 37 acre unit was recently thinned to a residual of 40 square feet of basal area per acre, with some larger red pine trees marked for retention. No rutting and minimal damage to residual trees were observed.
Site 15: Nine Mile Pit	A long-term lease for mining of gravel located beneath sand. A mining and reclamation plan is in place.
Site 16: Nine Mile ERA Complex	This ERA includes protected natural communities including muskeg, fen, poor fen, and pine-dry mesic forest. It was viewed from a distance and its management, monitoring, and conditions were discussed. The Nine Mile Complex ERA Plan has been completed and is undergoing final review.

Date: October 11, 2018 – Grayling Management Unit	
FMU / location / sites visited	Features of Interest / Notes
Grayling Management Unit	Overview of unit's land base and forest and land management programs.
Beth Jacquain, West Tour	
Site W1: DeWard Orchard	Historical orchard site. Wildlife objectives, 209 acres managed as grassy openings. Examined Unit 32, prescribed burn and records. North 48 acres, clearcut, trenched, sprayed planted to red pine. Spraying authorized through variance protocols (Variance, C72-0852, documents/records). Good growth on planted pines. Prescribed burn done in 2015 to set back woody succession/knapweed and promote native grasses. Examined ERA burn planning, prescription, and conditions of burn records. Discussions: Inventory, Year of Entry (YEO) scheduling.
Site W2: 72-006-16-01 Comp 210 Upland Mix Thin	Open and active sale - harvest completed 2018, not yet closed. Crown thinning next to a clearcut, 31 acres, adjacent to private land. Some damage to residual trees that had been detected, recorded, and addressed by timber administrator during the harvest. Discussions: beech bark disease, green-up requirements, boundary marking.
Site W3: 72-10-16-01 Kolka Creek Red Pine	<p>-Inspected portable bridge, natural river interface as access to red pine stand for thinning. Very carefully thought-out use of portable bride. Trail and road had many past ORV damage issues, despite use of boulders and other means to block access to trail across Kolka Creek. Examined and discussed the 35' portable bridge for road used to access "island" across creek where red pine stand was located. Permit for water, Permit Number 15-20-0023-P, issued by the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality, Issued 8/10/2015 included plans and conditions, Expires 8/10/2020 allowing the installation of the temporary bridge. RDR report for ORV damage. Discussions: red pine thinnings, roads, logging contracts, ORV damage, safety/radio communications in low-cell coverage areas.</p> <p>-Active sale, 150 acres. Shut down because of recent, heavy rains. Examined area already harvested and portion marked but not yet cut, confirmed crown thinning primarily for crop tree release but also using thinning-from-below and removing "worst first".</p> <p>-Logger interview. Confirmed map/contract, PPE. Interviewee was not a Qualified Logger but other person in 2-man crew is Qualified but not on-site. Spill containment supplies confirmed.</p>
Site W4: 72-032-16-01 Wild Rooster Mix	Recently completed harvest, 35 acres. Thinning with vernal pools and bog. Examined red painted boundary buffer around vernal pool and clumped green tree retention. Site has an oil and gas interface (pipe) and snowmobile trail which were considered during set up and protected during harvest. Units adjacent to SSURGO Hydric Soils and wetland exclusions. Within vicinity of Massasauga occurrence. Discussions: recreation, RTE, vernal BMPs.
Site W5: 72-005-16-01 Comp 210 Hardwood Peninsula	Recently completed hardwood thinning, 108 acres. Within vicinity of Eastern Massasauga occurrence. Contract marked. Some marked trees to be cut were left on site but fell within allowance of contract and not a hindrance to meeting silvicultural objectives. Discussions: Silviculture review, RTE, contractors, Indigenous consultations
Site W6: Compartment 175/Stand 20: KW Management interplanting of JP with red pine	Kirtland's warbler management area with clearcut done in 2015 (72-041-14-01) and replanted in 2017 to KW specifications (W72-800). Considerations for sale include visual management, horse trail crossings. Examined planted area that was planted with a relatively new "pilot" approach using jack pine planting with every 5 th tree a red pine seedling (rather than jack pine only). Objectives included visual/structural diversity preferred by recreational users, species diversity, and improved economic production.

	Discussions: Recreation/stakeholder input processes, regeneration monitoring, KW monitoring.
Site W7: Compartment 175/Stand 20: Campground, River stabilization	Campground review, access site, horse trail use, and camper use. Recreation issues & Natural Rivers. This state forest campground runs along a natural river. Inspected a restoration project for stream bank protection done with help. Reviewed the UMRA and RDR report.
Site W8: D4-11 T25N R4W Sec 11: Restoration of the Marathon Science Well Site	Well pad restoration site was inspected as well as access road restoration and new gate installation. The site was the location of a retired well-research rig. Site cleared, leveled and reshaped, and reseeded. Seed growth sufficient and no issues. Design specifications, communication records, permit application and requirements were examined. Discussion: monitoring systems for gas and oil well pads, BMPs for road construction and water quality protection, DNR road maintenance and RDR program.
Site W9: T24N R4W Sec 14: C72-840 Spray site	Site harvested in 2017 under "72-018-15-01 No 7 Red Pine". Aerial sprayed Aug 7, 2018. To be trenched for planting RP spring 2019. Examined documentation for planning and spray. Discussions: spray contracts, road BMPs, monitoring spray contracts.
Road review (unscheduled)	Comp. 195, Sec. 25, N Section line, SWSW. Cross drain 251. Road inspection. Discussion: BMPs for water quality protection, DNR Road maintenance program.
Site W10: 195: 35-14-01 Walk A Walking Stick Pine completed Sale	Sale completed end of 2017 in 82 acres. ERA. There is a heavy recreational pathway and sale was carefully planned with Park Manager. Examined intermittent stream area. Discussion: Water protections, BMP road requirements
Mike Ferrucci, East Tour	
Site E1: Lofty Oak Pine Mix Sale	Completed 136 acre timber sale. Units 3, 4, and 5 were reviewed; all were clear cut with retention of 6 large red pine and 1 oak tree per acre. Observed ample oak sprouting and small oak seedlings, although foresters will wait until oaks are 4 feet tall before formally designating the regeneration to meet stocking standards. The permanent two-track forest road accessing this site is rutted and has inadequate drainage in places.
Site E2: FTP-C72-838	Red Pine Stand 30, Compartment 217 was clear cut and chipped in 2016-2017. Due to several MNFI hits and potentials from the GDSE layer a MNFI Natural Community Survey was completed by a contractor, but no rare species were observed. Proposed treatments including herbicide, trench, and plant will proceed.
Site E3: Potter's Lowland Mix	Initial sale proposal was modified due to include similar stand from adjacent compartment, then further modified when the adjacent Lewiston Grade Swamp ERA Rich Conifer Swamp Natural Community had a boundary expansion. The proposed treatments in three small stands were dropped to expand the buffer after consultation with specialists; portions of these three stands outside the expanded buffer will be treated during the next cycle in conjunction with treatments of adjacent uplands.
Site E4: Banana Pine Sale	Sold, uncut 187 acre timber sale in an area with heavy recreational use, primarily on horse trails used also for hiking. Reviewed the harvest prescription and marking in an 81 acre well-stocked, planted pole timber stand of red and jack pine that comprises Payment Units 1, 2, and 3. All jack pine and marked red pine (not many) will be harvested. Discussed several approaches taken to inform the general public.
Site E5: Parmalee Red Pine sale at Parmalee State Forest Campground	This completed timber harvest was carefully-planned and implemented to support recreation sites including a rustic campground, a picnic area, an iconic trout stream, and the snowmobile/horse trail. Payment Unit 2 has 9 acres including the campground; it was row- and free-thinned, with slash lopped low or moved away from campsites. Tree marking emphasized removal of hazard trees and reserving healthy, well-spaced trees at a lower stocking than normal for timber growing emphasis. Payment Unit 1, also 5



	acres, was free-thinned to 120 square feet of basal area per acre, more conventional. Recreation managers and trail staff supported the project and led public outreach work.
Site E6: Bailey Road RDR Site, RDR ID#72014682017090	The MDNR Conservation Officer report illegal ORV use on a very steep portion of powerline row causing significant erosion damage. Using ORV restoration funds the site was seeded and two rows of large boulders were installed to block further use. Enforcement action has also occurred, and follow-up visits are planned.
Site E7: Frost Pocket ERA and Barrens	The natural history, ecology, and management of this 1,600 acre barrens complex was described by involved foresters, fire officer, wildlife biologist, and trail personnel. Burn Units 1, 2, and 3 were viewed and treatments, including harvests and prescribed fire, were discussed. The 1997 Frost Pocket Pine Barrens Management Plan and a draft ERA amendment detail the natural history, management prescriptions, and monitoring history and plan.
Site E8: C14 Oak Harvest	This two-unit sale was active on the day of the audit. Interviewed the processor operator who is a Qualified Logging Professional through Michigan Forestry Education training. Significant portions of the logging access road are rutted, with attempts to drain the road not being effective due to regular soaking rainfall. The rutting depth is limited by a compact clay layer. The logging contract requires the purchaser to grade and restore the road upon completion of the harvest. There are no wetlands or streams near the road, which is on nearly level ground, and limited movement of mud off the road (only where drainage swales are working). The harvest area is on elevated ground, mostly with better-drained slopes. Rutting and mud in the harvest area are limited to the truck loading area and some of the primary yarding (skid) roads.

Date: October 12, 2018 – Sault Ste. Marie	
FMU / location / sites visited	Features of Interest / Notes
Roscommon Management Unit	Overview of unit's land base and forest and land management programs.
Beth Jacqumain, West Tour	
Site W1: Long Life Mix 45-118-14	Final Harvest, set up not yet cut on 40 acres. Marked to keep, retaining conifers of specified size classes, conifer regeneration, marked dominant aspen green trees on a spacing basis, and other requirements. Objective is "Mackinac Mixed-species Management" which means silviculture prescription is designed to produce a mixed conifer-hardwood stand. Winter only harvest using winter Road through private for access. Examined "Compartment Review" and "Records of Changes and Revisions". Discussions: green tree retention, forest inventory rules and monitoring.
Site W2: Lily Lake Mix SBW 45-105-16	Hardwood final harvest, 103 acres. Mackinac Mix Management, Private Access, Winter Road, SBW. Discussions: rutting, road BMPs and construction.
Site W3: Leveille Road	Hardwood stand that had salvage of beech after beech bark mortality. Harvest followed by brush knockdown, and oak/white pine planting done in open areas and gaps that were made by salvage. Forester brought area to attention to Integrated review identifying potential concerns for hawk nests in area, so sale was modified to time of year that also minimized bark slippage and deer yarding. Detailed Integrated Review report included and reviewed. Discussions: RTE, Integrated Review process, special monitoring projects, regeneration survey schedules, insect and disease.
Site W4: Overwatch Pine 45-114-17	Set up, not yet cut. Red Pine Thinning, 88-acre area acquired in 1996. Examined Unit 1, approximately 90-year-old stand, 14 acres. Every 3 rd row thin. This is part of Compartment 202 which has HCVA-Dedicated Management Area (DMA) "Simmons Woods".
Site W5: Deadzone Mix 45-113-17	Open sale, 183 acres. "Hardwood and Mackinac Mix Management" using group selection in a northern hardwood stand. All deciduous >2 dbh to be cut, keeping all cedar and hemlock in stand and green tree retention based on size/spacing. Snag and den trees retained as in all other final harvest sales examined thus far.
Site W6: Seiners Point - Simmons Woods, (HCVF, RSA)	ERA, Natural Area, Old Growth, Invasive Species, ORV. Includes four natural communities: wooded dune and swale, inter-dunal wetland, limestone cobble shore, and open dunes. Has rare natural communities as well as high quality representative sample areas (RSAs). Reviewed documentation including long history of conservation for this area. Detailed discussions of HCVF monitoring including review of ERA monitoring plan. Monitoring plan specifies monitoring/management of illegal ORV use, invasive species, rare species, old growth, and tree/forest regeneration. Natural areas locations and profiles are available online here, https://www.michigan.gov/dnr/0,4570,7-350-79133_79200---,00.html .
Mike Ferrucci, East Tour	
Site E1: Giddings Road Project	Capital outlay road project; multiple unit haul route;
Site E2: Loud Hound Aspen Mix	Active timber sale; Aspen management
Site E3: Partridge Pine, Unit 4	Marked for thinning, not yet cut.
Site E4: Red Pine Release, C132, Stand 25, Dinky Lake Road	This 4 year old, 42 acre Red Pine planted stand is scheduled for chemical release. It had been site preparation sprayed with Rodeo on 9.23.13, trenched and then planted during March 2014. 36 acres are on the PAP for helicopter release spray in 2019.

<p>Site E5: Red Pine C132, Stand 16, Dinky Lake Road</p>	<p>This 13 year old, 35 acre Red Pine planted stand is fully-stocked with free-to-grow trees of excellent form and vigor. After harvest (former Spooky Pine Sale) the site was burned, trenched, and planted. YOE 2016 prescribed treatment lists monitoring for release and for RHPS and treat as needed.</p>
<p>Site E6: Strouble Lake, Hendricks Township</p>	<p>Hendricks Township requested ability to charge use fees for improved recreation site which now includes boat dock, picnic and camping areas. Arrangement was originally a "Use Permit", then considered a "Public Use Deed", and now have a conveyance subject to reverter clause to accommodate these desirable uses. Facilities are well-designed, built, and maintained.</p>
<p>Site E7: Meteor Mix, Unit 1</p>	<p>This 4-acre unit had a regeneration with retention harvest, with successful Aspen root suckering and ample retention of green trees and standing and down wood.</p>
<p>Site E8: Meteor Mix, Unit 6</p>	<p>This 13-acre unit had a selection harvest completed in a hardwood stand. Forestry and wildlife goals have been met, including targets for residual stand density, structure, species diversity and wildlife habitat retention elements such as snags and some live trees with features of use to wildlife (branchy crowns, decadent portions).</p>
<p>Site E9: Research Area, Dr. Mike Waters, Michigan State University</p>	<p>This site is part of a very large replicated study to assess alternative silvicultural methods to regenerate hardwood stands impacted by deer browsing. The treatment here is seed tree harvest with removal of most branches and slash, which were piled outside the plot because the chip market had been lost at the time of harvest.</p>
<p>Site E10: Strictler GEMS</p>	<p>The Strictler Grouse Enhanced Management Site (GEMS) plan was reviewed and discussed with the author. This is one of 19 such sites located on Michigan State Forests. Goals include management for grouse habitat, improved grouse hunting opportunities, and education. A well-designed, colorful information kiosk is supplemented by web-based technology including Avenza pdf maps available for quick download onto smart phones.</p>
<p>Site E11: Gem Stone Aspen Sale</p>	<p>Sold but uncut 6-unit regeneration treatment, most units in Aspen stands of varied ages, following detailed grouse enhancement management plan linked to the compartment plan.</p>

Appendix 5

Meeting Attendance

October 10, 2018 – Opening Meeting and Roscommon Management Unit

NAME	TITLE	ORGANIZATION/AGENCY
Beth		
Mike Ferrucci	SFI Lead Auditor	NSF International
David Price	MANAGER FRD FPO SECT.	DNR
Jagdish Poudel	Forest Economist, FRD,	DNR.
Dennis Nezech	FRD Field Coordinator	DNR-FRD
David O'Hay II	Fire Officer	DNR-FRD
Doug Bates	Forester ^{Rosco.}	DNR-FRD
Jake Figley	Fire Supervisor ^{Rosco.}	DNR-FRD
Jason Lewicki	Forester	DNR-FRD
Brian Mantell	Forester	DNR-FRD
Ray Delaney	Fire Officer	FRD
Dale Ekdom	SR Forest	FRD
Jeff Auteau	SR WLD TECH	WLD
Amy Swainston	PRD trails specialist	PRD-trails
Steve Anderson	FRD unit mgr	
BRAUN KIEFT	DIST. LAW SUPERVISOR, LT	DNR-LED
Bill Strett	DIST Supervisor FRD	DNR-FRD
Marc Boonson	Wildlife Biologist	WLD
Beth Jacquemin	SCS cert Forester	SCS
Jason Stephens	State Forest Inventory Specialist	FRD
Tim Cwalinski	Fisheries Biologist	FD

October 11, 2018 - Grayling Management Unit

NAME	TITLE	ORG/AGENCY	(2)
Mike Ferrucci	SFI Lead Auditor	NSF ISR	
Brian Jagarman	SCS FSC LA		
David Price	FRD FAO Sect.	DNR	
Keith Kutigh	FRD	DNR	
Steve Milford	FRD	DNR	
Mike Jansse	FAO	DNR	
Joan Charlebois	FRD	DNR	
Susan J Thiel	FRD	DNR	
Alex Sosyk	FRD	Ameri Corps	
Brian Piccolo	WLD	DNR	
Jennifer Hansen	FRD F.R.	DNR	
Amy Swanson	PRD	DNR	
Greg Kasser	PRD	DNR	
Tricia Weisand	PRD	DNR	
Kevin Ehler	FRD	DNR	
Tom Barnes	FRD	DNR	
Chad Fite	FRD	DNR	
Dan Hedeman	FRD	DNR	
Tim Riley	WLD	DNR	
Tim Glaco	FRD	DNR	
Jeff Antkowiak	WLD	DNR	
Colton Behrman	FRD	DNR	
Scott McClarren	FRD	DNR	
Debbie Recalle	FRD	DNR	
Lyn Carter-Rogier	FRD	DNR - Fosco of Grayling	
Keith Kutigh	FRD	FOREST CONSERVATION	
Steve Milford	FRD	CERT. SPECIMIST	
CASEY PULLUM	Conservation Officer	Law Enforcement Division	

October 12, 2018 - Sault Ste. Marie – West Management Unit

10-12-2018

NAME	JOB TITLE!	AGENCY
Mike Ferrucci	SFI LEAD AUDITOR	NSF-ISR
Beth Jacarain	FSC LEAD AUDITOR	SCS
Keith Kintigh	Forest Conservation Sert Coordinator	MDNR
MATT EDISON	Forester	FRD / Naubinwan
Rob Katon	Trail Specialist	PRD
Jeff Stapply	FRD EUP DISTRICT SUPERVISOR	FRD
Andrew Krugh	Forester	FRD
David Jordoff	Wildlife Biologist	WLD
Cory Kouzes	Fisheries Biologist	Fish
Troy Sumborn	State Parks Officer	PRD
Kristen Matson	EUP Inventory Planning Spec	FRD
Darren Kramer	Unit Manager	FO
Sherry Machinnin	Wildlife Ecologist	WLD
Loxy Luoto	Mobile Technology Analyst	FRD
Karen Radack	Unit Manager	FRD
David Price	FRD FPO SECT. MGR.	FRD

October 12, 2018 – Closing Meeting

10, 12, 2018 FOREST CERT AUDIT CLOSING MEETINGS

<u>NAMES</u>	<u>POSITION</u>	<u>DIVISION</u>
DAVID PRICE	FPO SERT MGR	FRD
MATT EDISON	Forester	FRD
DREW KRYGH	Forester	FRD
LYNN CARTER	Resource Admin	FRD
ANNA SILVERTER	FIELD COORD	FRD
JOHN CHARLESWORTH	FOREST	FRD
KEVIN BREMMER	FORESTER	FRD
COLTON ELHART	FORESTER	FRD
WILFORD, STEVE	ELP DIST. MGR	FRD
JASON STEPHENS	INV. SPECIALIST	FRD
DENNIS NEZICH	FIELD COORD	FRD
Kristen Matson	EUP Inv & Planning Spec	FRD
Karen Radowl	Small Tracts Unit Mgr	FRD
Jeff Stampfle	EUP DISTRICT SUPERVISOR	FRD
Keith Kirby	Cons & Cert Coordinator	FRD