

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 Forestry Program Audit Report

A. Certificate Holder Information

Certificate Holder	Michigan Department of Natural Resources
Customer Number	5Y031
Contact Information (Name, title, phone & email)	David Price, Section Manager, Forest Planning and Operations, 517-284-5891, priced1@michigan.gov
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.
Locations Included in the Certification Note: may be listed as plain text or included in an appendix or a separate file.	Forest Management Activities on approximately 3.9 million acres of Michigan State Forest.
Significant Changes to Operations or to the Standard(s)	None

B. Audit Team

Lead Auditor	Shannon Wilks, NSF Lead Auditor
Audit Team Member(s)	Kyle Meister, FSC Lead Auditor

C. Site Visits

Date and Location of Each Visit	Tuesday, October 15, 2019-Gladwin FMU Wednesday, October 16, 2019-Gaylord FMU Thursday, October 17, 2019-Shingleton FMU
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D. Audit Results

Auditor Recommendation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grant, maintain or renew certification <input type="checkbox"/> Grant, maintain or renew certification pending closure of CARs <input type="checkbox"/> Grant, maintain or renew certification pending follow-up assessment <input type="checkbox"/> Do not grant, maintain or renew certification (notify NSF office immediately)
Number and Summary of Findings of "Exceeds the Requirements"	-0-
Number and Summary of Findings of "Opportunity for Improvement"	Two (2) OFI's: Indicator 1.1.5: Observations of field sites and documentation confirmed all plans matched ground conditions with exception of one ERA-Mesic Forest ERA #18768. Indicator 15.1.2: DNR website not updated with current monitoring reports, SFI Annual Audit Reports and other various reports used for reporting information on progress to FM standards.



Number and Summary of Findings of "Minor Nonconformity"	One (1) Minor NC: Indicator 14.1.1: Review of SFI website confirmed the 2018 Michigan DNR Public Summary Audit Report was not posted on the website.
Number and Summary of Findings of "Major Nonconformity"	-0-
Summary of review of nonconformities from previous audit(s)	-0-
Notes from Opening and Closing Meetings	See report.
All logos and/or labels, including ANSI, ANAB, SFI, PEFC, ATFS, etc. are utilized correctly in accordance with NSF policies.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No (a finding of nonconformity should be issued) <input type="checkbox"/> N/A (not using any labels or logos on any marketing materials, website, finished products, etc.)

E. Recertification Review

<p>Auditors are required to review the reports from all audits in the current certification period, starting with the certification or recertification audit and including all surveillance or other audits. The auditor shall consider the performance of the program over the cycle through a review of internal audits, management reviews, corrective actions, continual improvement, and NSF audit findings, to determine if there is evidence of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An effective interaction between all parts of the program and its overall effectiveness? • An overall effectiveness of the system in its entirety in light of internal and external changes? • A demonstrated commitment by top management to maintain the effectiveness and improvement of the system to enhance overall performance? • Continual improvement over the cycle? • The program contributing to the achievement of the client's policy and objectives, and the intended results? • Repeated audit findings during the audit cycle that would indicate systemic issues? 	
Answer	Not Applicable-4 th Surveillance Audit

F. Appendices

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



Appendix 1

Audit Notification Letter

September 9, 2019

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 2019 SFI and FSC Surveillance Audits, Michigan Department of Natural Resources

Dear Mr. Kintigh,

As we have discussed, we are scheduled to conduct the Annual Surveillance Audits of the Michigan DNR on **Tuesday October 15th through Thursday October 17th 2019**. These audits will include the **Gaylord, Gladwin and Shingleton** 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 Shannon Wilks, NSF Lead Auditor and Kyle Meister, 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 2018 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

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.

SFI Tasks and Audit Focus Areas for 2019

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 1, 2, 3, 4, 9, 10, and 11 (depending on characteristics of sites selected) and a portion of the non-field components of your SFI program, including:
 - 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.



- Performance Measure 1.2: Program Participants shall not convert one forest cover type to another forest cover type, unless in justified circumstances.
- Performance Measure 1.3: Program Participants shall not have within the scope of their certification to this SFI 2015-2019 Forest Management Standard, forestlands that have been converted to non-forest use.
- 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 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 4.1: Program Participants shall conserve biological diversity.
- 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.
- Performance Measure 9.1: Program Participants shall comply with applicable federal, provincial, state and local forestry and related social and environmental laws and regulations.
- 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.
- Performance Measure 10.1: Program Participants shall individually an/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.
- 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.
- Performance Measure 11.1, Indicator 3: Staff education and training sufficient to their roles and responsibilities.
- 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.
- 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 and other required personal protective equipment.

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. However, 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 person with 1 year and less than 5 years-experience 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 'Shannon Wilks'.

Shannon Wilks
903-278-7766
Swilks@nsf.org



Audit Plan: 2019 SFI and FSC Surveillance Audit Michigan Department of Natural Resources October 15-17

Monday, October 14, 2019 – Travel Day

Shannon Wilks (SFI) will arrive into Lansing; uber/taxi Hampton Inn West.

Kyle Meister (FSC) arrangements to be determined.

Tuesday, October 15, 2019 – Gladwin FMU

Shannon Wilks (SFI) and Kyle Meister (FSC) will be met by MI DNR staff at 6:00am on 15 October at Hampton Inn West (HIW) for travel to Gladwin FMU.

0600 Depart Hotel in Lansing
0800 Opening Meeting – Gladwin
1000 Prepare for field
1030 Field. One or Two Audit Teams (TBD)
1600 Transit to hotel near Gaylord FMU
Evening Dinner TBD

Wednesday, October 16, 2019 – Gaylord FMU

0745 Depart Hotel for Gaylord Field Office
0800 Gaylord FMU Overview
0830 Prepare for field
0900 Field: One or Two Audit Teams (TBD)
1500 Transit to hotel near Shingleton FMU
Evening Dinner TBD

Thursday, October 17, 2019 – Shingleton FMU

0745 Depart Hotel for Shingleton Field Office
0800 Shingleton FMU Overview
0830 Prepare for field
0900 Field: One or Two Audit Teams (TBD)
1400 Auditor Closing Meeting Preparation
1500 Closing Meeting TBD
1600 Travel to Pellston/Lansing

Departing Travel

Shannon Wilks departure Friday October 18, 2019 from Pellston (PLN).

Kyle Meister arrangements to be determined.



Appendix 2

Michigan Department of Natural Resources 2019 SFI Forest Management Public Summary Audit Report

Introduction

Michigan Department of Natural Resources of Lansing, Michigan has demonstrated conformance to SFI® 2015-2019 Standard and Rules, Section 2 – Forest Management Standard in accordance with the NSF certification 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 fourth 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 15-17, 2019 by an audit team headed by Shannon Wilks, SFI Lead Auditor and Kyle Meister, FSC Lead Auditor. Audit team members fulfill the qualification criteria for conducting audits contained in SFI 2015-2019 Standards and Rules, Section 9 - Procedures and Auditor Qualifications and Accreditation.

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

The scope of the audit included forest management operations. Forest practices that were the focus of field inspections included those that have been under active management over the planning period of the past 3 years. In addition, practices conducted earlier were also reviewed as appropriate (regeneration and BMP issues, for example), SFI obligations to promote sustainable forestry practices, to seek legal compliance, and to incorporate continual improvement systems were also within the scope of the audit. The audit reviewed the central management and field practices at three of the fifteen Forest Management Units (FMUs): Gladwin FMU, Gaylord FMU and Shingleton FMU. The SFI Standard was used without modifying any requirements.

Several of the SFI Section 2 requirements were outside of the scope of Michigan DNR’s SFI program and were excluded from the scope of the audit as follows:

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

Audit Process

NSF initiated the audit process with a planning call to confirm the scope of the audit, review the SFI Indicators and evidence to be used to assess conformance, verify that Michigan DNR was prepared to proceed to the audit, and to prepare a detailed audit plan. NSF then conducted the audit of conformance. A report was prepared and approved by an independent certification board member assigned by NSF. The audit was governed by a detailed audit plan designed to enable the audit team to efficiently determine conformance with the applicable requirements. The plan provided for the assembly and review of audit evidence consisting of documents, interviews, and on-site inspections of ongoing or completed forest practices. A portion of the field sites were randomly selected.

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 protocols. NSF selected and interviewed stakeholders such as contract loggers, landowners and other interested parties, and interviewed employees within the organization to confirm that the SFI Standard was understood and actively implemented. The multi-site certificate covers 15 total Forest Management Units (FMUs). The 2019 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. Thirty-eight (38) field visit stops were visited and assessed during the 3 day audit, including 5 completed timber harvest blocks, 9 active timber harvest blocks, 1 planned, sold timber harvest blocks with no harvest activity yet, 2 roads, 2 road wetland crossing, 4 sections of recreational trail (most near harvests), 3 other recreation sites, 2 burn units including planting/mechanical site preparation sites, 3 sites for leasing/other land management/boundaries, and 7 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 field sites.



The possible findings of the audit included conformance, major non-conformance, minor non-conformance, opportunities for improvement, and practices that exceeded the requirements of the standard.

Overview of Audit Findings

Michigan DNR was found to be in conformance with the standard. NSF determined that there was 1 minor non-conformance:

- Indicator 14.1.1: Review of SFI website confirmed the 2018 Michigan DNR Public Summary Audit Report was not posted on the website.

Michigan DNR has developed plans to address these issues. Email confirmation dated 10/30/19 from SFI Coordinator, Statistics and Label use confirmed posting to the SFI website. Auditor review of SFI website confirms. Minor Non-Conformance has been closed and no further action required.

2 opportunities for improvement were also identified, and included:

- Indicator 1.1.5: Observations of field sites and documentation confirmed all plans matched ground conditions with exception of one ERA-Mesic Forest ERA #18768.
- Indicator 15.1.2: DNR website not updated with current monitoring reports, SFI Annual Audit Reports and other various reports used for reporting information on progress to FM standards.

These findings do not indicate a current deficiency but served to alert Michigan DNR to areas that could be strengthened or which could merit future attention.

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 Health and Productivity

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

Summary of Evidence: *– 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

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: This objective was not reviewed in 2019. Field observations of completed, active and planned harvest sites provided key evidence of compliance.

Objective 6 Protection of Special Sites

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

Summary of Evidence: This objective was not reviewed in 2019. Documented procedures, policies and field observations were the key evidence of compliance.

Objective 7 Efficient Use of Fiber Resources

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

Summary of Evidence: This objective was not reviewed in 2019. Field observations of completed and active harvest sites, review of internal monitoring documents and contractual requirements in timber sale agreements provided key evidence of compliance.

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 2019. 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: Review of procedures, contracts and agreements, interviews with personnel and observations during field site visits provided key evidence.

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: Review of SFI annual reporting surveys, pre-audit questionnaire and interviews with staff confirmed key evidence for compliance.

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 and Landowner Outreach

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

Summary of Evidence: This objective was not reviewed in 2019. Review of attendance records for MI SIC committee and observations of website provide key evidence of compliance.

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 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 areas* and to conform with forestry *best management practices* to protect water quality.

4. Protection of Biological Diversity

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

5. Aesthetics and Recreation

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

6. Protection of Special Sites

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

7. Responsible Fiber Sourcing Practices in North America

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

8. Legal Compliance

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

9. Research

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

10. Training and Education

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

11. Community Involvement and Social Responsibility

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



12. Transparency

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

13. Continual Improvement

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

For Additional Information Contact

Daniel Freeman	Michelle Matteo	Keith Kintigh
NSF Project Manager	NSF Forestry Program Manager	Forest Certification and Conservation Specialist Michigan DNR, Forest Resources Division
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Appendix 3

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

5Y031– Michigan Department of Natural Resources

Date of audit(s): October 15-17, 2019

1.2 Additional Requirements

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

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

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

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

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.

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

Audit Notes: 2019 & 2018:

Review of 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:

- Sub-points a through i detailing forest management planning requirements

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

Audit Notes: 2019: Review of Forest Resources Division Strategic Plan 2014-2018 Michigan Department of Natural Resources and Region State Forest Management Plans (3).

- Sub-points a through f detailing audit notes for forest management planning



- g. FRD Resource Assessment Unit provides geographic information systems (GIS) and digital mapping.
- h. MI DNR State Forest Growth and Yield-Working Version 7-26-2016
- i. Review of non-timber issues are listed in State Forest Management Plan, Forest Action Plan, Region Forest Management Plans, Fisheries Division Lake and River Plans, Kirtland’s Warbler Breeding Range Conservation Plan, MI Comprehensive Trail Plan, Terrestrial Invasive species Plan, Wildlife Strategic Plan, WLD Deer Management Plan, Ecological Reference Area Plans and other relevant plans referenced. Evidence also reviewed in 2019 Forest Certification Management Review Report-Fifth Draft Report July 31, 2019.

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
 Conforms
 Exceeds
 O.F.I.
 Minor NC
 Major NC

Audit Notes: **2019:** Review of 2018 harvest levels confirmed 916,327 cords is above the annual sustainable harvest level of 867,318 cords. The increased harvest levels based on interviews with personnel confirm EAB disease and Beech Bark disease have contributed to increase for economic salvage harvests. Three-year, Five-year and Ten-year average harvest levels confirm levels below sustainable levels.

3 Year Average: 842, 415 cords

5 Year Average: 850, 256 cords

10 Year Average: 816, 742 cords

2018: Not reviewed during 2018 third-party audit.

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

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

Audit Notes: **2019:** 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.”

2018: Not reviewed during 2018 third-party audit.



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

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

Audit Notes: **2019:** Review of MI DNR State Forest Growth and Yield-Working Version 7-26-2016 confirm annual growth level of 867,318 cords. MI DNR is working on new growth and yield model “Remsoft” to replace the current model developed in cooperation with Michigan State University. Interviews with various personnel confirm knowledge and use of current model with adaptation to new system for improved updates based on changes.

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.

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

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

Audit Notes: **2019:** Review of annual update of questionnaire confirms 51,137 acres harvested in FY18 with an estimated volume of 916,327 cords. **O.F.I. #1:** Observations of field sites and documentation confirmed all plans matched ground conditions with exception of one ERA-Mesic Forest ERA #18768.

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;
- b. Would not convert *native* forest types that are rare and ecologically significant at the *landscape* level or put any *native* forest types at risk of becoming rare; and
- c. Does not create significant long-term adverse impacts on Forests with Exceptional Conservation Value, old-growth forests, forests critical to threatened and endangered species, and special sites.

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

Audit Notes: **2019 & 2018:** 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 Conforms Exceeds O.F.I. Minor NC Major NC

Audit Notes: **2019 & 2018:** 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 Conforms Exceeds O.F.I. Minor NC Major NC

Audit Notes: **2019 & 2018:** 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 Conforms Exceeds O.F.I. Minor NC Major NC

Audit Notes: **2019:** Review of MI DNR Forest Certification Work Instruction revised July 15, 2019; Work Area Group 2 section 4 confirms documented plans. Review of all field sites confirmed reforestation with designated time frames. Review of all field sites visited confirmed use of Forest Treatment Proposals (FTP).

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 Conforms Exceeds O.F.I. Minor NC Major NC

Audit Notes: **2019:** Review of MI DNR Forest Regeneration Survey Manual confirms documented plans. Review of all field sites confirmed reforestation with no observation of inadequate stocking levels. Review of all field sites visited confirmed use of Forest Treatment Proposals (FTP). Interviews with field personnel confirmed knowledge of procedures and reforestation monitoring plans.

2018: 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 Conforms Exceeds O.F.I. Minor NC Major NC

Audit Notes: **2019 & 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 Conforms Exceeds O.F.I. Minor NC Major NC

Audit Notes: **2019:** Review of all field sites confirmed no damage to residual stands and protection of natural regeneration and mid-canopy species. Timber Sale Contract Field Inspection reports contained section for protection of reproduction. Timber Sale contracts require protection of regeneration and residual stems. Examples of protection observed in Field sites Compartment 182, 183 Units 1, 2, 3 & 4.

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 Conforms Exceeds O.F.I. Minor NC Major NC

Audit Notes: **2019 & 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 Conforms Exceeds O.F.I. Minor NC Major NC

Audit Notes: **2019:** Review of chemical usage provided in questionnaire and comparison with application rates are within or below manufacturer guidelines. Review of MI DNR Forest Certification Work Instruction 2.2

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 Conforms Exceeds O.F.I. Minor NC Major NC

Audit Notes: **2019 & 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): "



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

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

Audit Notes: **2019:** Review of chemical usage provided in questionnaire confirm primary chemicals used are Glyphosate and Triclopyr for site preparation, release of conifers and invasive species control. Labels confirm use for each approved by manufacturer. Overall chemical use is controlled and monitored by an approved Pesticide Application Plan (PAP) approved licensed applicator. Pesticide use records observed at 3 FMU offices visited.
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 Conforms Exceeds O.F.I. Minor NC Major NC

Audit Notes: **2019 & 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 Conforms Exceeds O.F.I. Minor NC Major NC

Audit Notes: **2019 & 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 Conforms Exceeds O.F.I. Minor NC Major NC

Audit Notes: **2019:** Review of MI DNR Forest Certification Work Instruction Section 2.3 confirms use of Integrated Pest Management Plan. Observations of field sites, review of timber sale inspection reports and interviews with personnel confirm use of guidelines and restrictions within Work Instruction documents including seasonal harvest restrictions and spruce budworm harvests.
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 Conforms Exceeds O.F.I. Minor NC Major NC

Audit Notes: **2019 & 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 Conforms Exceeds O.F.I. Minor NC Major NC

Audit Notes: **2019 & 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 Conforms Exceeds O.F.I. Minor NC Major NC

Audit Notes: **2019:** Observations during field site visits confirmed isolated rutting on certain sites. No violation of BMP guidelines or soil erosion observed. Interviews with various personnel confirmed knowledge of procedures and observation of Timber Sale Inspection forms confirm monitoring for rutting. Interviews with staff confirmed use of topographic and soil maps within GIS layers. Review of MI DNR Michigan Forestry Best Management Practices for Soil and Water Quality confirm Rutting and Related Issues are addressed.

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.

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

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

Audit Notes: **2019:** Observations during field sites confirmed use of water bars, logging slash and vegetation to control soil movement and erosion. Observation of wide RMZ and adequate timber sale planning minimized the impact of erosion and soil movement. No issues observed during field inspections. Observation of Timber Sale Inspections confirm routine monitoring by DNR personnel. Observed active site shut down due to wet soil conditions, estimated to be down until freezing conditions-Site: Compartment 111; Unit 2.

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 Conforms Exceeds O.F.I. Minor NC Major NC

Audit Notes: **2019:** Review of rutting guidelines as described in Michigan Forestry Best Management Practices for Soil and Water Quality, and guidance provided in Appendix H "Sale Specific Conditions & Requirements (5.4.1). Interviews with personnel and observations during site visits confirmed active jobs were not operating due to wet weather conditions. Sales observed not operational include Compartment 111-Unit 2; Compartment 182, 183-Unit 1-4. No sites observed violated BMP requirements.

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.



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

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

Audit Notes: **2019:** Field site observations confirmed thinning operations in hardwood and pine stands maintained residual stand of desired species with quality and other desired characteristics. Minimal damage to residual stands and ground conditions matched FM plans.

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 Conforms Exceeds O.F.I. Minor NC Major NC

Audit Notes: **2019 & 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 Conforms Exceeds O.F.I. Minor NC Major NC

Audit Notes: **2019:** Field site visits confirmed use of existing roads and log decks when possible. Some DNR maintained roads were in need of repair but excessive rain and extremely flat topography prevented drainage. No BMP issues, sedimentation or soil movement observed. Use of water-bars, vegetation and logging debris to prevent soil movement on steeper terrain was observed. Inventory of culverts, bridges and other road assets is in process. Review of FRD Strategic Plan Objective 4: Develop a comprehensive road and bridge replacement, repair and maintenance plan. Culvert Inventory contract based on 9212 miles in LP; 8735 miles in UP. 2019 Capital for road infrastructure is \$3.69 MM.

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.

Performance Measure 2.4

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

2.4.1 *Program* to protect forests from damaging agents.

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

Audit Notes: **2019:** Review of MI DNR Forest Health and Monitoring [website](#) confirms program and plan to respond to damaging agents. Review of Michigan 2018 Pest Conditions Report confirms monitoring and status reports are updated. [2018 Forest Health Highlights Report](#) contains status.

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 Conforms Exceeds O.F.I. Minor NC Major NC

Audit Notes: **2019:** Review of Work Instruction document 2.3, Compartment Reviews and Forest Management plans for all sites visited confirmed management activities to promote forest health and productivity. Reforestation, site prep and herbicide/pesticide applications utilized in accordance with manufacturers labels. Routine monitoring based on YOE schedules confirm management activities. All sites observed confirmed active forest management and/or routine monitoring.

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 Conforms Exceeds O.F.I. Minor NC Major NC

Audit Notes: **2019:** All FMU’s visited maintained qualified and trained staff of fire protection personnel. Interviews and observation of training records confirmed. Pest prevention and control programs are detailed in Forest Health section of MI DNR Website and Michigan’s Terrestrial Invasive Species State Management Plan.

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.



Performance Measure 2.5

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

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

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

Audit Notes: **2019:** Review of audit questionnaire confirm the following: Sees used at the DNR nursery generally originate from Michigan or other Great Lakes States. Wildlife Division under-plantings of oak and mesic conifers are sourced from Michigan, the Great Lakes region, or other regions growing Great Lakes stock. Plantings of Beech Bark Disease resistant beech originate from cuttings in Michigan.

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 Conforms Exceeds O.F.I. Minor NC Major NC

Audit Notes: **2019:** Review of all field sites visited contained Timber Sales contracts with language for compliance with BMPs and use of qualified logging professional as defined by Michigan Sustainable Forestry Initiative Implementation Committee or Wisconsin Forest Industry Safety and Training Alliance (FISTA) trained. Review of Sale inspection monitoring and Timber Sale Proposal Checklist confirmed use of BMP monitoring system. No adverse BMP issues observed during field site inspections.

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.

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

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

Audit Notes: **2019 & 2018:** 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 Conforms Exceeds O.F.I. Minor NC Major NC

Audit Notes: **2019:** Review of all field sites confirmed monitoring documentation for BMPs and other required characteristics. Field site observations confirmed inspection/monitoring reports matched ground conditions. No observation of BMP violations or issues observed.

2018: For timber harvests the form R4050 “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).”

Performance Measure 3.2

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

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

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

Audit Notes: **2019:** Review of Work Instruction section 3.1 and Michigan Forestry Best Management Practices for Soil and Water Quality contains management procedures. Requirements in Timber Sale Contracts require use of BMPs and qualified logging professionals. All harvest sites visited confirmed use of qualified logging professionals. Field site observations confirmed use of Riparian Management Zones and proper crossings based on BMP guidance. No observation of erosion into RMZ areas during field site visits.

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 Conforms Exceeds O.F.I. Minor NC Major NC

Audit Notes: **2019 & 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.



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

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

Audit Notes: **2019:** Field sites confirmed use of RMZ and buffers around low areas and bodies of water. Review of River Management Plans and Michigan Forestry Best Management Practices for Soil and Water Quality contains management procedures section 5.

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 Conforms Exceeds O.F.I. Minor NC Major NC

Audit Notes: **2019:** Review of Michigan Forestry Best Management Practices for Soil and Water Quality section 9 contains guidelines. Work Instruction document 3.1 Forest Operations contains procedures for operating on State Forest Lands. Field site inspections observed active jobs not operational during visits due to wet conditions. No observations of BMP violations, rutting beyond guidelines or soil movement or erosion. Interviews with personnel confirmed routine (weekly at minimum) site visits to all active operations for inspections. Observed maps with defined harvest areas and RMZ/buffer along sensitive or water features. Buffers observed exceeded minimum guidelines.

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 Conforms Exceeds O.F.I. Minor NC Major NC

Audit Notes: **2019:** Review of Work Instruction 1.4 Biodiversity Management on State Forest Lands, Bog ERA Plan and Guidance for Land Use Activities within DNR-Administered Ecological Reference Areas. Site visits to Bog ERA, Type 2 Old Growth and Mesic Forest ERA confirm management plans and protection of ecological diversity. Other sites visited and referenced in site notes confirm management for wildlife and habitat. State forests are managed with Wildlife Division and Forestry. Region Forest Management Plans provide guidance on a Landscape level. Interviews with personnel confirm strong working relationship between forestry and wildlife on all planning and management activities.

2018: Not reviewed during 2018 third-party audit.

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

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

Audit Notes: **2019:** Field sites visited confirmed the retention of snags, den trees and islands of trees for wildlife and habitat. Review of Timber Sale prescriptions contain language and identification of retention trees. Review of Michigan State Forest Management Plan, Wildlife Division Strategic Plan, Within-Stand Retention Guidance and Deer Winter Range Guidelines contain guidelines for management.

2018: Not reviewed during 2018 third-party audit.

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

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

Audit Notes: **2019:** Review of Work Instruction document 1.3 Regional State Forest Management Plant Implementation and Revision contains section for analyses of landscape-level conditions and trends, as provided by:

- a. Approved statewide, regional or local plans identified in the document “A Comprehensive Summary of the Department of Natural Resources Planning Process for Natural Resource Management in Michigan”, specifically including:
 - 1) The Michigan State Forest Management Plan (2008),
 - 2) Michigan’s Wildlife Action Plan,
 - 3) The Kirtland’s Warbler Management Plan,
 - 4) DNR River Assessments,
 - 5) Pigeon River Country Concept of Management.
- b. Analyses of the forest cover types in each Management Area, specifically including:
 - 1) Age-class distributions,
 - 2) Cover type structural and compositional trends,
 - 3) Basal area, size classes and stocking,
 - 4) Primary understory vegetation types.
- c. Analysis of successional trends and site suitability analysis using the Kotar Guide to Forest Communities and Habitat Types for each Management Area.
- d. Forest health conditions and trends analysis.



- e. Recreational use assessments.
- f. Economic demand assessments.

Review of Document 32.22-07-Forst Management (Issued 7/11/2005) section 3 & 4 contains procedures, including Forest Cover types, mapping and age classes. Review of documents within Compartment Review process contains all required documents.

2018: Not reviewed during 2018 third-party audit.

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

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

Audit Notes: **2019:** Interviews with personnel and review of State Forest Management Plans (SFMP) and Regional State Forest Management Plan (RSFMP) confirms requirements are met. Three (3) RSFMP were developed to bridge gaps between SFMP and annual inventory and planning performed by local management units. RSFMP were developed for 3 Ecoregions-Northern Lower Peninsula (NLP), Eastern Upper Peninsula (EUP) and Western Upper Peninsula (WUP). The three RSFMP provide landscape level direction that guide the local management decisions for forest cover types and habitat. RSFMP provide direct linkage to Michigan State Forest Management Plan, Michigan Wildlife Action Plan, Michigan Of-Road Vehicle Plan, Kirtland’s Warbler Recovery Plan, Michigan State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan and Natural River Plans. Other management plans incorporated into the development can be found within the Michigan State Forest Management Plan.

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

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

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

Audit Notes: **2019:** Review of SFMP section 4.1 contains guidance on management of Rare Communities and Rare Species. Review of Timber Sale Proposals on all field sites visited contained verification for Unique Resources including Natural Heritage Database check for occurrences, Special Conservation Areas or other ecologically unique features and protection of stand-level habitat elements. DNR procedures for implementation of RSFMP are located in Work Instruction document 1.3.

2018: Not reviewed during 2018 third-party audit.

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

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

Audit Notes: **2019:** Review of SFMP section 5.1-5.3 contains guidance on management of Special Conservation Areas, High Conservation Areas and Ecological Reference Areas. Review of field sites confirm protection of non-forested bog. Sensitive sites were protected with seasonal harvesting restrictions. Review of Timber Sales maps during field sites confirmed areas were protected and no observation of trespass observed during field site visits.

2018: Not reviewed during 2018 third-party audit.

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

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

Audit Notes: **2019:** Review of Work Instruction Document 2.3 contains guidelines for Integrated Pest Management and Forest Health. Review of Michigan 2018 Pest Conditions Report, 2018 Forest Health Highlights and 2018 Invasive Species Annual Report. Review of Timber Sale Proposal Site Specific Conditions & Requirements contain requirements for operating restrictions and other conditions used to prevent harvesting during specific times to minimize the spread of certain diseases such as Emerald Ash Borer and Beech Bark Disease. Use of quarantines from MI Department of Agriculture also noted within documentation. Interviews with personnel were knowledgeable of invasive species and mitigation requirements. Awareness, control and management and other related information for Michigan Invasive Species is made available on [website](#).



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.”

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

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

Audit Notes: **2019:** Review of 2018 Forest Resources Division Accomplishments Report: 296 wildfires burned 3,588 acres. 75 prescribed fires on 5,937 acres. DNR personnel use prescribed to maintain early successional habitat. Observed the fire management plan for Site Open Management Area on historical Sharp Tailed Grouse habitat. Review of Forest Resources Division Strategic Plan 2014-2018- 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. Prescribed fire education is listed on [website](#).

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.”

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.



Performance Measure 4.2

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

4.2.1 Program to protect threatened and endangered species.

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

Audit Notes: **2019:** Review of pre-audit questionnaire: MIDNR manages 338,585 acres of forest classified as High Conservation Forest/Area. Areas include Kirtland's Warbler Management Units, Piping Plover Critical Habitat, Ecological Reference Areas, Dedicated State Natural Areas, State Natural Rivers, Critical Dunes and others. RTE species surveys were conducted in association with ERA surveys in FY19. 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) FY19. Some new areas were provided to the Archeological Concerns Database in FY19. Some Type 1 and Type 2 Old Growth Special Conservation Areas (SCAs) were verified in FY19 field inventory.

Natural Community surveys were conducted by Michigan Natural Features Inventory in FY19 for the following FMU sites:

1. Baraga, Compartment 1
2. Gwinn, Compartment 22, 204, 216, and 291
3. Crystal Falls, Compartment 72
4. Escanaba, Compartment 23
5. Newberry, Compartments 37, and 42
6. Shingleton, Compartments 84, 86, and 87
7. Sault Ste. Marie, Compartments 8, 60, 61 and 62
8. Atlanta, Compartments 42, 105, and 112

An annual report of these surveys will be provided to the DNR, which will describe additional element occurrence records added to the Natural Heritage database. About ten percent of HCVA's are also examined by DNR field staff each year as part of the compartment review process.

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 Conforms Exceeds O.F.I. Minor NC Major NC

Audit Notes: **2019:** 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. Review of field sites confirmed program to protect habitat of RTE species and Old Growth forests.

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.

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

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

Audit Notes: **2019:** 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.

Review of pre-audit questionnaire confirms-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. Field Site visit of Type 2 Old Growth site confirms program to conserve-see site 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.”

Performance Measure 4.3

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

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

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

Audit Notes: **2019:** Michigan Natural Heritage data and stakeholder consultation were used in the identification of an updated network of [Ecological Reference Areas](#) and are used regularly during planning. MI DNR maintains maps and forest management plans within [website](#) for compartment review process and public input, including Special Management Areas. Personnel can 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.

2018: Not reviewed during 2018 third-party audit.

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

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

Audit Notes: **2019:** MI DNR maintains maps and forest management plans within [website](#) for compartment review process and public input, including Special Management Areas. Review of ERA's and Old Growth site during field site confirmed maps. Review of Work Instruction Document 1.4 contain guidelines for managing ecological sites.

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



Performance Measure 4.4

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

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

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

Audit Notes: **2019:** 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. Overview of GIS system conducted during Gaylord FMU opening meeting.
2018: Confirmed that foresters and other specialists occasionally request special biological surveys, and that MNFI activities continue to add information to the database.

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

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

Audit Notes: **2019:** Interdisciplinary and multi-tier management programs enable field personnel have access to research results, analysis and planning tools throughout the Michigan DNR, which they incorporate into their forest management decisions. Biologists and other stakeholders with networks to the research communities are directly involved in all forestry decisions. Good working relationships were witnessed on all 3 FMUs observed.
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.
2018: Not reviewed during 2018 third-party audit.



Objective 5 *Management of Visual Quality and Recreational Benefits*

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

Performance Measure 5.1

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

5.1.1 Program to address visual quality management.

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

Audit Notes: **2019:** Not Reviewed during 2019 audit.

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

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

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

Audit Notes: **2019:** Not Reviewed during 2019 audit.

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 Conforms Exceeds O.F.I. Minor NC Major NC

Audit Notes: **2019:** Not Reviewed during 2019 audit.

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 Conforms Exceeds O.F.I. Minor NC Major NC

Audit Notes: **2019:** Not Reviewed during 2019 audit.

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 Conforms Exceeds O.F.I. Minor NC Major NC

Audit Notes: **2019:** Not Reviewed during 2019 audit.

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 Conforms Exceeds O.F.I. Minor NC Major NC

Audit Notes: **2019:** Not Reviewed during 2019 audit.

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 Conforms Exceeds O.F.I. Minor NC Major NC

Audit Notes: **2019:** Not Reviewed during 2019 audit.

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

Performance Measure 5.4

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

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

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

Audit Notes: **2019:** Not Reviewed during 2019 audit.

2018: Michigan DNR's Program is exceptional by providing an extensive range of quality recreational activities within and associated with their forests and lands. 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 Conforms Exceeds O.F.I. Minor NC Major NC

Audit Notes: **2019:** Not Reviewed during 2019 audit.

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 Conforms Exceeds O.F.I. Minor NC Major NC

Audit Notes: **2019:** Not Reviewed during 2019 audit.

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 Conforms Exceeds O.F.I. Minor NC Major NC

Audit Notes: **2019:** Not Reviewed during 2019 audit.

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 Conforms Exceeds O.F.I. Minor NC Major NC

Audit Notes: **2019:** Not Reviewed during 2019 audit.

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 Conforms Exceeds O.F.I. Minor NC Major NC

Audit Notes: **2019:** Not Reviewed during 2019 audit.

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 Conforms Exceeds O.F.I. Minor NC Major NC

Audit Notes: **2019:** Not Reviewed during 2019 audit.

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 Conforms Exceeds O.F.I. Minor NC Major NC

Audit Notes: **2019:** Not Reviewed during 2019 audit.

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 Conforms Exceeds O.F.I. Minor NC Major NC

Audit Notes: **2019:** Review of [website](#) contains information regarding laws, administrative regulations and guides. Review of website conducted on 10/14/19.

2018: Not reviewed during 2018 third-party audit.

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

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

Audit Notes: **2019:** Review of 2018 Annual Programs Report compiled by Michigan Department of Natural Resources Law Enforcement Division. Review of Timber Sale Contracts contain language for compliance with environmental, social, endangered species occupational health and safety and other regulatory requirements. Review of Work Instruction Document 7.2 for Legal Compliance and Administration of Contracts. Relations and legal requirements pertaining to Native American Tribes are addressed in DNR Forest Certification Work Instruction 9.1. Observed [natural resource violation website](#) for reporting. Field site observations confirmed no violations of BMP, Endangered Species or other regulations.

2018: Not reviewed during 2018 third-party audit.

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

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

Audit Notes: **2019:** Interview with Forest Conservation and Certification Specialist and Forest Planning and Operations Section Manager confirmed no violations or knowledge of pending actions. Review of internet on October 14, 2019 confirmed no observation of regulatory violations.

2018: Not reviewed during 2018 third-party audit.

Performance Measure 9.2

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

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

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

Audit Notes: **2019:** Observation of regulatory compliance posters were observed in public areas within the FMU offices. Review of Work Instruction documents contain guidelines for safety and indigenous peoples. Review of MI DNR employee handbook contains policies to comply with social laws.

2018: Not reviewed during 2018 third-party audit.

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

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

Audit Notes: **2019:** All staff except managers and supervisors are members of a union confirmed during interview with Forest Planning and Operations Section Manager.

2018: Not reviewed during 2018 third-party audit.



Objective 10 Forestry Research, Science and Technology

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

Performance Measure 10.1

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

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

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

Audit Notes: **2019:** Forest Stewardship Program:

- Private woodlands in the Forest Stewardship Program reached one million acres in 2018. The program connects landowners with a forester to help them write and implement a management plan for their woods. About 6,000 landowners have participated since 1991. Family forests make up 45 percent of Michigan’s 20 million acres of forest. Healthy, well-managed forests benefit more than the landowner; private forests provide clean water, wood products, wildlife habitat and recreational opportunities.

Registered Forester:

- Oversight of the state’s Registered Forester program this year was transferred to Forest Resources Division. The voluntary program, previously managed by the state Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs, has undergone a four-year restructuring that includes required continuing education for registered foresters and a moderate fee increase to pay for managing and promoting the program. The newly established Board of Foresters reviews applications and approves individuals for registration. It also handles complaints.

Commercial Forest Program:

- The Commercial Forest Program added new staff and new technology in 2018. New database system will offer the ability to track records and produce reports starting as early as 2019. The program offers private forest land owners a tax incentive in exchange for managing their forests for long-term timber production. The 2.2 million acres of land is also available for public hunting, fishing and trapping.

Urban and Community Forestry:

- Trees make city and village streets pretty, shady and cooler in summer, as well as providing homes for urban wildlife. During 2018, the Urban and Community Forestry program distributed \$267,000 in grants from the federal government and DTE to 58 communities. The money is being used to plant trees, raise awareness and keep existing trees vibrant. FRD also contributed \$75,000 to the Michigan State University Department of Forestry to increase assistance for new urban forestry faculty.

Review of Michigan SIC 2018 Annual Survey and Sustainable Forestry Initiative 2018 Annual Report Survey list research projects and funding MI DNR is involved with.

2018: Not reviewed during 2018 third-party audit.

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

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

Audit Notes: **2019:** The use of genetically modified organisms is not allowed on certified state forest lands per DNR Forest Certification Work Instruction 2.3.

2018: Not reviewed during 2018 third-party audit.



Performance Measure 10.2

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

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

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

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

Audit Notes: **2019:** Interviews and document review of SIC annual report confirmed assistance to revision and publishing of state BMP manuals. Over 1000 scheduled to be distributed during training events in 2019.

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
 Conforms
 Exceeds
 O.F.I.
 Minor NC
 Major NC

Audit Notes: **2019:** Membership and attendance to State SIC meetings on 2/21, 5/9, 8/15 and scheduled to attend 10/30 meeting for 2019. Supporting the Forest Carbon and Climate Program for Michigan State University. Research is based centered on climate change research for both adaptation and mitigation. Review of State Forest Management Plan has forest issues related to climate change. Interviews with personnel confirmed knowledge of potential impacts such as longer warm seasons, increased moisture and severity of rain or snow events and increased invasive species range.

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
 Conforms
 Exceeds
 O.F.I.
 Minor NC
 Major NC

Audit Notes: **2019 & 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 Conforms Exceeds O.F.I. Minor NC Major NC

Audit Notes: **2019:** 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.

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

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

Audit Notes: **2019:** 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 Conforms Exceeds O.F.I. Minor NC Major NC

Audit Notes: **2019:** Review of training records and pesticide applicators license for 2 employees at each FMU visited confirmed proper training. Employee records reviewed were based on less than 5-year employee and greater than 5-year employee. Fire training records maintained on IQS system for all DNR personnel. Review of DNR 2018 Annual Training plan. Interviews with personnel confirmed degrees from accredited forestry colleges and/or previous work experience. Field site observations confirmed personnel contained experience and training to implement forest management plans and activities.

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



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

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

Audit Notes: **2019:** Review of all timber sale contracts contained qualified logging professionals. There is a formal system for training, testing, and assessing the work of timber marking contractors. 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.

2018: Not reviewed during 2018 third-party audit

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

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

Audit Notes: **2019 & 2018:** DNR timber sale contract specification 6.3 requires SFI 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 randomly selected 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 Conforms Exceeds O.F.I. Minor NC Major NC

Audit Notes: **2019:** Review of SIC Annual Survey Report and interviews with Forest Conservation and Certification Specialist confirm membership and attendance to MI SIC meetings on 2/21, 5/9, 8/15 and scheduled to attend 10/30. Review of wood producer core training program confirms all requirements a-k are met.

2018: Not reviewed during 2018 third-party audit.



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

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

Audit Notes: **2019:** Review confirmed 4 hours of continuing education requirements per calendar year.

2018: Not reviewed during 2018 third-party audit.

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

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

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

Audit Notes: **2019:** Michigan Master Logger Certification Program which is recognized by the Michigan SFI Implementation Committee.

2018: Not reviewed during 2018 third-party audit.



Objective 12 Community Involvement and Landowner Outreach

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

Performance Measure 12.1

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

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

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

Audit Notes: **2019:** Not Reviewed during 2019 audit.

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 Conforms Exceeds O.F.I. Minor NC Major NC

Audit Notes: **2019:** Not Reviewed during 2019 audit.

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 Conforms Exceeds O.F.I. Minor NC Major NC

Audit Notes: **2019:** Not Reviewed during 2019 audit.

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 Conforms Exceeds O.F.I. Minor NC Major NC

Audit Notes: **2019:** Not Reviewed during 2019 audit.

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://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 Conforms Exceeds O.F.I. Minor NC Major NC

Audit Notes: **2019:** Not Reviewed during 2019 audit.

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 Conforms Exceeds O.F.I. Minor NC Major NC

Audit Notes: **2019:** Not Reviewed during 2019 audit.

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 Conforms Exceeds O.F.I. Minor NC Major NC

Audit Notes: **2019:** Since October 1 of FY18, FRD has received 26 logged-letters, 19 legislative requests, and 547 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 5 specific requests for information under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) since October 1st in FY18.

Other social interactions include:

- Compartment reviews for Year of Entry 2021 were held in each Forest Management Unit.
- Nearly 200,000 followers on the DNR Facebook account, 31,500 on Instagram, and 6,000 subscribers on the DNR YouTube channel.
- Over 36,900 Twitter followers with over 8,900 tweets on the general DNR Twitter feed, and over 7,700 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 2018:
 - Forest planning: 13
 - Private Forest lands: 6
 - Urban and community forestry programs: 12
 - Forest health: 11
 - Forest Marketing and Utilization Newsletter: 5

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

- Assistance to Private Forestland Owners – 14,389
- Forest Health – 14,237
- Forest Industry – 201 (restricted list)
- Forest Marketing and Utilization – 6,156
- Forest Planning – 16,371
- Prescribed burn notices – 14,077
- Statewide DNR News – 57,574
- Upper Peninsula DNR News – 28,324
- Urban and community forestry – 12,125
- Wildfire incident updates – 15,917

In FY 19, MDNR concluded 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 19, consultation efforts focused on the Upper Peninsula and included dedicated stakeholder meetings, tribal consultations, 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. MI DNR will annually collect comments on roads maps and is finalizing an annual review process.

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

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 of 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 Conforms Exceeds O.F.I. Minor NC Major NC

Audit Notes: **2019:** Review of [DNR website](#) contains links for Public Input on Forest Management Activities. Compartment review schedules are available. Each year, forest management recommendations are presented at open houses - informal sessions that give you the opportunity to speak with foresters, wildlife biologists and other resource professionals. Use the [map](#) to find information on upcoming timber sales, tree thinnings, prescribed burns and other management activities. You can simply type in an address to find out what's planned nearby. The map highlights actions that will occur in 2021, and is updated for each forest management unit one month before the open house. Current and past year information is also available in the map. Open house schedules are available on website.

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 Conforms Exceeds O.F.I. Minor NC Major NC

Audit Notes: **2019: Minor NC #1**-Review of SFI website confirmed the 2018 Michigan DNR Public Summary Audit Report was not posted on the website.

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 Conforms Exceeds O.F.I. Minor NC Major NC

Audit Notes: **2019:** Review of SFI 2018 Annual Report Survey confirms completion on 4/23/19.

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 Conforms Exceeds O.F.I. Minor NC Major NC

Audit Notes: **2019 & 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 2018/2017 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 Conforms Exceeds O.F.I. Minor NC Major NC

Audit Notes: **2019:** Interview with Forest Conservation and Certification Specialist confirms maintenance of past survey reports, observed within electronic folder. Previous Management Reviews are maintained on [website](#).

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 Conforms Exceeds O.F.I. Minor NC Major NC

Audit Notes: **2019:** Review of 2019 Forest Certification Management Review Report Fifth Draft Report dated July 31, 2019 confirms requirements are met.

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 Conforms Exceeds O.F.I. Minor NC Major NC

Audit Notes: **2019:** Review of 2019 Forest Certification Management Review Report Fifth Draft Report dated July 31, 2019 confirms requirements are met. **OFI #2:** DNR website not updated with current monitoring reports, SFI Annual Audit Reports and other various reports used for reporting information on progress to FM standards.

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 Conforms Exceeds O.F.I. Minor NC Major NC

Audit Notes: **2019:** Review of 2019 Forest Certification Management Review Report Fifth Draft Report dated July 31, 2019 confirms requirements are met.

2018: 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 SFI Forest Management Checklist)



Appendix 4

Date: 15 October 2019	
FMU / location / sites visited	Activities / notes
LOCATION, AUDITORS Program-wide Opening Meeting 8:00 am – 10:00 am	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.
SFI lead: Gladwin FMU	Overview of FMUs forest and land management programs; review of training, CoC, and pesticide use records; final site selection.
Site 1: Bird Dawg Mix-HCVA-Compartment #24. -Unit 11	Feature(s) of Interest: 80 acres. Cut winter of 2018 & 2019, road/skid trail construction, restoration & hunter walking trail. 40- year old Aspen harvest with adequate regeneration observed. Winter harvest to minimize conflict with recreational use. Observed loop truck road, with debris and filed with slash. Turnaround designed for chip and roundwood harvest. Chip loading area utilized as parking lot/pull off for field trials and other recreational uses. Future informational sign planned for regeneration and lifecycle of Aspen. Informational signs for various stages planned for 0-5 years. Closed road for access to northern part of stand, seeded with chicory/clover mix. Use in restoration sites based on soil types. Observed snag and green tree retention through stand. Exemption for islands/clumps due to Grouse habitat and Field trial area.
Site 2: Gladwin Field Trial Area	Feature(s) of Interest: Road-no BMP issues but grading could be utilized. High traffic due to field trial use. Recreational area.
Site 3: Cruising Dog Aspen-Sale #10-Compartment 095	Feature(s) of Interest: 445 acres over 7 units. Unit 1-Aspen harvest- Trembling and Quaking. Land cleared in 70s by state for DRIP (Deer Range Improvement Program). Lack of markets for Aspen to create habitat. Aspen harvest at maturity. Secondary road open to public traffic. No ORV (Off Road Vehicles). Sale harvested by SFI Trained Logging professional. Observed documentation and sale inspections. Unit 1-80.5 acres. Very wet and lowland area. Observation of rutting on sale area but no violations of guidelines (12 inches over 50 feet) or BMPs. Observation of drainage and rutting on public access road. No evidence of soil erosion due to flat topography. Aspen regeneration and no sign of trash or hydrocarbon spills.
Site 4: Active job on Compartment 095, Unit 7	Feature(s) of Interest: 39.6 acres. Interview with SFI trained logger. Observed rutting but no impacts to soil movement or water quality or violation of guidelines. Ground conditions were flat with high water table. Observation confirmed no evidence of trash or hydrocarbon spills. Personnel knowledgeable of spill requirements and confirmed all required mitigation (spill kits) maintained on-site. Observation of low crossing installed with treetops and soil covered to access for timber removal. Forester confirmed crossing will be removed and barriers installed to prevent motorized traffic from utilizing Administrative Road after harvesting is complete.
Site 5: Bemaltes Wald Mix-Compartment 111; Unit #2	Feature(s) of Interest: Active harvesting site- not operational due to 6+ inches rain. Precision Forestry purchased. Near Logging- SFI trained. Forester checks certification prior to beginning sales. Documentation observed in sale file. Stand 5 shelterwood- oak, maples with minimal aspen. Minimal damage to residual stand. Regeneration is planned to favor oaks and maples. Observation of roads with standing water-flat topography with sandy soils and high-water table. No observation of sedimentation or flowing streams. No evidence of trash or hydrocarbon spills. No BMP violations observed. Wood stacked and loaded on trailer. Forester estimates ground will need to be frozen to complete sale. Public road with standing water due to topography and recent 6+ inch rainfall event.
Site 6: Compartment 111; unit 4 & 5	Feature(s) of Interest: Aspen harvest with retention and snags. Observed Grouse drumming logs. Good utilization for wildlife habitat.



Site 7: Bemaltes Wald Mix-Compartment 111; Unit 6	Feature(s) of Interest: Observation of “Chevron” road. Built with fabric, crowned with aggregate base. Well designed and operational public road. No BMP issues.
FSC lead: Gladwin FMU West	Overview of FMUs forest and land management programs; review of training, CoC, and pesticide use records; final site selection.
Site 1: Bird Dawg Mix Sale	Feature(s) of Interest: Unit 11; 40-year old aspen cut winter of 2018 & 2019, road/skid trail construction, restoration & hunter walking trail. Horseshoe turnaround was created so that logging trucks could load at the landing without obstructing traffic on the main road. Turnaround was ripped and covered with logging slash. Pullout site created for trailers to use during birddog training. Educational signage posted at turnaround describing stages of young forest used for ruffed grouse and woodcock management.
Site 2: Trestle Junction, collaborative crossing project.	Feature(s) of Interest: Trestle Junction; water quality and riparian management. Old crossing under review for upgrade to improve fish passage, resilience to flooding, and reduce potential for sedimentation in trout stream. Discussion on climate change adaptation.
Site 3: Alibi Hall, State Forest Campground	Feature(s) of Interest: Gladwin Field Trial Area (GFTA), HCVA & Master Plan for GFTA. Birddog course for training and competitions for hunting ruffed grouse and woodcock. Site managed for wild birds, which increases the difficulty of the course. Discussion on recreation and hunting management to avoid conflict between different user groups. GFTA has several restrictions that allow for the preference of birddog activities. Deer hunting is only allowed outside of birddog season.
Site 4: Long Lake Mix Sale	Feature(s) of Interest: Units 1 & 2; snowmobile trail / timber sale interaction, FTP C73-998. Water quality, retention. Clearcut followed by herbicide site prep and trenching in 2018. Site planted with containerized red pine seedlings in spring of 2019. Use of island retention to improve survivability of retained trees during harvesting and aerial application activities. Inspection of vernal pool, which was buffered from trenching and aerial spray.
Site 5: Red Racer Sale, Leota KW Block	Feature(s) of Interest: Threatened endangered species management, cooperation with oil and gas industries. Cooperation with oil and gas industries on pipeline crossings. Area was clearcut for jack pine regeneration and alternating retention strips 66’-100’ wide were left about ¼ mile apart to mimic fire-skips. Area to be replanted with mix of jack pine and red pine at different spacing to manage for Kirtland’s warbler.
Site 6: Kirby Pine Sale	Feature(s) of Interest: Unit 1 & 2; archeological/historical site documented and protected during harvest, RMZ management, cooperation with oil and gas industry. Red pine thinning area and shelterwood area with mix of red, jack, and white pines in the overstory. Mostly red pine left as shelter trees to shelter the oak regeneration. Discussion of timber sale preparation checklist to log any hits for RTE species and archeological sites.
Date: 16 October 2019	
FMU / location / sites visited	Activities / notes
SFI lead: Gaylord FMU	Overview of FMUs forest and land management programs; review of training, CoC, and pesticide use records; final site selection.
Site 1: Big Time Red Pine-Compartment 029- Unit 2	Feature(s) of Interest: Active site- Logger Timberline -SFI Trained- admin checked by DNR personnel. Sale consists of 4 payment units. Chip crew moved in 10/15. Harvesting complete, chipping operations began. Observation of high stumps. Discussion with personnel and review of sale inspections confirmed high stumps were discussed with contractor. No evidence of rutting or BMP violations. No observation of trash or hydrocarbon spills. Haul road accessing public highway observed with no issues.
Site 2: First Time Red Pine-compartment 29; units 1&2	Feature(s) of Interest: 53.3 acres. Purchased Northwest Hardwoods, Inc.-Harvested by Timberline. Observation on site confirmed no BMP violations. Wet conditions with and minimal soil impacts.



Site 3: Twiced Iced Red Pine-Compartment-029; Unit 2	Feature(s) of Interest: Harvested by subcontractor to purchaser. No rutting or observation of trash or hydrocarbon spills. Monitoring observed with Field Inspection Reports.
Site 4: Fowler Lake-RDR (Resource Damage Report)	Feature(s) of Interest: Recon by Forester identified illegal trespass use of trails by ORVs and illegal dumping. Utilized process and procedures to identify and plan mitigation efforts. Involved Conservation Officers for enforcement and notification for assistance from neighbors. Natural barriers placed to block trails and removal of trash and illegal construction of bridge across RMZ. RMZ contained stand of Hemlocks. No further actions reported. No observation during site visit of trespass activity.
Site 5: Bog ERA (Ecological reference area)	Feature(s) of Interest: Observed protected area and review of management plans. Access through private landowner. Site protected due to species composition and plans for management are natural with no FM activity planned other than 10-year check. Management plans and documentation matched field conditions.
Site 6: Open Management Area	Feature(s) of Interest: Historical Sharp Tailed grouse habitat from 1970s. No longer a population but area continued to be managed as open Area. -800-acre area burned on 3-4-year rotation. Section prescribed burned in early 2019. Primary objective is habitat maintenance for open land. Interviews confirm notification of adjacent landowners and public through website.
Site 7: Type 2 OG (Old Growth)	Feature(s) of Interest: Observed 160-year old white pine with understory of maples and white pines. Site contained downed woody debris. Area designated for no FM activity and review of documentation confirmed. Wildlife personnel identified importance of old growth stand in proximity of river corridor and area managed for early successional species, especially for Bald Eagles and hawks.
Site 8: Syx Myx Compartment 6; Units 1,2 & 3	Feature(s) of Interest: 57.6 acres, harvested by Verified Logging Professional. Primary objective timber management. Horse trail through middle of sale. All protections and no ORV allowed. Aspen in unit 1; Aspen/Oak units 2 & 3. Scattered oak retention for hard mast production and island retention.
FSC lead: Gaylord FMU West	Overview of FMUs forest and land management programs; review of training, CoC, and pesticide use records; final site selection.
Site 1: Jerome T-pass	Feature(s) of Interest: Pole barn removed from state land. An adjacent landowner constructed a pole bard on state land, which was removed after being surveyed by the state and the landowner's contracted surveyor. Communication records reviewed, which showed cooperation between the parties.
Site 2: Mancelona 1-28	Feature(s) of Interest: reclaimed well site. Site ripped and seeded using state-recommend seed mixes to recover soil and benefit wildlife. Site will be allowed to regenerate naturally from adjacent aspen stands and will be resurveyed during regularly scheduled reentry.
Site 3: Sand Lake Red Pine #5201119	Feature(s) of Interest: 1st entry red pine thinning. Interview with logging crew and inspection of site. Cut-to-length system being used. Good distribution of slash over the site and good utilization. Head logger is SFI-trained. No first aid and spill kits present onsite.
Site 4: Sand Lake Mix #5200719	Feature(s) of Interest: Final Harvest - restart red pine. Clearcut of red pine and mixed hardwood. Interview with logging crew and inspection of site; one logger had SFI training qualification. Both workers did not have recent first aid/CPR certifications.
Site 5: Mesic Forest ERA #18768	Feature(s) of Interest: ERA recently inventoried. Resource Damage Report (RDR) for unauthorized trail. Review and discussion of ERA plan, which does not describe which activities are allowed. Presence of invasive plants along trail and cutting of fallen trees noted.
Site 6: TOMMBA Bike Trail Use Permit	Feature(s) of Interest: Bike trail created by use permit. Site to be maintained under MOU to be established with local mountain biking club. Site was constructed under a use permit.



Site 7: Excogitate Hdwds #5202717	Feature(s) of Interest: Northern Hdwd Thinning. Interview with logger and inspection of site. Logger has all training (e.g., SFI) and safety equipment/kits (e.g., spill kit, first aid kit, fire extinguisher).
Site 8: Five Corners Hdwd #5202618	Feature(s) of Interest: Northern Hdwd Thinning. Interview with logging crew and inspection. Staff does not have first aid/CPR training. Trailer with spill kit not onsite. First Aid kits were present in machinery and transport vehicles.
Date: 17 October 2019	
FMU / location / sites visited	Activities / notes
SFI lead: Shingleton FMU (North)	Overview of FMUs forest and land management programs; review of training, CoC, and pesticide use records; final site selection.
Site 1: Kabooki Hardwood-Compartment 182,183; Units 1, 2, 3 4	Feature(s) of Interest: 218.8 acres. Northern hardwood single tree selection. Higher quality stand. Marking contracted. Logger is SFI trained. Subcontract cutters-felled by chainsaw. Previously harvested in 90s. Regeneration from thinning release to un-even age stand for High quality sugar maple. Observed all required documents, including contract with BMP language and use of qualified loggers, inspection and monitoring. External contact interviewed. No evidence of BMP violations, trash or hydrocarbon spills. No RMZ on timber sale. Significant regeneration of Sugar Maple. No evidence of damage to residual stand or regeneration. No road issues observed. Wet and no harvesting operations were active at time of visit.
Site 2: Mixed Timber-Compartment 167, 170-Unit 1	Feature(s) of Interest: 26 acres. Archaeological notice on adjacent sale. Field inspection did not locate but sale was red-lined with no equipment entry as precaution. Open area maintained for wildlife-Petrol deer complex. Used for green up right after winter (highest mortality rates). Spruce Budworm Initiative- 30% or higher spruce/fir. Salvage to prevent outbreak. Response to industry outcry. Removed targeted species and left protected cherry and other hardwoods. Observations on site: No BMP violations, minimal damage to residual stand. No evidence of trash, trespass or hydrocarbon spills.
Site 3: Kingston Lake State Forest Campground	Feature(s) of Interest: Manage Invasive species grant for campground and lake by Conservation District in cooperation with DNR. Phragmites treatment in 2018-(.4-.7 acres). Checks in 2019 confirmed footprint less than 1000 sq ft. Public posting of treatment confirmed. Use of Rodeo (glyphosate) utilize 2% solution less than label. Application post flowering enables less concentration. Request by FM Manager to delay after Labor Day due to public exposure. Largest challenge for Conservation District is funding to provide eradication and monitoring. External Interview conducted.
Site 4: Kingston Lake State Forest Campground	Feature(s) of Interest: 1st or 2nd busiest in UP. Stocked Muskie lake. Observation of high water and ring of dead trees due to high water level due to above average rainfall. Utilizing for habitat structures in lake. Fisheries management for structure through approval process. 21 structures sunk in lake for fish habitat. Observed enforcement of recreation fees with "p" designation on license plates.
Site 5: Compartment 101-Critical Dunes HCVA	Feature(s) of Interest: Reviewed through Public Meeting- held 10/15. Comments from North Country Trail-trail runs through land, no negative comments confirmed during interview. DNR agreed to utilize sale specifications to keep trail free and leave higher basal area higher along trail. Permitting required from Dept of Environmental Great Lakes and Energy. Dunes management and erodible soils. Stay off slopes greater than 20%. Observed jack pine harvested about 5 years ago and island retention left due to steep slope. Piping Plover critical coastal habitat. Nest on cobble laden sandy beaches. Predators include blue jays, hawks. Listed as endangered and population declined to less than 20. Nests are guarded by volunteers. Population on increase but still not to target of 100 pairs.
Site 6: C103- Compartment 103	Feature(s) of Interest: Sale sold but not active. Only road widening and grading observed. Sold to Long Year. SFI trained-Qualified Logging Professional. Plantation Jack Pine- rotation



	age 60. Break up age classes for future diversity of stands. 90% of sale-jack pine with small island of aspen and red pine stand (thinned). Increased buffer of 300 ft along Sucker River (High Priority Trout). Objective to discourage beaver activity along stream. Observed buffer with well-defined slope to river. More than adequate buffer.
Site 7: Fish Passage Reclamation	Feature(s) of Interest: Capital project to replace aging culverts. Grants utilized from Great Lakes Watersheds. 1-month assembly to finish product including 700-man hours. No evidence of sedimentation or BMP issues.
FSC lead: Shingleton FMU (South)	Overview of FMUs forest and land management programs; review of training, CoC, and pesticide use records; final site selection.
Site 1: Southside Fragments	Feature(s) of Interest: Active Timbersale lowland spruce and jack pine. Inspection of site and interview with logging crew. Fire extinguishers, First AID (logging machinery and transport vehicles) and spill kits (trailer) present onsite. No crew member has recent first aid/CPR certification.
Site 2: Red Turns Green	Feature(s) of Interest: Closed Sale, Rx Burn, Trenching. Site was clearcut of natural red pine, but white pine regenerated. Site was burned and trenched in 2019. Will be planted in 2020 to red pine to maintain the cover type.
Site 3: Lake Michigan Wooded Dune & Swale Complex	Feature(s) of Interest: ERA. Inspection of forested dune and swale complex with several conifer species and open wetlands within depressions and swales on top of dunes. Discussion of allowed activities per review of ERA plan and how often site is monitored.
Shingleton office	Review of HCV plans and monitoring reports; interviews with staff
	Closing Meeting Preparation: Auditor(s) take time to consolidate notes and confirm evaluation findings
	Closing Meeting: Review preliminary findings (potential non-conformities and observations) and discuss next steps



Appendix 5



Michigan Department of Natural Resources

SIGN-IN FORM

Event: Gladwin External Audit Date: 10/15/19
 Sponsor: _____

	PRINTED NAME	EMPLOYEE ID	WORK UNIT	SIGNATURE
1.	Keith Kintigh	0158487	FPO	<i>[Signature]</i>
2.	Tim Gallagher	037476	FRD	<i>[Signature]</i>
3.	Dan Hedeman	1077869	FRD	<i>[Signature]</i>
4.	Scott Thayer	1077442	FRD	<i>[Signature]</i>
5.	Patricia Mowbray	1098535	FRD	<i>[Signature]</i>
6.	Scott Shoelitz	1110731	FRD	<i>[Signature]</i>
7.	Steve Milford	149655	FRD	<i>[Signature]</i>
8.	MARK HONNE	41071781	FRD	<i>[Signature]</i>
9.	Steven Nyhoff	40183095	FRD	<i>[Signature]</i>
10.	Bret Baker	41083184	FRD	<i>[Signature]</i>
11.	Steve Schummer	941635	FRD	<i>[Signature]</i>
12.	Amy Swainston	1069616	PRD	<i>[Signature]</i>
13.	Mark Papineau	1075263	LED	<i>[Signature]</i>
14.	Bruce Barlow	143215	WLO	<i>[Signature]</i>
15.	Jagdish Poudel	1142208	FRD	<i>[Signature]</i>
16.	Kyle Meister	NA	SCS	<i>[Signature]</i>
17.	Shannon Wilks		NSF	<i>[Signature]</i>
18.	David Price	197312	FRD	<i>[Signature]</i>
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RS12 (Rev 02/07/2017)



GAYLORD 2019

Location:

Date:

10/16/19

	Name	Address/Phone Number	E-mail address
1	LUCAS MERRICK	GAYLORD F.O.	
2	NEAL GODBY	GAYLORD OSC	
3	Jennifer Kleitch	Gaylord CSC	
4	Trevor Kubitsky	Gaylord F.O.	
5	MARIL MANDRE	Roxanna	
6	Cody Stevens	Atlanta F.O.	
7	Matt Foster	Gaylord F.O.	
8	Zachery Crew	Gaylord F.O.	
9	Dwayne Morse	Gaylord Sr	
10	Nate Stearns	Gaylord FO	
11	Scott Thompson	Gaylord FO	
12	Chad Fale	Gaylord CSC	
13	Keith Kintigh	Gaylord CSC	
14	Roxanne Merrick	Gaylord CSC	
15	Kyle Meister	SGS	
16	Shannon Wilks	NSF	
17	Tim Greco	GAYLORD CSC	
18	David Price	FRD LANSING	
19			



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Michigan Department of Natural Resources

SIGN-IN FORM

Event	Shingleton FMU External Audit	Date	10/17
Sponsor			

	PRINTED NAME	EMPLOYEE ID	WORK UNIT	SIGNATURE
1.	Toni Irving	1101681	Wyman	Toni Irving
2.	Sheila Clark	1086926	Wyman	Sheila Clark
3.	Darren Kuman	146609	FD-Examiner	Darren Kuman
4.	Paul GABERDECI	185392	PRD-NEWBERRY	Paul Gaberdeci
5.	JASON TOKAR	179021	Newberry	Jason Tokar
6.	Adam Petelny	077866	Shingleton	Adam Petelny
7.	Cody Norton	1129485	Shingleton	Cody Norton
8.	Don Brown	1101676	"	Don Brown
9.	Steve Tuovila	207864	"	Steve Tuovila
10.	Troy Sumner	1095398	PRD-Shingleton	Troy Sumner
11.	Mark Zitnik	1127749	Newberry	Mark Zitnik
12.	Nick Wheeler	1080742	Seney	Nick Wheeler
13.	Maura Mink	101943	Shingleton	Maura Mink
14.	Keith Kintigh	0153487	FPO	Keith Kintigh
15.	Keith Magnusson	0225526	EVD District	Keith Magnusson
16.	Bob Burham	154424	FRD-SH	Bob Burham
17.	Cory Kovacs	1068797	FD-Newberry	Cory Kovacs
18.	Avi Shalom	1141244	PRD-Shingleton	Avi Shalom
19.	David Price	196912	FRD Lansing	David Price
20.	SCOTT Keatner	110732	FRD Shingleton	Scott Keatner
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R0512 (Rev 02/07/2017)



Printed: October 14, 2019

NSF Audit Attendance Sheet

Company Name Michigan Department of Natural Resources
 Location Shingleton FMU (Closing Meeting)
 Type of Audit SFI FM Surveillance
 Opening Meeting Date 10/15/2019 Closing Meeting Date 10/17/2019

Name	Position	Attended Opening Meeting?	Attended Closing Meeting?
Dustin Price	DNR - FRD	N/A	Y
Lucas Merrick	DNR - FRD	N/A	Y
Jan Kleetch	DNR - WLD	N/A	
Traver Kubitsky	DNR - FRD	N/A	
Cody Stevens	FRD	N/A	
Anna Sylvester	PRD	N/A	
Zack Crew	FRD	N/A	
Matt Foster	FRD	N/A	
Steve Milford	FRD	N/A	
Scott Troop	FRD	N/A	
Jeff Stumptz	FRD	N/A	
Keith Magnuson	FRD	N/A	
Adam Patrichs	FRD	N/A	
Tory Irving	FRD	N/A	
Tim Greco	FRD	N/A	
Patrick Mahony	PRD	N/A	
Tim Gallyer	FRD	N/A	
Scott Schooltz	FRD	N/A	
Keith Kintigh	FRD	N/A	
Ari Shalom	FRD	N/A	
Bob Burnham	FRD	N/A	
Scott Kercher	FRD	N/A	
Mario Mohm	FRD	N/A	
Don Brown	WLD	N/A	
Troy Sumbura	PRD	N/A	
Kyle Meister			
Shannon Wilks			

SCS
NSF

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