

FSC Forest Management Audit

Public Summary Report

Audit Conducted By	SCS Global Services 2000 Powell Street Ste. 600 Emeryville CA 94608 United States of America www.scsglobalservices.com
Contact Person	Brendan Grady
Report last updated on	24 October 2025
Certificate Holder	Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources - State Lands 101 South Webster Street Madison WI United States of America www.dnr.wisconsin.gov
Contact Person	Jake Walcisak
Certified Forest Areas	1649751.00
FSC certificate registration code	SCS-FM/COC-00070N
Certificate issue date	31 December 2023
Certificate expiry date	30 December 2028
Audit Sequence	2

This forest has been certified by SCS Global Services as meeting the requirements of FSC national forest standard U.S Forest Management v1.0.

Certificate Holder and Certification Body Details

Question	Inputs
Certificate Holder	
1.01 Certificate holder name *	Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources - State Lands
1.01.1 Local company name	
1.01.2 Trading name	
1.02.1 Street Address *	101 South Webster Street
1.02.2 Address Line 2	
1.02.3 City *	Madison
1.02.4 State or Province	WI
1.02.5 Postal Code	
1.03 Country *	United States of America
1.04 Contact person full name *	Jake Walcisak
1.05 Email *	jacob.walcisak@wisconsin.gov
1.06 Telephone *	(715) 657-5812
1.07 Website *	www.dnr.wisconsin.gov
Certificate Parameters	
1.08 FSC licence code *	FSC-C006979
1.09 Certificate code *	SCS-FM/COC-00070N
1.10 Former certificate code (if any)	
1.11 Certificate type *	FM/COC
1.12 Group certificate *	No
1.13.1 Initial certification date *	2004-01-01
1.13.2 Most recent certification date *	2023-12-31
1.13.3 Certificate expiry date *	2028-12-30
1.14 Total number of MUs in the scope of certificate *	1
1.15 Total area certified *	667 630.5 ha
1.16 Certificate scope	
1.16.2 Current certificate scope *	DNR lands under forest certification include: State Forests, State Parks, State Recreational Trails, State Wildlife Area, State Fisheries Areas, State Natural Areas, Natural Resource Protection and Management Areas, Lower Wisconsin Riverway, State Wild Rivers, State Owned Islands, and Stewardship Demonstration Forests.
1.16.3 Change of scope since previous audit *	Yes
1.16.1 Nature of scope change	Minor changes in acres.
1.17 Ecosystem services in scope *	No
1.26 Continuous Improvement Procedure being followed *	No
1.28 Regulatory Module in scope *	No
1.25 Name and/or location of the certified forest area(s)	

Question	Inputs
1.27 Changes to database details	
Certification Body	
1.18 Certification body name *	SCS Global Services
1.19.1 Street Address *	2000 Powell Street Ste. 600
1.19.2 Address Line 2	
1.19.3 City *	Emeryville
1.19.4 State	CA
1.19.5 Postal Code	94608
1.20 Country *	United States of America
1.21 Contact person full name *	Brendan Grady
1.22 Email *	bgrady@scsglobalservices.com
1.23 Telephone *	+1.510.452.8000
1.24 Website *	www.scsglobalservices.com

The evaluation process

Question	Inputs
Audit Parameters	
2.01 Audit type *	Surveillance
2.01.1 Audit sequence *	2
2.01.2 Audit location *	On-site
2.01.3 Justification for remote audit	
2.01.4 Methods used for remote audit	
2.02 Audit start date *	2025-09-08
2.16 First stakeholder consultation date for this audit *	2025-09-08
2.03 Audit finish date *	2025-09-12
2.04 Total person days on-site *	#REF!
2.04.1 Justification for audit time *	15 total persson days on-site. Numbber of days need to visit and assess the MU
2.05 Date of report *	2025-10-24
Normative Documents	
2.07 Evaluated international normative document(s) *	
2.07.1 Trademark standard FSC-STD-50-001 *	Yes
2.07.2 Group standard FSC-STD-30-005 *	No
2.07.3 CoC standard FSC-STD-40-004 *	No
2.07.4 ES procedure FSC-PRO-30-006 *	No
2.07.5 Excision Policy FSC-POL-20-003 *	No
2.07.6 Pesticides Policy FSC-POL-30-001 *	Yes
2.07.7 Applicable NTFP Standard *	No
2.07.8 CIP FSC PRO 30-011 *	No
2.08 Code(s) of NFSS or IFSS used *	U.S Forest Management v1.0
2.09 Web link to the standard used *	FSC Connect
2.10 If applicable, the adaptation process of CB interim standard	

The evaluation process

Question	Inputs
Certification Decision	
2.20 Conditions associated with the certification decision *	
2.20.1 No specific condition *	Yes
2.20.2 Correction of minor NCRs issued within required timelines *	NA
2.20.3 Correction of major NCRs issued within required timelines *	NA
2.20.4 Correction of the pre-conditions to certification identified *	NA
2.20.5 Other	NA
2.32 Conditions assessed and subsequent actions taken prior to the certification decision to correct major or minor non-conformities that were identified *	NA
2.22 Auditor's recommendation *	
2.22.1 The organization is in conformity with the certification requirements *	Yes
2.22.2 The organization needs to take corrective actions *	NA
2.28 Resolution of alleged non-conformities	
2.29 Potential infringements of the FSC Policy for Association *	NA
2.24 Other details relevant to the decision	
2.23 Certification decision *	Maintain
2.25 Decision date *	2025-10-24
2.26 Decision making entity *	SCS Global Services



Audit itinerary

4.01 Audit Itinerary Item Start Date *	4.02 Hours *	4.03 MUs or members *	4.04 Activities *	4.05 Site detail *
		2.00 DNR State Lands	Opening Meeting: Introductions, client update, review audit scope, review and approve audit plan, intro/update to applicable Forest Management standards, SCS standards, confidentiality and public summary, conformance evaluation methods and tools, review of open CARs/OBS, emergency and security procedures for audit team, and final site selection adjustments. Review prior year findings, review any ongoing issues and/or stakeholder concerns.	Antigo, WI DNR Office
2025-09-09	8.00 DNR State Lands		Audit team directly observed a full range of management conditions present in the MU. Site-disturbing activities including harvesting operations, pesticide application, and infrastructure trails and road development were inspected on-site to verify they were conducted in accordance with FSC normative requirements. The audit team conducted confidential interviews with workers and stakeholders to assess the implementation and effectiveness of the forest management system, and reviewed management plans, chemical use records, and stakeholder communications.	Field Sites 1. Breezy Pines, Tract 9-23 2. McKnotty Aspen, Tract 15-22, Active 3. Seed Orchard, Tract 5-24 4. Prescribed Burn 5. Discussion regarding Cathedral Pines State Natural Area 6. Papoose ICO, Tract 6-24 8. Vamoose Papoose, Tract 12-23
2025-09-10	8.00 DNR State Lands		Audit team directly observed a full range of management conditions present in the MU. Site-disturbing activities including harvesting operations, pesticide application, and infrastructure trails and road development were inspected on-site to verify they were conducted in accordance with FSC normative requirements. The audit team conducted confidential interviews with workers and stakeholders to assess the implementation and effectiveness of the forest management system, and reviewed management plans, chemical use records, and stakeholder communications.	Field Site Audits 1. Posted at LaSalle, Tract 1-23 2. DLG, Tract 1-24 3. Spread Eagle Barrens Lunch at Patti's Platter 4. Amberg Wildlife Area Barrens Project 5. Amberg Wildlife Area Timber Sale 6. Boat Landing #9, Tract 2-22 7. Park Popple, Tract 1-23
2025-09-11	8.00 DNR State Lands		Audit team directly observed a full range of management conditions present in the MU. Site-disturbing activities including harvesting operations, pesticide application, and infrastructure trails and road development were inspected on-site to verify they were conducted in accordance with FSC normative requirements. The audit team conducted confidential interviews with workers and stakeholders to assess the implementation and effectiveness of the forest management system, and reviewed management plans, chemical use records, and stakeholder communications.	Field Site Audits 1. Grouse Meridian, Tract 1-22 2. Ackley Shifting Habitat Types 3. Ackley Aspen, Tract 3-22 4. Prairie Axe, Tract 1-23 Lunch at Culvers or Los Mezcales 5. Silver Fox, Tract 1-24 6. Copper, Tract 1-22 7. Ice Age Trail

Audit itinerary

4.01 Audit Itinerary Item	4.02 Hours *	4.03 MUs or members *	4.04 Activities *	4.05 Site detail *
Start Date *				
2025-09-12	4.00	DNR State Lands	Closing meeting preparation. Audit team takes time to consolidate notes and review audit findings for presentation at closing meeting. Closing Meeting: Convene with all relevant staff to give a brief summary of audit activities, FSC present preliminary findings, ATFS review identified nonconformities, confidentiality, SCS/FSC/ATFS dispute policy, timeline for reports.	Antigo, WI DNR Office

Forest management enterprise information

[illegible]

Forest management enterprise information

[illegible]

Management Units

Management Units												Area Units: ha
7.01 MU name *	7.23 Cadastral identifier *	7.02 Forest zone *	7.03 SLIMF type *	7.04 Tenure-ownership *	7.05 Tenure-management *	7.24 Recognised as Community Forest	7.25 SLIMF or Community	7.06 Centroid Latitude *	7.07 Centroid Longitude *	7.08 Total production forest area *	7.09 Total non-production forest area *	7.10 Total area of MU *
Number of Valid Entries: 1								Area Totals		275,743.89	391,886.65	667,630.54
DNR State Lands	Statewide	Temperate	Non-SLIMF	Public/State	Public/State	No	No	45.91486100	-89.69283300	275,743.89	391,886.65	667,630.54

Commercial timber species

8.01 Species *	8.02 Product code *	8.03 Trade name *	8.04 Harvested quantity in previous calendar year *	8.06 Sold with FSC Claim in previous calendar year *
Populus spp.	W1 Rough wood	Aspen pulpwood	317 296.2 m3	317 296.2 m3
Acer spp.	W1.1 Roundwood (logs)	Mixed hardwood saw logs	6 186.8 m3	9 502.9 m3
Acer spp.	W1 Rough wood	Mixed hardwood pulpwood	298 482.2 m3	298 482.2 m3
Quercus spp	W1.1 Roundwood (logs)	Oak saw logs	4 866.0 m3	4 866.0 m3
Quercus spp	W1 Rough wood	Oak pulpwood	149 802.2 m3	149 802.2 m3
Pinus resinosa	W1 Rough wood	Red pine saw logs and pulpwood	141 142.4 m3	141 142.4 m3
Pinus strobus	W1 Rough wood	White pine saw logs and pulpwood	65 566.8 m3	65 566.8 m3
Pinus banksiana	W1 Rough wood	Jack pine pulpwood	23 796.7 m3	23 796.7 m3
Abies balsamea	W1 Rough wood	Balsam fir pulpwood	22 141.0 m3	22 141.0 m3
Picea spp.	W1 Rough wood	Spruce pulpwood	8 246.6 m3	8 246.6 m3

Pesticide use since previous audit/year

10.01.1 Trade name *	10.01 Active ingredient *	10.03 Applied area *	10.04 Reason for use *	10.04.1 Location used *	10.04.2 Period of use *	10.04.3 Number of applications *	10.04.4 Frequency of application *	10.05 Quantity of ingredient *	10.06 Summary of ESRA
Enlist One	2,4-D (1048373-72-3)	13.4 ha	Undesirable Plant Control	Waukesha	2024	multiple	intermittent	#N/A	On file
Gordon's Amine 400 2,4-D Weed Killer	2,4-D, dimethylamine salt;(2008-39-1)	17.5 ha	Undesirable Plant Control	Burnett	2024	multiple	intermittent	#N/A	On file
Aquasweep	2,4-D, dimethylamine salt;(2008-39-1) Triclopyr, triethylamine salt;(57213-69-1)	8.9 ha	Undesirable Plant Control	Marathon	2024	multiple	intermittent	#N/A	On file
Barrage HF Low Volatile	2,4-D, iso-octyl ester;(1928-43-4)	31.6 ha	Undesirable Plant Control	Buffalo	2024	multiple	intermittent	#N/A	On file
TZone SE BROADLEAF HERBICIDE FOR TOUGH WEEDS	2,4-D, iso-octyl ester;(1928-43-4) Triclopyr, butoxyethyl ester;(64700-56-7) Sulfentrazone (122836-35-5) Dicamba;(1918-	2.8 ha	Undesirable Plant Control	Kenosha	2024	multiple	intermittent	#N/A	On file
Method 240SL	Aminocyclopyrachlor;(858956-08-8)	0.2 ha	Undesirable Plant Control	Iowa	2024	multiple	intermittent	#N/A	On file
TerraVue	Aminopyralid Potassium;(566191-87-5) Florpyrauxifen-benzyl;(1380661-72-9)	27.9 ha	Undesirable Plant Control	Dunn	2024	multiple	intermittent	#N/A	On file
Milestone	Aminopyralid, trisopropanolamine salt;(566191-89-7)	1 546.4 ha	Undesirable Plant Control	Adams	2024	multiple	intermittent	#N/A	On file
Milestone VM Plus	Aminopyralid, trisopropanolamine salt;(566191-89-7) Triclopyr, triethylamine salt;(57213-69-1)	15.4 ha	Site Preparation	Sauk	2024	multiple	intermittent	#N/A	On file
Atrazine 4L (AgriSolutions)	Atrazine;(1912-24-9)	34.0 ha	Undesirable Plant Control	Taylor	2024	multiple	intermittent	#N/A	On file
Foray 48B	Bacillus thuringiensis, var. kurstaki;(68038-71-1)	208.8 ha	Insect/Disease Management	Marinette	2024	multiple	intermittent	#N/A	On file
Aim EC	Carfentrazone-ethyl;(128639-02-1)	26.5 ha	Site Preparation	Columbia	2024	multiple	intermittent	#N/A	On file
Intensify	Clethodim;(99129-21-2)	28.3 ha	Undesirable Plant Control	Jefferson	2024	multiple	intermittent	#N/A	On file
Transline	Clopyralid, monoethanolamine salt;(57754-85-5)	486.0 ha	Site Release	Calumet	2024	multiple	intermittent	#N/A	On file
Clash Selective	Dicamba, Diglycolamine salt;(104040-79-1)	92.3 ha	Undesirable Plant Control	Crawford	2024	multiple	intermittent	#N/A	On file
Vision	Dicamba;(1918-00-9)	6.2 ha	Undesirable Plant Control	Sauk	2024	multiple	intermittent	#N/A	On file
Cellu-Treat	Disodium Octaborate Tetrahydrate;(12280-03-4)	187.1 ha	Insect/Disease Management	Jackson	2024	multiple	intermittent	#N/A	On file
Asana XL	Esfenvalerate;(66230-04-4)	1.6 ha	Insect/Disease Management	Jackson	2024	multiple	intermittent	#N/A	On file
Fusilade DX	Fluazifop-p-butyl;(79241-46-6)	2.8 ha	Undesirable Plant Control	Grant	2024	multiple	intermittent	#N/A	On file
SonarOne	Fluridone;(59756-60-4)	1.5 ha	Undesirable Plant Control	Kenosha	2024	multiple	intermittent	#N/A	On file
Durango DMA	Glyphosate, dimethylamine salt;(34494-04-7)	4.5 ha	Site Preparation	Kenosha	2024	multiple	intermittent	#N/A	On file
Rodeo	Glyphosate, isopropylamine salt;(38641-94-0)	6.1 ha	Undesirable Plant Control	Florence	2024	multiple	intermittent	#N/A	On file
Rodeo	Glyphosate, isopropylamine salt;(38641-94-0)	21.9 ha	Undesirable Plant Control	Langlade	2024	multiple	intermittent	#N/A	On file
Buccaneer 5 Extra	Glyphosate, isopropylamine salt;(38641-94-0)	263.5 ha	Undesirable Plant Control	Buffalo	2024	multiple	intermittent	#N/A	On file
Roundup PowerMAX	Glyphosate, potassium salt;(70901-12-1)	270.6 ha	Undesirable Plant Control	Bayfield	2024	multiple	intermittent	#N/A	On file
Touchdown	Glyphosate;(1071-83-6)	0.0 ha	Site Preparation	Burnett	2024	multiple	intermittent	#N/A	On file
Halex GT	Glyphosate;(1071-83-6) Mesotrione;(104206-82-8) s-Metolachlor;(87392-12-9)	8.1 ha	Undesirable Plant Control	Waukesha	2024	multiple	intermittent	#N/A	On file

Pesticide use since previous audit/year

10.01.1 Trade name *	10.01 Active ingredient *	10.03 Applied area *	10.04 Reason for use *	10.04.1 Location used *	10.04.2 Period of use *	10.04.3 Number of applications *	10.04.4 Frequency of application *	10.05 Quantity of ingredient *	10.06 Summary of ESRA
Beyond	Imazamox, ammonium salt:(247057-22-3)	3.5 ha	Undesirable Plant Control	Kewaunee	2024	multiple	intermittent	#N/A	On file
Plateau	Imazapic:(104098-49-9)	10.0 ha	Undesirable Plant Control	Burnett	2024	multiple	intermittent	#N/A	On file
Polaris	Imazapyr, isopropylamine salt:(81510-83-0)	391.5 ha	Undesirable Plant Control	Adams	2024	multiple	intermittent	#N/A	On file
Polaris AC	Imazapyr, isopropylamine salt:(81510-83-0)	141.1 ha	Undesirable Plant Control	Adams	2024	multiple	intermittent	#N/A	On file
Esplanade 200 SC	Indaziflam:(950782-86-2)	3.6 ha	Undesirable Plant Control	Dunn	2024	multiple	intermittent	#N/A	On file
Callisto	Mesotrione:(104206-82-8)	34.0 ha	Undesirable Plant Control	Taylor	2024	multiple	intermittent	#N/A	On file
Escort XP (DuPont)	Metsulfuron-methyl:(74223-64-6)	330.0 ha	Undesirable Plant Control	Ashland	2024	multiple	intermittent	#N/A	On file
Escort XP (Bayer)	Metsulfuron-methyl:(74223-64-6)	1 141.9 ha	Undesirable Plant Control	Brown	2024	multiple	intermittent	#N/A	On file
Perm-Up 3.2 EC	Permethrin:(52645-53-1)	4.9 ha	Insect/Disease Management	Jackson	2024	multiple	intermittent	#N/A	On file
Rotstop C	Phlebiopsis gigantea strain VRA 1992: (Biofungicide)	82.6 ha	Insect/Disease Management	Jackson	2024	multiple	intermittent	#N/A	On file
Simazine 4L (EPA# 19713-60)	Simazine:(122-34-9)	10.1 ha	Site Release	Shawano	2024	multiple	intermittent	#N/A	On file
Dual Magnum	s-Metolachlor:(87392-12-9)	36.4 ha	Site Preparation	Kenosha	2024	multiple	intermittent	#N/A	On file
Sulfentrazone 39.6% SC	Sulfentrazone:(122836-35-5)	7.3 ha	Site Preparation	Kewaunee	2024	multiple	intermittent	#N/A	On file
Oust XP (DuPont)	Sulfometuron-methyl:(74222-97-2)	54.4 ha	Site Release	Dodge	2024	multiple	intermittent	#N/A	On file
Oust XP (Bayer)	Sulfometuron-methyl:(74222-97-2)	303.6 ha	Site Preparation	Calumet	2024	multiple	intermittent	#N/A	On file
BioAdvanced Brush Killer Plus Ready-to-Use	triclopyr (57213-69-1)	14.2 ha	Undesirable Plant Control	Washington	2024	multiple	intermittent	#N/A	On file
Vastlan	Triclopyr Choline:(1048373-85-8)	111.1 ha	Undesirable Plant Control	Columbia	2024	multiple	intermittent	#N/A	On file
Element 4	Triclopyr, butoxyethyl ester:(64700-56-7)	3 422.3 ha	Undesirable Plant Control	Adams	2024	multiple	intermittent	#N/A	On file
Element 3A	Triclopyr, triethylamine salt:(57213-69-1)	177.4 ha	Undesirable Plant Control	Adams	2024	multiple	intermittent	#N/A	On file
Trycera	Triclopyr:(55335-06-3)	451.1 ha	Site Preparation	Columbia	2024	multiple	intermittent	#N/A	On file
Garlon 3A	Triclopyr:(57213-69-1)	294.2 ha	Undesirable Plant Control	Bayfield	2024	multiple	intermittent	#N/A	On file

Forest context and management plan

Question	Inputs
11.28 Description of the forest	The forests managed by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) encompass a diverse array of ecosystems and land types, including state forests, parks, wildlife areas, and natural resource protection zones. These lands are stewarded under a comprehensive management system that integrates ecological, recreational, and economic objectives. Forest composition varies across regions, with species selection influenced by local mill capacities and ecological suitability. Silvicultural practices are guided by a dedicated handbook that balances timber quality with aesthetic and environmental considerations. Management strategies prioritize the protection of water resources, wetlands, and rare ecological communities, with harvesting methods tailored to site conditions and seasonal factors. The DNR employs a robust monitoring system to track forest dynamics, growth, and environmental impacts, ensuring sustainable use and long-term forest health. Public engagement, indigenous rights, and socioeconomic contributions—such as recreation and forest-based employment—are central to the forest's role in Wisconsin's landscape and economy.
11.29 Description of the management system	The forest management system implemented by the Wisconsin DNR is grounded in a multifaceted regulatory, environmental, and socioeconomic context. It encompasses a wide range of public lands including state forests, parks, wildlife areas, and natural resource protection zones, all managed for diverse forest-based uses. The system is guided by a Forest Management Plan and a robust monitoring framework that ensures sustainable practices. Management decisions are informed by ecological data, stakeholder input, and treaty obligations with indigenous communities. The DNR collaborates with tribal governments to uphold traditional use rights and promote autonomy in resource stewardship. Economic considerations are central, with the forest products industry contributing significantly to Wisconsin's economy through employment, manufacturing, and recreation. The management system also supports public engagement and transparency, maintaining factsheets and reports that highlight the forest's role in local economies and its impact on employment and wages. Overall, the system reflects a balance between conservation, economic vitality, and cultural respect.
11.01 Legislative, administrative and land use context in which the Organization operates	In 1967, the Wisconsin Legislature created the Department of Natural Resources. The Department coordinates the preservation, protection and regulation of the natural environment for the benefit of the people of Wisconsin and its visitors. Included in its responsibilities are water and air quality protection, water supply regulations, solid and hazardous waste management, contamination cleanup, protecting biodiversity, fish and wildlife management, forest management and protection, providing parks and outdoor recreation opportunities, lake management, wetland, shoreland and floodplain protection, and law enforcement.
11.02 Roles of responsible government agencies involved in aspects of forest management	The Department also coordinates federal, state and local aid programs of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the U.S. Forest Service, the Environmental Protection Agency and other federal agencies and administers federal funds available for outdoor recreation, thereby taking a lead role in planning state outdoor recreation facilities. It administers state aid programs for local outdoor recreation and pollution abatement.
11.03 Ownership and use-rights (both legal and customary) of lands and forest of external parties other than the certificate holder	The Department is a cabinet agency, with the Secretary and a citizen Board appointed by the Governor and confirmed by the Senate. The Secretary is the Department's chief executive officer, and the seven-member citizen Natural Resources Board directs and supervises the Department.
11.04 Non-forestry activities being undertaken within the area evaluated, whether they are undertaken by the certificate holder or by some other party (e.g. mining, industrial operations, agriculture, hunting, commercial tourism, etc.)	
11.04.1 mining	No
11.04.2 industrial operation	Yes
11.04.3 agriculture	Yes
11.04.4 hunting	Yes
11.04.6 other, please specify	

Forest context and management plan

Question	Inputs
11.05 Forest management objectives	The forest management objectives in Wisconsin aim to balance ecological integrity, economic viability, and recreational value. These objectives include maintaining biodiversity, ensuring sustainable timber production, protecting water resources, and supporting public access and enjoyment. Management plans are tailored to specific property types and regional conditions, with goals aligned to long-term forest health and community benefits.
11.06 Land use and ownership status of the forest resource	The forest resource includes a mix of state-owned lands such as state forests, parks, wildlife areas, and natural areas. These lands are managed by the Wisconsin DNR and are designated for multiple uses including conservation, recreation, and resource extraction. Ownership is public, with management responsibilities distributed across various divisions within the DNR.
11.07 Socio-economic conditions of the forest management	Forestry contributes significantly to Wisconsin's economy, particularly through the forest products industry which supports over 64,000 jobs. Recreation and tourism also play a major role, with millions of visitors annually. The DNR supports local economies by maintaining forest-based employment and promoting sustainable resource use.
11.08 Brief description of forest composition	Wisconsin's forests are composed of a variety of species adapted to regional conditions. Species selection is influenced by ecological suitability and local mill capacities. Forest types range from hardwoods to conifers, with management practices tailored to maintain species diversity and forest structure.
11.09 Profile of adjacent lands	
11.09.1 urban	Yes
11.09.2 agriculture	Yes
11.09.3 wetland	Yes
11.09.4 mining	No
11.09.5 desert	No
11.09.6 pasture	Yes
11.09.7 orchards	Yes
11.09.8 other, please specify	

Forest context and management plan

[illegible]

Forest context and management plan

Question	Inputs

Forest context and management plan

[illegible]

Forest context and management plan

Question	Inputs
11.31 Major changes to management plan *	None

Stakeholder feedback

12.01 Stakeholder group *	12.02 Stakeholder description *	12.03 Stakeholder's comment	12.06 CB's follow up
Economic interests	Local residents	Supportive of DNR State Lands management	NA
Social interests	Local residents	Supportive of DNR State Lands management	NA
Indigenous Peoples	Indigenous Peoples	No response	Continued outreach

Nonconformities/Observations raised

14.01 Unique finding number *	14.06 Grading *	14.07 Open / Closed *	14.08 Standard *	14.09 Clause *	14.03 Issue date *	14.04 Due date *	14.05 Close date *	14.10 Requirement *	14.11 Description of audit finding *	14.15 Corrective action requested *	14.14 MU Applicability	14.12 Corrective action taken by the auditee *	14.13 CB's review of corrective actions
2024-C006979-1	Minor	Closed	NFSS	6.7.a	2024-11-19	2025-11-18	2025-09-12	The forest owner or manager, and employees and contractors, have the equipment and training necessary to respond to hazardous spills	The Potter Tract was an active timber sale with Hackaway Forest Products. The contractors onsite were interviewed. The foreman of the crew was not onsite but was interviewed via phone call. There was no complete spill kit onsite during the active harvesting that was occurring while the auditor was onsite. The truck driver indicated that a kit was in the foreman's truck but not currently there. Therefore, there is a non-conformance with indicator 6.7.a.	The forest owner or manager, and employees and contractors must have the equipment and training necessary to respond to hazardous spills	All	This item was referred to Division of Forestry – Public Lands Team (PLT) on February 27th, 2025 for their review of handbook language and guidance provided to staff about spill kits on timber sales. The Team determined changes to the Timber Sale Handbook were not needed at this time and referred this item to the Field Implementation Team (FIT) for further communication to staff. On April 9th, 2025, FIT discussed this item. It was determined that FIT members would communicate down their chain-of-command to emphasize this requirement to field staff. An article was published on April 29th, 2025 in the internal Division of Forestry newsletter, (ForestREEporter). This weekly newsletter is the means by which critical information is distributed to all Division of Forestry employees. This newsletter is required reading for staff. The purpose of the article was to re-educate staff of the existing handbook language and forms regarding spill kit requirements on timber sales	confirmed focus and training on-site with logging contractors and staff
2024-C006979-2	Minor	Closed	NFSS	7.3.a	2024-11-19	2025-11-18	2025-09-12	Workers are qualified to properly implement the management plan. All forest workers are provided with sufficient guidance and supervision to adequately implement their respective components of the plan.	Management system procedures were not properly implemented on the Lodi Dodi timber sale. A new forester found that 65 acres were harvested with zero loads of timber accounted for in the pre-paid load ticket system. DNR did receive three mill tickets but non used the required pre-paid tickets. Documents indicate the mandatory pre-sale meeting with DNR staff and the logging contractor was not done onsite and signed, as is required in the Timber Sale Handbook, and there were only 3 harvest inspections done with the first being done 6-weeks after cutting began. The logging contract breach has been properly forwarded to legal and upper management for ongoing investigation and resolution. Therefore, a minor Corrective Action Request is issued to provide forest workers with sufficient guidance and supervision to adequately implement their respective components of the plan (management system), as required by the indicator.	Workers must be qualified to properly implement the management plan. All forest workers be provided with sufficient guidance and supervision to adequately implement their respective components of the plan.	All	This item has been referred to Division specialist and the Public Lands Team (PLT) for their review of handbook language and guidance provided to staff specific to timber sale administration. PLT convenes the next Public Forest Lands Handbook update in October 2025. This item was also a component of the "Forest Certification 101" annual training recorded and distributed by Walickak on July 24th, 2025 and will be a focal point of an upcoming new training series on timber sale administration for field foresters and first line supervisors. Dodgeville Area leadership has also addressed this matter with their local staff as a means to prevent it from occurring in the future	Follow-up action including trainings was taken and the item was legally resolved.
2024-C006979-3	Minor	Closed	NFSS	8.2.d.1	2024-11-19	2025-11-18	2025-09-12	Monitoring is conducted to ensure that site specific plans and operations are properly implemented, environmental impacts of site disturbing operations are minimized, and that harvest prescriptions and guidelines are effective.	Review of WSFIRS records indicate that only 4 of 15 completed harvest operations visited had the next scheduled treatment field completed. Next scheduled treatments can include regeneration monitoring following operations, thinning, or harvesting and is required stand data to be updated in WSFIRS according to the Timber Sale Handbook. Therefore, a minor Corrective Action Request is issued to address the non-conformance with indicator 8.2.d.1.	Monitoring must be conducted to ensure that site specific plans and operations are properly implemented, environmental impacts of site disturbing operations are minimized, and that harvest prescriptions and guidelines are effective.	All	A WSFIRS report has been run which identifies all stands that don't have a scheduled treatment. Division of Forestry staff have analyzed available data to determine the frequency in which stands from closed-out timber sales are not being scheduled for their next practice. This analysis and the report mentioned above was provided to a combination of Division specialist and the Field Implementation Team (FIT) for their review and guidance to staff. This item has also been referred to Division specialists and the Public Lands Team (PLT) for their review of handbook language and guidance provided to staff specific to recon update procedures during a timber sale close out.	Confirmed scheduled treatments are being updated as described in the corrective action.
2025-C006979-1	Obs	NA	NFSS	7.1.q	2025-09-12	NA	NA	Plans for harvesting and other significant site-disturbing management activities required to carry out the management plan are prepared prior to implementation. Plans clearly describe the activity, the relationship to objectives, outcomes, any necessary environmental safeguards, health and safety measures, and include maps of adequate detail.	Wisconsin DNR conducts wildlife habitat management and areas with farming agreements for wildlife food plots. A food plot with a farming agreement had a management activity that was not documented in the harvest plan.	NA - OBS	All		

Principles & Criteria Summary

18.01 Standard Requirement	18.02 Num CARs	18.03 Summary Assessment
Forest management shall respect all applicable laws of the country in which they occur, and international treaties and agreements to which the country is a signatory, and comply with all FSC Principles and Criteria.	0	
Forest management shall respect all national and local laws and administrative requirements.	0	Not assessed this year
All applicable and legally prescribed fees, royalties, taxes and other charges shall be paid.	0	Not assessed this year
In signatory countries, the provisions of all binding international agreements such as CITES, ILO Conventions, ITTA, and Convention on Biological Diversity, shall be respected.	0	Not assessed this year
Conflicts between laws, regulations and the FSC Principles and Criteria shall be evaluated for the purposes of certification, on a case by case basis, by the certifiers and the involved or affected parties.	0	Not assessed this year
Forest management areas should be protected from illegal harvesting, settlement and other unauthorized activities.	0	FME employees 120+ law enforcement officers. As observed during field inspection, boundaries are marked blue paint and sometimes with signs. Gates are locked and identified with DNR plates.
Forest managers shall demonstrate a long-term commitment to adhere to the FSC Principles and Criteria.	0	Not assessed this year
	0	Not assessed this year
	0	Not assessed this year
Long-term tenure and use rights to the land and forest resources shall be clearly defined, documented and legally established.	0	Not assessed this year
Clear evidence of long-term forest use rights to the land (e.g. land title, customary rights, or lease agreements) shall be demonstrated.	0	Not assessed this year
Local communities with legal or customary tenure or use rights shall maintain control, to the extent necessary to protect their rights or resources, over forest operations unless they delegate control with free and informed consent to other agencies.	0	Not assessed this year
Appropriate mechanisms shall be employed to resolve disputes over tenure claims and use rights. The circumstances and status of any outstanding disputes will be explicitly considered in the certification evaluation. Disputes of substantial magnitude involving a significant number of interests will normally disqualify an operation from being certified.	0	FME's real estate department maintains procedures to manage and settle disputes, and maintains records of all known disputes. Per interviews with staff, common trespasses include buildings that cross from private onto state lands and other forms of encroachment, and installing no-trespassing signs on state land. Negotiation of land swaps or sales of the encroached upon property are common methods used to resolve disputes, and are subject to public consultation and approval. Interviews with DNR staff attorney confirm this.
	0	Not assessed this year

Principles & Criteria Summary

18.01 Standard Requirement	18.02 Num CARs	18.03 Summary Assessment
	0	Not assessed this year
	0	Not assessed this year
The legal and customary rights of indigenous peoples to own, use and manage their lands, territories, and resources shall be recognized and respected.	0	Not assessed this year
Indigenous peoples shall control forest management on their lands and territories unless they delegate control with free and informed consent to other agencies.	0	Not assessed this year
Forest management shall not threaten or diminish, either directly or indirectly, the resources or tenure rights of indigenous peoples.	0	Consultation is undertaken at several levels. FME has a statewide tribal liaison (Ben Cornelius) to consult tribes at a government-to-government level. Other individual staff serve as liaison and contacts for individual tribes. Tribes are formally consulted during master planning and interim management planning processes to make sure that their resource rights are preserved (confirmed via review of management plans and public comment period). Each state forest has a forester in charge of outreach to tribes. A forester may put tribes in touch with a logging contractor if a specific timber sale is expected to have alternative forest products (e.g., bark, plants, bows, hunting, wild rice, firewood, etc.).
Sites of special cultural, ecological, economic or religious significance to indigenous peoples shall be clearly identified in cooperation with such peoples, and recognized and protected by forest managers.	0	Not assessed this year
Indigenous peoples shall be compensated for the application of their traditional knowledge regarding the use of forest species or management systems in forest operations. This compensation shall be formally agreed upon with their free and informed consent before forest operations	0	Not assessed this year
	0	Not assessed this year
	0	Not assessed this year
Forest management operations shall maintain or enhance the long-term social and economic well-being of forest workers and local communities.	0	See indicators

Principles & Criteria Summary

18.01 Standard Requirement	18.02 Num CARs	18.03 Summary Assessment
The communities within, or adjacent to, the forest management area should be given opportunities for employment, training, and other services.	0	FME has several internal training opportunities and staff can seek external training with approval from a supervisor per interviews with staff. There are opportunities to move laterally within the organization to take higher-paying and/or different responsibilities.
Forest management should meet or exceed all applicable laws and/or regulations covering health and safety of employees and their families.	0	FME has a training program for new employees through HR and an employee handbook that covers laws and regulations. There are specific training program requirements for foresters and forestry technicians that cover timber sale administration, inventory, and other specialized topics.
The rights of workers to organize and voluntarily negotiate with their employers shall be guaranteed as outlined in Conventions 87 and 98 of the International Labour Organisation (ILO).	0	There is a union for state employees that covers some FME staff. The union has the ability to advocate for members, although recent state legislation restricted some of their ability to collectively bargain and membership has dropped. Staff interviewed indicated no desire to seek
Management planning and operations shall incorporate the results of evaluations of social impact. Consultations shall be maintained with people and groups (both men and women) directly affected by management operations.	0	As the entire FMP and associated documents are available to the public (e.g., https://dnr.wi.gov/topic/ForestManagement/guidelines.html), the general FMP, master plans, and interim management plans meet this requirement. Chapter 6 of the general FMP covers cultural resources, public resources are covered in several chapters (e.g., 18), aesthetics in Chapters 4 and 18, community goals and economic opportunities in several places (e.g., Chapters 9, 10, and master plans), and other people affected (e.g., indigenous people).
Appropriate mechanisms shall be employed for resolving grievances and for providing fair compensation in the case of loss or damage affecting the legal or customary rights, property, resources, or livelihoods of local peoples. Measures shall be taken to avoid such loss or damage.	0	No such incidents were reported by FME staff, contractors, and stakeholders interviewed. The audit team did not detect any such incidents during field inspection.
	0	Not assessed this year
	0	Not assessed this year
	0	Not assessed this year
Forest management operations shall encourage the efficient use of the forest's multiple products and services to ensure economic viability and a wide range of environmental and social benefits.	0	See indicators
Forest management should strive toward economic viability, while taking into account the full environmental, social, and operational costs of production, and ensuring the investments necessary to maintain the ecological productivity of the forest.	0	FME conducts an annual budget based on staff hours required for all properties in the scope. Some items, such as invasive species removal, are budgeted in a separate process as confirmed in interviews with budget director.

Principles & Criteria Summary

18.01 Standard Requirement	18.02 Num CARs	18.03 Summary Assessment
Forest management and marketing operations should encourage the optimal use and local processing of the forest's diversity of products.	0	Per interviews with logging contractors and FME staff, all harvested products are sold to local mills. Logging contractors cut logs per specifications required for different species and grades accepted by different mills. Sorting and merchandizing logs are commonly used techniques to ensure that the highest value is achieved per log.
Forest management should minimize waste associated with harvesting and on-site processing operations and avoid damage to other forest resources.	0	Logs are sorted by grade and/or species at log landings per field observation. Most products are loaded onto log trucks and delivered to mills the same week of harvest per interviews with contractors. Utilization observed on sites was good due to use of cut-to-length techniques.
Forest management should strive to strengthen and diversify the local economy, avoiding dependence on a single forest product.	0	FME has utilization foresters and economists on staff. These staff maintain regular contact with industry to ensure that new markets are explored. The FME also has data on tourism on DNR-managed lands. Refer also to economic fact sheets prepared by forest economists https://dnr.wi.gov/topic/forestbusinesses/factsheets.html .
Forest management operations shall recognize, maintain, and, where appropriate, enhance the value of forest services and resources such as watersheds and fisheries.	0	As part of all management planning processes, the FME plans for several types of wildlife, fisheries, and recreation enhancement activities. For example, on the Spring Creek Wildlife Area a timber harvest is planned and snowmobile trails will be upgraded at the same time. Forest harvests are set up to respect BMPs related to specially designated streams, such as a 400-ft. buffer on the Brule River for fisheries and water quality.
The rate of harvest of forest products shall not exceed levels which can be permanently sustained.	0	The FME is operating under an area-control system, which sets an annual amount of acres to harvest each year. The system includes assumptions based on forest stand types and their growth rates, mortality, and silvicultural practices. Protected areas under passive management or otherwise under no-harvest restrictions are not included in AAH calculations.
Forest management shall conserve biological diversity and its associated values, water resources, soils, and unique and fragile ecosystems and landscapes, and, by so doing, maintain the ecological functions and the integrity of the forest.	0	Not assessed this year
Assessment of environmental impacts shall be completed - appropriate to the scale, intensity of forest management and the uniqueness of the affected resources - and adequately integrated into management systems. Assessments shall include landscape level considerations as well as the impacts of on-site processing facilities. Environmental impacts shall be assessed prior to commencement of site-disturbing operations.	0	Not assessed this year
Safeguards shall exist which protect rare, threatened and endangered species and their habitats (e.g., nesting and feeding areas). Conservation zones and protection areas shall be established, appropriate to the scale and intensity of forest management and the uniqueness of the affected resources. Inappropriate hunting, fishing, trapping and collecting shall be controlled.	0	As part of the sale development process and filling out the 2460 Form, the forester runs a search of the Natural Heritage Inventory (NHI) database. If an element occurrence is identified then the forester consults the species guidance documents and implements applicable avoidance measures. In some cases the forester has further questions and works with a district ecologist to develop appropriate measures. Surveys are only conducted in limited cases such as bald eagle nest surveys. In most cases, the species is considered to be present if there is appropriate habitat and the corresponding avoidance measures are applied. In most cases avoidance measures are timing restrictions. In a few instances buffers are applied (e.g. for nesting raptors).
Ecological functions and values shall be maintained intact, enhanced, or restored, including: a) Forest regeneration and succession. b) Genetic, species, and ecosystem diversity. c) Natural cycles that affect the productivity of the forest ecosystem.	0	Auditors visited numerous sites where management activities were designed to maintain or restore under-represented forest types or age classes. Active burning programs are implemented to maintain open wetland and barrens type habitats. WIDNR also has an intranet resource for Priority Habitat Management Guides. These guides and tools direct staff in managing high priority resources such as barrens, wetlands, grasslands, oak forests and young forests.

Principles & Criteria Summary

18.01 Standard Requirement	18.02 Num CARs	18.03 Summary Assessment
Representative samples of existing ecosystems within the landscape shall be protected in their natural state and recorded on maps, appropriate to the scale and intensity of operations and the uniqueness of the affected resources.	0	Not assessed this year
Written guidelines shall be prepared and implemented to: control erosion; minimize forest damage during harvesting, road construction, and all other mechanical disturbances; and protect water resources.	0	Not assessed this year
Management systems shall promote the development and adoption of environmentally friendly non-chemical methods of pest management and strive to avoid the use of chemical pesticides. World Health Organization Type 1A and 1B and chlorinated hydrocarbon pesticides; pesticides that are persistent, toxic or whose derivatives remain biologically active and accumulate in the food chain beyond their intended use; as well as any	0	Not assessed this year
Chemicals, containers, liquid and solid non-organic wastes including fuel and oil shall be disposed of in an environmentally appropriate manner at off-site locations.	0	Not assessed this year
Use of biological control agents shall be documented, minimized, monitored and strictly controlled in accordance with national laws and internationally accepted scientific protocols. Use of genetically modified organisms shall be prohibited.	0	Not assessed this year
The use of exotic species shall be carefully controlled and actively monitored to avoid adverse ecological impacts.	0	Not assessed this year
Forest conversion to plantations or non-forest land uses shall not occur, except in circumstances where conversion: a) entails a very limited portion of the forest management unit; and b) does not occur on high conservation value forest areas; and c) will enable clear, substantial, additional, secure, long term conservation benefits across the forest management unit.	0	Not assessed this year

Principles & Criteria Summary

18.01 Standard Requirement	18.02 Num CARs	18.03 Summary Assessment
	0	Not assessed this year
A management plan - appropriate to the scale and intensity of the operations - shall be written, implemented, and kept up to date. The long term objectives of management, and the means of achieving them, shall be clearly stated.	0	Not assessed this year
The management plan and supporting documents shall provide: a) Management objectives. b) Description of the forest resources to be managed, environmental	0	Not assessed this year
The management plan shall be periodically revised to incorporate the results of monitoring or new scientific and technical information, as well as to respond to changing environmental, social and economic circumstances.	0	Not assessed this year
Forest workers shall receive adequate training and supervision to ensure proper implementation of the management plan.	0	Not assessed this year
While respecting the confidentiality of information, forest managers shall make publicly available a summary of the primary elements of the management plan, including those listed in Criterion 7.1.	0	Not assessed this year
	0	Not assessed this year
	0	Not assessed this year
Monitoring shall be conducted - appropriate to the scale and intensity of forest management - to assess the condition of the forest, yields of forest products, chain of custody, management activities and their social and environmental impacts.	0	Not assessed this year
The frequency and intensity of monitoring should be determined by the scale and intensity of forest management operations as well as the relative complexity and fragility of the affected environment. Monitoring procedures should be consistent and replicable over time to allow comparison of	0	Not assessed this year
Forest management should include the research and data collection needed to monitor, at a minimum, the following indicators: a) Yield of all forest products harvested. b) Growth rates, regeneration and condition of the forest. c) Composition and observed changes in the flora and fauna. d) Environmental and social impacts of harvesting and other operations. e) Costs, productivity, and efficiency of forest management.	0	Reconnaissance data is collected pre-harvest and as part of the CFI system. See https://dnr.wi.gov/topic/ForestPlanning/forestInventory.html for more information. See also Wisconsin Forest Inventory Reporting System (WisFIRS), Public Lands Handbook chapter 100. Forest RECON is update at 5% per year. Forest Regeneration Metric (FRM) is completed on all harvested stands. CFI is updated on State Forests. Annual reporting requirements include parts a) and b) with other portions covered in WisFIRS and alterations updating done by foresters including stand condition observations during recon activities.

Principles & Criteria Summary

18.01 Standard Requirement	18.02 Num CARs	18.03 Summary Assessment
Documentation shall be provided by the forest manager to enable monitoring and certifying organizations to trace each forest product from its source. The results of monitoring shall be incorporated into the implementation and revision of the management plan.	0	Not assessed this year
While respecting the confidentiality of information, forest managers shall make publicly available a summary of the results of monitoring indicators, including those listed in Criterion 8.2.	0	Not assessed this year
Management activities in high conservation value forests shall maintain or enhance the attributes which define such forests. Decisions regarding high conservation value forests shall always be	0	Not assessed this year
Assessment to determine the presence of the attributes consistent with High Conservation Value Forests will be completed, appropriate to scale and intensity of forest management.	0	Not assessed this year
The consultative portion of the certification process must place emphasis on the identified conservation attributes, and options for the maintenance thereof.	0	Not assessed this year
The management plan shall include and implement specific measures that ensure the maintenance and/or enhancement of the applicable conservation attributes consistent with the precautionary approach. These measures shall be specifically included in the publicly available management plan summary.	0	Not assessed this year
Annual monitoring shall be conducted to assess the effectiveness of the measures employed to maintain or enhance the applicable conservation attributes.	0	Site inspections and photo points are employed on many State Natural Areas. Each of the District Ecologists visits the SNAs in their area at least once per year to evaluate any threats to the conservation value and to evaluate the effectiveness of any past management efforts. On a more informal level, virtually all SNA sites are visited by DNR personnel or cooperators capable of reporting any significant changes in the attributes of the SNA. Also, members of the public using State Natural Areas often inform DNR staff of issues they identify while on the property (e.g., serious invasion of unwanted plants or animals, storm damage, or unauthorized site disturbance).
Plantations shall be planned and managed in accordance with Principles and Criteria 1-9, and Principle 10 and its Criteria. While plantations can provide an array of social and economic benefits, and can contribute to satisfying the world's needs for forest products, they should complement the management of, reduce pressures on, and promote the restoration and conservation of natural forests.	0	NA
The management objectives of the plantation, including natural forest conservation and restoration objectives, shall be explicitly stated in the management plan, and clearly demonstrated in the implementation of the plan.	0	NA
The design and layout of plantations should promote the protection, restoration and conservation of natural forests, and not increase pressures on natural forests. Wildlife corridors, streamside zones and a mosaic of stands of different ages and rotation periods, shall be used in the layout of the plantation, consistent with the scale of the operation. The scale and diversity in the composition of plantations is preferred, so as to enhance economic, ecological and social stability. Such diversity may include the size and spatial distribution of management units within the landscape.	0	NA
The selection of species for planting shall be based on their overall suitability for the site and their appropriateness to the management	0	NA
A proportion of the overall forest management area, appropriate to the scale of the plantation and to be determined in regional standards, shall be managed so as to restore the site to a natural forest cover.	0	NA
Measures shall be taken to maintain or improve soil structure, fertility, and biological activity. The techniques and rate of harvesting, road and trail construction and maintenance, and the choice of species shall not result in long term soil degradation or adverse impacts on water quality, quantity or substantial deviation from stream course drainage patterns.	0	NA