

# FOREST MANAGEMENT AND STUMP-TO-FOREST GATE CHAIN-OF-CUSTODY SURVEILLANCE EVALUATION REPORT

*Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources*  
*Managed Forest Law Tree Farm Group*  
Wisconsin, USA

## SCS-FM/COC-004622

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CERTIFIED	EXPIRATION
30/Nov/2018	29/Nov/2023

DATE OF FIELD EVALUATION
9-13 August 2021
DATE OF REPORT FINALIZATION
20 September 2021

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## Foreword

Cycle in annual surveillance evaluations				
<input type="checkbox"/> 1 <sup>st</sup> annual evaluation	<input type="checkbox"/> 2 <sup>nd</sup> annual evaluation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 3 <sup>rd</sup> annual evaluation	<input type="checkbox"/> 4 <sup>th</sup> annual evaluation	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (expansion of scope, Major CAR audit, special audit, etc.):
Name of Forest Management Enterprise (FME) and abbreviation used in this report:				
Wisconsin Managed Forest Law Program (MFL), Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WIDNR), Division of Forestry (DOF)				

All certificates issued by SCS under the aegis of the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) require annual evaluations to ascertain ongoing conformance with the requirements and standards of certification. A public summary of the initial evaluation is available on the FSC Certificate Database <http://info.fsc.org/>.

Pursuant to FSC and SCS guidelines, annual / surveillance evaluations are not intended to comprehensively examine the full scope of the certified forest operations, as the cost of a full-scope evaluation would be prohibitive and it is not mandated by FSC evaluation protocols. Rather, annual evaluations are comprised of three main components:

- A focused assessment of the status of any outstanding conditions or Corrective Action Requests (CARs; see discussion in section 4.0 for those CARs and their disposition as a result of this annual evaluation);
- Follow-up inquiry into any issues that may have arisen since the award of certification or prior to this evaluation; and
- As necessary given the breadth of coverage associated with the first two components, an additional focus on selected topics or issues, the selection of which is not known to the certificate holder prior to the evaluation.

### Organization of the Report

This report of the results of our evaluation is divided into two sections. Section A provides the public summary and background information that is required by the Forest Stewardship Council. This section is made available to the public and is intended to provide an overview of the evaluation process, the management programs and policies applied to the forest, and the results of the evaluation. Section A will be posted on the FSC Certificate Database (<http://info.fsc.org/>) no less than 90 days after completion of the on-site evaluation. Section B contains more detailed results and information for required FSC record-keeping or the use by the FME.

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## SECTION A – PUBLIC SUMMARY

### 1. General Information

#### 1.1 Evaluation Team

<b>Auditor name:</b>	Beth Jacqmain	<b>Auditor role:</b>	FSC Audit Team Leader
<b>Qualifications:</b>	<p>Senior Certification Forester at SCS Global Services, Forest Ecologist and Certified Forester (SAF CF#1467). Beth has 20+ years’ experience in forestry including public land management, private consulting, and private corporate forest management working with landowners and harvest crews. Qualified ANSI RAB accredited ISO 14001 EMS, ISO 19011 QMS, certified 17021 QMS Lead Auditor and FSC®, SFI®, and RW® Lead Auditor for Forest Management/Chain of Custody. Audited and led FSC evaluations, harvest and logging operations certification audits; and joint/combined PEFC® FM (AFS®, RW, SFI, ATFS®).</p> <p>An 11-year member of the Forest Guild, 21-year adjunct-Faculty with Itasca Community College, NR Department. Member 30 years Society of American Foresters. Served SAF MN State Chair 2010 and multiple committees, state and national, throughout. Past and current member on committee revising the SAF CF certification exam. Original lead instructor of UMN “Ecosystem Silviculture” certificate course for professional foresters. BS Forest Management from Michigan State University and MS Forest Biology/Ecology from Auburn University. Experience is in forest management and ecology; ecosystem silviculture; the use of silviculture towards meeting strategic and tactical goals; nursery/tree regeneration; forest timber quality improvement (sawmill/veneer), CSA/FIA Phase II forest inventory; conifer thinning operations, pine restoration, wildfire fighting, and fire ecology in conifer dominated systems. Beth has conducted evaluations throughout the forested regions of the US, WA/Victoria/Tasmania Australia, New Zealand, Fiji Islands (Viti levu), and Slovakia.</p>		
<b>Auditor name:</b>	Kyle Meister	<b>Auditor role:</b>	Team Auditor
<b>Qualifications:</b>	<p>Kyle Meister is an FSC Forest Management (FM) and Chain of Custody (COC), Sustainable Biomass Partnership®, and Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil® Supply Chain Certification Lead Auditor with SCS Global Services. He has conducted FSC FM pre-assessments, evaluations or surveillance audits in Bolivia, Brazil, Canada, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Indonesia, India, Japan, Mexico, New Zealand, Spain, and all major forest producing regions of the United States. He has conducted COC assessments in Bolivia, Canada, Panama, and the United States (California, Georgia, Kentucky, North Carolina, Oregon, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia, and West Virginia). Mr. Meister has successfully completed CAR Lead Verifier, ISO 9001:2008 Lead Auditor, SA8000 Social Systems Introduction and Basic Auditor, RSPO Supply Chain Lead Auditor, SBP Lead Auditor, and FSC Lead Auditor and Trainer Training Courses. He holds a B.S. in Natural Resource Ecology and Management and a B.A. in Spanish from the University of Michigan; and a Master of Forestry from the Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies.</p>		
<b>Auditor name:</b>	Shannon Wilks	<b>Auditor role:</b>	ATFS Audit Team Leader

<b>Qualifications:</b>	Shannon Wilks has over 28 years of professional experience in the forest industry. His roles have included procurement, supply chain management, contract negotiations and environmental management compliance. His experience includes 20 years with a global forest products company where he spent most of his career in the southern United States. He has also managed industrial properties with land management functions. Mr. Wilks is a Controlled Wood Senior Lead Auditor for FSC® Chain of Custody, Lead auditor for Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI®) Chain of Custody Standard, SFI® Fiber Sourcing, SFI® Forest Management Standard, Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification (PEFC®) Chain of Custody Standard and a Lead Auditor for Sustainable Biomass Program (SBP). Mr. Wilks is a graduate of Louisiana Tech University with a Bachelor of Science-Forest Management degree. Member of Texas Forestry Association and Texas Accredited Forester #158.
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### 1.2 Total Time Spent on Evaluation

A. Number of days spent on-site for evaluation	5
B. Number of auditors participating in on-site evaluation	3
C. Number of days spent by any technical experts (in addition to amount in line A)	0
D. Additional days spent on preparation, stakeholder consultation, and follow-up	3
<b>E. Total number of person days used in evaluation</b>	<b>18</b>

### 1.3 Applicable Standards

All applicable FSC standards are available on the websites of FSC International ([www.fsc.org](http://www.fsc.org)) or SCS Global Services ([www.SCSglobalServices.com](http://www.SCSglobalServices.com)). All standards are available on request from SCS Global Services via the comment form on our website. When no national standard exists for the country/region, SCS Interim Standards are developed by modifying SCS's Generic Interim Standard to reflect forest management in the region and by incorporating relevant components of any Draft Regional/National Standard and comments from stakeholders. More than one month prior to the start of the field evaluation, SCS Draft Interim Standards are provided to stakeholders identified by FSC International, SCS, forest managers under evaluation, and the FSC National or Regional Office for comment. SCS's COC indicators for FMEs are based on the most current versions of the FSC Chain of Custody Standard, FSC Standard for Group Entities in Forest Management Groups (FSC-STD-30-005), and FSC Accreditation Requirements. "Applicable standards" are all FSC standards with which the certified entity must comply, not just the standards selected for evaluation this year.

Standards applicable <i>NOTE: Please include the full standard name and Version number and check all that apply based on type of certificate.</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Forest Stewardship Standard(s), including version: FSC-US, V1-0
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FSC Trademark Standard (FSC-STD-50-001 V2-0)
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SCS COC indicators for FMEs, V8-0
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FSC standard for group entities in forest management groups (FSC-STD-30-005), V2-0
	<input type="checkbox"/> Other:

### 1.4 Conversion Table English Units to Metric Units

Length Conversion Factors		
To convert from	To	multiply by
Mile (US Statute)	Kilometer (km)	1.609347
Foot (ft.)	Meter (m)	0.3048

Yard (yd.)	Meter (m)	0.9144
<b>Area Conversion Factors</b>		
<b>To convert from</b>	<b>To</b>	<b>multiply by</b>
Square foot (sq. ft.)	Square meter (m <sup>2</sup> )	0.09290304
Acre (ac)	Hectare (ha)	0.4047
<b>Volume Conversion Factors</b>		
<b>To convert from</b>	<b>To</b>	<b>multiply by</b>
Cubic foot (cu ft.)	Cubic meter (m <sup>3</sup> )	0.02831685
Gallon (gal)	Liter (l)	4.546
<b>Quick reference</b>		
1 acre	= 0.404686 ha	
1,000 acres	= 404.686 ha	
1 board foot	= 0.00348 cubic meters	
1,000 board feet	= 3.48 cubic meters	
1 cubic foot	= 0.028317 cubic meters	

## 2. Certification Evaluation Process

### 2.1 Evaluation Itinerary, Activities, and Site Notes

<b>Audit Begin-End Dates: 9 -13 August 2021, Monday -Friday</b>
<b>Day 1, Mon, 9 August 2021 – Head Office</b>
<b>Activity</b>
<p>Opening Meeting:</p> <p>Meet with Central Office Staff for preliminary Opening Meeting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Client update / discuss changes to the Facility Record Sheet (contact information, billing information, review scope, etc.)</li> <li>• Review of ATFS Independently Managed Group (IMG) Certification Standards 2015-2020 Selections</li> <li>• Review of FSC PC&amp;I to be covered</li> <li>• Management System Review</li> <li>• Introductions, Roles, and Audit Objectives</li> <li>• Review audit scope, procedures &amp; agenda, intro/update to audit process, review of previous CARs/OBS</li> <li>• Overview by MFL staff of program</li> </ul>
<b>FIELD Day 1, 9 August 2021. EAU CLAIRE, RICE LAKE, AND HAYWARD ROUTES</b>
<p><b>3 AUDIT ROUTES, Drag corner of image to expand.</b></p>

**Day 1, 8/09/2021, Wilks Eau Claire Route**

All field sites reviewed contained Management Plans with maps and required NHI and Archaeological/Historical checks. Soils, silvicultural systems, stand descriptions, BMP guidance, invasive species and wildfire protection was observed within management plans. No issues were observed regarding violations or BMPs observed. No evidence of trespass was observed. Boundaries were identified and denoted on ground for all sites.

1. MFL Order #18-009-1999: 62 acres-no mandatory practices identified. No RTE, archaeological or historical occurrences on property. Land exam updated in July 2015. No invasive treatment since 2014(Buckthorn). Observed hunting stand with wheelchair access. Interview with DNR personnel confirms landowner utilizes property to bring handicapped hunters on-site. Minimal observation of Buckthorn. No special sites or RTE species. Ground conditions matched management plans and maps. No activity has been conducted and validated during audit. Boundaries were noted with old fence and steel t-post. Roads and trails were available through property.



2. MFL Order #18-011-2016: 50.51 acres. Observation of Cutting Notice confirms Stand 1 red pine thinned (30%) and Stand 2 (harvest cut) in 2019. Land Exam updated in July 2021. Logging Contractor harvested and completed in 2019- FISTA Trained. Observed pine decline in edge of stand. Next entry planned for 2028-thinning. Observed hardwood regeneration within Stand 1 pine decline area. Diversity with wildlife and habitat for wildlife to meet landowner goals. No BMP issues or damage to residual stand. Clean harvest operation.



3. MFL Order #18-003-2007: 160 total acres-85 acres harvesting operations. Mandatory practice (harvesting) scheduled for 2027. Land Exam updated in June 2019. Next planned activity is 2027. Harvesting operations completed in 2013-2014. Observed stands 6 and 2. Species matched management plan and ground conditions. Stand opened and natural regeneration of white pine allowed to grow with random Jack Pine and Oaks. Harvested by FISTA trained contractor-based on interview with DNR personnel. Minimal damage and evidence of clean harvesting operation. Stand 1-White pine thinning of mature stand with removal of oaks and Apples. Allow natural regeneration of mixed oak pine species. Next planned activity is over-story removal due to market size limits.



4. MFL Order #18-016-2012: 80 acres. Suitable habitat for Federal protected bird, Federal protected habitat or species and Federal protected turtle. Cutting Notice observed for stands 2, 3 and 5 in August 2019. Land Exam updated in January 2011 and July 2021. Buffer left adjacent to public road, wet area protected at request of consultant and landowner. Contractor FISTA trained. NHI check/ground check did not find suitable habitat/nest for protected species that were identified within management plan. Stands 2 and 1 observed- matched Land exam and prescription. Observed canopy gaps- thinning from below in stand 1. Observed over-story removal in Stand 2. Natural regeneration of oaks and maples were observed. Deer browse was evident on regeneration. Interview confirmed reforestation monitoring will. E conducted based on risk of deer browse to desired species. Interview with DNR personnel confirmed monitoring of reforestation is scheduled for mandatory practices within WISFiRs based on risk. Significant stand diversity with areas of Stand 1 left uncut due to ground conditions and buffer along public road.





5. MFL Order #18-007-2011: 38 acres-No Activity. Land exam updated in January 2021. Two stands identified on Land Exam. Stand P1 not updated to reflect current conditions due to recent purchase/sale transaction. Stand 2 reflects current landowner objective based on site visit with MFL personnel. No forest management activity confirmed. Part of stand P1 was removed from MFL for homesite- and remainder of stand will be unmanaged. Next planned activity is over-story removal planned for 2032. Regeneration is adequate and oak species are stocked well. Landowner is managing for sustainable forestry, aesthetics, recreation and wildlife. Old fire lane observed near P1 stand.



**Day 1, Rice Lake Route, Meister**

**Stop #, MFL Site#, MFL Order Notes**

1, #42; MFL Order 03-066-2004: Four mandatory practices scheduled for the remaining plan period (2053). One NHI hit for 2019-20 harvest (northern hardwood release and red pine thinning), but DNR review determined no likely impacts due to harvest, as documented in cutting notice. No other NHI hits or special concerns on the remaining property. Remaining tree-dominated stand is red pine (5 acres). Reviewed complete management plan and cutting notice for 2019-20 for selection harvest in northern hardwood, patch cut of aspen, and thinning of red pine. During walk-through of property, observed good distribution of slash and no damage to streams or remnant trees. Property boundaries clearly marked and identifiable in the field. Discussion with consulting forester on BMPs, RMZs, and invasive species. Interview with landowner.

2, #39; MFL Order 03-034-2003: Three mandatory practices scheduled for 2024 on three stands (northern hardwood and two red pine thinning). Non-mandatory pruning (red pine (2003 and 2014) and thinning (northern hardwood; 2005). Reviewed management plan and land exam report run in July 2021. Interview with landowner, who actively prunes the pine and hardwood yearly. Discussion of pruning techniques and phytosanitary practices, invasive species control measures, history of property, and landowner objectives.

3, #50; MFL Order 56-015-1989: Mandatory practice scheduled for 2024 (white pine thinning). No non-mandatory practices. Reviewed management plan and land exam report run in July 2021. Observation of pine thinning conducted in 2014 (row thinning); excellent response from remaining pines and northern red oaks. Discussion of future options and uses for ash and other low grade products.

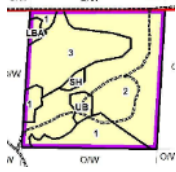
4, #54; MFL Order 56-008-2011: Mandatory practices scheduled for 2027 (white pine regeneration harvest and thinning of swamp hardwoods). Non-mandatory practices approved at any time for invasive species control in any stand, and hand planting and sanitation salvage in swamp hardwoods only. Review of management plan and land exam report. High risk for emerald ash borer noted. Observation of property boundaries and stands.

5, #34; MFL Order 03-018-2009: No mandatory or non-mandatory practices scheduled for remainder of plan (2033). Stands consist of aspen (10 ac), which was harvested in 2019. Most overstory oak retained for seed source and wildlife benefit. Interview with logger and review of training. Observation of clearly marked property boundaries. Review of management plan, land exam, and cutting notice (clearcut of aspen, ash, and red maple; 2017, harvested in 2019). Invasive species present. No NHI hits or other special concerns.

**9 August 2021, Day 1, Hayward Route, Jacqmain**

**Stop #, Order number, Notes**

1, 02-012-2017



Stand 1, 8 ac, Hemlock and red maple. Clearcut with reserves retaining by species hemlock, cedar, and yellow birch. Snags retained. Stand 2, 23 ac. Northern hardwoods stand being shifted to unevenaged management. 2-3 gaps established, 30-60', thinning b/t gaps. Order of removal worst first and crop tree release. No damage to residuals. "Cutting Notice and Report of Wood Products from Forest Crop and Managed Forest Lands", Form 2450-032 (v9/16). Submitted 3/18/19 by group member/landowner.

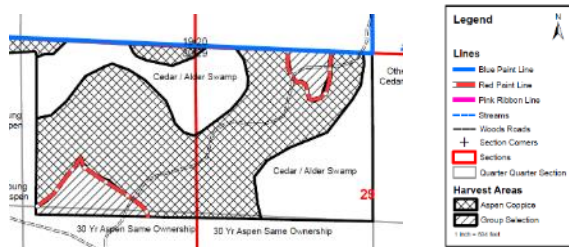
State threatened bird found in NHI search. No activity b/t March 1 - July 31 to protect. No other actions determined to be needed. Invasives protection via clause to clean equipment entering/leaving harvest site. BMP terms in cutting notice. Species and actual volumes harvested were reported. Forest Tax Program approval 3/26/2020. DNR approved 4/18/19.

Discussions: New version of Cutting Notice, 2021.

[auditors, <https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/forestlandowners/cuttingnotice>. Was not able to access the new form, can anyone else?]

2, 02-063-2005. No activities - discuss plan process. FMP review. Hiked to stand and confirm stand exam information and stand composition information in the FMP. Discussions: stand exams, BMP exams.

3, 02-257-1999



Stand: 19 - Coppice (e.g. aspen regeneration cuts) - 64 acres. Consulting Forester. January 8, 2021 - Mandatory Practices letter to owner.

Inspected West edge of clearcut stand along road, (hatched area). Discussions reserve trees (green tree retention) BMP requirements. Forester training in BMPs. Green trees and snags retained in accordance with BMP requirements.

Landowner interview started West side of stand. When asked about MFL program and informational/ educational materials landowner states he likes the MFL program a lot. When asked why he said their website is very informational and provided examples. Visits it at least every other month for updates. Was familiar with various certification elements such as pesticides. Works with a CPW closely. States he is so interested in forestry that he's considered pursuing a master's degree in Forestry. Find information on MFL website to very useful and learns from his CPW who is good at explaining forest and habitat needs. Aspen stand being managed in part considering 3 local elk herds, sought to maximize aspen resprout growth as quickly as possible.

Moved to SE part of stand where an active harvest is occurring. Only equipment operational and on-site was the loader.

**Operator with no hardhat, safety glasses, or hearing protection.** Also, no gloves for hand vibration absorption. While gloves are only recommended for loading equipment the other PPE are required. The owner and MFL audit team present on-site all acknowledged.

Contract available and reviewed. There are no terms for safety requirements in the contract although exemption from liability for the landowner is specified. Certificate of liability required and confirmed. RM Bay Logging, Inc.  
 Discussions: CPW trainings and Landowner trainings and whether those entail OSH for loggers or OSH language in contracts. MFL contract templates.

4, 58-010-1997. Stands 1, 2 & 3, at 2, 9, and 6 acres, respectively. Northern hardwoods with aspen, aspen with northern hardwoods, and pure aspen. No activity, plans for mandatory practices 2031. Unevenaged management planned for NHwd stand, even-aged for aspen mix and aspen types. Confirmed composition and condition of forest described in FMP and appropriateness of silviculture recommendations.

**Day 2, 10 August 2021. EAU CLAIRE, RICE LAKE, AND HAYWARD ROUTES**

**Day 2, 8/10/2021- Wilks, Eau Claire Route**

All field sites reviewed contained Management Plans with maps and required NHI and Archaeological/Historical checks. No issues were observed regarding violations or BMPs. No evidence of trespassing was observed. Lack of markets for products are largest impact for harvesting low value products on stands observed. Buffalo and Trempealeau counties contain largest percentage of deficit on mandatory practices (5% with no active plan currently) behind- all other counties are on target.

1. MFL Order # 62-003-2018: 91 acres. No mandatory practices listed in management plan. No RTE, archeological or historical occurrences on property. Land Exam updated in November 2016. Cutting Notice observed and signed in July 2017. Management plan updated by Cutting Notice activity. Harvesting operations were performed by 3 different contractors. Birch was not removed. Markets for pulpwood are marginal in this area. Observed stand 2 patch clear-cut of oaks. Adequate regeneration of oaks and mixed northern hardwood species. Access road through CRP field- no issues. Interview with Landowner-not pleased with first contractor-fired from site and moved equipment off property. Landowner seeds roads with native mix from NRCS for wildlife. Adjacent open lands are within CRP program. Confirms written agreements are used. Contracts utilized are simple 2 page documents with no requirements for FISTA training- local mills do not require certification (Amish). Management plan written by Scott Horton-Professional Consulting Forester which requires proof insurance for harvesting contractors.



2. MFL Order # 62-019-2015: 80 acres-Single tree oak selection with canopy gaps. Goal is to promote regeneration of mixed oak species. Observation of Oaks, Red maples, basswood, walnuts and hickories. Management goal to maintain health and financial income. Mandatory practice of Oak Patch selection harvest identified for 2016. One Federally protected bird identified in/surrounding property. No historical or archaeological occurrences identified. Cutting Notice observed but no activity listed. Land Exam updated in March 2014. Harvesting operations are not complete, therefore no completed Cutting Notice for update to Land Exam. Frozen ground conditions are required for access and management of Protected Species-Eagle. Management is 1/4 mile buffer around nest site-not located on property. Landowner is administering sale. Not present during audit. Invasive species are prevalent and communication with landowner is on-going about treatment. No treatment has been performed. No crossing observed within draws. Skid trails are designed perpendicular and no impacts to soil movement observed. Minimal damages to residual stand. No trash or evidence of trespass.



3. MFL Order # 06-023-2001: 79.22 acres-No activity. No RTE, archeological or historical occurrences identified. Observed Land exam updated March 2018. Mandatory harvest scheduled in 2018 for stands 1 , 2 and 3. Landowner is actively working to find contractor- first contractor went out of business . Oak regeneration harvest planned for stand 1, single tree selection for stands 2 and 3. Goal is natural regeneration of oaks in stand 1 and wildlife. Ground conditions of stand 1 and 2 match maps and management plans.



4. MFL Order # 06-017-2019: 75 acres. NHI database list suitable habitat for federally protected reptile and special concern plant. Cutting Notice and Report observed dated December 2019 for Stands 1 and 2. Land Exam observed dated March 2018. Harvesting operations are still on-going but not complete. No harvesting or equipment on site during audit. Interview with landowner confirms written contracts and insurance is maintained. No pesticides are used. **Herbicide is used-but not aware of reporting requirement. Website indicates pesticides. Knowledgeable of letter- confusion by landowner on reporting.** Targeting oak for regeneration with wildlife habitat as goal. Individual tree selection and areas of patch harvest cut. Timber sale was originally marked in 2006. Some areas were targeted with species removed that were marketable. Objective was to open stand for regeneration and promote in-even age management. Habitat was not adjacent to water for nesting. None were identified on property in harvesting area. Landowner has found them on another area within property adjacent to water- flagged and fence nests. Late Fall and Winter is targeted harvesting area. Observed Aspen regeneration in patch harvest cut areas. Ground conditions matched management plans and maps. Some soil movement observed on skid trails, but no impacts to water. Landowner is proactive and lives on-property. Indicated that he takes care of his roads and is aware of the soil movement on skid trail. Contractor will install water bars once sale is completed. Green tree retention observed in harvest cut areas. Broad based dips and seeding of main road by landowner. Above average Tree Farm and direct landowner engagement.



5. MFL Order # 06-137-2005: 68.5 acres-Mandatory practice for thinning White Spruce and White Pine for 2021. One Federally protected species identified in/around property but no suitable habitat was found during ground check. No archeological or historical occurrences. Land Exam updated in July 2021. Stands 3 and 4-Patch harvest cut and remove poor quality trees. Stands 2- minimal volume harvested-transition to stands 3 and 4. Landowner administered timber sale- not on site during audit. Goal to utilize mature trees and oak regeneration for wildlife and habitat. White Spruce/Pine (Stand 6)thinning mandatory practice will be released for landowner to manage as natural area for wildlife bedding. Very steep terrain, harvested from bottom- crop lands at time of audit. Observed mixed northern hardwoods, walnut and some sporadic oaks regeneration. No ruts, soil movement or BMP issues observed on access or skid roads. Ground conditions matched management plans and maps.



6. MFL Order # 06-054-2005: 80 acres-One Federally protected species identified in/around property but no suitable habitat was found. No archeological or historical occurrences. Land Exam updated in July 2021. Stands 3 and 4-Patch harvest cut and remove poor quality trees. Landowner administered timber sale- not on site during audit. Goal to utilize mature trees and oak regeneration for wildlife and habitat. White Spruce/Pine (Stand 1)thinning is on-going but not active on day of audit. Some areas observed uncut- possibly due to lack of market for low grade materials. No ruts, soil movement or BMP issues observed on access or skid roads. Ground conditions matched management plans and maps.



7. MFL Order # 06-236-2000: 90.46 acres-Mandatory practice of thinning White Pine listed for 2015-Stand P11. No RTE

species, archeological or historical occurrences identified. Cutting Notice with no volumes observed dated July 2020. Sale is considered open and volumes not listed. Landowner had volume on site. Land Exam updated in February 2014. Landowner harvested own site and was certified in MN. Landowner management goal is oak regeneration for timber, wildlife, aesthetics. Use of chemical for timber stand improvement and invasive species treatment. Confirmed knowledge of reporting requirements to DNR. Landowner had chemical list and volumes for DNR personnel on-site. Harvest cut of spruce plantation and thinning of Mature white pine stand. Historical stone building on property protected by landowner. Deer browse impacting oak regeneration. Landowner is aware of buckthorn, garlic mustard, Barbary and treats as applicable. Planted white oak in harvest cut area. Land leased for recreational hunting. Adequate regeneration of mixed hardwoods, cherry and walnut in harvest cut area. Snags and scattered green trees were retained for wildlife. No water or BMP issues on tract. Observed stand 17 hardwood select and patch harvest cut. Area within white pine stand-timber stand improvement to remove invasive and boxelder. Landowner is proactive and knowledgeable of certification requirements. Ground conditions matched management plans and maps.



**Day 2, Rice Lake Route, Meister**

**MFL Site#; MFL Order Notes**

Tuesday August 10th

#28; MFL Order 58-008-2002: No mandatory or non-mandatory practices scheduled for remainder of plan (2026). Stands consist of northern hardwood, swamp hardwood, alder, and aspen. Review of management plan, land exam, and cutting notice for 2018-2020 harvest. NHI hit, but no impacts noted as likely due to harvesting due to winter conditions. No invasive species or other concerns noted. Approx. 15-20 acres of planned northern hardwood single-tree selection left unentered due to poor markets. Windthrow is like disturbance of site as evidence via observation of pit-mound topography and observation of recent blowdown. Other planned areas harvested as per cutting notice. DNR forester interviewed stated that a new plan will be due soon and unharvested areas will be addressed then and likely lumped with other areas to harvest. Observation of property and stand harvest boundaries.

#26; MFL Order 58-033-2004: No mandatory or non-mandatory practices scheduled for remainder of plan (2028). Stands consist of northern hardwood, aspen, alder, white spruce, and swamp hardwood. Review of cutting notice for single tree selection harvest (2020) to remove overstory aspen (functionally a patch-cut with sections of single-tree selection and unharvested areas). Invasive species noted, for which winter harvest was recommended. NHI hit, for which winter harvest conditions recommended for mitigation. Review of land exam. Observation of harvest boundaries and trails maintained by landowner. Harvested areas likely to regenerate with a mix of aspen and Northern hardwood.

#27; MFL Order 55-002-2011: No mandatory or non-mandatory practices scheduled for remainder of plan (2035). Stands consist of white spruce, aspen, swamp hardwoods, and alder. Review of management plan, land exam, and cutting notice (aspen and black ash clearcut with hardwood selection; 2015). No NHI hits or other special concerns noted. Observation of RMZ, property boundaries, retained trees such as oak and thorn-apple.

#31; MFL Order 55-010-2003: No mandatory or non-mandatory practices scheduled for remainder of plan (2035). Stands consist of white spruce, aspen, alder, and swamp hardwood. Review of land exam and cutting notice for 2015 harvest (hardwood selection, aspen and black ash clearcuts). No NHI hits or other special concerns. Observation of overstory removal area to address windthrow and past land management issues, marked property boundaries, and single-tree selection area. Harvest leaves options for future entries for stand improvement and merchantable material.

#24; MFL Order 55-002-2006: No mandatory or non-mandatory practices scheduled for remainder of plan (2030). Stands consist of northern hardwood. Review of land exam and cutting notice for harvest in 2019 (single tree selection for removal of

basswood). No NHI hits or other concerns noted. Observation of harvest area and property boundaries. Stumps hand-felled and hauled to roadside by landowner.

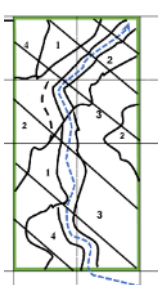
#25; MFL Order 55-008-2014: Mandatory practices scheduled for 2024, 2034, 2044, and 2054 for duration of plan (2063). One non-mandatory practice allowed for 2014 (red pine thinning). Stands consist of aspen, white spruce, and red pine. Review of cutting notice for 2014 harvest (white pine and red pine thinning). NHI review determined no suitable habitat. No other concerns noted. Review of monitoring forms and land exam. Observation of thinning area and property boundaries. Conifer thinning area planned by landowner in cooperation with harvester. Aspen stand entered by beavers. RMZs observed and confirmed that these are protected. Interview with landowner.

#32; MFL Order 55-030-2003: No mandatory or non-mandatory practices scheduled for remainder of plan (2027). Stands consist of oak. Review of cutting notice (2018; removal of saw-timber ash and other trees marked with orange paint (basswood, oak, ash, and sugar maple)). Expected conversion of stand to northern hardwood over time. Emerald ash borer concerns. Stream crossing planned for frozen conditions to reduce impacts on existing culverted crossing. No NHI hits or other concerns noted. Observed corduroyed-crossing that was not authorized in cutting notice nor removed during harvest closeout and trail in RMZ, which is evidence of equipment entry into the 15-ft. exclusion zone outside of the stream crossing. Culverted stream crossing has evidence of wear and is a stacked culvert, which ultimately does not address long-term drainage concerns. Culverted-crossing installed just after bend in stream rather than a straight section, which will increase hydrologic pressure on crossing over time. Discussion of possible remediation.

**10 Aug 2021, Day 2 – Hayward Route, Jacqmain**

**Stop #, Order number, Notes**

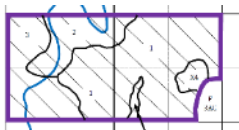
1, 16-028-2003



Clearcut mature aspen, Stand 4, 12 acres. Cutting Notice submitted 11/20/2015. 35' no-cut RMZ along Fisher Creek. Actual volume harvest reported. New cutting notice, 15x 50' buffer, no cut exceeds BMPs, green tree retention target 27%. Red clay provisions, unique soils, local guides exceeds mandatory BMPs.

1a (add-on), Acquisition, New property acquired to be added by landowner. No issues.

2, 16-021-2003



Stands 1 and 2 of management plan. Cut mature balsam fir and all hardwood except oak. Retain all pine, cedar spruce, spruce except high-risk stems. Pockets of young timber avoided where possible. Stand 3 was not due but added using Rx for Stand 1. Harvest dry or frozen ground only to protect plant occurrence found during NHI review. Cautioned about rutting potential on steep slopes. Reference to WI BMPs for water quality, including a 100 foot Riparian Management Zone along Poplar River. Actual harvest reported 2019, cutting notice 2017.

Discussion: landowner communications, new landowner brochure and high response rate to it. BMP monitoring post-harvest

3, 16-045-2003. Stand 2, Single Tree Selection, 6 acres. Stand 4, Shelterwood, prep cut, 5 acres. Mandatory cutting notice review.. Impacted by market.

4, 16-042-2003.

SALE AREA MAP



Stands 3, 4, 9 & 11, about 33 acres all total. Clear cut and shear to promote aspen regeneration, Condition of stand was breaking down, with blowdown and low-quality aspen and red maple. Blue painted property line and also natural boundaries (obvious physical features) to delineate harvest area. Cutting notice with actual volumes reported. No logging equipment in any wetland area. Harvesting during periods of frozen ground only to prevent damage to the soil. Actual volumes harvested reported.

5, 07-020-2014. Stand 3 (66 ac) & Stand 6 (19ac) marked for selection harvest to reduce stocking by harvesting high risk trees, crop tree release, removing poor quality trees, harvesting firs that have reached target diameters, and creating 40-60' canopy gaps to promote the growth of seedlings. Pre-harvest stocking level is estimated at 120 sq.ft/ac in Stand 6 & more than 140 sq. ft./ac in Stand 3. Target after harvest residual stocking is 80-90 sq. ft./ac. Stocking is higher in Stand 3 with more uniform oak stocking on the ridge tops and higher slopes. There are also several inclusions of older aspen which will be harvested during this thinning. Marked to cut with orange paint. The exterior harvest boundaries have been marked with blue and red paint on trees. Stand 3 is a high quality stand oak pole and sawtimber stand that over time will become dominated by more northern hardwood species as red oak is replaced by the shade tolerant maple. Marking strategy favored retention of good quality oak.

5, 16-021-2004, Red oak Stand 1, 9 ac. planned overstory removal. Low average stocking levels, die back in the tops, and the presence of oak and misc. hardwood regeneration. Red oak makes up 35% of the seedlings and 50% of the saplings. Monitoring regen survey found approximately 665 seedlings per acre along with approximately 1840 saplings per acre. All merchantable trees are designated for harvest without marking.



6, 16-037-2004. Add on red oak SW. Stand 1 first cut of a two cut shelterwood for red oak regeneration. Heavy scarification to sufficiently to expose mineral soil as a seedbed. Dominant, well-spaced red oak retained. Good advanced red oak prior to harvest. No risk features in pre-harvest review (NHI, water, invasives).

7, 07-018-1998. Stand 2, 8 acres, Clearcut with natural regen. Stand 3, 4 acres, Clearcut with natural regen..





**Day 3, 11 August 2021. EAU CLAIRE, RICE LAKE, AND HAYWARD ROUTES**

**Day 3, 8/11/2021- Wilks Eau Claire Route**

All field sites reviewed contained Management Plans with maps and required NHI and Archaeological/Historical checks. No issues were observed regarding BMP issues or regulatory violations. All prescriptions, monitoring documents and maps reflected ground conditions.

1. MFL Order # 17-019-2009: 496.94 acres- Mandatory practice identified for 2009, next scheduled for 2023. Several Federal, State and Special concern species were listed on NHI review. No archeological or historical occurrences identified. Cutting Notice observed-dated December 2011, December 2016 and Land Exam updated July 2021. Landowner confirms knowledge of chemical reporting requirements. No use of chemicals on land- primary red pine. Land is managed by professional consultant. Contracts are maintained and insurance is required. Consultant manages harvesting operations and contractor requirements. No recent activities have been conducted on property. Some parcels are being transitioned to DNR. Land originally purchased for nuclear power plant, but facility never constructed. Lands are designated MFL open. Observed Stand 60-Pocket decline discovered by MFL around perimeter. Landowner provides annual disabled hunting opportunity. Stand 60 was previously thinned. Next activity planned-thinning in 8-10 years. Stand is heavily stocked- stand is 60-70 years old. Some buckthorn observed within understory but not significant. Planned final harvest would be on upper range of red pine age. Landowner will allow stand to revert to hardwoods within understory. Oaks and mixed northern hardwoods of maple, cherry and white pines. Access road on power line easement was gated. Pocket decline may facilitate earlier final harvest based on monitoring by landowner. Annual monitoring confirmed by landowner. DNR personnel meets annually to discuss management plan with landowner and consultant. Lands are managed for timber and wildlife. Rare habitats are managed within ownership for Barron's and prairie restoration with use of prescribed burning. DNR personnel are utilized for prescribed burning. No recent management activities on parcel- No BMP issues identified. Ground conditions matched management plans and maps. Gated access to prevent unauthorized access.



2. MFL Order #47-021-2003: 82.43 acres- No mandatory practice listed. No RTE species, archeological or historical occurrences identified. Cutting Notice observed for May 2015. Land Exam updated in April 2019. Landowner inherited property around 7 months ago from father. Confirmed wildlife and timber are primary goals. Observed stands 1 and 2. Stand 1 oak and stand 2- white birch. Ground conditions matched management plan. Access roads were seeded with local vegetation and contained water bars installed post 2017 harvest. No water features on property. Old decks are seeded with local clover and utilized as food plots. Landowner is actively engaged and knowledgeable of chemical

reporting requirements- confirmed no use during interview.



3. MFL Order #47-004-2009: 80 acres- Mandatory practices identified for 2026 and beyond. No RTE species, archeological or historical occurrences identified. Shelterwood/regeneration harvest next planned activity. Land Exam updated in April 2014. Observation confirmed oak regeneration with other mixed hardwood species of cherry, maple and black walnut. Growth of over-story confirmed management plan is active and accurate. Over-story removal delayed five years to facilitate oak regeneration. Some mortality with possible oak wilt. Previous stand marked by landowner with guidance from DNR personnel. Ground conditions matched management plans and stand descriptions. No water quality or BMP issues observed. Posted signs observed. Land is recreational hunted by landowner and family.



4. MFL Order # 47-035-2004: 35 acres-No mandatory practice listed. No RTE species, archeological or historical occurrences identified on property. Cutting Notice observed for May 2017. Land Exam updated October 2016. Thinning conducted and marked by third party with industry experience. Small pole sized timber. Harvest objective to improve overall quality of stand for future growth- primarily red maple stand. Harvested by processing equipment. Not most desirable species for deer habitat. Early successional species are red maple. No water features observed on parcel. Advise to manage on group selection to maintain age diversity. Red maples mixed with cherry and minor components of oak. Understory consisting primarily of elderberry, blackberry and other woody shrubs. Plan to allow canopy closure and seeding of red maples. Skid trails were mowed and no evidence of soil movement from prior harvest. No damage observed to residual stand.



5. MFL Order # 47-006-2001: 39.97 acres-mandatory practices for stands 1, 3, 5, 6, 7 for 2020. Primary harvest cut, except for stands 3 and 7 (single tree selection and thinning). Several Federal, State and Special concern species were listed on NHI review. No archeological or historical occurrences identified. Cutting Notice observed and date January 2021. New Harvest Monitoring Checklist observed-No significant issues identified- No water features on site. Harvested during frozen ground conditions. **Minor NC:** MFL order does not meet ATFS Eligibility Contiguity Rule. Tree Farm inspected is attached to MFL order with additional land- approximately 1 mile apart and is not contiguous. Parcel is under same MFL order and Tree Farm designation. Land is classified as MFL open-recreational hunting, hiking, sight-seeing and cross country skiing. Harvested and marked by Schmitt Timber. Stand 3-marked thinning. Management objective to improve quality of residual stand and release pole size quality maples. Low density harvest. Ground conditions matched management and monitoring report. No water or crossings on stand. Minimal damage to residual stand observed. Other parcels were harvested in winter based on guidance from DNR and Federal information. Interview with landowner confirmed satisfaction with harvesting operation. Contractor paid additional funds over contracted amount. Pleased with allowing recreational hunting- hunters share pictures and share game. No chemicals are applied to forest land.



6. MFL Order # 47-011-2000: 14 acres-No activity. No mandatory practice listed. No RTE species, archeological or historical occurrences identified on property. Cutting Notice observed and dated March 2019. Land Exam updated November 2019. Harvested stand 3-mature hickories, cherry and inferior boxelder, elm, ash and other species. Leave pole sized quality hickories. Landowner requested harvesting from timber mortality of Bitternut Hickory and wildlife habitat improvement. Harvest contractor is FISTA trained- Drier. Some windstorm damage observed in stand. Landowner has planted oaks and white pine in stand. Regeneration of hickories and cherries observed. Undergrowth of herbaceous and woody shrubs will provide habitat for wildlife. Minimal damage to residual stand. No rutting, trash or hydrocarbon spills observed. Clean harvesting operation. No issues identified. Ground conditions matched management plans.



7. MFL Order #17-035-2018: 59.78 acres-No activity. No mandatory practice listed. No RTE species, archeological or historical occurrences identified on property. Land Exam updated May 2017. Red pine stand thinned 5 years ago. Heavy understory of maples. Harvested by FISTA trained contractor. Scheduled for thinning in 2026. Hardwood stands buffer the perennial streams. Perennial streams on stand contained no crossings. Stands were accessed via roads. No evidence of equipment within 100+ feet of riparian zone. Stands on west of parcel were decked in farm field. Harvest conducted in winter. Stand 1 is pine, stand 3 is hardwood. Some aspen and maples were removed. No damage to residual stand. Utilization of fiber was excellent. No issues identified. No chemical usage by landowner. Some invasive species (buckthorn) were observed, but not significant.



<b>Day 3, Rice Lake Route, Meister</b>
<b>MFL Site #; MFL Order Notes</b>
Wednesday August 11th
#41; MFL Order 03-028-2003: Mandatory practices scheduled for 2022 (oak and white pine thinning) and no non-mandatory practices. Stands consist of oak, white pine, and aspen, though it is evident in the field that a greater northern hardwood component is present under the oak-pine stands. Review of management plan, landowner correspondence, and cutting notice (2021; oak group selection, white pine thinning, and aspen coppice). Practices for 2021 were delayed due to markets. Observed group selection areas and aspen patch cut areas. Group selections include removal of oak and poorly formed hardwoods. Retention in both aspen patches and group selection includes white pine and white oak. Invasive species (buckthorn and garlic mustard) present, mostly near aspen areas. Patch cut can allow aspen to compete with buckthorn. Review of land exam. Interview with landowner. Landowner is manually removing garlic mustard each spring, which is intended to also help with sugarbush management. Discussion on family legacy and options; MFL forester to follow up. Observed trails and property boundaries, all properly maintained.
#59; MFL Order 09-025-2012: Mandatory practices noted for duration of plan for 2023, 2037, 2045, and 2057 (all thinning two separate years for selection and clearcut). No non-mandatory practices. Stands consist of oak, red maple, aspen, and white pine. Review of management plan, land exam, and cutting notice (selection system for mixed hardwood; 2018). Invasive species present at edges. NHI hit determined that harvest is too far away from suitable habitat. No other special concerns. Observation of quality residual oak and advanced regeneration in 2018-19 harvest area. Some evidence of oak decline in adjacent stand that was harvested in 2013. Harvest boundaries were well-marked. Interview with landowner, who is on board for managing for oak.
#65; MFL Order 09-011-2012: Mandatory practices noted for 2020 (single tree selection and thinning). No non-mandatory practices. Stands consist of aspen, northern hardwood, and white pine. Review of management plan, land exam, correspondence from DNR (overdue practice notices), and cutting notice (Coppice, overstory removal, thinning, and single tree selection; 2021). Observation of marked timber sale, which shows that poorly formed trees were selected for removal. Aspen patches clearly marked. Intermittent stream riparian management zone observed and 30 ft. buffer assigned, consistent with BMP manual. Observation of property boundaries. NHI hit and review determined no suitable habitat on property. Invasive species present. No other concerns.
#60; MFL Order 09-006-2003: No mandatory or non-mandatory practices scheduled for remainder of plan (2027). Stands consist of northern and swamp hardwoods, with some presence of hemlock, bur oak, and white pine. 2006 was last harvest. Interview with landowner over site history and objectives. Review of management plan and land exam.
#58; MFL Order 09-013-1997: Mandatory practices noted for 2035 (group selection and conversion to uneven-aged system). No non-mandatory practices. Stands consist of northern hardwoods. Observation of property boundaries and roads. Land is enrolled in non-profit conservation program. Noted yellow birch and ash component, so there is some concern over Emerald Ash Borer. Review of land exam and management plan.
#30; MFL Order 55-009-2006: Mandatory practices noted for 2028 (single tree selection and sanitation-salvage). No non-mandatory practices. Stands consist of northern hardwood, black spruce, and tamarack. Observation or property boundaries, trails, past thinning practice for northern hardwood and oak (2013), swamp, and food plot area. Review of management plan and stand exam.
<b>11 Aug 2021, Day 3 – Hayward Route, Jacqmain</b>

**Stop #, Order number, Notes**

1, 66-047-2004, Stand 1, 28 acres, Oak type. Selection thin to 80 sqft BA. Orange paint marked to remove, order of removal. Even-aged management, plan to thin until ultimately apply a SW treatment. No cut from April 15-July 15 for oak wilt considerations. Stand 2, 7 acres, Red pine pole, about 27 years old. Thin every 3<sup>rd</sup> row, with thinning between, bringing from 240 down to 120 sqft BA. Looked also at RPP, 30 yo. Aspen Cc. All done in 2018. Landowner interview. Landowner requested a follow up to mgt activities and updated FMP.

Red pine stand, left photo. Aspen clearcut, right photo.



2, 66-004-2009, Shelterwood, 129 acres. Seeding cut for Stands 1, 2, and 3. Stand 1: 78 acres, Stand 2: 38 acres. Stand 3, 10 acres. Blue Paint, Timber Sale Boundaries. Red Paint, Internal Timber Sale Boundaries when needed along mature Aspen Stands. Orange Paint, Leave Trees. Actual volumes reported, 6 August 2018.



Interview CPW. Discussions: environmental review - noted ponds for buffering. 50' prescribed buffer for all activities. Plans chemical and mechanical site prep. Will scarify and remove ironwood and red maple. Spray, CPW training covered chemicals pesticides. No knowledge of ESRAs or mitigation for chemicals planned to be used.

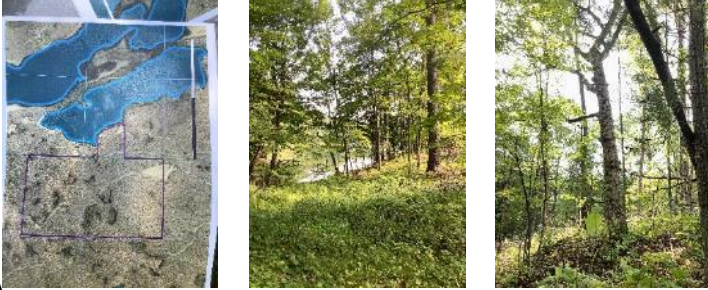
3, 66-077-2004.



Stand 1. Oak northern hardwoods. Timber sale established by consulting forester. Rx, mixture of mgt prescriptions based on species onsite in canopy and regeneration conditions. Stand 2, 69 ac. Areas of pine with areas of associated northern hardwoods. Species composition and stocking variable/patchy resulting from past management practices. Objectives to regenerate oak and pine. Patches of aspen were harvested to regenerate. Depending on species dominance in patches, some areas treated as shelterwood-like harvest, while other areas an oak thinning with large gaps located at substantial regeneration spots. BA brought down from 95 sqft to 53 sqft on average, however residual stocking ranges from 10 to 80 sqft due to patchiness of original stand. Trees marked with an orange slash to cut. Boundaries marked orange dots and natural features.. Cutting order dated 11 July 2018.

Buffer left along east edge of stand, next to lake. In steep slopes area adjacent to wetlands, equipment was excluded from sale

area to avoid soil rutting/erosion. Occurrences found in NHI search were associated with the lake outside of the management area with no impact from management activity given buffer left along lake shore. "Forest Tax Law - Harvest Monitoring Checklist", Form 2450-196 (04/21) in file. Small wetlands within stand were protected and free of slash during inspections. RMZ had no harvest w/in 50', long-lived species retained within buffer. Discussions Form 2450-196 inspection and Form 2450-128. "Managed Forest Law - Amendment Order", 2021. Measured 90 BA w/in 15'. Narrowest portion, naturally open. Ave 42 BA ave 60 sqft throughout.



**Day 4, 12 August 2021. EAU CLAIRE, RICE LAKE, AND HAYWARD ROUTES**

**Day 4, 8/12/2021- Wilks Eau Claire Route**

All field sites reviewed contained Management Plans with maps and required NHI and Archaeological/Historical checks. No issues were observed regarding regulatory violations or BMPs. No evidence of trespassing, trash or hydrocarbon spills was observed. Maps were available and represented ground conditions for all sites.

1. MFL Order # 17-028-2013: 38 acres-Single tree mandatory practice scheduled for 2025. No RTE, archeological or historical occurrences on site. Last monitoring was conducted in 2013. Harvest operation in 2012-2013 prior to MFL enrollment. Access road with primary UTV traffic observed. Some minor soil movement but no flowing water on site. Ephemeral drain observed and landowner representative acknowledged water bars and grading of road to maintain integrity need to be installed. DNR personnel knowledgeable of WI BMP requirements during interview. Large ravine on stand- no evidence of crossing by machines from previous harvest. Stand will be selective harvest to remove inferior trees and promote growth of dominant oaks and sugar maples. Ground conditions matched management plan and maps. No issues identified and no activity on site. Recreational hunting and snowmobile trails- Land is leased.



2. MFL Order # 56-004-2016: 46 acres- Single tree selection and thinning mandatory practice scheduled for 2032. No RTE, archeological or historical occurrences on site. Cutting Notice observed and dated September 2016. Pines thinned and completed in 2017-2018. Interplanting of conifer and red oak. Removed every third row and thinned between of conifers only. Gated and posted signs at gate. Approximately 12 acres of thinning. Land is leased for recreational hunting.. Parcel consists of pine and hardwood stands. Various age classes of Oaks, maple and ash observed. Harvest operation conducted in compliance with BMPs. Minimal damages observed, residual stand responding and oak canopy closure observed. Pond located on western side of property. Next planned activity is removal of conifers to continue release of oaks. Some higher stumps due to winter harvesting landowner confirmed no chemicals are used on property. Land has been in ownership for approximately 50 years. Recreational hunting observed.



3. MFL Order # 56-032-1995: 11 acres- thinning of white pine stand (1) in 2031 and 2044. No RTE, archeological or historical occurrences on site. Two stands-(1 & 2)- map revised due to planting of sugar maples, white oak, red oak, spruce and white pine. Stand 2 delineated from stand 1 due to poor survival of red and white pines that were planted around 1995 and now defined as stand 1. Reforestation check scheduled for approximately 2 years as mandatory practice. Audit prep facilitated conversation with landowner and update of management plan. Observed sporadic success with the planting- primarily Burr Oak. No thinning has occurred in pine stand. Burr oaks, spruce and sporadic red oaks have grown above grass line. Maples appear to be struggling for survival. DNR personnel confirmed monitoring for survival.



4. MFL Order # 48-025-1999: 46 acres-Management Plan revised in July 2021. No mandatory practice are listed. No RTE, archeological or historical occurrences on site. Stand marked by consultant and harvested in 2017. Northern hardwood improvement to promote growth and regeneration of red oaks and maples. Stand is transitioning to northern hardwood species-maple, elms and basswoods. Steep terrain into low area. No water on stand. Harvested volume was removed on each side of low area without crossing. Stand was harvested in frozen ground/dry conditions. No evidence of soil movement or BMP issues. No damage to residual stand. Forest conditions reflect management plan. Quality harvest operation and protection of residual stand.



5. MFL Order # 48-008-2009: 12 acres-No mandatory practice are listed. No RTE, archeological or historical occurrences on site. Stand harvested in 2012 by marking. Land has sold from previous owner and transfer paperwork is in progress. Invasive species management and management of access trail was discussed with new owners. Previous harvest was

shelterwood to remove understory for regeneration of oaks. Snowmobile trail across property. Ephemeral drain observed and no evidence of soil movement. Observed steep UTV road that has rutting and remediation discussed by DNR personnel with landowner. Decision to remediate will be determined if landowner completes transfer to MFL. Voluntary Compliance Assessment was discussed as potential use for documentation for soil movement on steep terrain.



6. MFL Order # 48-021-1998: 66 acres- No mandatory practice are listed. NHI identified special concern reptile on/near property with suitable habitat. No archeological or historical occurrences on site. Cutting Notice observed and dated August 2019. Expiration of MFL order observed for 2022. Landowner not renewing into program. Should landowner decide to re-enroll- site could be classified as high-risk(factors that impact productivity on all future orders). Landowners can utilize Productivity Withdrawals established by legislature. MFL orders can be withdrawn without fees/penalties if land can-not meet productivity requirements. Initial conversation with landowners are conducted through Cooperating Foresters with oversight by Tax Law Specialist. Annual training conducted for Cooperating Foresters. Single tree/group selection to promote regeneration of oaks and maples observed. Removal of mature trees to ensure regeneration of desirable species. Land is managed by consultant. Invasive species is significant on western section of tract-buckthorn. All timber hauled across southern section through agriculture fields. Big River is adjacent to north boundary. No harvesting due to steep terrain adjacent to river. No BMP issues observed. Harvest operation was conducted properly and minimal damage to residual stand.

**Day 4, Rice Lake Route, Meister**

**MFL Site #; MFL Order Notes**


#38; MFL Order 03-025-2016: Mandatory practices noted for 2031, 2036, and 2061 (single tree selection and patch cut of aspen). Stands consist of oak, alder swamp, and northern hardwood. Review of management plan and land exam. Observation of property boundaries, well-maintained trails, and retention of good quality oak and maple stems. Aspen areas cut and have retention of oak and maple species.

#43; MFL Order 49-041-2005: No mandatory practices for remainder of plan (2029). Non-mandatory thinnings allowed 2007. Stands consist of aspen, northern hardwood, and oak. Review of management plan, land exam, and cutting notice (sanitation-salvage in oak and northern hardwood; 2021). Established 100' RMZ due to lake; retention difficult due to storm damage. Invasive species at low density. No NHI hits or other special concerns. Review of cutting report. Observation of RMZ and legacy trail system, which would be costly to remove. Interview with landowner over trail maintenance, which is scheduled for October 2021 (e.g., grading). Stream crossing was repaired during harvest in 2021. Landowner has succession plan for ownership. Recreation includes hunting and horseback riding. Part of property abuts a section of indigenous people reservation.

#36; MFL Order 49-017-2019: Mandatory practices noted for 2039 (single and group selection). Non-mandatory practices include invasive species control at any time. Stands consist of northern and swamp hardwoods. Review of management plan, land exam, and cutting notice (salvage and selection harvest due to storm damage and emerald ash borer concerns; 2020). NHI hits and review determined no likely impacts from harvest. No special instructions for invasive species during harvest other than cleaning before entry. No other concerns noted. Observation of property boundaries near indigenous peoples reservation, which is well-marked by fencing and red paint. Trees retained included oak, maple, and hickory species. Interview with logger, who is FISTA and First Aid/CPR trained (all up-to-date).

#35; MFL Order 49-005-2017: No mandatory practices for remainder of plan (2041). Non-mandatory includes removal of cull trees in oak stand at any time. Stands consist of oak. Review of management plan, land exam, and cutting notice (sanitation due to storm; 2020). NHI hits and review determined no likely negative impacts due to harvest. Invasive species notes and



cleaning equipment recommended. Review of harvest volume summary. Observation of trail system and retention of oak and large white pine. Large white pines had tops damaged during storm and should make good raptor nest sites. Interview with logger.
#37; MFL Order 49-022-2010: No mandatory or non-mandatory practices scheduled for remainder of plan (2034). Stands include oak. Review of management plan, land exam, and cutting notice (patch cuts of aspen and birch; 2018). NHI hit and review determined no likely impacts due to harvest. No other concerns noted. Review of volume summary. Observation of oak retention of quality stems of oak and maple species in single-tree selection. Patch cuts include oak and maple retention.
#40; MFL Order 49-022-2012: Mandatory practices noted for 2029 (patch selection and uneven-age selection with planting). No non-mandatory practices. Stands include oak and tamarack. Review of management plan and land exam. Most recent activity was single-tree selection in 2013; observation of quality oak and maple stems in harvest area. Property boundary confirmed. Trails are well-maintained and regularly mowed for recreational access.
#44; MFL Order 49-021-2007: Mandatory practice noted for 2018 (group selection). No non-mandatory practices. Stands consist of northern hardwood. Review of management plan, land exam, and cutting notice (single tree selection; 2021). NHI hit and review determined to follow federal guidelines for stick nests. Harvest not near RMZ. Invasive species at low density. No other concerns noted. Observation of hand-felled, cable-skidder extracted group selection harvest, which was a change from the original plan since a harvest had been planned since 2007 and unable to attract buyers. Property boundaries readily identifiable. Notable sections of advanced sugar maple regeneration. Retention of sugar maple, basswood, and some yellow birch.
<b>12 Aug 2021, Day 4 – Hayward Route, Jacqmain</b>
<b>Stop #, Order number, Notes</b>
1, 58-021-2014. Stand 1, 20 acres. Red pine plantation. Third thin, using as a selection cut to shift the stand to hardwood. Mostly pine and mixed hardwoods removed. Marked orange to cut, reduced the stocking from 107 BA to 97 BA. Gaps were placed throughout the stand to encourage seedling and sapling development. Sale adjacent to wetland areas. No equipment or tree debris/felling allowed in the wetlands. Buffer retained around wetland for shade/cover protection of wetland area. NHI hit in lake, no mitigations necessary from harvest. Measured buffer width and discussion regarding evenness of distribution of retained trees and “effective buffer”. Harvest monitoring checklist dated 3/4/21.

2, 58-008-2002, Northern hardwood, 19 acres and aspen clearcut, 17 acres both in 80 acres of estimated storm damage. Northern hardwood reserved all oak, trees marked orange to cut. Pin sedge discussion as barrier to regeneration when the sedge is too thick. Invasives check was negative although ironwood noted as an undesirable competitive midstory species. NHI hits determined to not be affected by this winter harvest sale. Harvest monitoring checklist reviewed; list dated complete 6/18/21. NHI and RTE checks done in 2016 and rechecked by new forester in 2017.



3, 04-023-2016, 17 ac northern hardwoods, 19 acres aspen. Harvest monitoring checklist dated complete 6/18/21. Stand 1 - aspen clearcut with reserves. Retained 12" dbh and larger red oak & 2 stick and smaller balsam fir. Oak retained instead of aspen due to hypoxelyn canker on mature aspen in the stand making mature aspen stems a risk for breakage and blowdown. Stand 2 norther hardwood single tree selection to improve spacing and quality of crop trees. Property line boundaries in blue paint and interior boundaries red paint. Winter logging, no invasives, NHI or archaeological occurrences.

4, 04-014-2020, Stands 1 and 2, adjacent sales. Northern hardwood, ongoing job. Overstory removal and single tree selection. Heavy selection resembles thinning, oak desired species. Discussion about BMP monitoring form, Harvest monitoring checklist.

5, 04-009-2013, 23 acres. Second thinning in red pine plantation. Buckthorn and honeysuckle invasives noted by forester for equipment cleaning upon entry and exit of the stand.



6, 04-007-1992, Amendment order dated 11/17/2020. No activity. Confirmed stand conditions/description matches FMP.

7, 04-007-2020, Stands 2 and 3. Complex mix of harvest treatments with combinations of overstory removal, heavy thinning, and selection harvests with light to heavy green tree retention by landowner preference retaining more than conventional in some areas. Harvest design and removals dependent upon advanced regen, stand conditions and timber type. Trees marked green to keep, and retaining all oak and white pine as seed sources and for other purposes. Wetlands excluded from harvests activities with buffers maintained. NHI occurrences in area resulted in active and extensive retention of den, snag, and nesting trees throughout the management areas. Active recreational area for landowner. Extensive landowner interview – references to satisfaction of the program and consulting forester (CPW).



8, 04-005-2016. Aspen stand. Harvested all merchantable trees while retaining all conifers. Excellent coppice regeneration. Blue painted property line and along wetlands. No equipment zone prescribed along 15' either side of stream and around wetland. NHI occurrences within 1 mile buffer of sale area but not associated with harvest area, determined no impact likely from harvest.

## 2.2 Evaluation of Management Systems

SCS deploys interdisciplinary teams with expertise in forestry, social sciences, natural resource economics, and other relevant fields to assess an FME's conformance to FSC standards and policies. Evaluation methods include reviewing documents and records, interviewing FME personnel and contractors, implementing sampling strategies to visit a broad number of forest cover and harvest prescription types, observing implementation of management plans and policies in the field, and collecting and analyzing stakeholder input. When there is more than one team member, each member may review parts of the standards based on their background and expertise. On the final day of an evaluation, team members convene to deliberate the findings of the assessment jointly. This involves an analysis of all relevant field observations, interviews, stakeholder comments, and reviewed documents and records. Where consensus among team members cannot be achieved due to lack of evidence, conflicting evidence, or differences of interpretation of the standards, the team is instructed to report these in the certification decision section and/or in observations.

## 3. Changes in Management Practices

- There were no significant changes in the management and/or harvesting methods that affect the FME's conformance to the FSC standards and policies.
- Significant changes occurred since the last evaluation that may affect the FME's conformance to FSC standards and policies (*describe*):
- FSC-STD-30-005, V2-0, became effective in 2021
  - The Group Manager position remains open.

## 4. Results of Evaluation

### 4.1 Definitions of Major CARs, Minor CARs, and Observations

*Major CARs:* Major nonconformances, either alone or in combination with nonconformances of all other applicable indicators, result (or are likely to result) in a fundamental failure to achieve the objectives of the relevant FSC Criterion given the uniqueness and fragility of each forest resource. These are corrective actions that must be resolved or closed out before a certificate can be awarded. If Major CARs arise after an operation is certified, the timeframe for correcting these nonconformances is typically shorter than for Minor CARs. Certification is contingent on the certified FME’s response to the CAR within the stipulated time frame.

*Minor CARs:* These are corrective action requests in response to minor nonconformances, which are typically limited in scale or can be characterized as an unusual lapse in the system. Most Minor CARs are the result of nonconformance at the indicator-level. Corrective actions must be closed out within a specified time period of award of the certificate.

*Observations:* These are subject areas where the evaluation team concludes that there is conformance, but either future nonconformance may result due to inaction or the FME could achieve exemplary status through further refinement. Action on observations is voluntary and does not affect the maintenance of the certificate. However, observations can become CARs if performance with respect to the indicator(s) triggering the observation falls into nonconformance.

### 4.2 History of Findings for Certificate Period

FM Principle	Cert/Re-cert Evaluation (2018)	1 <sup>st</sup> Annual Evaluation (2019)	2 <sup>nd</sup> Annual Evaluation (2020)	3 <sup>rd</sup> Annual Evaluation (2021)	4 <sup>th</sup> Annual Evaluation (2022)
No findings	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
P1					
P2					
P3					
P4				Minor 4.2.b (landowner)	
P5					
P6	Minor 6.5.b OBS 6.5.d	Major 6.5.b Minor 6.5.d Obs 6.7.a		Minor 6.5.b (landowner)	
P7	OBS 7.1.b	Minor 7.1.b		Obs 7.3.a	
P8					
P9					
P10					
COC for FM					
Trademark					
Group	Minor 1.4 OBS 2.2 Minor 3.2	Major 3.2 Obs 5.1.ii Minor5.1.vi.	Minor 2.3	Minor 1.5 Minor 2.1.b) and c)	

			Minor 5.1.vi (extended due to Covid)	Minor 8.1.c) and d)	
Other					

### 4.3 Existing Corrective Action Requests and Observations

<b>Finding Number: 2020.1</b>	
<b>Select one:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Major CAR <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Minor CAR <input type="checkbox"/> Observation	
<b>FMU CAR/OBS issued to</b> (when more than one FMU):	
<b>Deadline</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Pre-condition to certification/recertification <input type="checkbox"/> 3 months from Issuance of Final Report <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 12 months or next regularly scheduled audit (surveillance or re-evaluation) <input type="checkbox"/> Observation – response is optional <input type="checkbox"/> Other deadline (specify):
<b>FSC Indicator:</b>	FSC-STD-30-005, V1-1, 2.3: Group entity staff and Group members shall demonstrate knowledge of the Group’s procedures and the applicable Forest Stewardship Standard.
<b>Non-Conformity</b> (or Background/ Justification in the case of Observations): No knowledge of requirements and reporting of chemical usage by landowners and DNR personnel. Interview with landowners confirmed lack of knowledge in reporting chemical usage and reporting requirements and interviews with personnel confirmed lack of knowledge in reporting requirements. Refer to Field Site Notes for additional evidence.	
<b>Corrective Action Request</b> (or Observation): Wisconsin MFL program shall demonstrate appropriate training for landowners and personnel for the applicable FSC standards related to chemical usage and reporting.	
<b>FME response</b> (including any evidence submitted)	<p>MFL on May 24, 2021 the Tax Law Section (TLS) sent out a mailing to all MFL Certified Group members (approx. 36,000) a letter confirming their membership, further celebrating their commitment to sustainable forestry as well as a MFL Tip Sheet summarizing their responsibilities as group members to include a reminder to report their pesticide use. The mailing also included the MFL Departure form for members that elected to opt out of the MFL Certified Group. Reference, “DOA MFL_Proof 05262021.pdf”, letter from Tax Law Section Chief, dated 05/24/2021 containing the above referenced information and additional as included below.</p> <p>The following updates were implemented to increase group member access to information.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Created the forest certification email inbox <a href="mailto:MFLForestCertification@wisconsin.gov">MFLForestCertification@wisconsin.gov</a>. This will be monitored by the statewide program specialists and myself.</li> <li>• Updated <a href="#">Managed Forest Law Group Forest Certification</a> website.             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Listing Tax Law Section Chief as the contact and referencing the <a href="mailto:MFLForestCertication@wisconsin.gov">MFLForestCertication@wisconsin.gov</a> email</li> <li>○ Updated links to the ATFS and FSC standards.</li> <li>○ Replaced the old one page summary “Managed Forest Land and Forest Certification – What does joining the MFL certified group mean for me?” with the newly created “<a href="#">MFL Tip Sheet, An overview of group member responsibilities, requirements &amp; resources</a>” (FR-801-2021).</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Added a link to the publication, <a href="#">“Choose Certification to Get the Most Out of Your Woods”</a> (FR-780)</li> <li>○ Reduced the amount of historical audit reports to the past 5 years.</li> <li>○ Provided access to the <a href="#">Pesticide Use Reporting site</a> and adding a note that the site will be upgraded to an intake form in the future.</li> <li>○ Updated <a href="#">Pesticide information</a> to reflect 2019 FSC Pesticide Policy to include access to <a href="#">Environmental and Social Risk Assessments (ESRA) for forestry pesticides commonly used in Wisconsin</a>.</li> <li>○ Created a link to the <a href="#">WI Tree Farm Committee website</a> where group members may order Tree Farm signs.</li> </ul> <p>Additional items include:  <a href="#">MFL Cutting Notice &amp; Report (Form 2450-032 Rev. 9/2020)</a> updated to more clearly indicate MFL compliance requirements and Forest Certification Conformance requirements.  <a href="#">MFL Transfer of Ownership (Form 2450-159) Rev. 5/2021</a> updated to ensure landowners clearly opt in or out of Forest Certification.</p>
<b>SCS review</b>	<p>The audit team reviewed the above materials to verify contents and alignment with corrective action plans that had been submitted and approved. Landowners interviewed during the audit gave consistent feedback with awareness of the requirements and familiarity with the contents of the above materials. There was a noted significant improvement in knowledge by landowners of their roles and responsibilities and by MFL Tax Law Forest Specialists. The MFL program demonstrated appropriate training had been implemented for landowners and personnel for the applicable FSC standards related to chemical usage and reporting. Thus, this finding is determined to be closed.</p>
<b>Status of CAR:</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Closed <input type="checkbox"/> Upgraded to Major <input type="checkbox"/> Other decision (refer to description above)

<b>Finding Number: 2020.2</b>	
<b>Select one:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Major CAR <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Minor CAR <input type="checkbox"/> Observation	
<b>FMU CAR/OBS issued to</b> (when more than one FMU):	
<b>Deadline</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Pre-condition to certification/recertification <input type="checkbox"/> 3 months from Issuance of Final Report <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 12 months or next regularly scheduled audit (surveillance or re-evaluation) <input type="checkbox"/> Observation – response is optional <input type="checkbox"/> Other deadline (specify):
<b>FSC Indicator:</b>	<p>FSC-STD-30-005, V1-1, indicator 5.1.vi. (see also FSC-US indicators 6.5.b and 6.5.d, 8.2.d.1). 5.1.vi. The group entity shall maintain complete and up-to-date records covering all applicable requirements of this standard. These shall include: vi. Records demonstrating the implementation of any internal control or monitoring systems. Such records shall include records of internal inspections, non-compliances identified in such inspections, actions taken to correct any such noncompliance;</p>

<p><b>Non-Conformity (or Background/ Justification in the case of Observations):</b> Continuation of Minor CAR 2019.7. Review of internal audits from 2017/2018 did not include evidence of implementation of corrections, corrective actions, or preventive actions. Review of the 2018/2019 did include corrective actions for one identified site issue but the other with identified Minor non-conformity did not describe the planned or implemented corrections. Given lack of evidence for corrections and non-conformities for indicators under 6.5.b (2019.1) and 6.5.d (2019.2) and additional related requirements under 8.2.d.1, this was identified as applicable for group management under this clause. This program has undergone substantial and significant restructuring and personnel changes over the last several years such that some development and articulation for MFL forestry staff work prioritization and collaborations across multiple agencies is still in progress. The overall system and structure of the State of Wisconsin, Managed Forest Law program is functional with competent and qualified staff justifying the grading of this finding as a Minor non-conformity.</p>	
<p><b>Corrective Action Request (or Observation):</b> Review of internal audits from 2017/2018 did not include evidence of implementation of corrections, corrective actions, or preventive actions. Review of the 2018/2019 did include corrective actions for one identified site issue but the other with identified Minor non-conformity did not describe the planned or implemented corrections. Given lack of evidence for corrections and non-conformities for indicators under 6.5.b (2019.1) and 6.5.d (2019.2) and additional related requirements under 8.2.d.1, this was identified as applicable for group management under this clause. This program has undergone substantial and significant restructuring and personnel changes over the last several years such that some development and articulation for MFL forestry staff work prioritization and collaborations across multiple agencies is still in progress. The overall system and structure of the State of Wisconsin, Managed Forest Law program is functional with competent and qualified staff justifying the grading of this finding as a Minor non-conformity.</p>	
<p><b>FME response (including any evidence submitted)</b></p>	<p>MFL program created “Forest Certification Tracker” which is an internal SharePoint that summarizes internal and external audit findings to include corrective actions, assignments, and deadlines. A spreadsheet was provided including the results of the new tracker.</p>
<p><b>SCS review</b></p>	<p>Audit team reviewed and evaluated the evidence submitted and confirmed the corrective actions requests recorded with the details of competencies and training for the internal audit. Audit team concurred it demonstrated an effective central, internal control system. The spreadsheet was difficult to read (small font, complex layout) but the MFL program demonstrated commitment to continue to improve internal monitoring. Internal monitoring and effective implementation of corrective actions will continue to be monitored annually as part of the overall management system evaluation. The improvements in knowledge and competencies related to internal auditing led the audit team to conclude closure of this finding.</p>
<p><b>Status of CAR:</b></p>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Closed  <input type="checkbox"/> Upgraded to Major  <input type="checkbox"/> Other decision (refer to description above)</p>

#### 4.4 New Corrective Action Requests and Observations

<b>Finding Number: 2021.1</b>
<b>Finding and Deadline</b>

<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Major CAR:</b> Pre-condition to certification/recertification <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Major CAR:</b> 3 months from Issuance of Final Report <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Minor CAR:</b> 12 months or next regularly scheduled audit, whichever comes first ( <i>surveillance or re-evaluation</i> ) <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Observation</b> – response is optional <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Other</b> and deadline (specify):	
<b>FMU CAR/OBS issued to</b> (when more than one FMU): <b>Order # 02-257-1999</b>	
<b>Standard and Indicator</b>	FSC-US, 4.2.b The forest owner or manager and their employees and contractors demonstrate a safe work environment. Contracts or other written agreements include safety requirements.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Non-Conformity Evidence</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Observation Justification and/or Explanation</b> Order # 02-257-1999, Stand 19. Loader (logging machinery) operator in active sale area was operating without required PPE including head protection from falling objects (hardhat), eye protection, or hearing protection. The contract for this sale did not have language for safety requirements. MFL program has a template publicly available on the MFL website that fully meets the requirements of this indicator. Landowner present at site and acknowledged safety was not demonstrated. Contract was selected and set up by CPW.	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Non-Conformity Corrective Action Request</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Observation; no Corrective Action is required</b> This finding is issued at the landowner level for corrective actions to provide for safe work environment and contracts with safety language for when unsafe conditions are found. Group manager may choose to address this at a higher level (all landowners and/or CPWs education, for example).	
<b>FME response</b> <i>(including any evidence submitted)</i>	
<b>SCS review</b>	
<b>Status of CAR:</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Closed <input type="checkbox"/> Upgraded to Major <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Other decision (refer to description above)</i>

<b>Finding Number: 2021.2</b>	
<b>Finding and Deadline</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Major CAR:</b> Pre-condition to certification/recertification <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Major CAR:</b> 3 months from Issuance of Final Report <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Minor CAR:</b> 12 months or next regularly scheduled audit, whichever comes first ( <i>surveillance or re-evaluation</i> ) <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Observation</b> – response is optional <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Other</b> and deadline (specify):	
<b>FMU CAR/OBS issued to</b> (when more than one FMU): 55-030-2003	
<b>Standard and Indicator</b>	FSC-US, 6.5.b Forest operations meet or exceed Best Management Practices (BMPs) that address components of the Criterion where the operation takes place.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Non-Conformity Evidence</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Observation Justification and/or Explanation</b> Forest operations do not meet or exceed Best Management Practices (BMPs) that address Riparian Management Zone (RMZ) requirements on this MFL order. The audit team observed evidence of equipment having entered the 15-ft. equipment exclusion zone outside of the designated stream crossing	



<p>(refer to p. 91 of the WI BMP manual). There was also a corduroyed stream crossing that was not authorized in the cutting notice and not removed during harvest close-out. It appeared that the landowner may have removed half of the corduroy, but the remaining corduroy demonstrated evidence of siltation and impediment to stream flow. There was legacy stacked culvert installed just after the meander of a stream that demonstrated evidence of active erosion into the stream. It also presents a risk of blowout.</p>	
<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Non-Conformity Corrective Action Request</b>    <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Observation; no Corrective Action is required</b>                  Forest operations shall meet or exceed Best Management Practices (BMPs) that address components of the Criterion where the operation takes place.</p>	
<p><b>FME response</b> (including any evidence submitted)</p>	
<p><b>SCS review</b></p>	
<p><b>Status of CAR:</b></p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Closed  <input type="checkbox"/> Upgraded to Major  <input type="checkbox"/> Other decision (refer to description above)</p>

<b>Finding Number: 2021.3</b>	
<b>Finding and Deadline</b>	
<p><input type="checkbox"/> <b>Major CAR:</b> Pre-condition to certification/recertification  <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Major CAR:</b> 3 months from Issuance of Final Report  <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Minor CAR:</b> 12 months or next regularly scheduled audit, whichever comes first (<i>surveillance or re-evaluation</i>)  <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Observation</b> – response is optional  <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Other</b> and deadline (specify):</p>	
<b>FMU CAR/OBS issued to</b> (when more than one FMU):	
<p><b>Standard and Indicator</b></p>	<p>7.3.a 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.</p>
<p><input type="checkbox"/> <b>Non-Conformity Evidence</b>    <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Observation Justification and/or Explanation</b>                  This CAR specifically addresses continuing training by MFL relative to Environmental and Social Risk Assessments (ESRAs) under the FSC-POL-30-001, V3-0 for Certified Plan Writers (CPWs) and MFL Tax Law Forest Specialists (TLFSs). Interviews with CPW indicated limited understanding of implementing mitigations specific to FSC ESRAs for pesticides/herbicides under MFL program. CPW expressed interest in such training. There is similar variability in understanding by MFL staff regarding what and where MFL ESRAs may be found and procedures to be used in implementing ESRAs regarding mitigation of environmental and social risks for landowners when using herbicides/chemicals in certified MFL forests.</p>	
<p><input type="checkbox"/> <b>Non-Conformity Corrective Action Request</b>    <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Observation; no Corrective Action is required</b>                  MFL should continue to train CPWs and MFL TLFSs in their roles, responsibilities, and available resources for assisting landowners specifically in increasing knowledge about how to mitigate risks to the environment and in communities where chemical herbicides are used in forests of certified MFL Orders.</p>	
<p><b>FME response</b> (including any evidence submitted)</p>	
<p><b>SCS review</b></p>	

<b>Status of CAR:</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Closed <input type="checkbox"/> Upgraded to Major <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Other decision (refer to description above)</i>
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<b>Finding Number: 2021.4</b>	
<b>Finding and Deadline</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Major CAR:</b> Pre-condition to certification/recertification <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Major CAR:</b> 3 months from Issuance of Final Report <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Minor CAR:</b> 12 months or next regularly scheduled audit, whichever comes first ( <i>surveillance or re-evaluation</i> ) <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Observation</b> – response is optional <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Other</b> and deadline (specify):	
<b>FMU CAR/OBS issued to</b> (when more than one FMU): <b>Order # 55-030-2003</b>	
<b>Standard and Indicator</b>	FSC-STD-30-005, 1.5
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Non-Conformity Evidence</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Observation Justification and/or Explanation</b> On Order # 55-030-2003, there was clear evidence of BMP violations, as described in NCR 2021.2. Repairing or otherwise mitigating such BMP measures may require significant cost, time, and/or planning to properly address on group member FMUs. Per interviews with upper management, there are several ways to document, plan, and address at-risk components of the transportation system. Each MFL management plan contains a general section on <i>Best Management Practices for Water Quality (BMPs)</i> , which designates the Cutting Notice or other plans as the place to document specific measures to address medium- to long-term BMP concerns. Per interviews review of the MFL handbook, Chapter 204, there are other options for addressing such issues during review of the completed Harvest Monitoring Checklist (Form 2450-196): <i>“If the TLFS finds that the cutting did not adhere to sound forestry practices or certification standards, stepped enforcement, a voluntary compliance agreement and/or a management plan amendment with mitigation practices may be required.”</i>  Local MFL staff interviewed were knowledgeable of potential on-the-ground BMP alternatives to suggest to MFL group members. However, they were not sure where to document the measures that could require significant cost, time, and/or planning on individual group member FMUs.	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Non-Conformity Corrective Action Request</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Observation; no Corrective Action is required</b> The Group Entity shall make sure that all actors in the group demonstrate sufficient knowledge to fulfil their corresponding responsibilities within the group.	
<b>FME response</b> <i>(including any evidence submitted)</i>	
<b>SCS review</b>	
<b>Status of CAR:</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Closed <input type="checkbox"/> Upgraded to Major <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Other decision (refer to description above)</i>

<b>Finding Number: 2021.5</b>	
<b>Finding and Deadline</b>	

<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Major CAR:</b> Pre-condition to certification/recertification <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Major CAR:</b> 3 months from Issuance of Final Report <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Minor CAR:</b> 12 months or next regularly scheduled audit, whichever comes first ( <i>surveillance or re-evaluation</i> ) <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Observation</b> – response is optional <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Other</b> and deadline (specify):	
<b>FMU CAR/OBS issued to</b> (when more than one FMU): Group entity	
<b>Standard and Indicator</b>	FSC-STD-30-005, V2-0: 2.1 b) and c)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Non-Conformity Evidence</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Observation Justification and/or Explanation</b> The group member consent declaration does not completely address elements b) and c) of the indicator: b) declare that the management units they are bringing into the group are not included in another FSC certificate; c) agree to allow the Group Entity, the certification body, FSC and ASI to fulfill their responsibilities.  Evidence: MFL application forms (2450-129 and 2450-192); Forest Tax Law Handbook 2450.5 (11-07-17); and interviews with staff.	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Non-Conformity Corrective Action Request</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Observation; no Corrective Action is required</b> A declaration of consent shall be signed by each member wishing to join a group. In the declaration, the member shall: a) commit to follow the applicable Forest Stewardship Standard and the Group Rules; b) declare that the management units they are bringing into the group are not included in another FSC certificate; c) agree to allow the Group Entity, the certification body, FSC and ASI to fulfill their responsibilities; d) agree that the Group Entity will be the main contact for certification.	
<b>FME response</b> (including any evidence submitted)	
<b>SCS review</b>	
<b>Status of CAR:</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Closed <input type="checkbox"/> Upgraded to Major <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Other decision (refer to description above)</i>

<b>Finding Number: 2021.6</b>	
<b>Finding and Deadline</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Major CAR:</b> Pre-condition to certification/recertification <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Major CAR:</b> 3 months from Issuance of Final Report <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Minor CAR:</b> 12 months or next regularly scheduled audit, whichever comes first ( <i>surveillance or re-evaluation</i> ) <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Observation</b> – response is optional <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Other</b> and deadline (specify):	
<b>FMU CAR/OBS issued to</b> (when more than one FMU): Group entity	
<b>Standard and Indicator</b>	FSC-STD-30-005, V2-0: 8.1 c) and d)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Non-Conformity Evidence</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Observation Justification and/or Explanation</b>	

<p>The Group Entity shall provide each member with information, or access to information, about how the group works. The Group Entity's information does not completely address elements c) and d):</p> <p>c) An explanation that the certification body, FSC and ASI have the right to access the members' management unit(s) and documentation;</p> <p>d) An explanation that the certification body will publish a public summary of their evaluation report; ASI may publish a public summary of their evaluation; and FSC will include information about the group in its database.</p> <p>Evidence: MFL application forms (2450-129 and 2450-192); Forest Tax Law Handbook 2450.5 (11-07-17); and interviews with staff.</p>	
<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Non-Conformity Corrective Action Request</b>    <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Observation; no Corrective Action is required</b></p> <p>The Group Entity shall provide each member with information, or access to information, about how the group works. The information shall include:</p> <p>a) The Group Rules and the applicable Forest Stewardship Standard, and an explanation of how to conform with them. The Group Entity shall provide access to other applicable normative documents upon request;</p> <p>b) An explanation of the certification body's evaluation process;</p> <p>c) An explanation that the certification body, FSC and ASI have the right to access the members' management unit(s) and documentation;</p> <p>d) An explanation that the certification body will publish a public summary of their evaluation report; ASI may publish a public summary of their evaluation; and FSC will include information about the group in its database;</p> <p>e) Explanation of any costs associated with joining the group.</p>	
<b>FME response</b> <i>(including any evidence submitted)</i>	
<b>SCS review</b>	
<b>Status of CAR:</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Closed <input type="checkbox"/> Upgraded to Major <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Other decision (refer to description above)</i>

## 5. Stakeholder Comments

In accordance with SCS protocols, consultation with key stakeholders is an integral component of the evaluation process. Stakeholder consultation takes place prior to, concurrent with, and following field evaluations. Distinct purposes of such consultation include:

- To solicit input from affected parties as to the strengths and weaknesses of the FME's management, relative to the standard, and the nature of the interaction between the FME and the surrounding communities.
- To solicit input on whether the forest management operation has consulted with stakeholders regarding identifying any high conservation value forests (HCVFs).

Stakeholder consultation activities are organized to give participants the opportunity to provide comments according to general categories of interest based on the three FSC chambers, as well as the SCS Interim Standard, if one was used.

### 5.1 Stakeholder Groups Consulted

Principal stakeholder groups are identified based upon results from past evaluations, lists of stakeholders from the FME under evaluation, and additional stakeholder contacts from other sources. Stakeholder groups who are consulted as part of the evaluation include FME management and staff, consulting foresters, contractors, lease holders, adjacent property owners, local and regionally-based social interest and civic organizations, purchasers of logs harvested on FME forestlands, recreational user groups, tribal members and/or representatives, members of the FSC National Initiative, members of the regional FSC working group, FSC International, local and regionally-based environmental organizations and conservationists, and forest industry groups and organizations, as well as local, state, and federal regulatory agency personnel and other relevant groups.

### 5.2 Summary of Stakeholder Comments and Evaluation Team Responses

The table below summarizes the comments falling within scope of the standard received from stakeholders and the assessment team’s response. Where a stakeholder comment has triggered a subsequent investigation during the evaluation, the corresponding follow-up action and conclusions from SCS are noted below.

<input type="checkbox"/> <i>FME has not received any stakeholder comments from interested parties (who are not members of the enterprise under evaluation) as a result of stakeholder outreach activities during this annual evaluation.</i>	
<b>Summary of Outreach Activities Conducted (Check all that apply):</b>	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Face to face meetings	<input type="checkbox"/> Notice published on relevant websites
<input type="checkbox"/> Phone calls	<input type="checkbox"/> Local radio announcements
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Email, or letter	<input type="checkbox"/> Local customary notice boards
<input type="checkbox"/> Notice published in the national and/or local press	<input type="checkbox"/> Social media broadcast
<input type="checkbox"/> Other ( <i>describe</i> ):	
<b>Stakeholder Comment (Negative, positive, and neutral)</b>	<b>SCS Response</b>
A variety of landowner/group members were interviewed during the 2021 audit. The feedback was consistently positive citing new communications from the MFL program. Specific comments were that the MFL tax program is of great benefit. One landowner stated they were extremely nervous and did not want to do any forest management but after talking with MFL foresters and consulting	No response is necessary but these interviews confirmed corrective actions by MFL were successfully implemented. See section 4.3 of this audit report.

foresters they were “thrilled” by how well the harvests and management turned out.	

## 6. Certification Decision

The certificate holder has demonstrated continued overall conformance to the applicable Forest Stewardship Council standards. The SCS annual evaluation team recommends that the certificate be sustained, subject to subsequent annual evaluations and the FME’s response to any open CARs.	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Comments:</b> As noted during the Closing Meeting: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The recent hiring of some senior level, private sector foresters from the region has helped ensure improved landowner engagement.</li> <li>2. Engaged Personnel. Staff engagement in the continuous improvement process was markedly improved.</li> <li>3. Excellent resources for landowners on the MFL website.</li> <li>4. Significant improvement during cycle relative to the effectiveness of the management system relative to conformity to the forest and group management program.</li> <li>5. Landowner feedback about changes to the MFL program over the last several years in terms of TLFSs responsiveness, flexibility, and coordination with CPWs in implementing the MFL program.</li> </ol>	

## 7. Annual Data Update

<input type="checkbox"/> No changes since previous evaluation.	
<input type="checkbox"/> Information in the following sections has changed since previous evaluation.	
<input type="checkbox"/> Name and Contact Information <input type="checkbox"/> FSC Sales Information <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Scope of Certificate <input type="checkbox"/> Non-SLIMF FMUs <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Social Information	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pesticide and Other Chemical Use <input type="checkbox"/> Production Forests <input type="checkbox"/> FSC Product Classification <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation & High Conservation Value Areas <input type="checkbox"/> Areas Outside of the Scope of Certification

### Name and Contact Information

<b>Organization name</b>	Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources		
<b>Contact person</b>	R.J. Wickham, Tax Law Section Chief		
<b>Address</b>	101 S. Webster St. FR/4	<b>Telephone</b>	(920) 369-6248
	PO Box 7921	<b>Fax</b>	
	Madison, WI 53707-7921	<b>e-mail</b>	Richard.Wickham@wisconsin.gov
		<b>Website</b>	https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/

**FSC Sales Information**

<b>FSC salesperson</b>	Collin Buntrock, Forest Products Specialist Team Leader		
<b>Address</b>	WI DNR Forestry Headquarters 107 Sutliff Ave Rhineland, WI 54501	<b>Telephone</b>	<a href="tel:(608)286-9083">(608) 286-9083</a>
		<b>Fax</b>	
		<b>e-mail</b>	Collin.Buntrock@wisconsin.gov
		<b>Website</b>	<a href="https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/">https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/</a>

**Scope of Certificate**

<b>Certificate type</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Single FMU		<input type="checkbox"/> Multiple FMU	
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Group			
<b>SLIMF if applicable</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Small SLIMF certificate		<input type="checkbox"/> Low intensity SLIMF certificate	
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Group SLIMF certificate ( <b>Mega Group</b> )			
<b># Group Members (if applicable)</b>				
<b>Number of FMU's in scope of certificate</b>				
<b>Geographic location of non-SLIMF FMU(s)</b>	<i>Latitude &amp; Longitude: Varies encompassing the entire state of WI.</i>			
<b>Forest zone</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Boreal		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Temperate	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Subtropical		<input type="checkbox"/> Tropical	
<b>Total forest area in scope of certificate which is:</b> Units: <input type="checkbox"/> ha or <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ac				
privately managed	2,585,865.273			
state managed	NA			
community managed	NA			
<b>Number of FMUs in scope that are:</b>				
less than 100 ha in area	45,592	100 - 1000 ha in area	326	
1000 - 10 000 ha in area	0	more than 10 000 ha in area	0	
<b>Total forest area in scope of certificate which is included in FMUs that:</b> Units: <input type="checkbox"/> ha or <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ac				
are less than 100 ha in area	1,937,169			
are between 100 ha and 1000 ha in area	640.212			
meet the eligibility criteria as <i>low intensity</i> SLIMF FMUs	2,585,865.273 *Note: MFL program annually fluctuates as new tract enroll or disenroll from the state MFL tax program.			
<b>Division of FMUs into manageable units:</b>				
The group recognizes FMU by unique Managed Forest Law (MFL) Order Numbers that are managed under Tax Law Administrative units, or Regions. Tax Law Forestry Specialists are organized into the following Regions:				

Region	Counties Served
Northwest	Ashland, Barron, Bayfield, Buffalo, Burnett, Chippewa, Douglas, Dunn, Eau Claire, Pepin, Pierce, Polk, Rusk, St. Croix, Sawyer, Trempeleau, Washburn
North Central	Adams, Clark, Iron, Jackson, Lincoln, Marathon, Oneida, Portage, Price, Taylor, Vilas, Wood
Northeast	Brown, Calumet, Door, Florence, Fond du Lac, Forest, Kewaunee, Langlade, Manitowoc, Marinette, Menominee, Oconto, Outagamie, Shawano, Sheboygan, Waupaca, Winnebago
South	Columbia, Crawford, Dane, Dodge, Grant, Green, Green Lake, Iowa, Jefferson, Juneau, Kenosha, La Crosse, Lafayette, Marquette, Milwaukee, Monroe, Ozaukee, Racine, Richland, Rock, Sauk, Vernon, Walworth, Washington, Waukesha, Waushara

### Social Information

Number of forest workers (including contractors) working in forest within scope of certificate (differentiated by gender):		
male workers: 39	female workers: 7	
Number of accidents in forest work since previous evaluation:	Serious: 0	Fatal: 0

### Pesticide and Other Chemical Use

Note: MFL program provided ESRAs for all chemicals included in this table.

<input type="checkbox"/> FME does not use pesticides.				
Commercial name of pesticide / herbicide	Active ingredient	Quantity applied since previous evaluation (kg or lbs.)	Total area treated since previous evaluation (ha or ac)	Reason for use
Garlon	Triclopyr	7.47 gallons	14 ac	Invasive Control
Vanquish	Dicamba	.56 Gallons		
Roundup	Glyphosate	7.25 Gallons	8.2 ac	Invasive Control

### Production Forests

Timber Forest Products	Units: <input type="checkbox"/> ha or <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ac
Total area of production forest (i.e. forest from which timber may be harvested)	2,434,629
Area of production forest classified as 'plantation'	0
Area of production forest regenerated primarily by replanting or by a combination of replanting and coppicing of the planted stems	123,833
Area of production forest regenerated primarily by natural regeneration, or by a combination of natural regeneration and coppicing of the naturally regenerated stems	2,310,796



Silvicultural system(s)	Area under type of management
Even-aged management	1,928,771
Uneven-aged management	505,858
<input type="checkbox"/> Other (e.g. nursery, recreation area, windbreak, bamboo, silvo-pastoral system, agro-forestry system, etc.)	
<b>Non-timber Forest Products (NTFPs)</b>	
Area of forest protected from commercial harvesting of timber and managed primarily for the production of NTFPs or services	Owners may designate productive forest NTFPs not to exceed 20% of total acreage.
Other areas managed for NTFPs or services	0
Approximate annual commercial production of non-timber forest products included in the scope of the certificate, by product type	NTFPS is not a data set collected.
<b>Species in scope of joint FM/COC certificate: <i>Scientific/ Latin Name (Common/ Trade Name)</i></b>	
<p>Aspen/Popple, <i>Populus tremuloides</i>; <i>Populus grandidentata</i>;</p> <p>Balsam poplar, <i>Populus balsamifera</i>;</p> <p><b>Bottomland hardwoods:</b>            Eastern Cottonwood, <i>Populus deltoides</i>;            Swamp white oak, <i>Quercus bicolor</i>;            Silver maple, <i>Acer saccharinum</i>;            American elm, <i>Ulmus americana</i>;            River birch, <i>Betula nigra</i>;            Black ash, <i>Fraxinus nigra</i>;            Green ash, <i>Fraxinus pennsylvanica</i>;            White birch, <i>Betula papyrifera</i>;            Northern white cedar, <i>Thuja occidentalis</i>;</p> <p><b>Central hardwoods:</b>            White oak, <i>Quercus alba</i>;            Bur oak, <i>Quercus macrocarpa</i>;            Black oak, <i>Quercus velutina</i>;            Northern pin oak, <i>Quercus ellipsoidalis</i>;            Black walnut, <i>Juglans nigra</i>;            Butternut, <i>Juglans cinerea</i>;            Shagbark hickory, <i>Carya ovata</i>;            Bitternut hickory, <i>Carya cordiformis</i>;            Black cherry, <i>Prunus serotina</i>;            Red maple, <i>Acer rubrum</i>;            Hackberry, <i>Celtis occidentalis</i>;</p> <p><b>Conifers:</b>            Balsam fir, <i>Abies balsamea</i>;</p>	

<p>Eastern hemlock, <i>Tsuga canadensis</i>;                  Red Pine, <i>Pinus resinosa</i>;                  Jack Pine, <i>Pinus banksiana</i>;                  Eastern white pine, <i>Pinus strobus</i>;                  Black spruce, <i>Picea mariana</i>;                  Tamarack, <i>Larix laricina</i>;                  White spruce, <i>Picea glauca</i>  <b>Miscellaneous conifers:</b>                  Scotch pine, <i>Pinus sylvestris</i>;                  European larch, <i>Larix decidua</i>;                  Norway spruce, <i>Picea abies</i>;                  Eastern redcedar, <i>Juniperus virginiana</i>;                  Blue spruce, <i>Picea pungens</i>;</p> <p><b>Miscellaneous deciduous:</b>                  Norway maple, <i>Acer platanoides</i>;                  Boxelder, <i>Acer negundo</i>;                  Black locust, <i>Robinia pseudoacacia</i>;                  Honey locust, <i>Gleditsia triacanthos</i>;                  Eastern Hophornbeam, Ironwood, <i>Ostrya virginiana</i>;                  Musclewood, Bluebeech, <i>Carpinus caroliniana</i>;</p> <p><b>Northern hardwoods:</b>                  Sugar maple, <i>Acer saccharum</i>;                  Yellow birch, <i>Betula alleghaniensis</i>;                  White ash, <i>Fraxinus americana</i>;                  American beech, <i>Fagus grandifolia</i>;                  American basswood, <i>Tilia americana</i>;                  Northern red oak, <i>Quercus rubra</i>;</p>
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**FSC Product Classification\***

Timber products		
Product Level 1	Product Level 2	Species
W1 Rough Wood	W1.1 Roundwood (logs)	All species listed above
W1 Rough Wood	W1.2 Fuel Wood	All species listed above
W1 Rough Wood	W1.3 Twigs	All species listed above
W3 Wood in chips or particles	W3.1 Wood Chips	All species listed above
Non-Timber Forest Products		
Product Level 1	Product Level 2	Product Level 3 and Species
N6 Plants and parts of plants	N6.3 Whole trees or plants	Christmas trees

\*Note: W1, W2, and W3 product groups usually do not require a separate evaluation to FSC-STD-40-004 (COC) if processing occurs in the field for FM/COC and CW/FM certificate types. N1-N10 (NTFPs) are eligible to be sold with FSC claims under

FM/COC certification if reported here. Bamboo and NTFPs derived from trees (e.g. cork, resin, bark) may be eligible for FM/COC and CW/FM certification. NTFPs used for food and medicinal purposes are not eligible for CW/FM certification. Check with SCS if you have any products intended to be sold with an FSC claim outside of any of these categories.

**Conservation and High Conservation Value Areas**

<b>Conservation Area</b>	<b>Units:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> ha or <input type="checkbox"/> ac
<b>Total amount</b> of land in certified area protected from commercial harvesting of timber and managed primarily for conservation objectives (includes both forested and non-forested lands).*	Conservation areas are not designated on these SLIMF family forests.

*\*Note: Total conservation and HCV areas may differ since these may serve different functions in the FME’s management system. Designation as HCV may allow for active management, including commercial harvest. Conservation areas are typically under passive management, but may undergo invasive species control, prescribed burns, non-commercial harvest, and other management activities intended to maintain or enhance their integrity. In all cases, figures are reported by the FME as it pertains local laws & regulations, management objectives, and FSC requirements.*

<b>High Conservation Value Forest / Areas</b>			<b>Units:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> ha or <input type="checkbox"/> ac
<b>Code</b>	<b>HCV Type</b>	<b>Description &amp; Location</b>	<b>Area</b>
HCV1	Forests or areas containing globally, regionally or nationally significant concentrations of biodiversity values (e.g. endemism, endangered species, refugia).		
HCV2	Forests or areas containing globally, regionally or nationally significant large landscape level forests, contained within, or containing the management unit, where viable populations of most if not all naturally occurring species exist in natural patterns of distribution and abundance.		
HCV3	Forests or areas that are in or contain rare, threatened or endangered ecosystems.		
HCV4	Forests or areas that provide basic services of nature in critical situations (e.g. watershed protection, erosion control).		
HCV5	Forests or areas fundamental to meeting basic needs of local communities (e.g. subsistence, health).		
HCV6	Forests or areas critical to local communities’ traditional cultural identity (areas of cultural, ecological, economic or religious significance identified in cooperation with such local communities).		
<b>Total area of forest classified as ‘High Conservation Value Forest / Area’</b>			<b>0</b>

**Areas Outside of the Scope of Certification (Partial Certification and Excision)**

N/A – All forestland owned or managed by the certificate holder is included in the scope.

<input type="checkbox"/> Certificate holder owns and/or manages other FMUs not under evaluation.		
<input type="checkbox"/> Certificate holder wishes to excise portions of the FMU(s) under evaluation from the scope of certification. <b>Note:</b> Excision cannot be applied to CW/FM certificates.		
<b>Explanation for exclusion of FMUs and/or excision:</b>	Agricultural food plots are excised based on formula for the private lands at (total acres * . 3795 acres are excised (food plots @ 1 acre each).	
<b>Control measures to prevent mixing of certified and non-certified product (C8.3):</b>	No forest products are produced on these agricultural acres so there is no danger of mixing.	
<b>Description of FMUs excluded from, or forested area excised from, the scope of certification:</b>		
<b>Name of FMU or Stand</b>	<b>Location (city, state, country)</b>	<b>Size (<input type="checkbox"/> ha or <input type="checkbox"/> ac)</b>

## SECTION B – APPENDICES (CONFIDENTIAL)

### Appendix 1 – List of FMUs Selected for Evaluation

- FME consists of a single FMU
- FME consists of multiple FMUs or is a Group

SCS staff establish the design and level of sampling prior to each group or multiple FMU evaluation according to FSC-STD-20-007. A list of the FMUs sampled and the rationale behind their selection is listed below. Approximately 1/3 of the sites were selected randomly by the auditors and the remainder were selected in cooperation with MFL staff using criteria for active and inactive sites.

Category	1	(10-100 Acres)	65
Category	2	(101-500 Acres)	8
Category	3	(501-1000 Acres)	1
Category	4	(1001+ Acres)	1

### Appendix 2 – Staff and Stakeholders Consulted

#### List of FME Staff Consulted

To protect privacy, only FME staff who have expressly provided written permission are listed. **These records are retained by SCS and subject to FSC or ASI examination.**

Name, Title or group	Contact Information	Consultation method
Brent Weaver, Tax Law Forestry Specialist (TLFS)	Firstname.lastname@wisconsin.gov	Opening, Closing or Field
Brooke Ludwig, Tax Law Admin. Specialist (TLAS)		
Heather Berklund, Chief State Forester		
Jake Elder, South Tax Law Team Leader		
Jeff Simon, Tax Law Operations Specialist		
Jeff Zimmerman, TLFS		
Jerry Crow, Northcentral Tax Law Team Leader		
Jim Warren, Forestry Field Operations Bureau Director		
Josh Coady, Tax Law Specialist		
Keith Krajewski, Northwest Tax Law Team Leader		
Kevin Croteau, TLFS		
Kristin Lambert, Public and Private Forestry Section Chief		
Matt Molback, TLFS		
Mike Mattson, TLFS		
R.J. Wickham, Tax Law Section Chief (acting group manager)		

Ryan Conner, Tax Law Administration Coordinator		
Sam Williams, TLFS		
Scott Horton, TLFS		
Skya Murphy, Tax Law Policy Specialist		
Sue Crowley, NE Tax Law Team Leader		

**List of other Stakeholders Consulted\***

To protect privacy, only stakeholders who have expressly provided written permission are listed. **These records are retained by SCS and subject to FSC or ASI examination.**

Name, Title or group	Affiliation	Consultation method	Requests Stakeholder Notification? (Y/N)
Brody Weiss	Landowner/group member	Interview	N
Frank Degner	Certified Plan Writer	Interview	N
Gerald Peterson	Landowner/group member	Interview	N
Jake Moore	WIDNR LTE - UWSP Student	Interview	N
Jim Peterson	Landowner/group member	Interview	N
Joe Menkol	Landowner/group member	Interview	N
John Hepfler	Landowner/group member	Interview	N
Klaren alexander	Landowner/group member	Interview	N
Matt McFarlane	Landowner/group member	Interview	N
Mike Greenheck	Landowner/group member	Interview	N
Mike Ludke	Sylvalogix LLC	Interview	N
Nolan Kriegel	WI DNR Forest Hydrologist	Interview	N
Wes Domine	Landowner/group member	Interview	N
William Bohrer	Landowner/group member	Interview	N

*\* Note: SCS may maintain additional records of stakeholder consultation activities (e.g., email notifications) in its recordkeeping system. Anonymous stakeholders may have provided comments as a part of stakeholder outreach activities, such communications are retained by SCS subject to FSC and ASI examination.*

**Appendix 3 – Additional Evaluation Techniques Employed**

- None.
- Additional techniques employed (*describe*):

Due to COVID-19 risks there were no indoor face-to-face meetings. All Opening and Closing meetings and most document review occurred using MS Teams and filesharing through the FME’s internal WisFRS platform.

**Appendix 4 – Required Tracking**

**Pesticide Derogations**

- There are no active pesticide derogations for this FME.

### Progressive HCVF Assessments

FME does not use partial or progressive HCVF assessments.\*

### Special Instructions or Scoping Notes for Next Regularly Scheduled Annual Audit

<input type="checkbox"/>	Not applicable; no significant issues identified that may impact the next audit.
<b>Some issues were identified during this audit that the next audit team could consider in the next audit, such as:</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Scope of certificate:
<input type="checkbox"/>	Audit sampling:
<input type="checkbox"/>	Audit time:
<input type="checkbox"/>	Audit season:
<input type="checkbox"/>	Travel time between sites or FMUs:
<input type="checkbox"/>	Audit frequency:
<input type="checkbox"/>	Suggested audit team competency for next audit:
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Suggested requirements to include during the next audit: Section 11, Internal Monitoring, of Group Standard
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Suggested issues investigate during the next audit: Confirm internal auditing from this year has corrective actions completed.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Suggested sites for inspection:
<input type="checkbox"/>	Stakeholders to be consulted:
<input type="checkbox"/>	Other(s) – please describe:

\*Note: information audit team leaders wish to remain confidential may be communicated directly to SCS.

### Appendix 5 – Forest Management Standard Conformance Table

Criteria required by FSC at every surveillance evaluation ( <i>check all situations that apply</i> )	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NA – all FMUs are exempt from these requirements. <input type="checkbox"/> Plantations > 10,000 ha (24,710 ac): 2.3, 4.2, 4.4, 6.7, 6.9, 10.6, 10.7, and 10.8 <input type="checkbox"/> Natural forests > 50,000 ha (123,553 ac) ('low intensity' SLIMFs exempt): 1.5, 2.3, 3.2, 4.2, 4.4, 5.6, 6.2, 6.3, 8.2, and 9.4 <input type="checkbox"/> FMUs containing High Conservation Values ('small forest' SLIMFs exempt): 6.2, 6.3, 6.9 and 9.4
Documents and records reviewed for FMUs/sites sampled	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> All applicable documents and records as required in section 7 of audit plan were reviewed; or <input type="checkbox"/> The following documents and records as required in section 7 of the audit plan were NOT reviewed ( <i>provide explanation</i> ):

### Requirements Reviewed in Annual Evaluation

Evaluation Year	Requirements Reviewed (FSC P&C Reviewed, FM/COC Indicators, Trademark Indicators, Group Standard Indicators, etc.)
2018	All – (Re)certification Evaluation
2019	FM: P1, P6; FSC Trademark -all, FSC Group Standard: 1.4, C2, C3, C8
2020	FM: 4.1, 4.3, 4.4, 5.1, 5.4, 5.5, 7.1, 7.2, 7.4, 8.1, 8.3, 8.4, 8.5, and P9; SCS COC indicators for FMEs; FSC Trademark; FSC Group Standard: all
2021	FM: P2, C4.2, P6, C8.2; FSC Trademark; FSC Group Standard (V2-0, new)
2022	

C= Conformance with Criterion or Indicator  
 NC= Nonconformance with Criterion or Indicator  
 NA = Not Applicable  
 NE = Not Evaluated

FSC Principles Checklist  
 FSC Forest Management Standard (v1.0)—United States

REQUIREMENT	C/NC	COMMENT/CAR
<b>Principle #1: Compliance with Laws and FSC Principles</b>		
<b>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.</b>		
<b>1.1 Forest management shall respect all national and local laws and administrative requirements.</b>	NE	
<b>1.2. All applicable and legally prescribed fees, royalties, taxes and other charges shall be paid.</b>	NE	
<b>1.3. In signatory countries, the provisions of all binding international agreements such as CITES, ILO Conventions, ITTA, and Convention on Biological Diversity, shall be respected.</b>	NE	
<b>1.4. 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.</b>	NE	
<b>1.5. Forest management areas should be protected from illegal harvesting, settlement and other unauthorized activities.</b>	NE	
<b>1.5.a.</b> The forest owner or manager supports or implements measures intended to prevent illegal and unauthorized activities on the <b>Forest Management Unit</b> (FMU).		
<b>1.5.b.</b> If illegal or unauthorized activities occur, the forest owner or manager implements actions designed to curtail such activities and correct the situation to the extent possible for meeting all land management objectives with consideration of available resources.		



<p><b>1.6. Forest managers shall demonstrate a long-term commitment to adhere to the FSC Principles and Criteria.</b></p>	<p>NE</p>	
<p><b>Principle #2: Long-term tenure and use rights to the land and forest resources shall be clearly defined, documented and legally established.</b></p>		
<p><b>2.1. Clear evidence of long-term forest use rights to the land (e.g., land title, customary rights, or lease agreements) shall be demonstrated.</b></p>	<p>C</p>	
<p><b>2.1.a</b> The forest owner or manager provides clear evidence of <i>long-term</i> rights to use and manage the FMU for the purposes described in the management plan.</p>	<p>C</p>	<p>Long-term use rights confirmed by:                      Forest Tax Law handbook, 2450.5, which outlines eligibility and approval steps for acceptance into the program, including long-term rights.                      Evidence of deed maintained in each property file.                      Clear legal ownership is a precondition of MFL enrollment (Forest Tax Law handbook, 21-2). Review of Cutting Notices and associated maps confirms that property rights are well-documented. Field observation confirms marking of property boundaries in the field using paint, fencing, and/or signage.</p>
<p><b>2.1.b</b> The forest owner or manager identifies and documents legally established use and access rights associated with the FMU that are held by other parties.</p>	<p>C</p>	<p>Ownership documents (e.g., deeds, titles) are in each case file (MFL order #, Forest Tax Law handbook, 21-1).</p> <p>Other legally established use rights, such as power-line rights-of-way (ROW), were observed on MFL group member properties. In all cases observed, the power-line ROWs were at property boundaries and thus not considered to be a use right that would require special access via a group member’s property.</p> <p>Confirmed that properties classified as Open to public recreation are documented as such. MFL law (Forest Tax Law Handbook chapter 20-36) requires open status on parcels above 160 acres per municipality (80 acres in entries dated 2004 and earlier). WI DNR has an on-line mapping resource to provide the public with better information about access to Open properties.</p>
<p><b>2.1.c</b> Boundaries of land ownership and use rights are clearly identified on the ground and on maps prior to commencing management activities in the vicinity of the boundaries.</p>	<p>C</p>	<p>Observed systematic boundary marking of MFL properties across all properties inspected. See Site Notes. In many cases, corners are monumented with poles or other man-made features such as fence posts. Each group member file contains a map that indicates use rights and property boundaries. It is the group member responsibility to identify/</p>

		maintain property boundaries prior to timber harvests or other management activities.
<b>2.2. 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.</b>		
<b>2.2.a</b> The forest owner or manager allows the exercise of <i>tenure</i> and <i>use rights</i> allowable by law or regulation.	C	Confirmed that properties classified as Open to public recreation are documented as such via a demonstration of WisFRS for the MFL program, as well as an online mapping tool ( <a href="http://dnrmapping.wi.gov/opfl">http://dnrmapping.wi.gov/opfl</a> ).
<b>2.2.b</b> In FMUs where tenure or use rights held by others exist, the forest owner or manager consults with groups that hold such rights so that management activities do not significantly impact the uses or benefits of such rights.	C	Most timber harvesting activities are compatible with hunting rights on properties Open to public hunting is non-motorized-only because most harvests occur outside of hunting season and often promote conditions optimal for game species such as deer and turkey.
<b>2.3. 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.</b>	C	The group manager does not become involved in disputes over tenure or use rights unless there is an enforcement issue over boundaries such as unreported land sales or false reporting of acreage. The group manager reviews tax records on an annual basis to verify any changes in ownership.  Refer to site notes in section 2.1 of Section A. Several examples of group members and consulting foresters employing measures to avoid or reduce potential conflicts over property boundaries were observed during the audit.
<b>2.3.a</b> If <i>disputes</i> arise regarding tenure claims or use rights then the forest owner or manager initially attempts to resolve them through open communication, negotiation, and/or mediation. If these good-faith efforts fail, then federal, state, and/or local laws are employed to resolve such disputes. <b>FF Indicator: Low risk of negative social or environmental impact.</b>	C	No group members or consulting foresters reported any disputes over tenure and use rights during interviews.
<b>2.3.b</b> The forest owner or manager documents any significant disputes over tenure and use rights. <b>FF Indicator: Low risk of negative social or environmental impact.</b>	C	Confirmed that properties classified as Open to public recreation are documented as such via a demonstration of WisFRS for the MFL program, as well as an online mapping tool ( <a href="http://dnrmapping.wi.gov/opfl">http://dnrmapping.wi.gov/opfl</a> ).
<b>Principle #3: The legal and customary rights of indigenous peoples to own, use and manage their lands, territories, and resources shall be recognized and respected.</b>		
<b>3.1. Indigenous peoples shall control forest management on their lands and territories unless they</b>	NE	

<b>delegate control with free and informed consent to other agencies.</b>		
<b>3.2. Forest management shall not threaten or diminish, either directly or indirectly, the resources or tenure rights of indigenous peoples.</b>	NE	
<b>3.3. 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.</b>	NE	
<b>3.4. 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 commence.</b>	NE	
<b>Principle #4: Forest management operations shall maintain or enhance the long-term social and economic well-being of forest workers and local communities.</b>		
<b>4.1. The communities within, or adjacent to, the forest management area should be given opportunities for employment, training, and other services.</b>	NE	
<b>4.2. Forest management should meet or exceed all applicable laws and/or regulations covering health and safety of employees and their families.</b>	NE	
<b>4.2.a</b> The forest owner or manager meets or exceeds all applicable laws and/or regulations covering health and safety of employees and their families (also see Criterion 1.1). <b>FF Indicator: Low risk of negative social or environmental impact.</b>	C	This indicator continues to be low risk of negative impact. DNR provides information on applicable laws and regulations on health and safety in the Timber Sale Handbook and Private Forestry Handbook. DNR staff is required to wear safety glasses, helmet and hi-vis vested provided at DNR expenses to be used as required by procedures. DNR became an enterprise agency for fleet management enabling access to reliable vehicle transport in sometimes remote and rugged terrain.
<b>4.2.b</b> The forest owner or manager and their employees and contractors demonstrate a safe work environment. Contracts or other written agreements include safety requirements.	NC	DNR provides information on applicable laws and regulations on health and safety in the Timber Sale Handbook and Private Forestry Handbook, including basic contractual requirements. Contracts were reviewed and confirmed as containing relevant safety language. However, see Minor 2021.1.
<b>4.2.c</b> The forest owner or manager hires well-qualified service providers to safely implement the management plan. <b>FF Indicator: Low risk of negative social or</b>	C	According to DNR staff and certified plan writers interviewed, most landowners contract with local loggers and other service providers that have reputations for good work. No significant residual

<p><b>environmental impact.</b></p>		<p>stand damage was observed on harvest or prescribed burn sites visited during the audit, which indicates that there is still low risk of negative impacts for this indicator. Notably, a high percentage of harvesters or foremen used on MFL sites were trained through FISTA.</p>
<p><b>4.3 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 Labor Organization (ILO).</b></p>	<p>NE</p>	
<p><b>4.4. 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.</b></p>	<p>NE</p>	
<p><b>4.5. 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.</b></p>	<p>NE</p>	
<p><b>Principle #5: 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.</b></p>		
<p><b>5.1. 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.</b></p>	<p>NE</p>	
<p><b>5.2. Forest management and marketing operations should encourage the optimal use and local processing of the forest’s diversity of products.</b></p>	<p>NE</p>	
<p><b>5.3. Forest management should minimize waste associated with harvesting and on-site processing operations and avoid damage to other forest resources.</b></p>	<p>NE</p>	
<p><b>5.4. Forest management should strive to strengthen and diversify the local economy, avoiding dependence on a single forest product.</b></p>	<p>NE</p>	
<p><b>5.5. Forest management operations shall recognize, maintain, and, where appropriate, enhance the value of forest services and resources such as watersheds and fisheries.</b></p>	<p>NE</p>	
<p><b>5.6. The rate of harvest of forest products shall not exceed levels which can be permanently sustained.</b></p>	<p>NE</p>	
<p><b>Principle #6: 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.</b></p>		

<p><b>6.1. Assessments 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.</b></p>	<p>C</p>	
<p><b>6.1.a</b> Using the results of <i>credible scientific analysis, best available information</i> (including relevant databases), and local knowledge and experience, an assessment of conditions on the FMU is completed and includes:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Forest community types and development, size class and/or successional stages, and associated <i>natural disturbance regimes</i>;</li> <li>2) <i>Rare, Threatened and Endangered (RTE) species</i> and <i>rare ecological communities</i> (including plant communities);</li> <li>3) Other habitats and species of management concern;</li> <li>4) Water resources and associated riparian habitats and hydrologic functions;</li> <li>5) <i>Soil resources</i>; and</li> <li>6) <i>Historic conditions</i> on the FMU related to forest community types and development, size class and/or successional stages, and a broad comparison of historic and current conditions.</li> </ol>	<p>C</p>	<p>Items 1-6 are addressed in each group member’s FMP and the Cutting Notice &amp; Report. DNR reviews and approve Cutting Notices when legislatively mandated and when requested by landowners. In the past, the post-harvest land exam served as the main information collecting step on stands and plant communities; however, this is changing as new Act requirements become codified. This merits further review in 2019. Some landowner files contain NRCS soil information and maps as well. Maps prepared often include water features.</p>
<p><b>6.1.b</b> Prior to commencing site-disturbing activities, the forest owner or manager assesses and documents the potential short and long-term impacts of planned management activities on elements 1-5 listed in Criterion 6.1.a.</p> <p>The assessment must incorporate the <i>best available information</i>, drawing from scientific literature and experts. The impact assessment will at minimum include identifying resources that may be impacted by management (e.g., streams, habitats of management concern, soil nutrients). Additional detail (i.e., detailed description or quantification of impacts) will vary depending on the uniqueness of the resource, potential risks, and steps that will be taken to avoid and minimize risks.</p>	<p>C</p>	<p>The short and long-term impacts of planned management activities on the listed elements are reviewed during preparation of the FMP and, when a planned management activity is scheduled, documented on the Cutting Notice &amp; Report.</p>
<p><b>6.1.c</b> Using the findings of the impact assessment (Indicator 6.1.b), management approaches and field prescriptions are developed and implemented that: 1) avoid or minimize negative short-term and long-term</p>	<p>C</p>	<p>For each stand identified in each group member’s FMP, there are mandatory practices that take into account environmental constraints and potential negative impacts while accomplishing objectives</p>

<p>impacts; and, 2) maintain and/or enhance the long-term ecological viability of the forest.</p>		<p>related to timber production, wildlife, and water resources. When a harvest is scheduled, modifications to planned practices may occur prior to harvesting that are consistent with this indicator.</p>
<p><b>6.1.d</b> On public lands, assessments developed in Indicator 6.1.a and management approaches developed in Indicator 6.1.c are made available to the public in draft form for review and comment prior to finalization. Final assessments are also made available.</p>	<p>NA</p>	<p>MFL Program does not contain any public lands. This indicator is not applicable.</p>
<p><b>6.2 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.</b></p>	<p>C</p>	
<p><b>6.2.a</b> If there is a likely presence of RTE species as identified in Indicator 6.1.a then either a field survey to verify the species' presence or absence is conducted prior to site-disturbing management activities, or management occurs with the assumption that potential RTE species are present.</p> <p>Surveys are conducted by biologists with the appropriate expertise in the species of interest and with appropriate qualifications to conduct the surveys. If a species is determined to be present, its location should be reported to the manager of the appropriate database.</p>	<p>NA</p>	<p>See FF Indicator 6.2.a.</p>
<p><b>FF Indicator 6.2.a</b> If there is a likely presence of RTE species as identified in Indicator 6.1.a then either a field survey to verify the species' presence or absence is conducted prior to site-disturbing management activities, or management occurs with the assumption that potential RTE species are present. Surveys are conducted by biologists with the appropriate expertise in the species of interest and with appropriate qualifications to conduct the surveys. A secondary review of the survey does not need to be included in the process. If a species is determined to be present, its location should be reported to the manager of the appropriate database.</p>	<p>C</p>	<p>Natural Heritage Inventory (NHI) surveys of each MFL property are completed prior to preparing a forest management plan and before a harvest (as documented on Cutting Notices). If the NHI query indicates possible presence of forest-dwelling RTE species, management occurs with the assumption that the species are present. Auditors observed an overall level of conformance with these requirements, including mitigation measures to protect each NHI-identified species on the properties evaluated.</p>
<p><b>6.2.b</b> When RTE species are present or assumed to be present, modifications in management are made in order to maintain, restore or enhance the extent, quality and viability of the species and their habitats.</p>	<p>C</p>	<p>See description for FF Indicator 6.2.a. Conservation zones and/or protected areas have been established for sites that contain or may contain RTE species.</p>

<p><b>Conservation zones</b> and/or <b>protected areas</b> are established for RTE species, including those S3 species that are considered rare, where they are necessary to maintain or improve the short and long-term viability of the species. Conservation measures are based on relevant science, guidelines and/or consultation with relevant, independent experts as necessary to achieve the conservation goal of the Indicator.</p>		<p>Examples of these mitigations were observed on the FMUs evaluated.</p>
<p><b>6.2.c</b> For medium and large public forests (e.g. state forests), forest management plans and operations are designed to meet species' recovery goals, as well as landscape level biodiversity conservation goals.</p>	<p>NA</p>	<p>The MFL Program does not contain any public lands. This indicator is not applicable.</p>
<p><b>6.2.d</b> Within the capacity of the forest owner or manager, hunting, fishing, trapping, collecting and other activities are controlled to avoid the risk of impacts to vulnerable species and communities (See Criterion 1.5).</p>	<p>C</p>	<p>MFL members consist of private lands with two tax rates depending on if an ownership is enrolled as publicly-accessible in the program. Trespass incidents are mostly limited to hunting without permission, particularly on those properties that are not available to public use. Some members gate properties, place signage, and conduct inspections to dissuade trespassers. Violations of wildlife laws is controlled through DNR Law Enforcement.</p>
<p><b>6.3. 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.</b></p>	<p>C</p>	
<p><b>6.3.a.1</b> The forest owner or manager maintains, enhances, and/or restores under-represented <b>successional</b> stages in the FMU that would naturally occur on the types of sites found on the FMU. Where old growth of different community types that would naturally occur on the forest are under-represented in the landscape relative to natural conditions, a portion of the forest is managed to enhance and/or restore old growth characteristics.</p>	<p>C</p>	<p>Maintaining and enhancing under-represented successional stages occurs through implementation of the WI DNR Silviculture Handbook. Additionally, NHI includes some under-represented communities.</p>
<p><b>6.3.a.2</b> When a <b>rare ecological community</b> is present, modifications are made in both the management plan and its implementation in order to maintain, restore or enhance the viability of the community. Based on the vulnerability of the existing community, <b>conservation zones</b> and/or <b>protected areas</b> are established where warranted.</p>	<p>C</p>	<p>Rare ecological communities are identified through NHI and by following the Silviculture Handbook. Additionally, the Ecological Landscapes Handbook is used by MFL Certified Plan Writers and Cooperating Foresters to help identify and manage for rare community types.</p>
<p><b>6.3.a.3</b> When they are present, management maintains the area, structure, composition, and processes of all <b>Type 1</b> and <b>Type 2 old growth</b>. Type 1 and 2 old growth are also protected and buffered as necessary with conservation zones, unless an alternative plan is</p>	<p>C</p>	<p>If identified, Type 1 and Type 2 old growth is to be managed in accordance with the WI DNR Old Growth and Old Forests Handbook. This handbook is meet 6.3.a.3 requirements for ensuring protection of old growth. Old growth is very rare in Wisconsin,</p>

<p>developed that provides greater overall protection of old growth values.</p> <p>Type 1 Old Growth is protected from harvesting and road construction. Type 1 old growth is also protected from other timber management activities, except as needed to maintain the ecological values associated with the stand, including old growth attributes (e.g., remove exotic species, conduct controlled burning, and thinning from below in dry forest types when and where restoration is appropriate).</p> <p>Type 2 Old Growth is protected from harvesting to the extent necessary to maintain the area, structures, and functions of the stand. Timber harvest in Type 2 old growth must maintain old growth structures, functions, and components including individual trees that function as refugia (see Indicator 6.3.g).</p> <p>On public lands, old growth is protected from harvesting, as well as from other timber management activities, except if needed to maintain the values associated with the stand (e.g., remove exotic species, conduct controlled burning, and thinning from below in forest types when and where restoration is appropriate).</p> <p>On American Indian lands, timber harvest may be permitted in Type 1 and Type 2 old growth in recognition of their sovereignty and unique ownership. Timber harvest is permitted in situations where:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Old growth forests comprise a significant portion of the tribal ownership.</li> <li>2. A history of forest stewardship by the tribe exists.</li> <li>3. High Conservation Value Forest attributes are maintained.</li> <li>4. Old-growth structures are maintained.</li> <li>5. Conservation zones representative of old growth stands are established.</li> <li>6. Landscape level considerations are addressed.</li> <li>7. Rare species are protected.</li> </ol>		<p>and occurrences on MFL properties have not been identified.</p> <p>No public or tribal lands are within the scope of the certificate, so those portions of this indicator are not applicable. Tribal members that may have private properties enrolled in the MFL program are treated as private landowners.</p>
<p><b>6.3.b</b> To the extent feasible within the size of the ownership, particularly on larger ownerships (generally tens of thousands or more acres), management maintains, enhances, or restores habitat conditions suitable for well-distributed populations of animal species that are characteristic of forest ecosystems within the landscape.</p>	<p>NA</p>	<p>Given the relatively small size of the ownerships in the MFL Program, this indicator is not applicable.</p>



<p><b>6.3.c</b> Management maintains, enhances and/or restores the plant and wildlife habitat of <b>Riparian Management Zones (RMZs)</b> to provide:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) habitat for aquatic species that breed in surrounding uplands;</li> <li>b) habitat for predominantly terrestrial species that breed in adjacent <b>aquatic habitats</b>;</li> <li>c) habitat for species that use riparian areas for feeding, cover, and travel;</li> <li>d) habitat for plant species associated with riparian areas; and,</li> <li>e) stream shading and inputs of wood and leaf litter into the adjacent aquatic ecosystem.</li> </ul>	<p>C</p>	<p>Conformance with WI DNR BMPs for riparian habitat and water quality requirements of this indicator was observed. RMZs were respected, and any harvests within the RMZs were limited to selection cuts. Some group members conducted tree plantings in RMZs that were previously grazed to provide shade and woody debris.</p>
<p><b>Stand-scale Indicators</b>  <b>6.3.d</b> Management practices maintain or enhance plant species composition, distribution and frequency of occurrence similar to those that would naturally occur on the site.</p>	<p>C</p>	<p>Species composition, distribution, and frequency of occurrence are covered by the WI DNR Silviculture Handbook. MFL properties are required to implement the Silviculture Handbook, and conformance with these requirements was observed during the evaluation. The Silvicultural Manual emphasizes that uneven-aged management systems are to be used to continually develop quality growing stock, and this was observed on the ground.</p>
<p><b>6.3.e</b> When planting is required, a local source of known provenance is used when available and when the local source is equivalent in terms of quality, price and productivity. The use of non-local sources shall be justified, such as in situations where other management objectives (e.g. disease resistance or adapting to climate change) are best served by non-local sources. <b>Native species</b> suited to the site are normally selected for regeneration.</p>	<p>C</p>	<p>Nearly all seedlings are obtained from the WI DNR state nurseries. Local sources are used when available, and the local DNR forester must approve tree planting species lists. Observed conformance with planting of red oak, red pine, and other species from the state nursery using local sources of known provenance.</p>
<p><b>6.3.f</b> Management maintains, enhances, or restores habitat components and associated stand structures, in abundance and distribution that could be expected from naturally occurring processes. These components include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) large live trees, live trees with decay or declining health, <b>snags</b>, and well-distributed coarse down and dead woody material. <b>Legacy trees</b> where present are not harvested; and</li> <li>b) vertical and horizontal complexity.</li> </ul> <p>Trees selected for <b>retention</b> are generally representative of the dominant species found on the site.</p>	<p>C</p>	<p>Requirements of this indicator are covered in the Silviculture Handbook. Observed overall conformance with requirements for stand level habitat, especially in areas where large, un-merchantable oaks can develop into snag and den trees. Many of these large-sized oaks exhibit the qualities of legacy trees that were maintained when the area was under pasture or agriculture.</p>
<p><b>6.3.g.1</b> In the Southeast, Appalachia, Ozark-Ouachita, Mississippi Alluvial Valley, and Pacific Coast Regions, when <b>even-aged systems</b> are employed, and during salvage harvests, live trees and other native vegetation</p>	<p>C</p>	<p>Requirements of this indicator are covered in the Silviculture Handbook. Observed overall conformance with this requirement in even-aged management treatments.</p>

<p>are retained within the harvest unit as described in Appendix C for the applicable region.</p> <p>In the Lake States Northeast, Rocky Mountain and Southwest Regions, when even-aged silvicultural systems are employed, and during salvage harvests, live trees and other native vegetation are retained within the harvest unit in a proportion and configuration that is consistent with the characteristic natural disturbance regime unless retention at a lower level is necessary for the purposes of restoration or rehabilitation. See Appendix C for additional regional requirements and guidance.</p>		
<p><b>6.3.g.2</b> Under very limited situations, the landowner or manager has the option to develop a qualified plan to allow minor departure from the opening size limits described in Indicator 6.3.g.1. A qualified plan:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Is developed by qualified experts in ecological and/or related fields (wildlife biology, hydrology, landscape ecology, forestry/silviculture).</li> <li>2. Is based on the totality of the <b>best available information</b> including peer-reviewed science regarding natural disturbance regimes for the FMU.</li> <li>3. Is spatially and temporally explicit and includes maps of proposed openings or areas.</li> <li>4. Demonstrates that the variations will result in equal or greater benefit to wildlife, water quality, and other values compared to the normal opening size limits, including for sensitive and rare species.</li> <li>5. Is reviewed by independent experts in wildlife biology, hydrology, and landscape ecology, to confirm the preceding findings.</li> </ol>	<p>NA</p>	<p>There have not been any deviations from even-aged management restrictions on group member FMUs. This indicator is not applicable.</p>
<p><b>6.3.h</b> The forest owner or manager assesses the risk of, prioritizes, and, as warranted, develops and implements a strategy to prevent or control <b>invasive species</b>, including:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. a method to determine the extent of invasive species and the degree of threat to native species and ecosystems;</li> <li>2. implementation of management practices that minimize the risk of invasive establishment, growth, and spread;</li> <li>3. eradication or control of established invasive populations when feasible: and,</li> <li>4. monitoring of control measures and management practices to assess their effectiveness in preventing or controlling invasive species.</li> </ol>	<p>C</p>	<p>Invasive species are assessed during the writing of forest management plans and prior to each harvest. Interviews with WI DNR foresters and private consulting foresters indicated a high level of awareness about invasive plant problems as noted on numerous sites visited during the 2021 audit (see Site Notes).</p> <p>Cutting Notices and FMPs include an accounting of invasive plants. Herbicide treatment of invasives is conducted on some properties to help to control populations of invasive plants as noted in Site Notes.</p>

<p><b>6.3.i</b> In applicable situations, the forest owner or manager identifies and applies site-specific fuels management practices, based on: (1) natural fire regimes, (2) risk of wildfire, (3) potential economic losses, (4) public safety, and (5) applicable laws and regulations.</p>	<p>C</p>	<p>Fuels management occurs in accordance with the Silviculture Handbook and DNR Forest Management Guidelines. Fire on group member properties is used to control slash or invasive species and as a site preparation tool. Public safety measures and seasonal restrictions are adhered to.</p>
<p><b>6.4. 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.</b></p>	<p>C</p>	
<p><b>6.4.a</b> The forest owner or manager documents the ecosystems that would naturally exist on the FMU, and assesses the adequacy of their representation and protection in the <i>landscape</i> (see Criterion 7.1). The assessment for medium and large forests include some or all of the following: a) <b>GAP analyses</b>; b) collaboration with state natural heritage programs and other public agencies; c) regional, landscape, and watershed planning efforts; d) collaboration with universities and/or local conservation groups.</p> <p>For an area that is not located on the FMU to qualify as a Representative Sample Area (RSA), it should be under permanent protection in its natural state.</p>	<p>NA</p>	<p>See FF Indicator 6.4.a.</p>
<p><b>FF Indicator 6.4.a</b> For family forests, the forest owner or manager documents the ecosystems that would naturally exist on the FMU, and assesses the adequacy of their representation and protection in the landscape (see Criterion 7.1). The consultation and assessment process may be more informal; however, on all FMUs, outstanding examples of common community types (e.g., common types with Natural Heritage viability rankings of A and B) are identified in the assessment to be protected or managed to maintain their conservation value.</p>	<p>C</p>	<p>A GAP analysis was completed and Wisconsin’s State Natural Area (SNA) program has documented locations of native ecosystems. Representative sites are adequately protected across the state through SNAs on public lands, including public lands managed by the DNR and counties, and on lands owned or managed by conservation organizations.</p> <p>If additional outstanding examples arise on MFL, these would be protected through the NHI process, which includes native plant communities. This was confirmed in interviews with local DNR foresters.</p>
<p><b>6.4.b</b> Where existing areas within the landscape, but external to the FMU, are not of adequate protection, size, and configuration to serve as representative samples of existing ecosystems, forest owners or managers, whose properties are conducive to the establishment of such areas, designate ecologically viable RSAs to serve these purposes.</p> <p>Large FMUs are generally expected to establish RSAs of purpose 2 and 3 within the FMU.</p>	<p>NA</p>	<p>See FF Indicator 6.4.b.</p>

<p><b>FF Indicator 6.4.b</b> <i>Low risk of negative social or environmental impact. However, on all FMUs where outstanding examples of common community types exist (see Guidance for 6.4.a.), they should be protected or managed to maintain their conservation value.</i></p>	C	<p>There is a low risk negative social or environmental impact because Criterion 6.4 is met on lands outside of the MFL program.</p>
<p><b>6.4.c</b> Management activities within RSAs are limited to low impact activities compatible with the protected RSA objectives, except under the following circumstances:  a) harvesting activities only where they are necessary to restore or create conditions to meet the objectives of the protected RSA, or to mitigate conditions that interfere with achieving the RSA objectives; or  b) road-building only where it is documented that it will contribute to minimizing the overall environmental impacts within the FMU and will not jeopardize the purpose for which the RSA was designated.</p>	NA	<p>There are no RSAs on properties enrolled in the MFL program. This indicator is not applicable.</p>
<p><b>6.4.d</b> The RSA assessment (Indicator 6.4.a) shall be periodically reviewed and if necessary updated (at a minimum every 10 years) in order to determine if the need for RSAs has changed; the designation of RSAs (Indicator 6.4.b) is revised accordingly.</p>	C	<p>The need for RSAs on MFP properties would be detected and protected through the NHI process that is updated at least annually.</p>
<p><b>6.4.e</b> Managers of large, contiguous public forests establish and maintain a network of representative protected areas sufficient in size to maintain species dependent on interior core habitats.</p>	NA	<p>All lands enrolled in the MFL Program are private. This indicator is not applicable.</p>
<p><b>6.5</b> <b>Written guidelines shall be prepared and implemented to control erosion; minimize forest damage during harvesting, road construction, and all other mechanical disturbances; and to protect water resources.</b></p>	C	
<p><b>6.5.a</b> The forest owner or manager has written guidelines outlining conformance with the Indicators of this Criterion.</p>	C	<p>The existence of the Wisconsin BMPs for Water Quality, Wisconsin Forest Management Guidelines, and other manuals produced by DNR, meets this requirement. They are duly cited in each group member’s FMP and Cutting Notice.</p>
<p><b>6.5.b</b> Forest operations meet or exceed Best Management Practices (BMPs) that address components of the Criterion where the operation takes place.</p>	NC	<p>Refer to site notes. Confirmed overall conformance to BMPs through field observation. For example, most group member FMUs with water features had buffers that met or exceeded the recommended widths.  See Minor CAR 2021.2.</p>
<p><b>6.5.c</b> Management activities including site preparation, harvest prescriptions, techniques, timing, and equipment are selected and used to protect soil and</p>	C	<p>MFL’s implementation of BMPs, Biomass Harvest Guidelines, and Silviculture Handbook result in</p>

<p>water resources and to avoid erosion, landslides, and significant soil disturbance. Logging and other activities that significantly increase the risk of landslides are excluded in areas where risk of landslides is high. The following actions are addressed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Slash is concentrated only as much as necessary to achieve the goals of site preparation and the reduction of fuels to moderate or low levels of fire hazard.</li> <li>• Disturbance of topsoil is limited to the minimum necessary to achieve successful regeneration of species native to the site.</li> <li>• Rutting and compaction is minimized.</li> <li>• Soil erosion is not accelerated.</li> <li>• Burning is only done when consistent with natural disturbance regimes.</li> <li>• Natural ground cover disturbance is minimized to the extent necessary to achieve regeneration objectives.</li> <li>• Whole tree harvesting on any site over multiple rotations is only done when research indicates soil productivity will not be harmed.</li> <li>• Low impact equipment and technologies is used where appropriate.</li> </ul>		<p>conformance with the bulleted requirements of 6.5.c.</p>
<p><b>6.5.d</b> The transportation system, including design and placement of permanent and temporary haul roads, skid trails, recreational trails, water crossings and landings, is designed, constructed, maintained, and/or reconstructed to reduce short and long-term environmental impacts, habitat fragmentation, soil and water disturbance and cumulative adverse effects, while allowing for customary uses and use rights. This includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• access to all roads and trails (temporary and permanent), including recreational trails, and off-road travel, is controlled, as possible, to minimize ecological impacts;</li> <li>• road density is minimized;</li> <li>• erosion is minimized;</li> <li>• sediment discharge to streams is minimized;</li> <li>• there is free upstream and downstream passage for aquatic organisms;</li> <li>• impacts of transportation systems on wildlife habitat and migration corridors are minimized;</li> <li>• area converted to roads, landings and skid trails is minimized;</li> <li>• habitat fragmentation is minimized;</li> </ul>	<p>C</p>	<p>Confirmed via field observation on group member FMUs sampled that the permanent components of most transportation systems were installed many decades ago. Temporary skid trails were located away from RMZs (one exception noted in 6.5.b). Audit team observed implementation of BMPs on active and closed harvests, such as drainage BMPs on skid trails, seeding of landings and some trails, etc. Most stream crossings observed were properly installed.</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• unneeded roads are closed and rehabilitated.</li> </ul>		
<p><b>6.5.e.1</b> In consultation with appropriate expertise, the forest owner or manager implements written <b>Streamside Management Zone (SMZ) buffer</b> management guidelines that are adequate for preventing environmental impact, and include protecting and restoring water quality, hydrologic conditions in rivers and stream corridors, wetlands, vernal pools, seeps and springs, lake and pond shorelines, and other hydrologically sensitive areas. The guidelines include vegetative buffer widths and protection measures that are acceptable within those buffers.</p> <p>In the Appalachia, Ozark-Ouachita, Southeast, Mississippi Alluvial Valley, Southwest, Rocky Mountain, and Pacific Coast regions, there are requirements for minimum SMZ widths and explicit limitations on the activities that can occur within those SMZs. These are outlined as requirements in Appendix E.</p>	C	<p>MFL’s implementation of BMPs for Water Quality covers this requirement and has a built-in variance mechanism in case minor deviations from minimum BMPs are required to restore riparian tree species composition or conduct other activities intended to restore or protect hydrologic functions in the long-term.</p> <p>RMZs observed in the field demonstrated conformance to this requirement.</p>
<p><b>6.5.e.2</b> Minor variations from the stated minimum SMZ widths and layout for specific stream segments, wetlands and other water bodies are permitted in limited circumstances, provided the forest owner or manager demonstrates that the alternative configuration maintains the overall extent of the buffers and provides equivalent or greater environmental protection than FSC-US regional requirements for those stream segments, water quality, and aquatic species, based on site-specific conditions and the best available information. The forest owner or manager develops a written set of supporting information including a description of the riparian habitats and species addressed in the alternative configuration. The CB must verify that the variations meet these requirements, based on the input of an independent expert in aquatic ecology or closely related field.</p>	NA	<p>No variations from minimum SMZ widths are allowed and none were observed. This indicator is not applicable.</p>
<p><b>6.5.f</b> Stream and wetland crossings are avoided when possible. Unavoidable crossings are located and constructed to minimize impacts on water quality, hydrology, and fragmentation of <b>aquatic habitat</b>. Crossings do not impede the movement of aquatic species. Temporary crossings are restored to original hydrological conditions when operations are finished.</p>	C	<p>MFL’s implementation of BMPs for Water Quality result in conformance to this requirement. Stream crossings reviewed during the evaluation demonstrated conformance.</p>

<p><b>6.5.g</b> Recreation use on the FMU is managed to avoid negative impacts to soils, water, plants, wildlife and wildlife habitats.</p>	<p>C</p>	<p>Given their small size and that recreational use is typically limited to family and friends of landowner, MFL properties conform to 6.5.g. On both the publicly-open properties in the program and the ones not open to the public, no instances of damage arising from recreation during the evaluation were observed</p>
<p><b>6.5.h</b> Grazing by domesticated animals is controlled to protect in-stream habitats and water quality, the species composition and viability of the riparian vegetation, and the banks of the stream channel from erosion.</p>	<p>C</p>	<p>Grazing is currently prohibited by statute on MFL properties. No such grazing was detected on site visits during the evaluation. Per interviews with staff, there is some discussion on allowing grazing for invasive species control and fire surrogacy.</p>
<p><b>6.6. 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 pesticides banned by international agreement, shall be prohibited. If chemicals are used, proper equipment and training shall be provided to minimize health and environmental risks.</b></p>	<p>C</p>	
<p><b>6.6.a</b> No products on the FSC list of Highly Hazardous Pesticides are used (see FSC-POL-30-001 EN FSC Pesticides policy 2005 and associated documents).</p>	<p>C</p>	<p>A review of the chemical list maintained by DNR of all group member applications reported demonstrates that no FSC Highly Hazardous Pesticides are used on areas within the scope of the certificate.</p>
<p><b>6.6.b</b> All toxicants used to control pests and competing vegetation, including rodenticides, insecticides, herbicides, and fungicides are used only when and where non-chemical management practices are: a) not available; b) prohibitively expensive, taking into account overall environmental and social costs, risks and benefits; c) the only effective means for controlling invasive and exotic species; or d) result in less environmental damage than non-chemical alternatives (e.g., top soil disturbance, loss of soil litter and down wood debris). If chemicals are used, the forest owner or manager uses the least environmentally damaging formulation and application method practical.</p> <p>Written strategies are developed and implemented that justify the use of chemical pesticides. Whenever feasible, an eventual phase-out of chemical use is included in the strategy. The written strategy shall</p>	<p>NA</p>	<p>See FF Indicator 6.6.b.</p>

<p>include an analysis of options for, and the effects of, various chemical and non-chemical pest control strategies, with the goal of reducing or eliminating chemical use.</p>		
<p><b>FF Indicator 6.6.b</b> All toxicants used to control pests and competing vegetation, including rodenticides, insecticides, herbicides, and fungicides are used only when and where non-chemical management practices are: a) not available; b) prohibitively expensive, taking into account overall environmental and social costs, risks and benefits; c) the only effective means for controlling invasive and exotic species; or d) result in less environmental damage than non-chemical alternatives (e.g., top soil disturbance, loss of soil litter and down wood debris). If chemicals are used, the forest owner or manager uses the least environmentally damaging formulation and application method practical.</p> <p>Written strategies are developed and implemented that justify the use of chemical pesticides. Family forest owners/managers may use brief and less technical written procedures for applying common over-the-counter products. Any observed misuse of these chemicals may be considered as violation of requirements in this Indicator. Whenever feasible, an eventual phase-out of chemical use is included in the strategy.</p>	<p>C</p>	<p>The MFL program has a demonstrated record of implementing non-chemical options whenever feasible. All chemical applications by landowners requires a Chemical Use Reporting Form to be completed. FSC’s highly hazardous pesticides are prohibited, and least toxic chemicals are generally the recommended choice.</p>
<p><b>6.6.c</b> Chemicals and application methods are selected to minimize risk to non-target species and sites. When considering the choice between aerial and ground application, the forest owner or manager evaluates the comparative risk to non-target species and sites, the comparative risk of worker exposure, and the overall amount and type of chemicals required.</p>	<p>C</p>	<p>Application methods are generally done via backpack spraying, and the written prescription typically follows the label rate (unless justified at alternative rate). MSDS recommended safety procedures and equipment are required.</p>
<p><b>6.6.d</b> Whenever chemicals are used, a written prescription is prepared that describes the site-specific hazards and environmental risks, and the precautions that workers will employ to avoid or minimize those hazards and risks, and includes a map of the treatment area.</p> <p>Chemicals are applied only by workers who have received proper training in application methods and safety. They are made aware of the risks, wear proper safety equipment, and are trained to minimize environmental impacts on non-target species and sites.</p>	<p>C</p>	<p>All chemical applications by landowners requires a Chemical Use Reporting Form to be completed.</p>
<p><b>6.6.e</b> If chemicals are used, the effects are monitored and the results are used for adaptive management.</p>	<p>C</p>	<p>Follow-up monitoring is completed by DNR foresters or Cooperating Foresters and/or MFL Foresters. One</p>



<p>Records are kept of pest occurrences, control measures, and incidences of worker exposure to chemicals.</p>		<p>private consulting forester who was interviewed demonstrated a keen awareness of the type and concentration of chemicals he uses on the MFL properties that he manages, often reducing the concentration and still getting the same results. He also demonstrated an awareness of appropriate PPE and safety procedures to minimize personal exposure when applying chemicals.</p>
<p><b>6.7. 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.</b></p>	<p>C</p>	
<p><b>6.7.a</b> The forest owner or manager, and employees and contractors, have the equipment and training necessary to respond to hazardous spills</p>	<p>C</p>	<p>No evidence of fuel or chemical spills was observed on harvest sites visited. Some harvests had been conducted by FISTA-trained loggers, which includes training on how to handle hazardous spills.</p>
<p><b>6.7.b</b> In the event of a hazardous material spill, the forest owner or manager immediately contains the material and engages qualified personnel to perform the appropriate removal and remediation, as required by applicable law and regulations.</p>	<p>C</p>	<p>There was no evidence of spills. Loggers are required to adhere to FISTA regulations, which require that loggers be able to contain spills in a timely manner. Wisconsin BMPs cover the topic of this indicator.</p>
<p>6.7.c. Hazardous materials and fuels are stored in leak-proof containers in designated storage areas, that are outside of riparian management zones and away from other ecological sensitive features, until they are used or transported to an approved off-site location for disposal. There is no evidence of persistent fluid leaks from equipment or of recent groundwater or surface water contamination.</p>	<p>C</p>	<p>Observed overall conformance with this requirement.</p>
<p><b>6.8. 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.</b></p>	<p>C</p>	
<p><b>6.8.a</b> Use of <i>biological control agents</i> are used only as part of a pest management strategy for the control of invasive plants, <i>pathogens</i>, insects, or other animals when other pest control methods are ineffective, or are expected to be ineffective. Such use is contingent upon peer-reviewed scientific evidence that the agents in question are non-invasive and are safe for native species.</p>	<p>C</p>	<p>WI DNR uses <i>Bacillus thuringiensis kurstaki</i> (Btk) and Nucleopolyhedrosis virus (Gypchek) to control gypsy moth and other forest pests. The safety and effectiveness of these treatments has been substantiated by the scientific literature and are guided by USDA protocols.</p>
<p><b>6.8.b</b> If biological control agents are used, they are applied by trained workers using proper equipment.</p>	<p>C</p>	<p>Btk and Gypchek are applied aerially by trained WI DNR contractors.</p>
<p><b>6.8.c</b> If biological control agents are used, their use shall be documented, monitored and strictly controlled in accordance with state and national laws and</p>	<p>C</p>	<p>Use of Btk and Gypchek follows USDA protocols and plans, which are consistent with the content of this indicator. USDA documentation is available from</p>

<p>internationally accepted scientific protocols. A written plan will be developed and implemented justifying such use, describing the risks, specifying the precautions workers will employ to avoid or minimize such risks, and describing how potential impacts will be monitored.</p>		<p>USDA’s website. Wisconsin DNR also has several documents online about the application and monitoring of two biological controls.</p>
<p><b>6.8.d</b> Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOs) are not used for any purpose</p>	<p>C</p>	<p>There is no use of GMO trees.</p>
<p><b>6.9. The use of exotic species shall be carefully controlled and actively monitored to avoid adverse ecological impacts.</b></p>	<p>C</p>	
<p><b>6.9.a</b> The use of <i>exotic species</i> is contingent on the availability of credible scientific data indicating that any such species is non-invasive and its application does not pose a risk to native biodiversity.</p>	<p>C</p>	<p>Exotic tree species are not used on MFL properties. Although exotic seed mixes are used for erosion control, these are not considered invasive.</p>
<p><b>6.9.b</b> If exotic species are used, their provenance and the location of their use are documented, and their ecological effects are actively monitored.</p>	<p>C</p>	<p>Some exotic seed mixes are used on wildlife food plots. However, food plots fall outside the scope of MFL properties, so this requirement is not applicable in those cases. Exotic seed mixes are used for erosion control, these are not considered invasive.</p>
<p><b>6.9.c</b> The forest owner or manager shall take timely action to curtail or significantly reduce any adverse impacts resulting from their use of exotic species</p>	<p>C</p>	<p>No impacts from exotic species have been identified.</p>
<p><b>6.10. Forest conversion to plantations or non-forest land uses shall not occur, except in circumstances where conversion:</b>  <b>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.</b></p>	<p>C</p>	
<p><b>6.10.a</b> Forest <i>conversion</i> to non-forest land uses does not occur, except in circumstances where conversion entails a very limited portion of the forest management unit (note that Indicators 6.10.a, b, and c are related and all need to be conformed with for conversion to be allowed).</p>	<p>C</p>	<p>Under the MFL program, group members can have up to 20% of the FMU in non-productive area. If these areas include areas of forest converted to non-forest, such as food plots, these are excised from the scope of FSC as in some cases they would exceed the 2% limit established in this indicator. Food plots are mapped as part of management plans or cutting notices. DNR provided an update to the certificate scope to document these changes.</p> <p>MFL statute allows program participants to remove up to five acres from the MFL program for conversion to a building or other non-forest use. Removed acreage must be in whole (not partial) acreage units from one to five.</p>

<p><b>6.10.b</b> Forest <i>conversion</i> to non-forest land uses does not occur on high conservation value forest areas (note that Indicators 6.10.a, b, and c are related and all need to be conformed with for conversion to be allowed).</p>	<p>C</p>	<p>There has been no conversion to non-forest land uses other than that acreage that the statute now allows can be removed from the program (and hence from the FSC certified area). See description for Indicator 6.10.a.</p>
<p><b>6.10.c</b> Forest <i>conversion</i> to non-forest land uses does not occur, except in circumstances where conversion will enable clear, substantial, additional, secure, long term conservation benefits across the forest management unit (note that Indicators 6.10.a, b, and c are related and all need to be conformed with for conversion to be allowed).</p>	<p>C</p>	<p>There has been no conversion to non-forest land uses other than that acreage that the statute now allows can be removed from the program (and hence from the FSC certified area). See description for Indicator 6.10.a.</p>
<p><b>6.10.d</b> Natural or semi-natural stands are not converted to plantations. Degraded, semi-natural stands may be converted to restoration plantations.</p>	<p>C</p>	<p>Conversions from natural forest to plantation do not occur on the MFL properties, as confirmed via field observation. Most pine plantations were started well prior to the 1950s and are being managed for natural tree species that sites can support and be regenerated using seed-tree, shelterwood, and other techniques that rely on natural regeneration. As such, these stands are classified as natural or semi-natural based on management practices and stand trajectories.</p>
<p><b>6.10.e</b> Justification for land-use and stand-type conversions is fully described in the long-term management plan, and meets the biodiversity conservation requirements of Criterion 6.3 (see also Criterion 7.1.l)</p>	<p>C</p>	<p>All land-use and stand-type conversions are described in MFL plans and/or Cutting Notices. Converted areas that meet 6.10.a-c may remain within the scope and consist mostly of areas designated for wildlife habitat or food plots. Natural heritage data is reviewed for these areas, thus biodiversity requirements are met. Stand-type conversions are justified based on forest and soil health and other site conditions, landowner objectives and typically do not qualify as conversion to non-forest use. These areas are evaluated for natural heritage data regardless of stand trajectory.</p>
<p><b>6.10.f</b> Areas converted to <i>non-forest use</i> for facilities associated with subsurface mineral and gas rights transferred by prior owners, or other conversion outside the control of the certificate holder, are identified on maps. The forest owner or manager consults with the CB to determine if removal of these areas from the scope of the certificate is warranted. To the extent allowed by these transferred rights, the forest owner or manager exercises control over the location of surface disturbances in a manner that minimizes adverse environmental and social impacts. If the certificate holder at one point held these rights, and then sold them, then subsequent conversion of</p>	<p>C</p>	<p>Such conversions are not permitted within the MFL program. MFL rules prohibits any activity that would preclude the practice of forestry, with one exemption made for climate or weather towers used for research purposes. In this case, the group member would have to ask for permission prior to construction.</p>

forest to non-forest use would be subject to Indicator 6.10.a-d.		
<b>Principle #7: 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.</b>		
<p><b>7.1. The management plan and supporting documents shall provide:</b></p> <p>a. Management objectives. b) description of the forest resources to be managed, environmental limitations, land use and ownership status, socio-economic conditions, and a profile of adjacent lands.</p> <p>b. Description of silvicultural and/or other management system, based on the ecology of the forest in question and information gathered through resource inventories. d) Rationale for rate of annual harvest and species selection. e) Provisions for monitoring of forest growth and dynamics. f) Environmental safeguards based on environmental assessments. g) Plans for the identification and protection of rare, threatened and endangered species.</p> <p>b) h) Maps describing the forest resource base including protected areas, planned management activities and land ownership.</p> <p>i) Description and justification of harvesting techniques and equipment to be used.</p>	NE	
<p><b>7.2 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.</b></p>	NE	
<p><b>7.3 Forest workers shall receive adequate training and supervision to ensure proper implementation of the management plans.</b></p>		
<p><b>7.3.a</b> 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.</p>	C (OBS)	See Obs 2021.3.
<p><b>7.4 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.</b></p>		
<b>Principle #8: 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.</b>		

<p><b>8.1 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 results and assessment of change.</b></p>	<p>NE</p>	
<p><b>8.2. 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, and e) cost, productivity, and efficiency of forest management.</b></p>	<p>C</p>	<p>a) Yield – Cutting production reports</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All certified MFL lands when harvest are required to submit Cutting Reports which include volumes harvested.</li> </ul> <p>b) growth rates, regeneration, and condition of the forest are generally monitored through the WI DNR and use of federal FIA data. However, the WI DNR has initiatives to supplement these including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Productivity requirement:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ To maintain MFL eligibility landowners have to maintain productivity on 80% of parcel which is 20 cubic feet/acre/year to remain in the program which is currently being done by DNR forest specialists. DNR is also exploring potential sampling approaches to make this process more efficient.</li> <li>○ Potential regeneration impacts may also be assessed relative to productivity requirements.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>c) composition and observed changes in flora and fauna</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• DMAP program managed by wildlife staff and landowners can requests forester/wildlife biologist to develop specific forest management planning to manage deer habitat.</li> </ul> <p>d) environmental and social impacts of harvesting and other operations.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Economic fact sheet (2016 data) with direct and indirect economic benefits.</li> </ul> <p>e) cost, productivity, and efficiency of forest management</p>
<p><b>8.2.a.1</b> For all commercially harvested products, an inventory system is maintained. The inventory system includes at a minimum: a) species, b) volumes, c) stocking, d) regeneration, and e) stand and forest composition and structure; and f) timber quality.</p>	<p>C</p>	<p>Topics a-f are monitored on MFL properties. Evidence:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Operations specialist produces a Stumpage Report which summarizes cutting volumes on an annual basis by species and product class.</li> <li>• MFL Land Exams which occur prior to sending out Mandatory cutting notices to landowners.</li> <li>• Forest Tax Handbook, Chapter 21-11</li> </ul>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Public Lands Handbook Chapter 110-10 (Section 2460.5)</li> <li>NR 46, Wis. Admin. Code</li> <li>Ch. 77, Wis. Stats.</li> </ul>
<p><b>8.2.a.2</b> Significant, unanticipated removal or loss or increased vulnerability of forest resources is monitored and recorded. Recorded information shall include date and location of occurrence, description of disturbance, extent and severity of loss, and may be both quantitative and qualitative.</p>	C	<p>Monitoring of unanticipated loss occurs through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>WI DNR Forest Health Surveys (aerial surveys)</li> <li>Landowner identification resulting in visit from MFL Forester and/or WI DNR 6 forest health specialist positions are maintained covering the state. They serve as resources and are available to the public, industry, and cooperating foresters.</li> </ul> <p>Unanticipated removal (i.e., timber theft) is uncommon and thus only monitored passively unless a landowner requests action in some manner.</p>
<p><b>8.2.b</b> The forest owner or manager maintains records of harvested timber and NTFPs (volume and product and/or grade). Records must adequately ensure that the requirements under Criterion 5.6 are met.</p>	C	<p>Confirmed via review of Cutting Notices and Cutting Reports.</p>
<p><b>8.2.c</b> The forest owner or manager periodically obtains data needed to monitor presence on the FMU of:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Rare, threatened and endangered species and/or their <i>habitats</i>;</li> <li>2) Common and rare plant communities and/or habitat;</li> <li>3) Location, presence and abundance of invasive species;</li> <li>4) Condition of protected areas, set-asides and buffer zones;</li> <li>5) High Conservation Value Forests (see Criterion 9.4).</li> </ol>	C	<p>Items 1-5 are monitored through the NHI data system, periodic timber cruises at time of writing management plan or pre/post-harvest inspection, and various WIDNR flora and fauna research across the State.</p>
<p><b>8.2.d.1</b> 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.</p>	C	<p>Such monitoring occurs and is described in Forest Tax Handbook, Chapter 21-11.</p>
<p><b>8.2.d.2</b> A monitoring program is in place to assess the condition and environmental impacts of the forest-road system.</p>	C	<p>Such monitoring occurs and is described in Forest Tax Handbook, Chapter 21-11.</p>
<p><b>8.2.d.3</b> The landowner or manager monitors relevant socio-economic issues (see Indicator 4.4.a), including the social impacts of harvesting, participation in local economic opportunities (see Indicator 4.1.g), the creation and/or maintenance of quality job opportunities (see Indicator 4.1.b), and local purchasing opportunities (see Indicator 4.1.e).</p>	NA	<p>See Family Forest applicability note and WI DNR determination of NA.</p>

<p><b>8.2.d.4</b> Stakeholder responses to management activities are monitored and recorded as necessary.</p>	<p>NA</p>	<p>See Family Forest applicability note and WI DNR determination of NA.</p>
<p><b>8.2.d.5</b> Where sites of cultural significance exist, the opportunity to jointly monitor sites of cultural significance is offered to tribal representatives (see Principle 3).</p>	<p>C</p>	<p>See Principle 3.</p>
<p><b>8.2.e</b> The forest owner or manager monitors the costs and revenues of management in order to assess productivity and efficiency.</p>	<p>C</p>	<p>Timber management activities on non-industrial properties are structured and monitored to ensure revenue is sufficient to pay for the logging costs and the consulting forester. Since harvests typically only occur every 15-20 years there is little opportunity to assess productivity and efficiency of management on any regular basis. Landowners interviewed indicated that they use simple cost benefit calculations to determine efficiency of their overall management choices (i.e., enroll in MFL and manage for timber products). Such calculations include revenue from timber sales plus the tax savings compared with any costs of management and TSI work.</p>
<p><b>8.3</b> Documentation shall be provided by the forest manager to enable monitoring and certifying organizations to trace each forest product from its origin, a process known as the "chain of custody."</p>	<p>NE</p>	
<p><b>8.4</b> The results of monitoring shall be incorporated into the implementation and revision of the management plan.</p>	<p>NE</p>	
<p><b>Principle #9: 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 considered in the context of a precautionary approach.</b></p> <p><b>High Conservation Value Forests are those that possess one or more of the following attributes:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Forest areas containing globally, regionally or nationally significant: concentrations of biodiversity values (e.g., endemism, endangered species, refugia); and/or large landscape level forests, contained within, or containing the management unit, where viable populations of most if not all naturally occurring species exist in natural patterns of distribution and abundance</li> <li>b) Forest areas that are in or contain rare, threatened or endangered ecosystems</li> <li>c) Forest areas that provide basic services of nature in critical situations (e.g., watershed protection, erosion control)</li> <li>d) Forest areas fundamental to meeting basic needs of local communities (e.g., subsistence, health) and/or critical to local communities' traditional cultural identity (areas of cultural, ecological, economic or religious significance identified in cooperation with such local communities).</li> </ul>		
<p><b>9.1</b> 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.</p>	<p>NE</p>	

9.2 The consultative portion of the certification process must place emphasis on the identified conservation attributes, and options for the maintenance thereof.	NE	
9.3 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.	NE	
9.4 Annual monitoring shall be conducted to assess the effectiveness of the measures employed to maintain or enhance the applicable conservation attributes.	NE	

### Appendix 6 – Chain of Custody Indicators for FMEs Conformance Table

Chain of Custody indicators were not evaluated during this evaluation.

### Appendix 7 – Trademark Standard Conformance Table

- N/A, does not use/intend to use FSC trademarks for any purposes (finished with this section); or
- N/A, is fully integrated and all trademark uses are treated under the COC Annex to this report that includes a full review of FSC-STD-40-004 and FSC-STD-50-001.

1. General Requirements for Use of the FSC Trademarks (FSC “checkmark-and-tree” logo, initials “FSC,” and/or name “Forest Stewardship Council”)		
Trademark uses reviewed:		
Trademark Application (on-product/promotional)	Case Approval #, or Email (include approver name & date), or other appropriate documentation	Are all elements correct? (e.g., trademark symbol, color scheme, size, etc.) If not, describe in Nonconformities below.
Promotional (fact sheet, group member letter; 2021)	349781	Y <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/>
Promotional (2019)	286956	Y <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/>
Promotional (2019)	287406	Y <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/>
		Y <input type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/>

All known uses reviewed. (cert period 2018-23)

Sample reviewed. Rationale that sample choice is sufficient to confirm requirements are met:

Trademark uses detected include those grandfathered in under prior FSC trademark rules (e.g., FSC-TMK-50-201). Place the initials “GF” by the specific Trademark Applications above. *Note: This only applies to printed items or physical promotional materials (e.g., hats, load tickets) in stock. New printings, items, and websites*



<p><i>must be updated per FSC-STD-50-001 requirements. If the organization only has GF uses and no new uses, the rest of this checklist is NA.</i></p>	
<p><b>1.2 Trademark License Agreement and valid certificate</b>                  In order to use these FSC trademarks, the FME shall have a valid FSC trademark license agreement and hold a valid certificate.  <i>Note: Consultations for certification Organizations applying for forest management certification or conducting activities related to the implementation of controlled wood requirements, may refer to FSC by name and initials for stakeholder consultation.</i></p>	<p>Maintained on file by SCS Main Office</p>
<p><b>Evidence 1.2:</b> Maintained on file by SCS Main Office. Auditor reviewed TLA and confirmed.</p>	
<p><b>1.6 Product Group List</b>                  The products intended to be labeled or promoted as FSC certified have been included in the organization’s certified product group list.</p>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C  <input type="checkbox"/> NC  <input type="checkbox"/> C w/ OBS</p>
<p><b>Evidence 1.6:</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Refer to Product Groups List in Public Summary Report;  <input type="checkbox"/> The following nonconformance(s) were detected in Product Groups:           ; or  <input type="checkbox"/> Refer to OBS related to Product Groups:</p>	
<p><b>1.3 Trademark License Code</b>                  The FSC trademark license code assigned by FSC to the organization accompanies any use of the FSC trademarks. It is sufficient to show the code once per product or promotional material.</p>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C  <input type="checkbox"/> NC  <input type="checkbox"/> C w/ OBS</p>
<p><b>1.4 Trademark Symbol</b>                  The FSC logo and the ‘Forests For All Forever’ marks shall include the trademark symbol ® in the upper right corner when used on products or materials to be distributed in a country where the relevant trademark is registered.                  For use in a country where the trademark is not yet registered, use of the symbol ™ is recommended. The Trademark Registration List document is available in the FSC trade-mark portal and marketing toolkit.                  The symbol ® shall also be added to ‘FSC’ and ‘Forest Steward-ship Council’ at the first or most prominent use in any text; one use per material is sufficient (e.g. website or brochure).  <i>NOTE: The use of the trademark symbol is not required for FSC claims in sales and delivery documents, or for the disclaimer statement specified in requirement 6.2.</i></p>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C  <input type="checkbox"/> NC  <input type="checkbox"/> C w/ OBS  <input type="checkbox"/> NA, one or more of noted exceptions applies</p>
<p><b>2.1 Restrictions on using FSC trademarks</b>                  The organization <b>has not used</b> the FSC trademarks in the following ways:                  a) in a way that could cause confusion, misinterpretation, or loss of credibility to the FSC certification scheme;                  b) in a way that implies that FSC endorses, participates in, or is responsible for activities performed by the organization, outside the scope of certification;                  c) to promote product quality aspects not covered by FSC certification;                  d) in product brand or company names, such as ‘FSC Golden Timber’ or website domain names;                  e) in connection with FSC controlled wood or controlled material – they shall not be used for labelling products or in any promotion of sales or sourcing of controlled material or FSC controlled wood; the initials FSC shall only be used to pass on FSC controlled wood claims in sales and de-livery documentation, in conformity with FSC chain of custody requirements.</p>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C  <input type="checkbox"/> NC  <input type="checkbox"/> C w/ OBS</p>
<p><b>2.2 Translations</b>                  The name ‘Forest Stewardship Council’ has not been replaced with a translation. A translation may be included in brackets after the name, for example: Forest Stewardship Council® (translation)</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> C  <input type="checkbox"/> NC  <input type="checkbox"/> C w/ OBS</p>

	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NA, no translations
<b>Evidence 1.3, 1.4, 2.1, and 2.2:</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Refer to Trademark uses reviewed above; <input type="checkbox"/> The following nonconformance(s) were detected _____ ; or <input type="checkbox"/> Refer to OBS:	
<b>Sections 8 and 9 Graphic Rules</b> The organization has only used FSC logos that conform to the standard requirements governing: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• color and font (8.1-8.3);</li> <li>• format and size (8.4-8.9);</li> <li>• label placement (8.10); and</li> <li>• 'Forests For All Forever' marks (9.1-9.7).</li> </ul>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> NC <input type="checkbox"/> C w/ OBS
<b>1.5 Trademark Use Approval</b> The organization has submitted all intended uses of the FSC trademarks to SCS for approval. OR The organization has <b>an approved trademark use management system</b> in place. (If the organization has a trademark use management system, complete Annex A.)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> NC <input type="checkbox"/> C w/ OBS
<b>4.6 FSC trademarks may be used to identify FSC-certified materials in the chain of custody before the products are finished. It is not necessary to submit such segregation marks for approval. All segregation marks shall be removed before the products go to the final point of sale or are delivered to uncertified organizations.</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> NC <input type="checkbox"/> C w/ OBS <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NA, trademarks no used for segregation marks
<b>Evidence Graphic Rules, 1.5, and 4.6:</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Refer to Trademark uses reviewed above; <input type="checkbox"/> The following nonconformance(s) were detected _____ ; or <input type="checkbox"/> Refer to OBS:	

**2. On-Product Use of FSC Trademarks**  
 NA, no use of on-product trademarks (*on-product checklist may be deleted*)

**3. Promotional Use of FSC Trademarks**  
 NA, no use of promotional trademarks (*promotional checklist may be deleted*)

<b>6.1 Catalogues, Brochures, and Websites</b> When the FSC trademarks have been used in catalogues, brochures, or websites, the following requirements apply: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It is sufficient to present the promotional elements only once in catalogues, brochures, websites, etc.</li> <li>• If both FSC-certified and uncertified products are listed then a text such as “Look for our FSC®-certified products” shall be used next to the promotional elements and the FSC-certified products shall be clearly identified.</li> <li>• If some or all of the products are available as FSC certified on request only, this is be clearly stated.</li> </ul>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> NC <input type="checkbox"/> C w/ OBS <input type="checkbox"/> NA, not using trademarks in catalogues/ brochures/websites
<b>6.2 Sales and Delivery Documents</b> When the FSC trademarks are included on sales or delivery document templates that may be used for both FSC and non-FSC products, the following or a similar statement	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> NC <input type="checkbox"/> C w/ OBS

<p>is included: “Only the products that are identified as such on this document are FSC certified”.</p> <p><i>NOTE: Use of the FSC claim and certificate code on the invoices does not qualify as FSC trademark use.</i></p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> NA, not using trademarks on templates for FSC &amp; non-FSC products</p>
<p><b>6.3 Promotional Items</b> All promotional items (e.g., mugs, pens, T-shirts, caps, banners, vehicles, etc.) have displayed, at minimum, the FSC logo and FSC trademark license code.</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> NC <input type="checkbox"/> C w/ OBS <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NA, not labeling promotional items</p>
<p><b>6.5 Trade Fairs</b> When the FSC trademarks are used for promotion at trade fairs, the organization has:</p> <p>a) clearly marked which products are FSC certified, or b) add a visible disclaimer stating “Ask for our FSC®-certified products” or similar if no FSC-certified products are displayed.</p> <p><i>NOTE: Use of text to describe the FSC certification of the organization does not require a disclaimer.</i></p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> NC <input type="checkbox"/> C w/ OBS <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NA, not using trademarks at trade fairs</p>
<p><b>Section 6.6 and 6.7 Investment/Financial Claims</b> 6.6 When investment companies or others are making financial claims based on the organization’s FSC certified operations, the organization has taken full responsibility for the use of the FSC trademarks. 6.7 Any such claims have been accompanied by the disclaimer, “FSC is not responsible for and does not endorse any financial claims on returns on investments.”</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> NC <input type="checkbox"/> C w/ OBS <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NA, not making financial claims about FSC status</p>
<p><b>7.1 and 7.2 Other Forestry Certification Scheme Logos</b> The FSC trademarks have not been used together with the marks of other forest certification schemes in a way which implies equivalence, or in a way which is disadvantageous to the FSC trademarks in terms of size or placement.</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> NC <input type="checkbox"/> C w/ OBS <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NA, not using other scheme logos</p>
<p><b>7.3 Business Cards</b> The FSC trademarks have not used on business cards to promote the organization’s certification. The FSC logo or ‘Forests For All Forever’ marks are not used on business cards for promotion. A text reference to the organization’s FSC certification, with license code, is allowed, for example “We are FSC® certified (FSC® C#####)” or “We sell FSC®-certified products (FSC® C#####)”.</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> NC <input type="checkbox"/> C w/ OBS <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NA, approval granted prior to July 1, 2011</p>
<p><b>7.4 Promotion with CB Logo</b> FSC certified products have not been promoted using only the SCS Kingfisher and/or SCS Global Services logo.</p>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> NC <input type="checkbox"/> C w/ OBS</p>
<p><b>Evidence 6.1-6.3, 6.5-6.7, 7.1-7.4:</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Refer to Trademark uses reviewed above; Review of websites, promotional materials and other documents. Most recent approvals reviewed were granted in 2019 and 2021.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> The following nonconformance(s) were detected ; or</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Refer to OBS:</p>	

**Annex A: Trademark use management system**  
 NA, not using a trademark management system (*Annex A checklist may be deleted*)

**Annex B, Additional trademark rules for group FM certificate holders**

NA, not a group FM certificate or group does not use FSC trademarks (*Annex B checklist may be deleted*)

<p><b>Annex B, 1.1</b> The group entity (or manager, or central office) shall ensure that all uses of the FSC trademarks by the group entity or its individual members are approved by the certification body prior to use, or that the group and its members have an approved trademark use management system in place. When seeking approval by the certification body, group members shall submit all approvals via the group entity or central office, and keep records of approvals. Alternative submission methods may be approved by the certification body.</p>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> NC <input type="checkbox"/> C w/ OBS
<p><b>Evidence 1.1:</b> Two new documents approved under the same approval record since previous audit confirmed during interview. Refer to evidence in Appendix 7 section 1.</p>	
<p><b>Annex B, 1.2</b> The group entity shall not produce any document similar to an FSC certificate for its participants. If individual membership documents are issued, these statements shall be included:                      a) "Managing the FSC® group certification program of SCS Global Services"                      b) "Group certification by SCS Global Services"</p>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> NC <input type="checkbox"/> C w/ OBS <input type="checkbox"/> NA, not issuing individual membership documents
<p><b>Annex B, 1.3</b> No other forest certification schemes' marks or names shall appear on any membership documents (as per clause 1.2) issued by the group in connection with FSC certification.  <i>Note: This only applies to documents issued per Annex B, 1.2 and NOT other documents such as group procedures.</i></p>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> NC <input type="checkbox"/> C w/ OBS
<p><b>Annex B, 1.4</b> Subcodes of members shall not be added to the license code.</p>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> NC <input type="checkbox"/> C w/ OBS
<p><b>Evidence 1.2, 1.3, and 1.4:</b> Refer to evidence in Appendix 7 section 1.</p>	

**Appendix 8 – Group Management Program**

This is not a group certificate, so this appendix is not applicable.

**Group Management Conformance Table**

**CHECKLIST: Forest Management Groups (FSC-STD-30-005, v2-0; 2020)**

*Note: in case of requests for interpretation, the English version of these indicators shall be preferred.*

**Parts I and II (Mandatory): Establishment of Forest Management Groups and Group Management System**

REQUIREMENT	C/NC/NA
<b>1. Requirements for Group Entities</b>	

1.1. The Group Entity shall be a person or group of persons registered as one independent legal entity.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> NC
1.2. The Group Entity shall comply with the applicable legal obligations, such as registration and payment of relevant fees and taxes.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> NC
1.3. When a Group Entity manages more than one group, it shall have enough capacity and resources to manage more than one certificate.  <i>NOTE: Each group will result in one certificate. In any one group, either all members are FSC FM/CoC, or all members are CW/FM; if some members are certified according to FM standards and others according to CW standards, then these would be two different groups.</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> NC <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NA; group entity manages a single group
1.4. The Group Entity shall be responsible for conformance with this standard.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> NC
1.5. The Group Entity shall make sure that all actors in the group demonstrate sufficient knowledge to fulfil their corresponding responsibilities within the group.	<input type="checkbox"/> C <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NC
<p><b>Evidence Section 1:</b> WI DNR is an established legal entity with proper authority to manage the group. WIDNR is authorized through Wisconsin Statute 15.34. WI DNR is an established legal entity with authority for registration and payment of applicable fees. Evidence: Forest Tax Law handbook. Deed and proof of ownership are kept in each case file (MFL order #).</p> <p>Private Forestry Handbook Chapter 10 (starts 10-10) -Training requirements for Cooperating Foresters. DNR collaborates with Wisconsin Woodland Owner Association and UW-Extension to offer meetings and field days to offer landowner training.</p> <p>Tax Law Handbook Chapter 21, p.p. 21-8 references Group training and education requirements.</p> <p>Training records for personnel, CPW and Cooperating Foresters were reviewed and documented. Documents reviewed were observed on SharePoint site. Trainings were conducted on 7/24-25, 2019 and 12/5/2019. See Minor CAR 2021.4.</p>	
<p><b>2. Requirements for Group Members</b></p>	
2.1. A declaration of consent shall be signed by each member wishing to join a group. In the declaration, the member shall: a) commit to follow the applicable Forest Stewardship Standard and the Group Rules; b) declare that the management units they are bringing into the group are not included in another FSC certificate; c) agree to allow the Group Entity, the certification body, FSC and ASI to fulfill their responsibilities; d) agree that the Group Entity will be the main contact for certification.  <i>NOTE: The declaration of consent does not have to be an individual document. It can be part of a contract or any other document (e.g., meeting minutes) that specifies the relationship agreed between the member and the Group Entity.</i>  <i>NOTE 2: For Communities, the declaration may also be some other form of agreement such as assembly minutes, forest management contracts, tribal agreements for Indigenous communities, recordings of interviews in case of oral agreements, etc.</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> C <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NC
2.1.1. The declaration shall be signed either by the group member or by their representative (e.g., Resource Manager or consultant).	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> NC

<p>2.1.2. When the member is represented by another party (e.g., Resource Manager or consultant), the declaration shall also include a verifiable agreement (legal or otherwise) between the member and their representative.</p> <p><i>NOTE: The requirement for the agreement to be verifiable means that the representatives must be able to prove that they have been authorized by the member to act on their behalf.</i></p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> C  <input type="checkbox"/> NC  <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NA; this situation does not occur within the group(s)</p>
<p><b>Evidence Section 2:</b> Confirmed via review of Forest Tax Handbook Chapter 21 and membership record files for MFL order numbers selected for evaluation.                  See Minor CAR 2021.5.</p>	
<p><b>3. Division of Responsibilities</b></p>	
<p>3.1 The Group Entity can divide the responsibilities among the different actors in the group (e.g., Group Entity, members, contractors, etc.).</p> <p><i>NOTE: The Group Entity is free to determine at what level implementation of requirements is carried out as long as conformance is demonstrated for each management unit (as per Clause 4.1).</i></p>	<p><i>This indicator is optional; evaluation of conformity to division of responsibilities occurs under 3.2</i></p>
<p>3.2 The Group Entity shall define and document the division of key responsibilities within the group, as described in Clause 3.1.</p>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C  <input type="checkbox"/> NC</p>
<p>3.3. <b>[Resource Manager and Resource Management Unit only]</b> Some or all members of a group may choose to transfer the responsibility to ensure conformance with the applicable Forest Stewardship Standard in their management unit(s) to one Resource Manager, and may be grouped into one Resource Management Unit (RMU).</p>	<p><i>This indicator is optional; evaluation of conformity occurs under 3.3.1</i></p>
<p>3.3.1. <b>[Resource Manager and Resource Management Unit only]</b> The Resource Manager of an RMU shall assume the responsibility to conform with the applicable Forest Stewardship Standard and to follow the Group Rules on behalf of all members within their RMU.</p> <p><i>NOTE: An RMU can include all members of a group or a sub-set of members within a group. There may be more than one RMU within one group.</i>  <i>NOTE 2: Members of an RMU may implement some management activities in their management units, as long as the responsibility to ensure that there is conformance with the applicable Forest Stewardship Standard remains with the Resource Manager.</i></p>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C  <input type="checkbox"/> NC  <input type="checkbox"/> NA; not an RMU</p>
<p><b>Evidence Section 3: Group Entity responsibilities:</b>                  Forest Tax Handbook-                  Group Manager 21-4                  DNR Service Foresters 21-4                  Cooperating Foresters 21-5</p> <p><b>SLIMF Group member responsibilities:</b>                  Forest Tax Handbook- Group Members 21-6</p>	
<p><b>4. Conformance across management units</b></p>	
<p>4.1. Conformance with all requirements of the applicable Forest Stewardship Standard shall be demonstrated for each management unit within the scope of the FSC FM/CoC or CW/FM group certificate, except as provided for in Clause 4.2.</p>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C  <input type="checkbox"/> NC</p>
<p>4.2. Conformance with area thresholds in the applicable Forest Stewardship Standard with regards to Criterion 6.5, can be demonstrated across management units rather than at the level of the individual management unit for FM/CoC SLIMF management units.</p>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C  <input type="checkbox"/> NC  <input type="checkbox"/> NA; does not have SLIMF MUs</p>

<p>4.2.1. <b>[Mixed SLIMF and non-SLIMF groups only]</b> In groups with SLIMF and non-SLIMF management units, the non-SLIMF management units may support SLIMF management units to conform with such requirement, partially or fully.</p> <p><i>NOTE: Non-SLIMF management units always need to conform with Criterion 6.5 in each management unit.</i></p>	<input type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> NC <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NA; not a mixed SLIMF & non-SLIMF group
<p><b>Evidence Section 4:</b> Confirmed via review of Forest Tax Handbook Chapter 21, 2021 MFL Internal Audit Report, and individual MFL group member records reviewed for sample selected.</p>	
<p><b>5. Group Size</b></p>	
<p>5.1. The Group Entity shall determine, based on its human and technical capacities, the maximum group size that it can manage, in terms of:</p> <p>a) number of group members;                  b) individual management unit size; and/or                  c) total forest area and distribution.</p>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> NC
<p>5.2. The Group Entity shall develop a group management system (as per Part II of this standard) that allows the continuous and effective management of all members of the group.</p>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> NC
<p><b>Evidence Section 5:</b> Confirmed via review of Forest Tax Handbook Chapter 21 and 2021 MFL Internal Audit Report.</p>	
<p><b>6. Multinational Groups</b></p>	
<p>6.1. FM/CoC and CW/FM groups shall only be established at a national level, except in the cases described in clause 6.2.</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> NC <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NA; not a multinational group
<p>6.2. In cases where homogeneous conditions between countries allow for an effective and credible multinational implementation of the group management system, the Group Entity shall request formal approval from FSC International through their certification body to allow certification of such a group.</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> NC <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NA, not a multinational group
<p><b>Evidence Section 6:</b></p>	
<p><b>7. Adding new members to the group</b></p>	
<p>7.1 The Group Entity shall evaluate every applicant who wishes to join the group and ensure that there are no major non-conformities with the applicable Forest Stewardship Standard, nor with membership requirements, before adding the new member to the group.</p>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> NC
<p>7.1.1. The Group Entity shall conduct a field evaluation to conform with Clause 7.1, except for applicants meeting the SLIMF eligibility criteria or the definition of Communities in this standard, whose evaluation may be done through a desk audit.</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> NC <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A; no non-SLIMF group members added
<p>7.1.2. When a member wants to move from one group to another group managed by the same Group Entity, the Group Entity shall implement this evaluation to allow for the move.</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> NC <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A; no such movements
<p><b>Evidence Section 7:</b> Confirmed via review of Forest Tax Handbook Chapter 21, Section 20-11.</p>	
<p><b>8. Provision of information to members</b></p>	
<p>8.1. The Group Entity shall provide each member with information, or access to information, about how the group works. The information shall include:</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> C <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NC

<p>a) The Group Rules and the applicable Forest Stewardship Standard, and an explanation of how to conform with them. The Group Entity shall provide access to other applicable normative documents upon request;</p> <p>b) An explanation of the certification body’s evaluation process;</p> <p>c) An explanation that the certification body, FSC and ASI have the right to access the members' management unit(s) and documentation;</p> <p>d) An explanation that the certification body will publish a public summary of their evaluation report; ASI may publish a public summary of their evaluation; and FSC will include information about the group in its database;</p> <p>e) Explanation of any costs associated with joining the group.</p>	
<p>8.1.1. When the Group Entity provides members with a summary of these items, it shall make available the full documentation upon request from the members.</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> C</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> NC</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NA; only full documentation provided</p>
<p>8.1.2. The information shall be presented in a way that is understandable for members.</p>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> NC</p>
<p><b>Evidence Section 8:</b> Confirmed via review of Forest Tax Handbook Chapter 21. See Minor 2021.6</p>	
<p><b>9. Group Rules</b></p>	
<p>9.1. The Group shall develop, implement and keep updated written rules to manage the group covering all applicable requirements of this standard, according to the scale and complexity of the group, including:</p> <p>a) Rules setting out who can become a member of the group;</p> <p>b) Rules setting out how new members are included in the group;</p> <p>c) Rules setting out when members can be suspended or removed from the group;</p> <p>d) An internal monitoring system for the group;</p> <p>e) A process to resolve corrective action requests issued internally and by the certification body, including timelines and implications if any of the corrective actions are not solved;</p> <p>f) A procedure to solve complaints from stakeholders to group members;</p> <p>g) A system for tracking and tracing the FSC-certified forest products produced by the group members up to the defined ‘forest gate’, in conformance with Criterion 8.5 of the applicable Forest Stewardship Standard;</p> <p>h) Requirements related to marketing or sales of products;</p> <p>i) Rules setting out how to use the FSC trademarks and the trademark license code.</p> <p><i>NOTE: The reference to the scale and complexity of the group refers to the fact that larger and more complex groups, with higher associated risk, might require more comprehensive procedures to ensure the protection of environmental and social values, such as High Conservation Values, Indigenous Peoples, Rare and Threatened Species, etc. Smaller groups, with less associated risk, may develop simpler procedures, but still need to develop all the mentioned Group Rules.</i></p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> C</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> NC</p>
<p><b>Evidence Section 9:</b> Procedures are listed within Forest Tax Handbook.</p> <p>a) and b): Forest Tax Handbook Chapter 21, Chapter 21-5, and Chapter 22-2.</p> <p>c) Forest Tax Handbook Chapter 21-9 and 21-14.</p> <p>d) Forest Tax Handbook Chapter 21 and annual MFL Internal Audit Report</p> <p>e) Forest Tax Handbook Chapter 21-9, 21-10 and 21-14.</p> <p>f) Forest Tax Handbook Chapter 21</p> <p>g) Forest Tax Handbook Chapter 21, p.p. 21-13. (note: FSC IGI do not yet apply to group)</p>	



h) Forest Tax Handbook Chapter 21. The Forest Tax Law Cutting Notice form (Form 2450-032 (R 10-16) <http://dnr.wi.gov/files/PDF/forms/2400/2450-032.pdf>), requires that the form being submitted is identified as either an MFL or a FCL property per a checkbox on page 1. On page 2 and subsequent volume reporting pages, the DNR's Group Certificate Numbers are listed at the top of the page along with a checkbox indicating if the lands are certified or not. The Order Number is also required to be written on the form for proper reference. When reviewing CNs, WIDNR Foresters are required to ensure lands listed on the CN are either part of the Certified Group or not, by checking the individual order number in WisFIRS, following which they can correct any errors at this point.

i) Group Member Tip Sheet (2021) states the following: *If you are planning to use ATFS® and FSC® logos, please email MFLForestCertification@wisconsin.gov to request a review of your use of the FSC logo. The DNR must obtain approval from the certifying bodies for all uses of the FSC logo.*

**10. Group Records**

<p>10.1. The Group Entity shall maintain up-to-date records covering all applicable requirements of this standard and the applicable Forest Stewardship Standard. These shall include:</p> <p>a) A list of the members of the group, including for each member:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. name and contact details;</li> <li>ii. the date of entering the group and, where relevant, the date of leaving the group, and the reason for leaving;</li> <li>iii. number and area of management units included in the group;</li> <li>iv. geographical location (e.g., coordinates) of each management unit included in the group, supported by a map or documentation;</li> <li>v. type of forest ownership per member (e.g., privately owned; state managed; communal management; etc.);</li> <li>vi. main products;</li> <li>vii. the sub-certificate codes where these have been issued.</li> </ul> <p>b) Any records of training provided to staff and/or group members;</p> <p>c) Declaration of consent from all group members, as per Clause 2.2;</p> <p>d) Documentation and records regarding recommended practices for forest management (e.g., silvicultural systems);</p> <p>e) Records demonstrating the implementation of the group management system. These shall include records of internal monitoring, non-conformities identified in such monitoring, actions taken to correct any identified non-conformity, etc.;</p> <p>f) Records of the actual or estimated annual harvesting volume of the group and actual annual FSC sales volume of the group.</p> <p><i>NOTE: The Group Entity must fulfil data protection responsibilities when gathering this information.</i></p> <p><i>NOTE: The amount of records maintained centrally by the Group Entity may vary from case to case. In order to reduce costs and increase the efficiency of evaluations by the certification body, and subsequent monitoring by FSC and/or ASI, records should be stored centrally or be accessible digitally whenever possible.</i></p>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C  <input type="checkbox"/> NC</p>
<p>10.2. The Group Entity shall retain group records for at least five (5) years.</p>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C  <input type="checkbox"/> NC</p>
<p>10.3. In countries where FSC International has determined that there is a high risk of false claims involving material harvested from groups, the Group Entity shall maintain</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> C  <input type="checkbox"/> NC</p>

<p>up-to-date records of the harvesting and FSC sales volumes of each management unit in the group.</p> <p><i>NOTE: For management units in the group where the harvesting and sales are carried out by a contractor, the Group Entity should verify that the volumes sold by the contractor correspond to the estimated volumes bought from its group. For this purpose, the contract between the forest owner and the contractor should include a requirement for the contractor to communicate to the forest owner and the Group Entity the actual (measured) volume harvested and sold.</i></p>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NA; FSC has not determined high risk</p>										
<p><b>Evidence Section 10:</b> Records maintained in forestry offices in each County. All required records were available and observed on MFL SharePoint. MFL Property Files are maintained on <a href="#">MFL web page</a> within DNR website.</p>											
<p><b>11. Internal monitoring</b></p>											
<p>11.1. The Group Entity shall implement a documented internal monitoring system that includes at least the following:</p> <p>a) A description of the internal monitoring system, sufficient to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. make sure there is continued conformance with the applicable Forest Stewardship Standard in the management units in the group;</li> <li>ii. check the adequacy of the group management system and the Group Entity’s overall performance.</li> </ul> <p>b) Regular (at least annual) monitoring visits to a sample of management units within the group;</p> <p>c) Regular (at least annual) analysis of the results of the internal monitoring to improve the group management system.</p>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> NC</p>										
<p>11.2 The Group Entity shall select the requirements from the applicable Forest Stewardship Standard to be monitored at each internal evaluation according to the scale, intensity and risk.</p> <p><i>NOTE: The Group Entity may focus their monitoring during a particular internal evaluation on specific elements of the applicable Forest Stewardship Standard, with the provision that all aspects of the Forest Stewardship Standard are evaluated for the group, through the sampled management units, during the period of validity of the certificate.</i></p>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> NC</p>										
<p>11.3 The Group Entity shall specify what constitutes an active management unit for the group and justify the classification of activities as active or inactive management.</p>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> NC</p>										
<p>11.4 The minimum sample of management units to be visited annually for internal monitoring shall be calculated according to this table:</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="149 1415 971 1604"> <thead> <tr> <th>Size Class</th> <th>Internal Monitoring</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Active management units &gt; 1,000 ha</td> <td><math>x = \sqrt{y}</math></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Active management unit <math>\leq 1,000</math>ha; SLIMF management units and Communities</td> <td><math>x = 0.6 * \sqrt{y}</math></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Inactive management units</td> <td><math>x = 0.1 * \sqrt{y}</math></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Management units in Resource Management Units</td> <td>At the discretion of the Group Entity</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Where:  x = number of management units to be sampled;  y = number of active or inactive management units within each category.</p>	Size Class	Internal Monitoring	Active management units > 1,000 ha	$x = \sqrt{y}$	Active management unit $\leq 1,000$ ha; SLIMF management units and Communities	$x = 0.6 * \sqrt{y}$	Inactive management units	$x = 0.1 * \sqrt{y}$	Management units in Resource Management Units	At the discretion of the Group Entity	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> NC</p>
Size Class	Internal Monitoring										
Active management units > 1,000 ha	$x = \sqrt{y}$										
Active management unit $\leq 1,000$ ha; SLIMF management units and Communities	$x = 0.6 * \sqrt{y}$										
Inactive management units	$x = 0.1 * \sqrt{y}$										
Management units in Resource Management Units	At the discretion of the Group Entity										
<p>11.5 The number of units calculated (X) using Table 1 shall be rounded up to the nearest whole number.</p>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> NC</p>										
<p>11.6 Inactive management units may be monitored remotely if the necessary information is available (e.g., remote sensing, digital imagery, phone interviews, documents proving payments/sales/provision of material and training).</p>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C  <input type="checkbox"/> NC  <input type="checkbox"/> NA; does not use remote monitoring</p>										

<p>11.7 The Group Entity may lower the minimum sample defined in Clause 11.4 based on the regular analysis of the results of the monitoring as per Clause 11.1 c).</p>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C  <input type="checkbox"/> NC  <input type="checkbox"/> NA; minimum sample not altered</p>
<p>11.8 The Group Entity shall increase the calculated minimum sample when high risks are identified (e.g., unresolved substantiated land tenure or use rights disputes, High Conservation Values (HCVs) are threatened, substantiated stakeholder complaints, etc.).</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> C  <input type="checkbox"/> NC  <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NA; high risks not identified</p>
<p>11.9 The Group Entity should visit different management units during the internal monitoring from the ones previously visited by the certification body, unless there are pending corrective actions, complaints or risk factors that require a revisit of the same units.</p>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C  <input type="checkbox"/> NC</p>
<p>11.10 The Group Entity shall issue corrective action requests to address non-conformities identified during the internal monitoring and follow up their implementation.</p> <p><i>NOTE: Non-conformities identified at the level of a group member may result in non-conformities at the Group Entity level when the non-conformities are determined to be the result of the Group Entity's performance.</i></p>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C  <input type="checkbox"/> NC</p>
<p><b>Evidence Section 11:</b> Confirmed via review of annual MFL Internal Audit Report.</p>	
<p><b>12. Chain of Custody</b></p>	
<p>12.1. The Group Entity shall implement a tracking and tracing system for FSC-certified products, to ensure that they are not mixed with non-certified material.</p>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C  <input type="checkbox"/> NC  <input type="checkbox"/> NA, no sales of FSC-certified material</p>
<p>12.2. The Group Entity shall ensure that all invoices for sales of FSC-certified material include the required information (as per the applicable Forest Stewardship Standard).</p>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C  <input type="checkbox"/> NC  <input type="checkbox"/> NA, no sales of FSC-certified material</p>
<p>12.3. The Group Entity shall ensure that all uses of the FSC trademarks are approved by their certification body in advance.</p>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C  <input type="checkbox"/> NC  <input type="checkbox"/> NA; no use of FSC TMs</p>
<p>12.4. The Group Entity shall not issue any kind of certificates to their members that could be confused with FSC certificates.</p> <p><i>NOTE: To prove that certain management units are covered by the group certificate, the member can use the list of the members of the group or a member certificate issued by the certification body. It is important that none of these documents are confused with the FSC certificate of the group held by the Group Entity.</i></p>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C  <input type="checkbox"/> NC</p>
<p><b>Evidence Section 12:</b> The approved Cutting Notice and Cutting Report of Wood Products from Forest Crop and Managed Forest Lands is competed and returned to Wisconsin DNR with the volume of products harvested following completion of the harvesting. Review of sales volumes were provided for review. Review of procedures in Tax Law Handbook Chapter 21 Page 21-13 describes procedures for collecting data. By law, the timber on MFL timber must be segregated from non-MFL timber. Review of one site visited confirmed the contract of sale included only MFL FSC certified wood with claim of FSC 100%.</p>	

Group entity does not issue any kind of certificates to their members that could be confused with FSC certificates per review of group records cited in this checklist and/or other evidence:  no other evidence)

### Part III (Optional): Inclusion of Forestry Contractors in Groups NA, no forestry contractors)

REQUIREMENT	C/NC/NA
<b>13. Requirements for forestry contractors</b>	
<p>13.1. Forestry contractors <b>may</b> only join an FSC FM/CoC group.</p> <p><i>NOTE: Forestry contractors can join more than one group, and operate under the FSC group certificate(s) but only in the management units of the group(s) that they have joined.</i></p> <p><i>NOTE 2: Forestry contractors can have a separate CoC certificate to operate in management units outside the group.</i></p> <p><i>NOTE 3: Upon completion of the ongoing revision of standard FSC-STD-30-010 V2-0 FSC Controlled Wood Standard for Forest Management Enterprises, this clause will be reviewed to consider the possibility for forestry contractors to also join CW/FM groups.</i></p>	<p><i>This indicator is optional; evaluation of conformity occurs under 13.3.</i></p>
<p>13.2. The Group Entity may allocate responsibilities to conform with the applicable Forest Stewardship Standard to forestry contractors in the group, as per Clause 3.1.</p>	<p><i>This indicator is optional; evaluation of conformity occurs under 3.1 and 13.3</i></p>
<p>13.3. A contract, including a declaration of consent, shall be signed by each forestry contractor wishing to join a group. In the contract, the forestry contractor shall:</p> <p>a) commit to follow the applicable Forest Stewardship Standard and the Group Rules, and to ensure that any sub-contractors will follow them as well;</p> <p>b) agree to allow the Group Entity, the certification body, FSC and ASI to fulfil their responsibilities;</p> <p>c) agree that the Group Entity will be the main contact for certification;</p> <p>d) include the agreed terms between the forestry contractor and the Group Entity.</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> C</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> NC</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A, private landowners only, no contractors under certificate</p>
<b>Evidence Section 13:</b>	
<b>14. Group Rules for contractors</b>	
<p>14.1. The Group Entity shall adapt the Group Rules to include forestry contractors.</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> C</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> NC</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A, private landowners only, no contractors under certificate</p>

<p>14.2. The Group Entity shall define the process for forestry contractors to report to the Group Entity the type (e.g., harvesting, planting, management plan development), location (management units of the group) and outcomes (e.g., volume harvested, number of plants planted, documents developed) of their operations.</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> C  <input type="checkbox"/> NC  <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A, private landowners only, no contractors under certificate</p>
<p><b>Evidence Section 14:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Refer to section 9 for evidence for 14.1 and 14.2:</p>	
<p><b>15. Evaluation of new forestry contractors</b></p>	
<p>15.1. The Group Entity shall evaluate each forestry contractor applying to join the group, prior to approving the application, through:  15.1.1. An on-site evaluation of an operation in a sample management unit; and/or  15.1.2. A verification that the contractor has sufficient qualifications or knowledge to operate according to the applicable Forest Stewardship Standard and fulfil their responsibilities within the group.</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> C, applies 15.1.1 and 15.1.2 or;  <input type="checkbox"/> C, applies 15.1.1 or;  <input type="checkbox"/> C, applies 15.1.2  <input type="checkbox"/> NC  <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A, private landowners only, no contractors under certificate</p>
<p>15.2. When a forestry contractor wants to move from one group to another group managed by the same Group Entity, the Group Entity shall implement this evaluation to allow for the move.</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> C  <input type="checkbox"/> NC  <input type="checkbox"/> NA; this situation has not occurred  <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A, private landowners only, no contractors under certificate</p>
<p><b>Evidence Section 15:</b> This certificate does not include contractors.</p>	
<p><b>16. Records regarding contractors</b></p>	
<p>16.1. When forestry contractors are included in the group, the Group Entity shall maintain up-to-date records, including:  a) Name and contact details;  b) The date of entering the group and, where relevant, the date of leaving the group, and the reason for leaving;  c) Any records of training provided by the Group Entity;  d) The results of the forestry contractors’ monitoring through the sampled management units (Clause 17.1) and the targeted internal evaluation (Clause 18.1);  e) Records of the harvesting and sales volumes, at least annually, if applicable, resulting from operations carried out by contractors within the group certificate.</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> C  <input type="checkbox"/> NC  <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A, private landowners only, no contractors under certificate</p>
<p><b>Evidence Section 16:</b></p>	
<p><b>17. Internal monitoring with contractors in the group</b></p>	

<p>17.1. In management units where outsourced services are carried out only by forestry contractors in the group, the Group Entity shall follow Section 11 of this standard, but instead of using Table 1 in clause 11.4, the minimum sample of management units to be visited annually for internal monitoring shall be calculated according to Table 2:</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="196 405 824 527"> <thead> <tr> <th>Activity in the management units</th> <th>Internal monitoring</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Active management units</td> <td><math>x = 0.6 * \sqrt{y}</math></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Inactive management units</td> <td><math>x = 0.1 * \sqrt{y}</math></td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Where:  x = number of management units to be sampled;  y = number of active or inactive management units within each category.</p>	Activity in the management units	Internal monitoring	Active management units	$x = 0.6 * \sqrt{y}$	Inactive management units	$x = 0.1 * \sqrt{y}$	<input type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> NC <input type="checkbox"/> N/A; not all outsourced services are carried out by forestry contractors <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A, private landowners only, no contractors under certificate
Activity in the management units	Internal monitoring						
Active management units	$x = 0.6 * \sqrt{y}$						
Inactive management units	$x = 0.1 * \sqrt{y}$						
<p><b>Evidence Section 17:</b></p>							
<p><b>18. Internal monitoring of contractors</b></p>							
<p>18.1. The Group Entity shall implement a targeted internal evaluation of all forestry contractors included in the group at least once during the validity of the certificate.</p> <p><i>NOTE: This targeted internal evaluation is additional to the internal monitoring of the contractors' performance through the management units sampled annually (as per Clause 17.1). The objective of this evaluation is to ensure that contractors are adequately fulfilling the responsibilities that the Group Entity has allocated to them (e.g., planning, evaluation of new members, internal monitoring, development of documents).</i></p>	<input type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> NC <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A, private landowners only, no contractors under certificate						
<p>18.1.1 The Group Entity shall increase this internal evaluation intensity when high risks are identified (e.g., recurrent non-conformities by the contractor, substantiated stakeholder complaints about the contractor's performance).</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> NC <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A, private landowners only, no contractors under certificate						
<p>18.2 The Group Entity shall issue corrective action requests to address non-conformities identified during the monitoring of the forestry contractors and follow up their implementation.</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> NC <input type="checkbox"/> N/A; no NC identified <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A, private landowners only, no contractors under certificate						
<p><b>Evidence Section 18:</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A, private landowners only, no contractors under certificate</p>							
<p><b>19. Contractors' Chain of Custody</b></p>							
<p>19.1 Forestry contractors shall have records of the annual harvesting volume and annual FSC sales volume of their harvesting and sales activities covered by the certificate of the group.</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> NC <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A, private landowners only, no contractors under certificate						

<p>19.2 Such volume records shall be provided to the Group Entity.</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> C  <input type="checkbox"/> NC  <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A, private landowners only, no contractors under certificate</p>
<p>19.3 Forestry contractors shall ensure that all invoices for sales of FSC-certified material include the required information (as per the applicable Forest Stewardship Standard) and provide a copy of these invoices to the Group Entity.</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> C  <input type="checkbox"/> NC  <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A, private landowners only, no contractors under certificate</p>
<p>19.4 When selling FSC-certified material, the contractor shall use in the invoices the certificate code of the group from which the material comes from.</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> C  <input type="checkbox"/> NC  <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A, private landowners only, no contractors under certificate</p>
<p><b>Evidence Section 19:</b>                  List evidence or check box below if table has been completed:  <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A, private landowners only, no contractors under certificate  <input type="checkbox"/> <b>See completed table in this report, “SCS FSC Chain of Custody Indicators for Forest Management Enterprises”</b></p>	

**Group Management Program Members**

As of 6/11/2020



mflCertifiedGroupMembers.xlsx