



# Surveillance Audit Report

2010-2014 Sustainable Forestry Initiative® Standard

September 13, 2013

**A. Wisconsin DNR County Forest System**

**FRS #: 1Y943**

**B. Scope:**

No Change       Changed

SFI Program Objectives 1-7 and 14-20 of the SFI 2010-2014 Standard for land management for participating counties within the Wisconsin County Forest Program, encompassing approximately 2.2 million acres of forestland in the following 25 counties: Ashland, Barron, Bayfield, Burnett, Douglas, Eau Claire, Florence, Forest, Iron, Jackson, Juneau, Langlade, Lincoln, Marathon, Marinette, Oconto, Oneida, Polk, Price, Rusk, Sawyer, Taylor, Vilas, Washburn, and Wood. The SFI Certification Number is NSF-SFIS-1Y943.

**C. NSF Audit Team:**

Lead Auditor: Mike Ferrucci    Auditors: JoAnn Hanowski (David Wager, SCS Lead)

**D. Audit Dates: August 14-16, 2013**

**E. Reference Documentation:**

2010-2014 SFI Standard®

Company SFI Documentation:      Rev. Level:      Date Revised:

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

- Acceptable with no nonconformances; or
- Acceptable with minor nonconformances to be corrected before the next scheduled audit visit;
- Not acceptable with one or two major nonconformances - corrective action required;
- Several major nonconformances - certification may be canceled without immediate action

**G. Changes to Operations or to the SFI Standard:**

Are there any significant changes in operations, procedures, specifications, FRS, etc. from the previous visit?  Yes  No If yes, provide brief description of the changes:

**H. Other Issues Reviewed:**

- Yes  No Public report from previous audit(s) is posted on SFB web site.
- Yes  No  N.A. SFI and other relevant logos or labels are utilized correctly. If no, document on CAR forms.

**Yes**  **No** The program is a Multi-site Organization:  
*Multi-Site Organization: A n organization having an identified central function (hereafter referred to as a central office — but not necessarily the headquarters of the organization) at which certain activities are planned, controlled or managed and a network of local offices or branches (sites) at which such activities are fully or partially carried out.*

Source: SFI Requirements, Section 9, Appendix: Audits of Multi-Site Organizations

IAF-MD1 or  The alternate approach outlined in SFI Requirements, Section 9, Appendix 1 was assessed by NSF’s Lead Auditor during the certification audit.

**Yes**  **No** Concerns/ issues are listed in the checklist (to be reviewed by NSF Forestry Program Manager)

**I. Corrective Action Requests:**

- Corrective Action Plan is not required.
- Corrective Action Plan is required within sixty days of this visit (for Minor Nonconformances). CARs will be verified during the next Surveillance Audit.
- Corrective Action Plan is required within thirty days of this visit (for Major Nonconformances). The auditor will make arrangements to verify the corrective action has been effectively implemented.

At the conclusion of this Surveillance Audit visit, the following CARs remain open:  
 MAJOR(S): 0 MINOR(S): 0 Opportunities for Improvement (OFIs) identified: 1

**J. Future Audit Schedule:**

Follow-up or Surveillance Audits are required by the 2010-2014 Sustainable Forestry Initiative Standard ®. The next Surveillance Audit is scheduled for August 2014. The assigned lead auditor will contact you by February, 2014 to reconfirm and begin preparations. Another recertification must be completed within 3 years of the issue of this certificate.

For multi-site organizations the sampling plan requires audits of the central function and at least 3 of 25 sites each year for Surveillance Audits and at least 4 sites for recertification.

**Appendices:**

- Appendix I: Surveillance Notification Letter and Audit Schedule
- Appendix II: Public Surveillance Audit Report
- Appendix III: Audit Matrix
- Appendix IV: Audit Site Notes and Participants
- Appendix IV: SFI Reporting Form (modest changes listed in text, not on form)

**Appendix I**



**Surveillance Notification Letter  
and Audit Schedule**



July 23, 2013

Joe Schwantes, County & Public Forest Specialist  
Public & Private Forestry Section - Bureau of Forest Management  
Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources  
101 S Webster Street – FR/4  
Madison WI 53707-7921

Re: Confirmation of SFI and FSC Surveillance Audits, Wisconsin County Forest System

Dear Mr. Schwantes:

As previously arranged, we are scheduled to conduct the Surveillance Audit for the Wisconsin County Forest System against the SFI 2010-2014 Standard on August 14- 16 as provided on the attached itinerary.

A sample of 4 of the 25 participating counties will be visited by the audit team as described in the audit plan below. We have completed the process for selecting field audit sites, and the Forest Administrators in the four counties selected for audits are finalizing the field visit itineraries.

In addition, the central office requirements will be reviewed during the opening meeting to be held from 8:00 to 10 am in the Bayfield County Forestry Office, as well as at other times during the course of the audit as time is available (often while traveling to and from the selected counties each day). Records and other information pertaining to the centralized aspects of the program should be brought to the opening meeting or otherwise made available to the SFI Lead Auditor Mike Ferrucci. The NSF checklist for SFI 2010-2014 Standard including the multi-site requirements is included with this revised audit plan to facilitate your preparations.

This is a partial review of your SFI Program to confirm that it continue to be in conformance with the requirements of the SFI 2010-2014 Standard. The focus will be on SFI requirements for a multi-site group as well as on assessing most of the forest management requirements within Objectives 1 through 7, and issues relating to science and research (Objective 15), training (Objective 16), Public Land Management Responsibilities (Objective 18), and as well as management review (Objective 20). During the audit I will also review any efforts made to address the three “Opportunities for Improvement” that were identified in the 2012 audit.

The audit team will consist of Mike Ferrucci, NSF-ISR Lead Auditor, Dave Wager, SCS Lead auditor, and JoAnn Hanowski, Team Auditor. During the audit we will follow the audit protocols described in the NSF procedures. The audit team will also conduct an FSC audit. Details of that process are available from SCS (an FSC Audit Plan “supplement” will be provided by SCS).

The enclosed tentative schedule (previously agreed to) should be reviewed by all participants. It can be adapted either in advance or on-site to accommodate any special circumstances, particularly the locations of actively harvested sites. If you have any questions regarding this planned audit, please contact either of us.

### **Requirements**

The requirements of the Sustainable Forestry Initiative® Standard, 2010-2014 Edition will be used in the audit; no indicators were modified. As with the initial certification the scope includes timberland only, as the Wisconsin County Forest Program's SFI programs do not include procurement operations. Several of the SFI requirements are outside of the scope of the county programs and are excluded from the scope of the SFI Certification Audit as follows:

- Indicator 2.1.4 Plantings of exotic tree species
- Indicator 3.2.5 Alternatives to BMPs (BMPs are in place)
- Objectives 8 – 13 Procurement Requirements

### **Scope Statement:**

The sustainable forestry activities and land management operations of participating counties within the Wisconsin County Forest System, encompassing approximately **2,193,294** acres of forestland in the following 25 counties: Ashland, Barron, Bayfield, Burnett, Douglas, Eau Claire, Florence, Forest, Iron, Jackson, Juneau, Langlade, Lincoln, Marathon, Marinette, Oconto, Oneida, Polk, Price, Rusk, Sawyer, Taylor, Vilas, Washburn, and Wood. The SFI Certification Number is NSF-SFIS-1Y943.

Please contact me if there are questions.

Sincerely yours,



Mike Ferrucci, SFI Program Manager, NSF-ISR  
[mferrucci@iforest.com](mailto:mferrucci@iforest.com) Office and Mobile: 203-887-9248

## Key Contact Information

Joe Schwantes  
County & Public Forest Specialist  
Public & Private Forestry Section - Bureau of Forest Management  
Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources  
101 S Webster Street – FR/4 (PO Box 7921)  
Madison WI 53707-7921  
phone: 608-264-9217      fax: 608-266-8576  
[joseph.schwantes@wisconsin.gov](mailto:joseph.schwantes@wisconsin.gov)

Audit Team- cell phone numbers  
Mike Ferrucci: 203-887-9248  
Dave Wager: (510) 708-0397  
JoAnn Hanowski: 802-922-2428

Wisconsin DNR - cell phone numbers  
Mark Heyde: 608-220-9780  
Joe Schwantes: 715-330-1591  
Chris Martin: Will not attend.

Wisconsin County Forests Association (WCFA) – cell phone numbers  
Jeff Barkley:  
Jane Severt: 715-612-0150

## Audit Schedule

Mike Ferrucci will serve as the lead SFI auditor, Dave Wager will serve as the lead FSC auditor, and Joann Hanowski will assist with both standards. The audit team will be based out of Hayward for the week, traveling to the selected counties each day with the following schedule:

### Tuesday, August 12:

Auditors travel to Hayward.

Hotel - Reservations for audit team have been made and confirmation emails sent to audit team on 7/25/13. Rooms are being held under DNR credit card – but auditors should utilize their own credit cards when checking in/out.

**Comfort Suites** (715) 634-0700

**15586 County Road B**

**Hayward, WI 54843-2665**

Mike Ferrucci will obtain a mid-size rental vehicle capable of holding 5 people. This can be used each day to travel from Hayward to the selected county. At least one day a second vehicle will be needed. Heyde/Schwantes have obtained two “woods-ready” WiDNR vehicles.

Day	Monday 8.12.13	Tuesday 8.13.13	Wednesday 8.14.13	Thursday 8.15.13	Friday 8.16.13
Tasks	-	Travel - Audit team arrives in Hayward	8-10am: Opening Meeting; Group Requirements 10 am- 4:30 pm Audit <b>Bayfield County</b>	8am-4:30 pm Audit <b>Ashland &amp; Barron Counties</b>	8am-2 pm: Audit <b>Douglas County</b> 2:30 - 4 pm: Prepare for closing 4 - 5 pm: Closing Meeting

**Ashland County - Thursday 8.15.13, 8am-4:30 pm**

Chris Hoffman, Ashland County Forest Administrator/Trail Coordinator  
304 W Michigan Street, PO Box 155, Butternut, WI 54514  
715-769-3777 715-661-0209 Cell

Auditors: Dave Wager and JoAnn Hanowski

8 am Opening meeting and discussions  
9 am Finalize field arrangements  
9:15 Leave for field  
Noon Lunch in field (arranged by county)  
4:15 Daily closing briefing (informal, may be done in field)  
4:30 Audit team leaves Ashland County for Hayward

Special sites: Planting site (only one done in past 2 decades); county-maintained roads; hunter-walking trails; any sites protected for cultural, historic, or ecological reasons that are near the selected timber sales.

Other:

- Audit team will review the training file for the “newest” Ashland County forester
- Planting records, including herbicide use records
- Only one copy of the harvesting contact is needed by the audit team
- Additional information about data request will be provided by Joe Schwantes

**Barron County - Thursday 8.15.13, 8am-4:30 pm**

John Cisek, Barron County Forest Administrator  
Barron County Government Center, 335 E. Monroe Ave., Barron, WI 54812  
715-537-6296 Eau Claire Office (Phone & FAX) 715-835-6240

Auditor: Mike Ferrucci

8 am Opening meeting and discussions  
9 am Finalize field arrangements  
9:15 Leave for field  
Noon Lunch in field (arranged by county)  
4:15 Daily closing briefing (informal, may be done in field)  
4:30 Audit team leaves Barron County for Hayward

**Special sites:**

County-forest logging roads are gated; snowmobile trails; Peat land protected area; Talus slope/rock slide or any other sites protected for cultural, historic, or ecological reasons that are near the selected timber sales?

**Other:**

- If there are harvests occurring on the day of the audit, the team should visit 1
- Audit team will review the training file for the “John Cisek, Barron County
- Only one copy of the harvesting contact is needed by the audit team
- Additional information about data requested will be provided by Joe Schwantes
- John will send Mike the link to the 15-Year Management plan (on-line).

## Bayfield County - Wednesday 8.14.13

Jason Bodine, Forestry & Parks Administrator, Bayfield County  
117 East 5th St. Washburn, WI 54891 Office: (715) 373-6114 Cell: (715) 209-5211

Auditors: Dave Wager, Mike Ferrucci, and JoAnn Hanowski

Jason Bodine will arrange a conference room within the Bayfield County Courthouse

8-9:30 ~~40~~am: Opening Meeting ...Group Requirements

9:30 ~~40~~ am Bayfield County – Overview of forestry programs

10:~~30~~ Finalize field arrangements

10:15 ~~45~~ Leave for field

Noon Lunch in field (arranged by county)

4:15 Daily closing briefing (informal, will be done in field in vicinity of Cable)

4:30 Audit team leaves Bayfield County for Hayward

### Special sites:

Planting sites; county-maintained primary forest roads in Iron River area including a fuel-break road; trails or recreation sites; any sites protected for cultural, historic, or ecological reasons that are near the selected timber sales?

### Other:

- If there are harvests occurring on the day of the audit, the team should visit 1 or 2
- Audit team will review the training file for the “newest” Bayfield County forester
- Planting records, including herbicide use records
- Only one copy of the harvesting contact is needed by the audit team
- Additional information about data request will be provided by Joe Schwantes
- Jason Bodine will email the data from their bird survey
- Auditors Should Note: Bayfield County has a robust web site ... Management plan, budget narratives, accomplishments reports are all on-line.

Agreed; drop tract number 47-12 from the list.

Mike Ferrucci, [mferrucci@iforest.com](mailto:mferrucci@iforest.com) Office and Cell: 203-887-9248

**From:** Jason Bodine [mailto:JBodine@bayfieldcounty.org]

**Sent:** Monday, July 22, 2013 1:06 PM **To:** Mike Ferrucci

**Subject:** RE: Bayfield county sites

Hello Mike,

Looking a little closer at the sites, tract number 47-12 will be very difficult to get to and would most likely require hip waders if trying to access from where we would be coming. I would recommend removing this one from the list. As it is, I doubt very highly we make it to all of these sales, especially with the other stops we will be making along the way. Jason Bodine, Forestry & Parks Administrator

## **Friday 8.16.13 Douglas County**

Jon Harris Director of Forestry & Natural Resources, Douglas County Forestry Department  
9182 East Hughes Avenue, Solon Springs, WI 54873

Phone (715) 378-2219 [jharris@douglascountywi.org](mailto:jharris@douglascountywi.org) Website [www.douglascountywi.org](http://www.douglascountywi.org)

Auditors: Dave Wager, Mike Ferrucci, and JoAnn Hanowski

### General Schedule

8am-2 pm: Audit Douglas County

2:30 - 4 pm: Audit team meets in conference room to prepare for overall closing

4 - 5 pm: Closing Meeting for SFI and FSC County Forest Audit (full program)

### Schedule for Douglas County

8 am Opening meeting and discussions

8:45 Finalize field arrangements

9 Leave for field: 3 “tours”, one per auditor

Noon Lunch in field (arranged by county)

2 Complete field audits, return to office

### **Special sites:**

Planting sites 2-5 years old (no forest chemicals are used); program-maintained forest roads; trails or recreation sites; 1 or 2 special sites (protected for cultural, historic, or ecological reasons)

### **Other:**

- If there are harvests occurring on the day of the audit, the team should visit 1 or 2
- Audit team will review the training file for the “newest” and for the “most experienced” Douglas County forester
- Planting records (no forest chemicals are used)
- Only one copy of the harvesting contact is needed by the audit team
- Additional information about data request will be provided by Joe Schwantes
- One copy of the 15-Year Management Plan and a copy of the most recent Annual Work Plan / Accomplishments Report to be mailed to Mike Ferrucci, 168 Notch Hill Road, North Branford, CT 06471.

## FSC Audit Plan Additional Information

Standards used	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>FSC US Forest Management Standard, V1-0</li> </ul>
Audit type	<input type="checkbox"/> Full evaluation/re-certification (all Principles and Criteria of the applicable standard will be reviewed) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Annual surveillance evaluation (a portion of the applicable standard will be reviewed)
Criteria required by FSC to be reviewed every year	<input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> FMUs containing High Conservation Values ( 'small forest' SLIMFs exempt): 6.2, 6.3, 6.9 and 9.4
Principles and criteria selected for review this year:	This year's assessment will include a review of 3.1, 3.3, 4.1, 4.3, 4.5, 6.7,6.8, 6.10, 9.1, 9.2 Operations will also be assessed against Criteria and Indicators where non-conformances were observed in previous assessments.

## Appendix II



### **Wisconsin DNR County Forest Program 2013 SFI Summary Surveillance Audit Report**

The Wisconsin County Forest Program has achieved continuing conformance with the Sustainable Forestry Initiative® Standard, 2010-2014 Edition, according to the NSF-ISR SFIS Certification Audit Process.

The 25 participating Wisconsin County Forests have been certified to the Sustainable Forestry Initiative® Standard since December 10, 2004 (SFI certificate #NSF-SFIS-1Y943). In 2009 the scope of the Wisconsin SFI Program was expanded, and the program was recertified. This report describes the first annual follow-up Surveillance Audit following the 2012 Re-Certification Audit.

Wisconsin County Forest Program includes 2.3 million acres of forestland managed by 29 counties in the central and northern portions of Wisconsin. The scope of the SFIS Certification encompasses sustainable forestry activities of participating counties within the Wisconsin County Forest System and land management operations in selected Wisconsin County Forests including 25 counties encompassing approximately 2.2 million acres of publicly owned forests, including the following counties:

Ashland, Barron, Bayfield, Burnett, Douglas, Eau Claire , Florence , Forest , Iron, Jackson , Juneau , Langlade, Lincoln , Marathon , Marinette, Oconto, Oneida, Polk, Price, Rusk, Sawyer, Taylor, Vilas, Washburn, Wood

Responsibility for management of these forests rests with elected county boards, with management activities implemented by county-employed foresters supported by DNR personnel. The forests are managed to provide revenue, habitat, recreational opportunities, and to protect biodiversity values and special sites. The lands abound with a variety of game and non-game wildlife species, and attract a variety of recreationists from hunters to trail users to nature enthusiasts. The most common tree species in order are aspen, sugar maple, red maple, red oak, red pine, basswood, and white birch. Harvest levels over the past decade have averaged over 17 million board feet and 750,000 cords per year.

The Wisconsin County Forest's SFI Program is managed by Joseph A Schwantes, DNR County Forests Specialist. A County Forest Certification Committee comprised of representatives of the counties, the Wisconsin County Forests Association, and DNR staff help implement the SFI program, reviewing progress and making suggestions for improvements or changes as needed. The Wisconsin County Forests Association provides considerable support for certification-related activities and is a key support mechanism for the program.

## **SFIS Surveillance Audit Process**

The audit was performed on August 14-16, 2013 by Mike Ferrucci, Lead Auditor and JoAnn Hanowski, Avian Ecologist. FSC Lead Auditor David Wager also supported the team's activities. Auditors meet requirements for conducting SFIS Certification Audits per "Section 9. SFI 2010-2014 Audit Procedures and Auditor Qualifications and Accreditation" of Requirements for the SFI 2010-2014 Program: Standards, Rules for Label Use, Procedures, and Guidance.

The audit was conducted in conjunction with an FSC audit covering the same counties, the same organizational approach, and by the same audit team. The two processes (SFI and FSC) shared audit teams and reviewed much of the same evidence, but each program had a different team leader and audit objectives. This report is intended to describe the SFI portion of the evaluation; information about the FSC annual audit is available from Wisconsin DNR.

The objective of the audit was to assess ongoing conformance of the firm's SFI Program to the requirements of the Sustainable Forestry Initiative® Standard, 2010-2014 Edition. Four counties were reviewed: Ashland, Barron, Bayfield, and Douglas Counties. Forest practices that were the focus of field inspections have been conducted since January 1, 2012, but some older sites were reviewed as well. All of the relevant SFI requirements were examined during the audit. Multi-site sampling requirements provided in Section 9 of Requirements for the SFI 2010-2014 Program: Standards, Rules for Label Use, Procedures, and Guidance were also reviewed.

The requirements of the Sustainable Forestry Initiative® Standard, 2010-2014 Edition were used in the audit; no indicators were modified. As with the initial certification, the scope included timberland only, as the Wisconsin County Forest Program's SFI programs do not include procurement operations. Several of the SFI Performance Measures were outside of the scope of the county programs and were excluded from the scope of the SFI Certification Audit as follows:

- Indicator 2.1.3 Plantings of exotic tree species
- Objectives 8 – 13 Procurement Requirements
- Indicator 3.2.5 Alternatives to BMPs (BMPs are in place)

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

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

The possible findings of the audit included Full Conformance, Major Non-conformance, Minor Non-conformance, Opportunity for Improvement, and Practices that exceeded the requirements.

## **Overview of 2013 Audit Findings**

Wisconsin County Forest Program's SFI Program was found to be in conformance with the SFIS Standard. There were no non-conformances, and the program was recommended for continued certification.

One area for continuing emphasis was identified. In the SFI system this is called an "opportunity for improvement" (OFI). Such findings do not indicate a current deficiency with respect to the standard, but served to alert Wisconsin County Forest Program to areas that could be strengthened or which could merit future attention.

There is an opportunity to improve by more consistently determining and recording the "Habitat Classification Types" on the Timber Sale Notice and Cutting Report (Form 2460-001A).

SFI Indicator 2.1.6 requires: "Planting programs that consider potential ecological impacts of a different species or species mix from that which was harvested."

## **Review of 2012 Findings**

There were no Minor Non-conformances in 2012. In 2012 three "Opportunities for Improvement" were identified; the program has been strengthened in all three areas, and all were found to be in conformance this year.

SFI Indicator 2.1.3 requires "Clear criteria to judge adequate regeneration and appropriate actions to correct understocked areas and achieve acceptable species composition and stocking rates for both planting and natural regeneration."

In 2102 there was an opportunity to improve processes for monitoring natural regeneration. This could prove useful in dealing with expected trends in deer populations and increasing impacts of deer browse on natural regeneration that are being reported in some areas.

2013 Update: The audit team found increased emphasis on monitoring natural regeneration.

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SFI Indicator 4.1.5 specifies a "Program for assessment, conducted either individually or collaboratively, of forest cover types, age or size classes, and habitats at the individual ownership level and, where credible data are available, across the landscape, and take into account findings in planning and management activities."

In 2102 there was an opportunity to improve efforts to take into account forest cover types, age or size classes, and habitats across the landscape, for example with respect to Aspen habitat conditions on county forestland within the context of surrounding lands.

2013 Update: Information provided by Wisconsin DNR clarified for the team efforts made to conduct such assessments, particularly for Aspen, but also for other species.

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SFI Indicator 15.1.1 states “Financial or in-kind support of research to address questions of relevance in the region of operations. The research shall include some of the following issues: a. forest health, productivity, and ecosystem functions; b. chemical efficiency, use rate and integrated pest management; c. water quality and/or effectiveness of best management practices including effectiveness of water quality and best management practices for protecting the quality, diversity and distributions of fish and wildlife habitats; d. wildlife management at stand- and landscape-levels; e. conservation of biological diversity; f. ecological impacts of bioenergy feedstock removals on productivity, wildlife habitat, water quality and other ecosystem functions; g. climate change research for both adaptation and mitigation; h. social issues; i. forest operations efficiencies and economics; j. energy efficiency; k. life cycle assessment; l. avoidance of illegal logging; and m. avoidance of controversial sources”.

In 2102 there was an opportunity to improve by ensuring that the Wisconsin DNR Silvicultural Field Trial reporting system is utilized effectively.

2013 Update: The audit team found an increased emphasis on the Wisconsin DNR Silvicultural Field Trial reporting system

### **2013 Exceptional Practices**

Wisconsin County Forest Program was found to exceed the SFI 2010-2014 Standard as follows:

Management efforts and results in terms of forest health are exceptional.

(SFI Performance Measure 2.4 “Program Participants shall manage so as to protect forests from damaging agents such as environmentally or economically undesirable wildfire, pests and diseases to maintain and improve long-term forest health, productivity and economic viability.”)

The program significantly exceeds the standard for minimizing clearcut size.

(SFI Indicator 5.2.1 “Average size of clearcut harvest areas does not exceed 120 acres, except when necessary to respond to forest health emergencies or other natural catastrophes.”)

The Wisconsin County Forests provide an exemplary array of recreation opportunities; forest management is implemented to enhance these. Further the counties have done an exceptional job of balancing road use with environmental protections so as to provide public road access while having a sustainable road system.

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

The county forests provide a model for local citizen participation through the county forest committees.

(SFI Performance Measure 18.1 “Program Participants with forest management responsibilities on public lands shall participate in the development of public land planning and management processes.”)

The next Surveillance Audit is scheduled for August 2014. This will be a surveillance audit.

## **General Description of Evidence of Conformity**

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

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

**Summary of Evidence** – The forest management plans for Ashland, Barron, Bayfield, and Douglas Counties, supporting documents including WDNR manuals and handbooks, and the county forest inventory reports were the key evidence of conformance.

**Objective 2. Forest Productivity** - To ensure long-term forest productivity, carbon storage and conservation of forest resources through prompt reforestation, soil conservation, afforestation and other measures.

**Summary of Evidence** – Field observations and associated records were used to confirm practices. There are ongoing programs for reforestation, for protection against insects and diseases and wildfire, and for careful management of activities which could potentially impact soil and long-term productivity.

**Objective 3. Protection and Maintenance of Water Resources** - To protect water quality in streams, lakes and other water bodies.

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

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

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

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

**Summary of Evidence** – Field observations of completed operations and policies/procedures for visual quality were assessed during the evaluation. Maps of recreation sites as well as field visits, helped confirm a very strong commitment to recreation programs and facilities.

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

**Summary of Evidence** – Field observations of completed operations, records of special sites, training records, and written protection plans were all assessed during the evaluation.

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

**Summary of Evidence** – Field observations of completed operations, contract clauses, inspection reports, and discussions with supervising foresters and with loggers provided the key evidence.

**Objectives 8 through 13 are not applicable**

**Objective 14. Legal and Regulatory Compliance** -

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

**Summary of Evidence** – Field reviews of ongoing and completed operations were the most critical evidence. Information provided by Wisconsin DNR was also a factor. This Objective was not audited in its entirety in 2013.

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

**Summary of Evidence** – Financial records and awareness of predicted climate change impacts were confirmed.

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

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

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

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

**Summary of Evidence** – Interviews, agendas for meetings, and participation in the Wisconsin SFI Implementation Committee were sufficient to assess the requirements. This Objective was not audited in its entirety in 2013.

**Objective 18: Public Land Management Responsibilities** -

To support and implement sustainable forest management on public lands.

**Summary of Evidence** – Interviews and review of policies were used to confirm the requirements.

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

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

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

**Summary of Evidence** – Records of program reviews including annual “Partnership Meetings”, periodic internal audits, and agendas and notes from management review meetings, and interviews with personnel from all involved levels in the organization were assessed.

### **Relevance of Forestry Certification**

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

#### **1. Sustainable Forestry**

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

#### **2. Forest Productivity and Health**

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

#### **3. Protection of Water Resources**

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

#### **4. Protection of Biological Diversity**

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

#### **5. Aesthetics and Recreation**

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

#### **6. Protection of Special Sites**

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

#### **7. Responsible Fiber Sourcing Practices in North America**

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

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

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

#### **9. Legal Compliance**

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

**10. Research**

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

**11. Training and Education**

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

**12. Public Involvement**

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

**13. Transparency**

To broaden the understanding of forest certification to the SFI 2010-2014 Standard by documenting certification audits and making the findings publicly available.

**14. Continual Improvement**

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

*Source: Sustainable Forestry Initiative® (SFI) Standard, 2010-2014 Edition*

**For Additional Information Contact:**

**For More Information Contact:**

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**Appendix III**



**Audit Matrix**

Wisconsin DNR County Forestry Program  
August 2013 NSF-ISR SFI 2010-2014 MATRIX

**Findings and Instructions:**

<b>C</b>	Conformance
<b>Exr</b>	Exceeds the Requirements
<b>Maj</b>	Major Non-conformance
<b>Min</b>	Minor Non-conformance
<b>OFI</b>	Opportunity for Improvement (can also be in Conformance)
<b>NA</b>	Not Applicable
<b>Likely Gap *</b>	Likely Gap Against 2010-2014 SFIS (used for scoping or baseline audits)*
<b>Likely Conf. *</b>	Likely Conformance With 2010-2014 SFIS (used for scoping or baseline audits)*
<b>Auditor</b>	Optional; may be used for audit planning.
12, 13	Date Codes, for example: 12= July 2012; 13=Aug. 2013
Other	Words in <i>italics</i> are defined in the standard.

Yes    No    N.A.   NSF mark (logo) is being used correctly.   Audit Notes: NSF mark (logo) is not being used.

**Objective 1. Forest Management Planning**

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

	2010-2014 Requirement	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap *</u>	<u>Likely Conf. *</u>
1.1	<b>Program Participants shall ensure that forest management plans include long-term harvest levels that are sustainable and consistent with appropriate growth-and-yield models.</b>	MF	13						
Notes	See indicators below.								

	2010-2014 Requirement (Performance Measures bold)	Audit or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap *</u>	<u>Likely Conf. *</u>
1.1.1	Forest management planning at a level appropriate to the size and scale of the operation, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. a long-term resources analysis;</li> <li>b. a periodic or ongoing forest inventory;</li> <li>c. a land classification system;</li> <li>d. soils inventory and maps, where available;</li> <li>e. access to growth-and-yield modeling capabilities;</li> <li>f. up-to-date maps or a geographic information system;</li> <li>g. recommended sustainable harvest levels for areas available for harvest; and</li> <li>h. a review of non-timber issues (e.g. recreation, tourism, pilot projects and economic incentive programs to promote water protection, carbon storage, bioenergy feedstock production, or biological diversity conservation, or to address climate-induced ecosystem change).</li> </ul>	Team	13						
Notes	Each county maintains a comprehensive management plan, supplemented by Annual Work Plans. The inventory and the plan are updated annually. Bayfield County Forest Comprehensive Land Use Plan 2006-2020 Douglas County Forest Comprehensive Land Use Plan 2006-2020, Final Document with Appendices Douglas County Access Management Plan, May 2008								
1.1.2	Documentation of annual harvest trends in relation to the sustainable forest management plan in a manner appropriate to document past and future activities.	MF	13						

**Notes**

“ ... adding a new forester position in 2011. The position was added, in part, to assist in the management of a growing sustainable timber harvest goal (see Tables 4 and 5). The total allowable harvest goal for 2012 was 5,234 acres, an increase of 67% since 2006. The additional forester has given this Department the ability to better reach the targeted sustainable timber harvest goal, thus maximizing the value potential of the forest. Prior to 2011, the average annual establishment of timber sales equaled just over 3,000 acres. In 2011, the Department established nearly 4,500 acres of new sales and is expected to average between 4,500 and 4,800 acres on an annual basis.”

**Table 5: Bayfield County Forest Sustainable Harvest Summary (acres)**

Year	Management Goal	Timber Sale Establishment	Stand Update	Total Accomplishments
2007	3,289	2,950	221	3,171
2008	3,511	2,736	573	3,309
2009	4,009	3,157	243	3,400
2010	4,285	3,331	326	3,657
2011	5,108	4,491	499	4,990
2012	5,234	4,500	734	5,234
2013	5,000	4,500	500	5,000
Average	4,348	3,666	372	3,705

2012 and 2013 projected

Source: Bayfield County, Forestry And Parks Department, 2013 Budget Narrative

	<b>2010-2014 Requirement</b>	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap *</u>	<u>Likely Conf. *</u>
1.1.3	A forest inventory system and a method to calculate growth and yield.	MF	13						
<b>Notes</b>	WISFIRs program is used each year to determine harvest levels (acres) based on the most recent inventory information. Confirmed a very limited portion of the inventory data and its currency by review of several inventory reports generated by the WISFIRs system. Basal area growth rates and stand age are used to estimate the number of years it will take to advance treated (thinned or CC) stands to the next treatment target date. FIA data are reviewed to estimate growth, but the system is driven by stand-by-stand assessments completed immediate prior to treatment, not growth estimates.								

	<b>2010-2014 Requirement</b>	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap *</u>	<u>Likely Conf. *</u>
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1.1.4	Periodic updates of forest inventory and recalculation of planned harvests to account for changes in growth due to productivity increases or decreases (e.g. improved data, long-term drought, fertilization, climate change, forest land ownership changes, etc.).	MF	13																																	
<b>Notes</b>	<p>Douglas County has employed 4 seasonal forestry technicians over the past 4 years, and has made remarkable progress in updating the backlog of reconnaissance (WisFirs) data.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Table 8: Bayfield County Forest Stand Updates (acres)</b></p> <table border="1" data-bbox="306 435 945 818"> <thead> <tr> <th>Year</th> <th>Goal</th> <th>Accomplishment</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>2007</td> <td>17,000</td> <td>11,002</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2008</td> <td>17,000</td> <td>9,807</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2009</td> <td>10,000</td> <td>2,872</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2010</td> <td>10,000</td> <td>4,079</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2011</td> <td>10,000</td> <td>9,728</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2012</td> <td>10,000</td> <td>6,000</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2013</td> <td>10,000</td> <td>10,000</td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>Average</b></td> <td><b>12,000</b></td> <td><b>7,641</b></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>									Year	Goal	Accomplishment	2007	17,000	11,002	2008	17,000	9,807	2009	10,000	2,872	2010	10,000	4,079	2011	10,000	9,728	2012	10,000	6,000	2013	10,000	10,000	<b>Average</b>	<b>12,000</b>	<b>7,641</b>
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1.1.5	Documentation of forest practices (e.g., planting, fertilization, and thinning) consistent with assumptions in harvest plans.	MF	13						
<b>Notes</b>	<p>All counties enrolled in the county forest program (all part of the SFI certification and 4 more) are required to track harvests, maintain an inventory, calculate allowable harvest levels (annually) and provide this information to Wisconsin DNR. Wisconsin DNR provides the tools and systems for doing this work. Both harvest trends and annually re-calculated harvest targets are available for any county upon request. Confirmed that forest practices in Ashland County, Bayfield County, Barron County, and Douglas County are clearly and consistently documented. Foresters document all treatments on 2460 forms, and treatment updates are factored into harvest plan updates.</p> <p>The WisFIRs program is used each year to determine harvest levels (acres) based on the most recent inventory information. Key assumptions in the area-based harvest plans are that stands receiving regeneration treatments will be monitored and that regeneration challenges will be addressed, that thinned stands will respond by growing at a rate that justifies the planned re-entry cycle, and that the overall forest will remain healthy and continue to develop and grow in predictable ways. These assumptions are clearly realistic (being met) based in large part by the sustained efforts of dedicated professional foresters supported by specialists (notably DNR biologists) and by working with Wisconsin's renowned loggers.</p>								

**Objective 2. Forest Productivity.**

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

	<b>2010-2014 Requirement</b>	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap *</u>	<u>Likely Conf. *</u>
2.1	<b>Program Participants shall promptly reforest after final harvest.</b>	MF	13						
<i>Notes</i>	<p>See indicators below. Planting programs were reviewed in Douglas County and Bayfield County.</p> <p>Bayfield County has a natural regeneration monitoring study, including measurements at 1, 3, and now 7 years post treatment. The Wisconsin DNR’s Science Services staff is assisting with data analysis. Other counties appear to be placing an increased emphasis on monitoring of natural regeneration, particularly if there are concerns about deer herbivory. The WCFA is working on the issue of the impacts of deer herbivory. An ad hoc “forest regeneration” team is being formed to review guidance in handbooks, policies, and tools available (forms).</p> <p>Confirmed generally good regeneration results during field site reviews. Discussed a fairly narrow, and generally long-standing, set of challenging species: birch, cedar, oak. Foresters report that even these species have been somewhat easier to regenerate in recent years, due to effective deer management policies.</p>								

	<b>2010-2014 Requirement</b>	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap *</u>	<u>Likely Conf. *</u>
2.1.1	Designation of all harvest areas for either natural regeneration or by planting.	MF	13						
<i>Notes</i>	<p>All harvest plans, documented on the 2460 form, include a narrative section which describes in detail the silvicultural practices involved, including the method of regeneration. Most planting is restricted to a modest number of timber types including: Jack Pine, White Pine, Red Pine, and occasionally mixed conifer. Aspen and northern hardwood types are regenerated naturally.</p>								

	<b>2010-2014 Requirement</b>	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap *</u>	<u>Likely Conf. *</u>
2.1.2	Reforestation, unless delayed for site-specific environmental or forest health considerations or legal requirements, through planting within two years or two planting seasons, or by planned natural regeneration methods within five years.	MF	13						

<b>Notes</b>	<p>Confirmed by field observations; no observed regeneration delays in Aspen or pine types. Hardwood stands are more challenging to assess, but appear to have adequate regeneration in most gaps and within the matrix areas.</p> <p>Bayfield County is now using containerized Jack Pine seedlings based on better survival rates. Bayfield County is moving towards more use of aerial seeding, in large part to minimize deer browse impacts.</p> <p><b>Note on Deer Browse Impacts on Forest Regeneration and Forest Sustainability</b>  The audit team observed ample natural regeneration on many sites visited during the 2013 audit. Foresters and biologists responsible for managing these lands (or the deer herd), many of whom have decades of experience, told the team that the deer population levels at this time will likely result in a sustainable forest condition. While there are some regeneration impacts on certain tree species, deer management policies of the past 3-4 years have been consistent with significant improvement in the ability to successfully regenerate most species. The team is concerned that the loss of deer management tools and other proposed changes in deer management may result in a return to previous problems. Increased efforts to monitor regeneration are an important positive development. Impacts of deer on regeneration are a critical part of any long-term deer management program.</p>
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	<b>2010-2014 Requirement</b>	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap *</u>	<u>Likely Conf. *</u>
2.1.3	Clear criteria to judge adequate regeneration and appropriate actions to correct understocked areas and achieve acceptable species composition and stocking rates for both planting and natural regeneration.	MF	13						

**Notes**

Douglas County “Table 2 – Guidelines for Scheduling Regeneration Checks” other documents, interviews, and observations show that considerable attention is paid to regeneration, including a fairly new system for regeneration checks based on species, site quality, and knowledge of barriers.

“BCF is incorporating a new program of natural regeneration monitoring similar to its artificial regeneration monitoring. This program will result in approximately 2000 acres/yr of additional regeneration monitoring, which is not currently represented in BCF time standards calculations.” Source: Bayfield Partnership Minutes 2012

**Table 7: Bayfield County Forest Reforestation Program Summary 2007 - 2013 (acres)**

Year	Planting				Seeding	Site Preparation				Maintenance		Monitoring
	Red Pine	Jack Pine	White Pine	Other*	Jack Pine	Trench	Fire Plow	Scarify	Spray	Rx Fire	Spray	Survival Counts
2007	406	23	144	0	0	535	93	19	308	97	0	2,121
2008	378	207	24	0	0	796	88	0	442	0	0	1,683
2009	487	415	0	0	0	726	72	0	348	40	0	2,652
2010	367	196	0	0	0	363	118	0	420	42	305	2,183
2011	319	153	35	68	0	900	88	0	186	21	324	1,424
2012	295	107	274	0	0	0	201	0	728	32	609	2,700
2013	336	28	59	0	575	200	0	0	100	0	400	3,000
Avg	370	161	77	10	82	503	94	3	362	33	234	2,252

\* In 2011, tamarack and white spruce.

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

	2010-2014 Requirement	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap *</u>	<u>Likely Conf. *</u>
2.1.5	Protection of desirable or planned advanced natural regeneration during harvest.	MF	13						

<b>Notes</b>	Confirmed by field observations, although many of the sites chosen for field review were aspen clearcuts or pine thinnings.  Much of the harvesting is done by very experienced loggers using mechanized harvesting equipment. Felling of selected timber is mostly by processors, although hand-felling is not uncommon for the largest trees. Workers doing hand felling have chain saw training which includes directional felling techniques. In some cases sales are set up with requirements for fixed-head processors, allowing the trees to be moved away from the advanced natural regeneration before they are allowed to fall to the ground. Yarding (forwarding) trails are planned, well-spaced, and reasonably narrow, further limiting damage to regeneration. Some sales contract restricts pole skidding or have winter-only restrictions to help protect natural regeneration from yarding damage.
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	<b>2010-2014 Requirement</b>	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap *</u>	<u>Likely Conf. *</u>
2.1.6	Planting programs that consider potential ecological impacts of a different species or species mix from that which was harvested.	Team	13				13		
<b>Notes</b>	<p><b>There is an opportunity to improve by more consistently determining and recording the “Habitat Classification Types” on the Timber Sale Notice and Cutting Report (Form 2460-001A).</b></p> <p>When planting is employed as part of a change in species from that which was harvested foresters conduct a careful site assessment which includes a determination of the “Habitat Classification Types”. This information is also very useful when using natural regeneration methods, in large part because stands often contain several species, not all of which are well-suited to the site conditions. The “Habitat Classification Types” are usually, but not always, indicated on the Timber Sale Notice and Cutting Report (Form 2460-001A).</p>								

	<b>2010-2014 Requirement</b>	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap *</u>	<u>Likely Conf. *</u>
2.1.7	Afforestation programs that consider potential ecological impacts of the selection and planting of tree species in non-forested landscapes.		NA						
<b>Notes</b>	No afforestation is being conducted.								

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

<b>Notes</b>	See indicators below.
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	<b>2010-2014 Requirement</b>	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFl</u>	<u>Likely Gap *</u>	<u>Likely Conf. *</u>
2.2.1	Minimized chemical use required to achieve management objectives.	MF	13						
<b>Notes</b>	<p>Acres of pesticides applied in the past year were provided by Wisconsin DNR in a Pesticide Use Table which covered the following information: County, Commercial Name of Pesticide/Herbicide, Active Ingredient, Quantity Used, Treatment Area (acres), and Reason for use. The total acres treated are quite low as a proportion of the lands in the county forestry program – about 3,000 acres or less than two-tenths of one percent of the lands are listed as receiving chemical treatment over the past 12 months. This figure is probably a significant overestimate because the acres include spot treatments of cut stumps and to destroy isolated populations of invasive species, as well as 460 acres of stump treatment with borax.</p> <p>From Douglas County Partnership report, confirmed by interviews: “DCF is not allowed by the county board to use pesticides. Only on a case by case basis and on the most extreme and rare circumstances are they allowed to use herbicides.”</p>								

	<b>2010-2014 Requirement</b>	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFl</u>	<u>Likely Gap *</u>	<u>Likely Conf. *</u>
2.2.2	Use of least-toxic and narrowest-spectrum pesticides necessary to achieve management objectives.	MF	13						
<b>Notes</b>	<p>Glyphosate is the most commonly-used herbicide, applied for Trail rehabilitation/ control of invasives, Conifer Release, and site preparation. Glyphosate is a low-toxicity herbicide with no soil activity that works by direct contact. While Glyphosate is somewhat broad spectrum it is being used at low rates and in ways that are consistent with the requirement.</p> <p>Oust XP (Sulfometuron methyl) is used for control of invasive plants (Garlic Mustard) and occasionally for site prep for conifer plantations.</p> <p>Trichlopyr can be added to the formulation for site preparation and/or release if needed to control species not well controlled using Glyphosate or Oust. On site 2 at Bayfield County foresters chose not to add Trichlopyr due to limited numbers of maple seedlings/sprout. The Glyphosate/Oust combination stunted but did not kill the maple, but the treatment released the planted red pine as expected.</p> <p>Cellutreat (Disodium Octahorate) is a fungicide increasingly being used for control of Annosum in thinned pine stands.</p>								

	<b>2010-2014 Requirement</b>	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFl</u>	<u>Likely Gap *</u>	<u>Likely Conf. *</u>
2.2.3	Use of pesticides registered for the intended use and applied in accordance with label requirements.	MF	13						
<b>Notes</b>	Interviews and review of documents provided evidence that this requirement was met. The Pesticide Use Table was reviewed and the chemicals used match standard treatment objectives.								

	<b>2010-2014 Requirement</b>	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap *</u>	<u>Likely Conf. *</u>
2.2.4	Use of integrated pest management where feasible.	MF	13						
<i>Notes</i>	<p>IPM is the approach taken in this program, as documented in the plans: “Integrated pest management for the purpose of this Plan, is defined as follows: The maintenance of destructive agents, including insects, at tolerable levels, by the planned use of a variety of preventive, suppressive, or regulatory tactics and strategies that are ecologically and economically efficient and socially acceptable.”</p> <p>Stands are regularly assessed formally (RECON) and informally for presence of insects or diseases, and treatments are applied in a timely manner before outbreaks widen. The initial treatment approach is commonly salvage or sanitation.</p> <p>Forest management, through stocking control and use of moderately short rotations, maintains healthy stands to minimize chemical treatments. Stands visited were generally healthy and vigorous. Chemicals are only applied to address problems that can’t be resolved otherwise.</p>								

	<b>2010-2014 Requirement</b>	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap *</u>	<u>Likely Conf. *</u>
2.2.5	Supervision of forest chemical applications by state- or provincial-trained or certified applicators.								
<i>Notes</i>	Not reviewed during 2013 Surveillance Audit.								

	<b>2010-2014 Requirement</b>	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap *</u>	<u>Likely Conf. *</u>
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2.2.6	Use of management practices appropriate to the situation, for example: a. notification of adjoining landowners or nearby residents concerning applications and chemicals used; b. appropriate multilingual signs or oral warnings; c. control of public road access during and immediately after applications; d. designation of streamside and other needed buffer strips; e. use of positive shutoff and minimal-drift spray valves; f. aerial application of forest chemicals parallel to buffer zones to minimize drift; g. monitoring of water quality or safeguards to ensure proper equipment use and protection of streams, lakes and other water bodies; h. appropriate storage of chemicals; i. filing of required state or provincial reports; and/or j. use of methods to ensure protection of threatened and endangered species.	MF	13							
<b>Notes</b>	Many of these techniques are required by law or regulation, and/or are specified in contracts for treatment. The Bayfield County contract contains many of these provisions, and interviews confirmed that chemical “BMPs” are used.									

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

	<b>2010-2014 Requirement</b>	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap *</u>	<u>Likely Conf. *</u>	
2.3.1	Use of soils maps where available.	MF	13							
<b>Notes</b>	Soil maps are contained in the GIS and are used in planning timber sales and other treatments. Foresters demonstrated knowledge of the soils in their units. Soils information is included in the sale narratives.									

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

2.3.2	Process to identify soils vulnerable to compaction, and use of appropriate methods to avoid excessive soil disturbance.	MF	13						
<b>Notes</b>	<p>Foresters use soil and topographic maps, habitat type classifications, soil moisture rating system, and/or field reviews as appropriate to identify soils vulnerable to compaction.</p> <p>Confirmed the use of a variety of methods to avoid excessive soil disturbance, including designation of harvesting only with frozen ground or very dry conditions for all or a portion of a harvest area. Review of logging contracts, sale narratives, prospectuses, etc. document these measures.</p> <p>Confirmed by field observations the use of appropriate methods to avoid excessive soil disturbance, as soils in post-harvest stands showed limited and reasonable levels of soil compaction and disturbance.</p>								

	<b>2010-2014 Requirement</b>	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFl</u>	<u>Likely Gap *</u>	<u>Likely Conf. *</u>
2.3.3	Use of erosion control measures to <i>minimize</i> the loss of soil and site productivity.	MF	13						
<b>Notes</b>	Most sites visited were level or gently-sloping and well-drained. Sites with slopes or erosion or compaction potential are appropriately protected using water bars, dispersed slash, and seasonal restrictions. Very little soil erosion was observed.								

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

	<b>2010-2014 Requirement</b>	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFl</u>	<u>Likely Gap *</u>	<u>Likely Conf. *</u>
2.3.5	Retention of vigorous trees during partial harvesting, consistent with scientific silvicultural standards for the area.	MF	13						
<b>Notes</b>	<p>Field observations of partial harvests confirmed the retention of vigorous trees and the appropriate application of silviculture guidelines for removal of least vigorous and poorest quality trees and retention of the trees best adapted to the site.</p> <p>Foresters consistently emphasized the retention of the most vigorous trees when marking stands.</p>								

	<b>2010-2014 Requirement</b>	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap *</u>	<u>Likely Conf. *</u>
2.3.6	Criteria that address harvesting and site preparation to protect soil productivity.	MF	13						
<i>Notes</i>	Wisconsin State BMPs for Water Quality (avoid excessive rutting) and Wisconsin DNR and/or individual county policies (defining excessive rutting) provide these criteria. Confirmed “excessive rutting” definitions in timber sale contracts.								

	<b>2010-2014 Requirement</b>	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap *</u>	<u>Likely Conf. *</u>
2.3.7	Road construction and skidding layout to minimize impacts to soil productivity and water quality.	MF	13						
<i>Notes</i>	Douglas County Access Management Plan, May 2008. Bayfield County builds and maintains durable road surfaces in the (nearly pure) sand-soiled areas of the County by incorporating organic material into the surface as a binder and by allowing sod growth to help bind the road surface. Results are quite good. Counties have organized methods in place to plan for and to track road and trail infrastructure maintenance needs and projects.								

	<b>2010-2014 Requirement</b>	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap *</u>	<u>Likely Conf. *</u>
2.4	<b>Program Participants shall manage so as to protect forests from damaging agents, such as environmentally or economically undesirable wildfire, pests, diseases and invasive exotic plants and animals, to maintain and improve long-term forest health, productivity and economic viability.</b>	MF	13						
<i>Notes</i>	See indicators below.								

	<b>2010-2014 Requirement</b>	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap *</u>	<u>Likely Conf. *</u>
2.4.1	Program to protect forests from damaging agents.	MF	13						

<b>Notes</b>	Each counties' forest management plan has a section on protection: "600 Protection: Objective: To protect and manage the resources of the forest from preventable losses resulting from fire, insects, diseases and other destructive elements including those caused by people. Protective methods shall include proper silvicultural methods." For example interviews confirmed that foresters are monitoring invasive species and pests advancing into their county, including: Gypsy Moth, Emerald Ash Borer, and others.
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	<b>2010-2014 Requirement</b>	Audit -or	<b><u>C</u></b>	<b><u>EXR</u></b>	<b><u>Maj</u></b>	<b><u>Min</u></b>	<b><u>OFI</u></b>	<b><u>Likely Gap *</u></b>	<b><u>Likely Conf. *</u></b>
2.4.2	Management to promote healthy and productive forest conditions to minimize susceptibility to damaging agents.	MF	13						
<b>Notes</b>	Rotations are set short enough to prevent many pest problems (for example Jack Pine rotations of 50 years or Aspen rotations between 40 and 50 years). Forest management, through stocking control and use of moderately short rotations, is designed to maintaining healthy stands. Planting and partial harvest systems consider soil/site conditions before making decisions as to which species to plant or to favor in partial harvests.								

	<b>2010-2014 Requirement</b>	Audit -or	<b><u>C</u></b>	<b><u>EXR</u></b>	<b><u>Maj</u></b>	<b><u>Min</u></b>	<b><u>OFI</u></b>	<b><u>Likely Gap *</u></b>	<b><u>Likely Conf. *</u></b>
2.4.3	Participation in, and support of, fire and pest prevention and control programs.	MF	13						

**Notes**

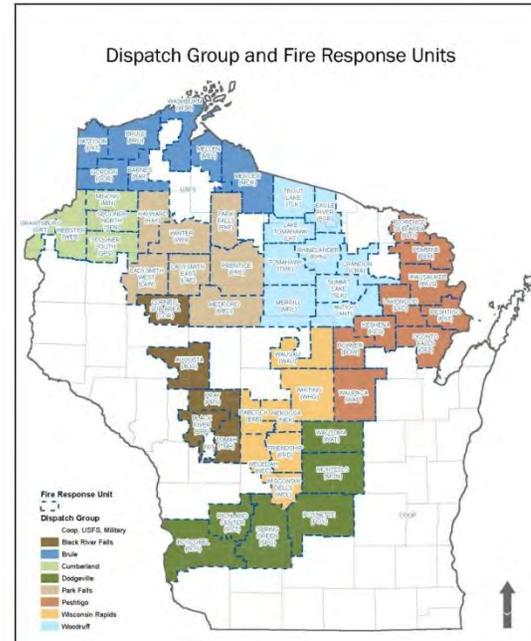
Bayfield County continues to manage and maintain an extensive fuel break system, although the approach is being modified in association with a more-sophisticated, multiple-use barrens management concept (“floating barrens”).

From Douglas County Partnership Meeting Report: “There are two prescribed burn plans approved for approximately 55 acres that are to remove competing vegetation and promote natural regeneration of desired tree species. One other burn was requested for vegetative maintenance on a flowage dike. DCF was not needed this year for fire staffing. Their continued cooperation with fire suppression and prescribed burning is recognized and greatly appreciated. DCF did get a new slip on unit from Tomahawk to outfit one of their trucks as a type 8 engine to assist with fire control activities. This unit also serves duty in the parks and during tree planting.”

Property managers and foresters receive forest health reports generated by WDNR Forest Health Staff – see link to website of annual and monthly reports.  
<http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/ForestHealth/Publications.html>

Wisconsin DNR primarily responsible; confirmed that Douglas County forest supports the state’s fire program by: ensuring foresters are trained, maintaining fire-fighting equipment, and allowing forestry staff to be on standby (weekends) and to fight wildfire.

Bayfield County has developed and implemented “Barnes Drummond CWPP, June 2006”



**Wildfire statistics**

DNR Dispatch Group (see map below)	YTD Fires	YTD Acres Burned
<b>Black River Falls</b>	33	67.44
<b>Brule</b>	31	7637
<b>Cumberland</b>	50	33.17
<b>Dodgeville</b>	83	140.68
<b>Park Falls</b>	47	77
<b>Peshtigo</b>	100	216.64
<b>Wisconsin Rapids</b>	77	90.52
<b>Woodruff</b>	77	40.53
<b>Totals for calendar year:</b>	498	8303.99

	2010-2014 Requirement	Audit -or-	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap *</u>	<u>Likely Conf. *</u>
2.5	Program Participants that deploy improved planting stock, including varietal seedlings, shall use sound scientific methods.								
Notes	Not reviewed during 2013 Surveillance Audit.								

	<b>2010-2014 Requirement</b>	Audit -or	<b><u>C</u></b>	<b><u>EXR</u></b>	<b><u>Maj</u></b>	<b><u>Min</u></b>	<b><u>OFI</u></b>	<b><u>Likely Gap *</u></b>	<b><u>Likely Conf. *</u></b>
<i>2.5.1</i>	Program for appropriate research, testing, evaluation and deployment of improved planting stock, including varietal seedlings.								
<i>Notes</i>	Not reviewed during 2013 Surveillance Audit.								

### Objective 3. Protection and Maintenance of Water Resources

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

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

	<b>2010-2014 Requirement</b>	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap *</u>	<u>Likely Conf. *</u>
<b>3.1.1</b>	Program to implement state or provincial best management practices during all phases of management activities.	MF	13						
<i>Notes</i>	A variety of forms and systems are used to manage the harvesting process from planning through final inspection and sale closeout, including pre-harvest contractor meetings and interim inspection forms. BMPs are covered within many of these documents and are required by the logging contract. All jobs are planned and supervised by trained foresters, and operated by trained loggers. BMPs are considered in the roads and trails programs as well.								

	<b>2010-2014 Requirement</b>	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap *</u>	<u>Likely Conf. *</u>
<b>3.1.2</b>	Contract provisions that specify conformance to best management practices.	MF	13						
<i>Notes</i>	Contract provisions that specify conformance to best management practices were found in the timber sale contracts in all counties visited.								

	<b>2010-2014 Requirement</b>	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap *</u>	<u>Likely Conf. *</u>
<b>3.1.3</b>	Plans that address wet-weather events (e.g. forest inventory systems, wet-weather tracts, definitions of acceptable operating conditions).	MF	13						

<i>Notes</i>	Confirmed by interviews with foresters and review of records that timber harvest planning considers weather events, with some sites on dry sands intended for the wet time of year, other sites identified for only dry weather, and other sites only for frozen ground.								
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	<b>2010-2014 Requirement</b>	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap *</u>	<u>Likely Conf. *</u>
3.1.4	Monitoring of overall best management practices implementation.	MF	13						

<i>Notes</i>	BMPs monitored by sale administration foresters, who ensure that provisions of contracts and BMPs are applied. Every several years the Wisconsin DNR conducts a systematic assessment of BMP compliance on public lands. This public-lands focused BMP project will be conducted in the fall of 2013 (interviews with Carmen Hardin and Dave Kafura, Forest Hydrologist, Wisconsin DNR)								
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	<b>2010-2014 Requirement</b>	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap *</u>	<u>Likely Conf. *</u>
3.2	<b>Program Participants shall have or develop, implement and document riparian protection measures based on soil type, terrain, vegetation, ecological function, harvesting system and other applicable factors.</b>	MF	13						

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

<i>Notes</i>	<p>Confirmed that this program continues to operate effectively by reviews of completed and partially completed timber harvests and road and trail improvement efforts.</p> <p>Water quality considerations including lakes or rivers potentially affected by the harvest are documented for each proposed harvest on a Form 2460-001 "Timber Sale Notice and Cutting Report" and this information is reflected in the harvesting requirements within the timber sale contracts.</p> <p>Sale and/or harvest unit boundaries are designed to avoid or buffer wetlands, stream, lakes, and other water bodies. Riparian buffers associated with harvests are shown on maps and marked on the ground.</p>								
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	<b>2010-2014 Requirement</b>	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap *</u>	<u>Likely Conf. *</u>
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3.2.2	Mapping of rivers, streams, lakes, and other water bodies as specified in state or provincial best management practices and, where appropriate, identification on the ground.	MF	13						
<b>Notes</b>	Confirmed on the many sites selected for field audit and via associated documentation that streams, lakes and other water bodies and riparian zones are mapped, and are marked on the ground (red paint on trees) near harvests as appropriate.								

	<b>2010-2014 Requirement</b>	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap *</u>	<u>Likely Conf. *</u>
3.2.3	Implementation of plans to manage or protect rivers, streams, lakes, and other water bodies.	MF	13						
<b>Notes</b>	All jobs are planned and supervised by trained foresters, and operated by trained loggers. Confirmed by interviews and field observations that protection of rivers, streams, lakes, and other water bodies is consistently well-done.								

	<b>2010-2014 Requirement</b>	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap *</u>	<u>Likely Conf. *</u>
3.2.4	Identification and protection of non-forested wetlands, including bogs, fens and marshes, and vernal pools of ecological significance.	MF	13						
<b>Notes</b>	<p>Confirmed by field observations that non-forested wetlands are protected by excluding them from sales where possible, and by buffering them using special colors of paint to indicate “no harvest” or “no equipment”, or by not marking any trees for harvest. Very small non-forested wetlands are generally protected; loggers try to avoid these, and foresters work to communicate their locations, but some are entered on occasion. Many sites with significant areas of included wetlands (forested and/or non-forested) are designated for winter harvest only.</p> <p>Confirmed from field audits in Ashland County, Bayfield County, Barron County, and Douglas County that foresters are knowledgeable of the BMP requirements to protect these wetland elements and are doing an excellent job of implementing them on harvest sites.</p>								

	<b>2010-2014 Requirement</b>	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap *</u>	<u>Likely Conf. *</u>
3.2.5	Where regulations or best management practices do not currently exist to protect riparian areas, use of experts to identify appropriate protection measures.	NA							
<b>Notes</b>	NA: Wisconsin has BMPs.								

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

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

	<b>2010-2014 Requirement</b>	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFl</u>	<u>Likely Gap *</u>	<u>Likely Conf. *</u>
<b>4.1</b>	<b>Program Participants shall have programs to promote biological diversity at stand- and landscape-levels.</b>	JH, MF	13						
<b>Notes</b>	See indicators below. The department of natural resources has conducted an extensive analysis of the Deer Trustees Report (DTR), Wisconsin County Forests Association has been deeply involved in developing policies and programs recommended by the DTR. . Public hearings are planned.								

	<b>2010-2014 Requirement</b>	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFl</u>	<u>Likely Gap *</u>	<u>Likely Conf. *</u>
<b>4.1.1</b>	Program to promote the conservation of native biological diversity, including species, wildlife habitats and ecological community types.	JH, MF	13						
<b>Notes</b>	Counties visited participate with the State in the implementation of the Wildlife Action Plan, identification of SNA’s and HCVF habitats and forests. County employees have received training on the applicability of the WAP to their properties. WI DNR Wildlife biologists work with the Counties to insure that these programs are recognized and implemented on County lands. “Barnes Barrens Management Plan Preface Chapter 840.3.6 of the Bayfield County Forest Comprehensive Land Use Plan identifies Pine Barrens as a habitat of importance. The Land Use Plan also outlines general parameters regarding Pine Barrens management and introduces the concepts of surrogate and floating barrens. The Barnes Barrens Management Plan is intended to provide guidance and direction in the development and perpetual maintenance of large block Pine Barrens habitat on the Bayfield County Forest.” Source: <a href="http://www.bayfieldcounty.org/barnes-barrens-management-plan.asp">http://www.bayfieldcounty.org/barnes-barrens-management-plan.asp</a>								

	<b>2010-2014 Requirement</b>	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFl</u>	<u>Likely Gap *</u>	<u>Likely Conf. *</u>
<b>4.1.2</b>	Program to protect threatened and endangered species.	JH, MF	13						
<b>Notes</b>	Counties have a mandate to protect all threatened and endangered species and coordinate efforts with the State to accomplish this.								



	<b>2010-2014 Requirement</b>	Audit -or	<b><u>C</u></b>	<b><u>EXR</u></b>	<b><u>Maj</u></b>	<b><u>Min</u></b>	<b><u>OFI</u></b>	<b><u>Likely Gap *</u></b>	<b><u>Likely Conf. *</u></b>
4.1.3	Program to locate and protect known sites associated with viable occurrences of critically imperiled and imperiled species and communities also known as Forests with Exceptional Conservation Value. Plans for protection may be developed independently or collaboratively, and may include Program Participant management, cooperation with other stakeholders, or use of easements, conservation land sales, exchanges, or other conservation strategies.	JH, MF	13						
<i>Notes</i>	The Wisconsin Natural Heritage Inventory (NHI) is checked prior to establishing all timber harvests. Documentation of an NHI screening appears on the timber sale cutting notice (form 2460). The species and communities included in the NHI database include those identified by endangered resources staff as threatened, endangered, and special concern and cover those that are considered imperiled and critically imperiled. If an NHI element is present within one mile of the harvest area and similar habitat(s) are located within the harvest area, a biologist is consulted to review the harvest plan and determine whether management objectives will negatively affect the NHI element. The State continues to write management plans for ETS species and make them available to County personnel. For example, the American Marten plan was recently revised and management guidelines are currently being developed, with involvement by Jane Severt and Iron County Forest Administrator Joe Vairus, and will be released soon.								

	<b>2010-2014 Requirement</b>	Audit -or	<b><u>C</u></b>	<b><u>EXR</u></b>	<b><u>Maj</u></b>	<b><u>Min</u></b>	<b><u>OFI</u></b>	<b><u>Likely Gap *</u></b>	<b><u>Likely Conf. *</u></b>
4.1.4	Development and implementation of criteria, as guided by regionally appropriate best scientific information, to retain stand-level wildlife habitat elements such as snags, stumps, mast trees, down woody debris, den trees and nest trees.	JH, MF	13						
<i>Notes</i>	County personnel employ State wide silvicultural guidelines or individual county adopted tree retention guidelines as incorporated in comprehensive county forest land use plans, for retaining structural diversity in even-aged management systems. County personnel attended State wide training to gain understanding and application of the new green tree retention standards. Based on recent revisions to the Tree Marking and Retention Guidelines chapter in the Silviculture Manual, foresters are marking more leave trees (individual) and painting off more pockets or clumps of leave trees, especially around wetlands. We saw this particularly well implemented in forests that were visited in 2013. For example in Douglas County even in the grouse management area Aspen clearcuts were separated by uncut areas and had dispersed and clumped retention including older White Pine trees. The practice of retaining Legacy trees is now in the silviculture handbook, and many county foresters have been protecting legacy trees for years. The approach is to describe legacy trees in the 2460 narrative and then indicate on the GIS (WisFIRs). Two types of legacy trees frequently observed are large white pine, and large oaks.								

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

4.1.5	Program for assessment, conducted either individually or collaboratively, of forest cover types, age or size classes, and habitats at the individual ownership level and, where credible data are available, across the landscape, and take into account findings in planning and management activities.	JH, MF	13						
<b>Notes</b>	<p>At the landscape scale the key tool is the Wisconsin Wildlife Action Plan (WAP) and associated Conservation Opportunity Areas (COA). Management personnel are aware of the WAP and management issues associated with COA's which may be present in their counties.</p> <p>Most of the county forests contain a significant Aspen cover type that is managed to provide habitat and wood products on a sustained basis. An analysis of changes in the aspen resource show that Aspen is a declining resource in Wisconsin, but on the county forests it is being maintained. Some older age classes are maintained, but it can be challenging to leave older Aspen consistent with also regenerating vigorous stands.</p>								

	<b>2010-2014 Requirement</b>	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap *</u>	<u>Likely Conf. *</u>
4.1.6	Support of and participation in plans or programs for the conservation of old-growth forests in the region of ownership.	JH, MF	13						
<b>Notes</b>	Where old-growth forests have been identified, the Counties have set aside these lands for old growth protection.								

	<b>2010-2014 Requirement</b>	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap *</u>	<u>Likely Conf. *</u>
4.1.7	Participation in programs and demonstration of activities as appropriate to limit the introduction, impact and spread of invasive exotic plants and animals that directly threaten or are likely to threaten native plant and animal communities.	JH, MF	13						
<b>Notes</b>	<p>Counties visited in 2013 have programs to limit the introduction and spread of exotic plants. "Forestry invasive species BMP manual; Invasive Species Rule NR 40, The invasive species rule (Wis. Adm. Code ch. NR 40) makes it illegal to possess, transport, transfer, or introduce certain invasive species in Wisconsin without a permit. Everyone is responsible to comply with these regulations. Some counties have had invasive species inventories and/or plans completed. Forest reconnaissance includes monitoring for invasive species. Sustainable forestry grants have been awarded for some control efforts. See attachment for additional specific county responses." Source: Joe Schwantes, County &amp; Public Forest Specialist</p> <p>County-specific examples were documented and discussed.</p>								

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

4.1.8	Program to incorporate the role of prescribed or natural fire where appropriate.	JH, MF	13						
<b>Notes</b>	Douglas County Partnership Minutes 2012 includes a section: "Fire Management: There are two prescribed burn plans approved for approximately 55 acres that are to remove competing vegetation and promote natural regeneration of desired tree species." Bayfield Partnership Minutes 2012 includes a section: "5. Prescribed Burning Program"								

	<b>2010-2014 Requirement</b>	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap *</u>	<u>Likely Conf. *</u>
4.2	<b>Program Participants shall apply knowledge gained through research, science, technology and field experience to manage wildlife habitat and contribute to the conservation of biological diversity.</b>	JH, MF	13						
<b>Notes</b>	See indicators below.								

	<b>2010-2014 Requirement</b>	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap *</u>	<u>Likely Conf. *</u>
4.2.1	Collection of information on Forests with Exceptional Conservation Value and other biodiversity-related data through forest inventory processes, mapping or participation in external programs, such as NatureServe, state or provincial heritage programs, or other credible systems. Such participation may include providing non-proprietary scientific information, time and assistance by staff, or in-kind or direct financial support.	JH, MF	13						
<b>Notes</b>	Counties participate with the State of Wisconsin in the SNA program. SNA's, Exceptional Resources Areas, and HCVF's are identified, monitored and protected on County Forest property.								

	<b>2010-2014 Requirement</b>	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap *</u>	<u>Likely Conf. *</u>
4.2.2	A methodology to incorporate research results and field applications of biodiversity and ecosystem research into forest management decisions.	JH, MF	13						
<b>Notes</b>	Counties have access to research results, analysis and planning completed by the State of Wisconsin DNR which they incorporate into their forest management decisions. Wisconsin DNR biologists are involved in all county forestry programs. Good working relationships were apparent. The State continues to write management plans for ETS species and make them available to County personnel. For example, the American Marten management guidelines will be released soon.								



**Objective 5. Management of Visual Quality and Recreational Benefits.**

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

	<b>2010-2014 Requirement</b>	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap *</u>	<u>Likely Conf. *</u>
<b>5.1</b>	<b>Program Participants shall manage the impact of harvesting on visual quality.</b>	MF	13						
<b>Notes</b>	See indicators below.								

	<b>2010-2014 Requirement</b>	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap *</u>	<u>Likely Conf. *</u>
<b>5.1.1</b>	Program to address visual quality management.	MF	13						
<b>Notes</b>	Trained foresters plan and oversee all harvests, and experienced supervisors as well as WDNR personnel are involved in review and approval. All of the management plans include Section 520 “Aesthetic Management Zones”. Efforts to manage visual impacts of harvests were confirmed by field observations and discussions with foresters.								

	<b>2010-2014 Requirement</b>	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap *</u>	<u>Likely Conf. *</u>
<b>5.1.2</b>	Incorporation of aesthetic considerations in harvesting, road, landing design and management, and other management activities where visual impacts are a concern.	MF	13						
<b>Notes</b>	Efforts to manage visual impacts of harvests were confirmed by field observations and discussions with foresters. These efforts were focused on public roads, lakes, and concentrated recreation facilities, with reduced efforts along the many trails.								

	<b>2010-2014 Requirement</b>	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap *</u>	<u>Likely Conf. *</u>
<b>5.2</b>	<b>Program Participants shall manage the size, shape and placement of clearcut harvests.</b>	MF	13						
<b>Notes</b>	See indicators below.								

	<b>2010-2014 Requirement</b>	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap *</u>	<u>Likely Conf. *</u>
5.2.1	Average size of clearcut harvest areas does not exceed 120 acres (50 hectares), except when necessary to meet regulatory requirements or to respond to forest health emergencies or other natural catastrophes.	MF	13						
<b>Notes</b>	Average size (see below) is far less than 120 acres. Large clearcuts are only employed when required for ecological reasons (large landscapes, barrens, etc.).								

	<b>2010-2014 Requirement</b>	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap *</u>	<u>Likely Conf. *</u>
5.2.2	Documentation through internal records of clearcut size and the process for calculating average size.	MF	13						
<b>Notes</b>	16.99 acres – 2012 average clear-cut size. 17.53 acres -- 2011 average clear-cut size. 18.95 acres - 2010 average clear-cut size. *Advanced timber sale report/export from WisFIRS (sales established during calendar year).								

	<b>2010-2014 Requirement</b>	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap *</u>	<u>Likely Conf. *</u>
5.3	<b>Program Participants shall adopt a green-up requirement or alternative methods that provide for visual quality.</b>	MF	13						
<b>Notes</b>	Foresters plan all harvests, and consider green-up and adjacency in planning. Some sale narratives describe efforts to address visual quality. Green up requirements can hinder efforts to deal with needed adjustments to age-class distribution, notably when dealing with legacy stands of aspen which may cover hundreds of acres with the same or close ages. Also see indicators below.								

	<b>2010-2014 Requirement</b>	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap *</u>	<u>Likely Conf. *</u>
5.3.1	Program implementing the green-up requirement or alternative methods.	MF	13						
<b>Notes</b>	Trained foresters plan and oversee all harvests, and experienced supervisors as well as WDNR personnel are involved in review and approval.								

	<b>2010-2014 Requirement</b>	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap *</u>	<u>Likely Conf. *</u>
5.3.2	Harvest area tracking system to demonstrate conformance with the green-up requirement or alternative methods.	MF	13						

<i>Notes</i>	Foresters rely on sale maps and GIS and review adjacent stands during sale set up.								
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	<b>2010-2014 Requirement</b>	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap *</u>	<u>Likely Conf. *</u>
5.3.3	Trees in clearcut harvest areas are at least 3 years old or 5 feet (1.5 meters) high at the desired level of stocking before adjacent areas are clearcut, or as appropriate to address operational and economic considerations, alternative methods to reach the performance measure are utilized by the Program Participant.	MF	13						
<i>Notes</i>	Confirmed by field observations; no adjacent clearcuts were seen.								

	<b>2010-2014 Requirement</b>	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap *</u>	<u>Likely Conf. *</u>
5.4	<b>Program Participants shall support and promote recreational opportunities for the public.</b>	MF		13					
<i>Notes</i>	The Wisconsin County Forests provide an exemplary array of recreation opportunities; forest management is implemented to enhance these. Further the counties have done an exceptional job of balancing road use with environmental protections so as to provide public road access while having a sustainable road system.								

	<b>2010-2014 Requirement</b>	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap *</u>	<u>Likely Conf. *</u>
5.4.1	Provide recreational opportunities for the public, where consistent with forest management objectives.	MF		13					
<i>Notes</i>	<p>Wisconsin County Forests provide an exceptionally expansive and diverse range of recreation opportunities. The extensive recreational trail systems are in very good condition. Facilities include picnic areas, swimming beaches, boat launches, fishing docks, campgrounds, historic sites with interpretive signs, rifle and archery ranges, an arboretum, downhill ski area, and the following types of trails: nature or interpretive, hiking, biking, cross-country skiing facilities, snowmobile, dog sled, horse, ATV and UTV, horse-riding.</p> <p>This issue was reviewed more closely in Douglas County. Douglas County provides a diverse selection of forest recreation opportunities. These are shown on the web site and in the glossy, color map/brochures: Douglas County Forest (detailed map with extensive information) and Access Management on the Douglas County Forest (with map and extensive information)</p>								

**Objective 6. Protection of Special Sites.**

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

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

	<b>2010-2014 Requirement</b>	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap *</u>	<u>Likely Conf. *</u>
<b>6.1.1</b>	Use of information such as existing natural heritage data, expert advice or stakeholder consultation in identifying or selecting special sites for protection.	JH, MF	13						
<b>Notes</b>	Interviews and Field audits confirmed that relevant data bases for these elements were used with the check box on the 2460. “NHI and Archeological, Historical database checks before conducting timber sale activities. Natural heritage sites were identified in consultation with ER staff during development of comprehensive land use plans.” Source: Joe Schwantes, County & Public Forest Specialist								

	<b>2010-2014 Requirement</b>	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap *</u>	<u>Likely Conf. *</u>
<b>6.1.2</b>	Appropriate mapping, cataloging and management of identified special sites.	JH, MF	13						
<b>Notes</b>	Interviews and Field audits confirmed that relevant data bases for these elements were used with the check box on the 2460. Audit interviews with County staff indicate that they have been trained to identify special sites and to report new sites when they are discovered in the field.								

**Objective 7. Efficient Use of Forest Resources.**

To promote the efficient use of forest resources.

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

	<b>2010-2014 Requirement</b>	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap *</u>	<u>Likely Conf. *</u>
<i>7.1.1</i>	Program or monitoring system to ensure efficient utilization, which may include provisions to ensure: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. management of harvest residue (e.g. slash, limbs, tops) considers economic, social and environmental factors (e.g. organic and nutrient value to future forests) and other utilization needs;</li> <li>b. training or incentives to encourage loggers to enhance utilization;</li> <li>c. cooperation with mill managers for better utilization of species and low-grade material;</li> <li>d. exploration of markets for underutilized species and low-grade wood and alternative markets (e.g. bioenergy markets); or</li> <li>e. periodic inspections and reports noting utilization and product separation.</li> </ul>	MF	13						
<i>Notes</i>	<p>Timber sale contracts include utilization clauses (for example Bayfield County uses 4-inch tip for cordwood, any sawlogs containing 30 board feet must be used for sawtimber, and whole tree removal as appropriate). When foresters inspect harvests they consider utilization issues; some of the harvest notes included utilization comments. Doulas county has a 10-cord permit available for firewood harvesting (dead and down material, generally using waste wood left at log landings).</p> <p>Markets exist for nearly all species and grades of wood grown on county forests. Exceptions are generally limited to less common, and less-commonly harvest species (for example white cedar). New markets are emerging (biomass or word energy for example) and the Wisconsin DNR works to encourage this trend.</p> <p>Confirmed by field observations, supplemented by interviews, that utilization goals are tempered by requirements to leave some woody debris.</p> <p>Wisconsin’s Forestland Woody Biomass Harvesting Guidelines WI DNR Pub-FR-435-09 are the basis for CWD retention in biomass harvests.</p>								

**Objectives 8 through 13 are not applicable.**

**Objective 14. Legal and Regulatory Compliance.**

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

	<b>2010-2014 Requirement</b>	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap *</u>	<u>Likely Conf. *</u>
<b>14.1</b>	<b>Program Participants shall take appropriate steps to comply with applicable federal, provincial, state and local forestry and related social and environmental laws and regulations.</b>								
<b>Notes</b>	Note: This objective is not a focus area for 2013. Despite this, as opportunities arise auditors may have findings.								

	<b>2010-2014 Requirement</b>	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap *</u>	<u>Likely Conf. *</u>
<b>14.1.1</b>	Access to relevant laws and regulations in appropriate locations.								
<b>Notes</b>									

	<b>2010-2014 Requirement</b>	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap *</u>	<u>Likely Conf. *</u>
<b>14.1.2</b>	System to achieve compliance with applicable federal, provincial, state or local laws and regulations.								
<b>Notes</b>									

	<b>2010-2014 Requirement</b>	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap *</u>	<u>Likely Conf. *</u>
<b>14.1.3</b>	Demonstration of commitment to legal compliance through available regulatory action information.	MF	13						

<b>Notes</b>	“Iron County: A group of people organized by the Lac Courte Oreille Band of Chippewa have been living on the county forest all summer. In May, the forestry committee authorized CFA to work with corporation counsel to develop a permit to allow them to camp for up to one year. In the process of doing this, it became clear that this would not only violate county ordinance, but also violate our own 15 year plan and county forest law. A letter was sent to the tribe explaining the situation, and an alternative of applying for a large group gathering permit was offered. No response was received despite continued verbal communication between forestry staff and the camp. In July, the forestry committee recommended that the full county board seek criminal and civil charges against the illegal village. The recommendation was tabled at the county board meeting to allow for further negotiations with the tribe.” Source: Joe Schwantes, County & Public Forest Specialist
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	<b>2010-2014 Requirement</b>	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap *</u>	<u>Likely Conf. *</u>
<b>14.2</b>	<b>Program Participants shall take appropriate steps to comply with all applicable social laws at the federal, provincial, state and local levels in the country in which the Program Participant operates.</b>								
<b>Notes</b>									

	<b>2010-2014 Requirement</b>	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap *</u>	<u>Likely Conf. *</u>
<b>14.2.1</b>	Written policy demonstrating commitment to comply with social laws, such as those covering civil rights, equal employment opportunities, anti-discrimination and anti-harassment measures, workers’ compensation, indigenous peoples’ rights, workers’ and communities’ right to know, prevailing wages, workers’ right to organize, and occupational health and safety.								
<b>Notes</b>									

	<b>2010-2014 Requirement</b>	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap *</u>	<u>Likely Conf. *</u>
<b>14.2.2</b>	Forestry enterprises will respect the rights of workers and labor representatives in a manner that encompasses the intent of the International Labor Organization (ILO) core conventions.								
<b>Notes</b>	Are there any ILO-related complaints? If yes NSF must pass these along to SFI Inc.								

**Objective 15. Forestry Research, Science, and Technology.**

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

2013	2010-2014 Requirement	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap *</u>	<u>Likely Conf. *</u>
15.1	<b>Program Participants shall individually and/or through cooperative efforts involving SFI Implementation Committees, associations or other partners provide in-kind support or funding for forest research to improve forest health, productivity, and sustainable management of forest resources, and the environmental benefits and performance of forest products.</b>	MF	13						
Notes									

2013	2010-2014 Requirement	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap *</u>	<u>Likely Conf. *</u>
15.1.1	Financial or in-kind support of research to address questions of relevance in the region of operations. The research shall include some of the following issues: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. forest health, productivity, and ecosystem functions;</li> <li>b. chemical efficiency, use rate and integrated pest management;</li> <li>c. water quality and/or effectiveness of best management practices including effectiveness of water quality and best management practices for protecting the quality, diversity and distributions of fish and wildlife habitats;</li> <li>d. wildlife management at stand- and landscape-levels;</li> <li>e. conservation of biological diversity;</li> <li>f. ecological impacts of bioenergy feedstock removals on productivity, wildlife habitat, water quality and other ecosystem functions;</li> <li>g. climate change research for both adaptation and mitigation;</li> <li>h. social issues;</li> <li>i. forest operations efficiencies and economics;</li> <li>j. energy efficiency;</li> <li>k. life cycle assessment;</li> <li>l. avoidance of illegal logging; and</li> <li>m. avoidance of controversial sources.</li> </ul>	MF	13						
<b>Notes</b>	<p>Wisconsin DNR has an extensive program for support of research. SFI Progress Report shows funding for research in 2012 as follows:</p> <p>\$132,091 Internal \$43,341 External: Forest Health and Productivity</p> <p>\$41,634 Internal \$0 External: Water Quality</p> <p>\$8,219 Internal \$217,710 External: Wildlife and Fish</p> <p>\$208,398 Internal \$109,610 External: Landscape/Ecosystem Management and Biodiversity</p> <p>2012 Totals: \$391,342 Internal; \$ 370,661 External</p> <p>A significant portion of this research occurs on the county forest system.</p> <p>Bayfield County has a regeneration monitoring study, including measurements at 1, 3, and now 7 years post treatment. The Wisconsin DNR's Science Services staff is assisting with data analysis.</p>								

<b>2013</b>	<b>2010-2014 Requirement</b>	Audit -or	<b><u>C</u></b>	<b><u>EXR</u></b>	<b><u>Maj</u></b>	<b><u>Min</u></b>	<b><u>OFI</u></b>	<b><u>Likely Gap *</u></b>	<b><u>Likely Conf. *</u></b>
15.1.2	Research on genetically engineered trees via forest tree biotechnology shall adhere to all applicable federal, state, and provincial regulations and international protocols.	MF	13						
<b>Notes</b>	The annual Nursery Program/Tree Improvement report was used to confirm that this requirement is met.								

<b>2013</b>	<b>2010-2014 Requirement</b>	Audit -or	<b><u>C</u></b>	<b><u>EXR</u></b>	<b><u>Maj</u></b>	<b><u>Min</u></b>	<b><u>OFI</u></b>	<b><u>Likely Gap *</u></b>	<b><u>Likely Conf. *</u></b>
15.2	<b>Program Participants shall individually <u>and/or</u> through cooperative efforts involving SFI Implementation Committees, associations or other partners develop or use state, provincial or regional analyses in support of their sustainable forestry programs.</b>	MF	13						
<b>Notes</b>	See indicators below.								

<b>2013</b>	<b>2010-2014 Requirement</b>	Audit -or	<b><u>C</u></b>	<b><u>EXR</u></b>	<b><u>Maj</u></b>	<b><u>Min</u></b>	<b><u>OFI</u></b>	<b><u>Likely Gap *</u></b>	<b><u>Likely Conf. *</u></b>
15.2.1	Participation, individually and/or through cooperative efforts involving SFI Implementation Committees and/or associations at the national, state, provincial or regional level, in the development or use of some of the following: a. regeneration assessments; b. growth and drain assessments; c. best management practices implementation and conformance; d. biodiversity conservation information for family forest owners; and e. social, cultural or economic benefit assessments.	MF	13						
<b>Notes</b>	a. Operational and pilot or “experimental” efforts are underway to improve information on regeneration. c. Wisconsin’s Council on Forestry is conducting a three-year review of the Biomass Harvesting Guidelines. WCFA, individual counties, and Wisconsin DNR staff are involved. e. Wisconsin’s Council on Forestry is planning a Governor’s Forestry Economic Summit December 12 & 13; WCFA will participate.								

2013	2010-2014 Requirement	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap *</u>	<u>Likely Conf. *</u>
15.3	<b>Program Participants shall individually and/or through cooperative efforts involving SFI Implementation Committees, associations or other partners broaden the awareness of climate change impacts on forests, wildlife and biological diversity.</b>	MF	13						
<i>Notes</i>	<p>Wisconsin DNR co-funds a climate change scientist at U.W. Madison</p> <p>WICCI Forestry working group has drafted a report; website: <a href="http://www.wicci.wisc.edu/forestry-working-group.php">http://www.wicci.wisc.edu/forestry-working-group.php</a></p> <p>Summary of Report Findings</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Climate is getting warmer &amp; wetter</li> <li>• Northward movement of tree species</li> <li>• Wildlife &amp; Wildlife Habitat Impacts: The range and distribution of many species will change...</li> <li>• Soil: Increasing frequency and intensity of rain storms could increase erosion rates of certain soil types on vulnerable landscapes.</li> </ul>								

2013	2010-2014 Requirement	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap *</u>	<u>Likely Conf. *</u>
15.3.1	Where available, monitor information generated from regional climate models on long-term forest health, productivity and economic viability.	MF	13						
<i>Notes</i>	<p>WCFA continues to be engaged in climate change issues through correspondence with Northern Institute of Applied Climate Science (NIACS) and Wisconsin's Shared Landscape Initiative (SLI) project." Source Jane F. Severt, Executive Director, Wisconsin County Forests Association</p>								

2013	2010-2014 Requirement	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap *</u>	<u>Likely Conf. *</u>
15.3.2	Program Participants are knowledgeable about climate change impacts on wildlife, wildlife habitats and conservation of biological diversity through international, national, regional or local programs.	MF	13						
<i>Notes</i>	<p>Foresters have a general awareness. This topic is occasionally covered in meetings.</p>								

**Objective 16. Training and Education.**

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

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

<i>2013</i>	<b>2010-2014 Requirement</b>	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap *</u>	<u>Likely Conf. *</u>
<i>16.1.1</i>	Written statement of commitment to the SFI 2010-2014 Standard communicated throughout the organization, particularly to facility and woodland managers, fiber sourcing staff and field foresters.	MF	13						
<i>Notes</i>	The commitment to the SFI Standard is in place in all counties. Confirmed that “Commitment to the SFI standard is documented in comprehensive land use plans – chapter 300. Staff members are kept up to date on SFI standards via training and communication from the group certificate manager and WCFA.” Source: Joe Schwantes, County & Public Forest Specialist								

<i>2013</i>	<b>2010-2014 Requirement</b>	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap *</u>	<u>Likely Conf. *</u>
<i>16.1.2</i>	Assignment and understanding of roles and responsibilities for achieving SFI 2010-2014 Standard objectives.								
<i>Notes</i>	Every county and state employee involved in the audit clearly understood their responsibilities. Primary responsibility at the sites resided with the County Forest Administrators, supported by Wisconsin DNR personnel, chiefly the County Forestry Liaisons. Central responsibility is assigned to the Wisconsin County Forestry Specialist, supported by the Certification Coordinator. All employees have ready access to the SFI requirements.  The Wisconsin County Forests Association has a very important support role (see also notes under SFI Indicator 18.1.1).								

<i>2013</i>	<b>2010-2014 Requirement</b>	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap *</u>	<u>Likely Conf. *</u>
<i>16.1.3</i>	Staff education and training sufficient to their roles and responsibilities.								

<b>Notes</b>	<p>Interviews and some documentation reviewed show that many training opportunities exist for county and DNR employees and contractors at all levels in this program (laborer, technician, resource manager, specialist, supervisor).</p> <p>Reviewed training files as follows: Most experienced forester in Douglas County (J.L.) – breadth of training appropriate; Least experienced forester in Douglas County (M.H.) – breadth of training appropriate</p> <p>“Chippewa Indian Tribal Training” for wardens stationed in the Ceded Territory’s, Forestry and Lands Staff to be held on August 20 at the Lac du Flambeau Casino and on August 22 at the LCO Casino.</p>
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<b>2013</b>	<b>2010-2014 Requirement</b>	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap *</u>	<u>Likely Conf. *</u>
16.1.4	Contractor education and training sufficient to their roles and responsibilities.	MF	13						
<b>Notes</b>	<p>FISTA-training requirements were confirmed. The Douglas County Timber Sale Contract, for example, specifies one in-woods person with the SFI-recognized FISTA training is to be identified and involved in the harvesting work.</p> <p>Douglas County employs detailed road and crossing specifications which serve as a type of training for road and harvesting contractors. For example “Rock Ford Crossing Construction” includes a list of requirements and several diagrams.</p>								

<b>2013</b>	<b>2010-2014 Requirement</b>	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap *</u>	<u>Likely Conf. *</u>
16.1.5	Forestry enterprises shall have a program for the use of certified logging professionals (where available) and qualified logging professionals.	MF	13						
<b>Notes</b>	<p>Confirmed by interviews and by direct observation at a training meeting that Wisconsin DNR contributes to the Master Logger program.</p> <p>All counties have programs to ensure the use of trained loggers. Confirmed that logger training requirements are in timber sale contracts by reviewing a sample of contracts for sales visited by audit team. The Wisconsin FISTA (SFI-recognized as qualified) training credential is specified, with some loggers interviewed also having the Wisconsin Master Logger (certified and SFI-recognized).</p>								

<b>2013</b>	<b>2010-2014 Requirement</b>	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap *</u>	<u>Likely Conf. *</u>
16.2	<b>Program Participants shall work individually and/or with SFI Implementation Committees, logging or forestry associations, or appropriate agencies or others in the forestry community to foster improvement in the professionalism of wood producers.</b>	MF	13						
<b>Notes</b>	See indicators below.								

2013	2010-2014 Requirement	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap *</u>	<u>Likely Conf. *</u>
16.2.1	Participation in or support of SFI Implementation Committees to establish criteria and identify delivery mechanisms for wood producers' training courses that address: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. awareness of sustainable forestry principles and the SFI program;</li> <li>b. best management practices, including streamside management and road construction, maintenance and retirement;</li> <li>c. reforestation, invasive exotic plants and animals, forest resource conservation, aesthetics, and special sites;</li> <li>d. awareness of responsibilities under the U.S. Endangered Species Act, the Canadian Species at Risk Act, and other measures to protect wildlife habitat (e.g. Forests with Exceptional Conservation Value);</li> <li>e. logging safety;</li> <li>f. U.S. Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) and Canadian Centre for Occupational Health and Safety (COHS) regulations, wage and hour rules, and other provincial, state and local employment laws;</li> <li>g. transportation issues;</li> <li>h. business management;</li> <li>i. public policy and outreach; and</li> <li>j. awareness of emerging technologies.</li> </ul>	MF	13						
<b>Notes</b>	Confirmed considerable involvement in the Wisconsin SFI Implementation Committee, including by interviewing SFI Implementation Committee members during a meeting. Jane Severt- Executive Director, Wisconsin County Forests Association, was present and has a significant role on the committee, representing the county forests. Wisconsin DNR is also very involved.								

2013	2010-2014 Requirement	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap *</u>	<u>Likely Conf. *</u>
16.2.2	Participation in or support of SFI Implementation Committees to establish criteria for recognition of logger certification programs, where they exist, that include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. completion of SFI Implementation Committee recognized logger training programs and meeting continuing education requirements of the training program;</li> <li>b. independent in-the-forest verification of conformance with the logger certification program standards;</li> <li>c. compliance with all applicable laws and regulations including responsibilities under the U.S. Endangered Species Act, the Canadian Species at Risk Act and other measures to protect wildlife habitat;</li> <li>d. use of best management practices to protect water quality;</li> <li>e. logging safety;</li> <li>f. compliance with acceptable silviculture and utilization standards;</li> <li>g. aesthetic management techniques employed where applicable; and</li> <li>h. adherence to a management or harvest plan that is site specific and agreed to by the forest landowner.</li> </ul>	MF	13						
<b>Notes</b>	Confirmed by interviews and by direct observation at a training meeting that Wisconsin DNR contributes to the Master Logger program. Some county forests have further promoted the Master Logger Program by altering contract requirements (e.g. more flexible bonding or deferred stumpage payment options) to encourage participation in the program and reward participating loggers.								

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

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

	2010-2014 Requirement	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap *</u>	<u>Likely Conf. *</u>
17.1	<b>Program Participants shall support and promote efforts by consulting foresters, state, provincial and federal agencies, state or local groups, professional societies, conservation organizations, indigenous peoples and governments, community groups, sporting organizations, labor, universities, extension agencies, the American Tree Farm System® and/or other landowner cooperative programs to apply principles of sustainable forest management.</b>	MF	13						
<i>Notes</i>	<p>Source: Jane Severt- Executive Director, Wisconsin County Forests Association “Several County Forest Administrator or members of their staffs serve on a variety of committees, boards, or councils representing Wisconsin’s County Forests:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Paul Teska, Rusk County Forest Administrator and Mike Dahlby, Chippewa County Forest Administrator work with the Ice Age Trail group on behalf of county forests.</li> <li>• Mark Diesen, Assistant County Forest Administrator in Burnett County, currently serves on the Public Lands Management Team</li> <li>• Doug Brown, Assistant County Forest Administrator in Marathon County, is our current representative on Wisconsin’s Silviculture Guidance Team. Other county foresters, and possibly a Board member, plan to serve on AdHoc groups working on specific chapters of the silviculture guidelines</li> <li>• Jason Bodine, Bayfield County Forest Administrator, serves on Wisconsin Bird Conservation Initiative (WBCI) Steering Committee and the WisFIRS review committee</li> <li>• Mike Dahlby, Chippewa County Forest Administrator, was appointed to the Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Advisory Council</li> <li>• Jake Walcisak, Assistant Forest Administrator in Florence County, serves on the Wolf Advisory Committee</li> <li>• Jon Schweitzer, Jackson County Recreation Program, serves on the Elk Advisory Committee and was appointed to Wisconsin’s Snowmobile Recreation Council</li> <li>• Mike Peterson, Washburn County Forest Administrator, was appointed to Wisconsin’s Off Road Vehicle (ORV) Council and serves on the WisFIRS review committee</li> <li>• Brian Loyd, Juneau County Forest Administrator, serves on the Forestry Education Specialist Team (FEST) and the Karner Blue Butterfly Committee</li> <li>• Jody Gindt, Eau Claire County forester, serves as the alternate on the Karner Blue Butterfly Committee</li> <li>• Jeremy Koslowski, Polk County Forest Administrator, serves on the LEAF Advisory Committee</li> <li>• Kevin Kleinschmidt, Lincoln County Forest Administrator, serves on the committee reviewing Wisconsin’s Beaver Management Plan”</li> </ul>								

	<b>2010-2014 Requirement</b>	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap *</u>	<u>Likely Conf. *</u>
17.1.1	Support, including financial, for efforts of SFI Implementation Committees.	MF	13						
<b>Notes</b>	Confirmed WDNR support and participation by Jane Severt- Executive Director, Wisconsin County Forests Association.								

	<b>2010-2014 Requirement</b>	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap *</u>	<u>Likely Conf. *</u>
17.1.2	Support for the development of educational materials for use with forest landowners (e.g. information packets, websites, newsletters, workshops, tours, etc.).								
<b>Notes</b>	Not reviewed during 2013 Surveillance Audit.								

	<b>2010-2014 Requirement</b>	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap *</u>	<u>Likely Conf. *</u>
17.1.3	Support for the development of regional, state or provincial information materials that provide forest landowners with practical approaches for addressing special sites and biological diversity issues, such as invasive exotic plants and animals, specific wildlife habitat, Forests with Exceptional Conservation Value, and threatened and endangered species.								
<b>Notes</b>	Not reviewed during 2013 Surveillance Audit.								

	<b>2010-2014 Requirement</b>	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap *</u>	<u>Likely Conf. *</u>
17.1.4	Participation in efforts to support or promote conservation of managed forests through voluntary market-based incentive programs such as current-use taxation programs, Forest Legacy Program or conservation easements.								
<b>Notes</b>	Not reviewed during 2013 Surveillance Audit.								

	<b>2010-2014 Requirement</b>	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap *</u>	<u>Likely Conf. *</u>
17.1.5	Program Participants are knowledgeable about credible regional conservation planning and priority-setting efforts that include a broad range of stakeholders and have a program to take into account the results of these efforts in planning.	MF	13						
<i>Notes</i>	Confirmed awareness and use of the Wisconsin Wildlife Action Plan. Relevant COAs are known by the counties and the Wisconsin DNR, and efforts are made to consider the COA goals during planning.								

	<b>2010-2014 Requirement</b>	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap *</u>	<u>Likely Conf. *</u>
17.2	<b>Program Participants shall support and promote, at the state, provincial or other appropriate levels, mechanisms for public outreach, education and involvement related to sustainable forest management.</b>								
<i>Notes</i>	See indicators below.								

	<b>2010-2014 Requirement</b>	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap *</u>	<u>Likely Conf. *</u>
17.2.1	Periodic educational opportunities promoting sustainable forestry, such as a. field tours, seminars, websites, webinars or workshops; b. educational trips; c. self-guided forest management trails; d. publication of articles, educational pamphlets or newsletters; or e. support for state, provincial, and local forestry organizations and soil and water conservation districts.	MF	13						
<i>Notes</i>	Foresters interviewed reported a range of educational activities.								

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

17.3	<b>Program Participants shall establish, at the state, provincial, or other appropriate levels, procedures to address concerns raised by loggers, consulting foresters, employees, <u>unions</u>, the public or other Program Participants regarding practices that appear inconsistent with the SFI Standard principles and objectives.</b>								
<i>Notes</i>	Not reviewed during 2013 Surveillance Audit.								

	<b>2010-2014 Requirement</b>	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap *</u>	<u>Likely Conf. *</u>
17.3.1	Support for SFI Implementation Committees (e.g. toll free numbers and other efforts) to address concerns about apparent nonconforming practices.								
<i>Notes</i>	Not reviewed during 2013 Surveillance Audit.								

	<b>2010-2014 Requirement</b>	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap *</u>	<u>Likely Conf. *</u>
17.3.2	Process to receive and respond to public inquiries. SFI Implementation Committees shall submit data annually to SFI Inc. regarding concerns received and responses.								
<i>Notes</i>	Not reviewed during 2013 Surveillance Audit.								

**Objective 18. Public Land Management Responsibilities.**

To promote and implement sustainable forest management on public lands.

2013	2010-2014 Requirement	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap *</u>	<u>Likely Conf. *</u>
18.1	<b>Program Participants with forest management responsibilities on public lands shall participate in the development of public land planning and management processes.</b>	MF	13						
Notes	See indicators below.								

2013	2010-2014 Requirement	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap *</u>	<u>Likely Conf. *</u>
18.1.1	Involvement in public land planning and management activities with appropriate governmental entities and the public.	MF	13						
Notes	<p>County and State land planning and management activities are closely coordinated through the use of the DNR Liaison foresters and by incorporating state forest management, private forestry, and county forestry activities within the same administrative line-staff field organization. Senior managers from the three key components of the county program (county, Wisconsin DNR forestry, and Wisconsin County Forests Association) have demonstrated continuing involvement in statewide planning efforts such as the Wildlife Action Plan and the Wisconsin Forestry Plan (efforts supported by, and required by, federal forestry programs).</p> <p>“WCFA is actively involved with issues surrounding national forest management. The Forest County Board has assembled a committee; Federal Sustainable Forests Committee. Dave Ziolkowski, Forest County Forest Administrator, serves on the committee and I regularly attend the meetings. WCFA’s Board of Directors is on record in support of that committee’s efforts. The committee is focused on improving forest health through proper, sustainable forest management as identified in the Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest Plan. A fair amount of congressional attention has been focused on national forest management and we are engaged in the dialog with our delegation.” Source Jane F. Severt, Executive Director, Wisconsin County Forests Association.</p> <p>County forests are run by the citizens of each county; Public members can comment during any monthly county forestry committee meeting.</p> <p>The department of natural resources has conducted an extensive analysis of the Deer Trustees Report (DTR), Wisconsin County Forests Association has been deeply involved in developing policies and programs recommended by the DTR. Public hearings are planned.</p>								

2013	2010-2014 Requirement	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap *</u>	<u>Likely Conf. *</u>
18.1.2	Appropriate contact with local stakeholders over forest management issues through state, provincial, federal or independent collaboration.	MF	13						

<b>Notes</b>	<p>Monthly committee meetings are open to the public, and County Forest Administrators welcome public inquiries.</p> <p>The 15 year plan and Annual Work Plan are brought before the county board for approval. Any citizen can provide input or ask questions; forest administrators reported that they routinely respond to requests, inquiries, and occasional complaints.</p> <p>Web sites in many counties provide detailed information on county forestry programs, including forestry committee meeting agendas and minutes, annual work plans, and annual reports and (in some cases) 15-year plans.</p> <p>Confirmed that the web site for Bayfield County Forestry &amp; Parks Department (<a href="http://www.bayfieldcounty.org/forestry-and-parks-department.asp">http://www.bayfieldcounty.org/forestry-and-parks-department.asp</a>) contains the county's Forest Comprehensive Land Use Plan 2006-2020, Accomplishment Reports, Budget Narratives, and other information that demonstrates conformance.</p>
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<b>2013</b>	<b>2010-2014 Requirement</b>	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap *</u>	<u>Likely Conf. *</u>
<i>18.2</i>	<b>Program Participants with forest management responsibilities on public lands shall confer with affected indigenous peoples.</b>	MF	13						
<b>Notes</b>	See indicators below.								

<b>2013</b>	<b>2010-2014 Requirement</b>	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap *</u>	<u>Likely Conf. *</u>
<i>18.2.1</i>	Program that includes communicating with affected indigenous peoples to enable Program Participants to: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. understand and respect traditional forest-related knowledge;</li> <li>b. identify and protect spiritually, historically, or culturally important sites; and</li> <li>c. address the use of non-timber forest products of value to indigenous peoples in areas where Program Participants have management responsibilities on public lands.</li> </ol>	MF	13						
<b>Notes</b>	Forests visited are within the “ceded territory” and thus subject to the federal treaty with the Chippewa tribe. Programs are in place to award free gathering permits to tribal members. Bayfield County and support team from WDNR explained the resources of primary concern were rice, deer, cultural sites, and general treaty rights. Consultation work is formally done by the department with the Great Lakes Indian Fish & Wildlife Commission’s Voigt Task Force, with good work at the staff-to-staff basis reported in most counties involved in the 2013 audits.								

**Objective 19. Communications and Public Reporting.**

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

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

	2010-2014 Requirement	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap *</u>	<u>Likely Conf. *</u>
19.1.1	The summary audit report submitted by the <i>Program Participant</i> (one copy must be in English), shall include, at a minimum, <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. a description of the audit process, <i>objectives</i> and scope;</li> <li>b. a description of substitute <i>indicators</i>, if any, used in the audit and a rationale for each;</li> <li>c. the name of <i>Program Participant</i> that was audited, including its SFI representative;</li> <li>d. a general description of the <i>Program Participant's</i> forestland and manufacturing operations included in the audit;</li> <li>e. the name of the <i>certification body</i> and <i>lead auditor</i> (names of the <i>audit team</i> members, including <i>technical experts</i> may be included at the discretion of the <i>audit team</i> and <i>Program Participant</i>);</li> <li>f. the dates the certification was conducted and completed;</li> <li>g. a summary of the findings, including general descriptions of evidence of conformity and any nonconformities and corrective action plans to address them, opportunities for improvement, and exceptional practices; and</li> <li>h. the certification decision.</li> </ul>	MF	13						
Notes	NSF Lead Auditor prepared the summary report in 2012 and will do so again for the 2013 surveillance audit. These reports include the required information.								

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

	<b>2010-2014 Requirement</b>	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap *</u>	<u>Likely Conf. *</u>
19.2.1	Prompt response to the SFI annual progress report.	MF	13						
<i>Notes</i>	Reviewed copy of report submitted spring 2013.								

	<b>2010-2014 Requirement</b>	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap *</u>	<u>Likely Conf. *</u>
19.2.2	Recordkeeping for all the categories of information needed for SFI annual progress reports.	MF	13						
<i>Notes</i>	WisFIRs system tracks all harvests; other systems are used to track contributions, etc. The review of documents associated with selected field sites helped audit team assess recordkeeping. All records requested were provided quickly.								

	<b>2010-2014 Requirement</b>	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap *</u>	<u>Likely Conf. *</u>
19.2.3	Maintenance of copies of past reports to document progress and improvements to demonstrate conformance to the SFI 2010-2014 Standard.	MF	13						
<i>Notes</i>	Group certificate manager is Joe Schwantes. Past report was provided when requested.								

**Objective 20. Management Review and Continual Improvement.**

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

<i>2013</i>	<b>2010-2014 Requirement</b>	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFl</u>	<u>Likely Gap *</u>	<u>Likely Conf. *</u>
<i>20.1</i>	<b>Program Participants shall establish a management review system to examine findings and progress in implementing the SFI Standard, to make appropriate improvements in programs, and to inform their employees of changes.</b>	MF	13						
<i>Notes</i>	See indicators below.								

<i>2013</i>	<b>2010-2014 Requirement</b>	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFl</u>	<u>Likely Gap *</u>	<u>Likely Conf. *</u>
<i>20.1.1</i>	System to review commitments, programs and procedures to evaluate effectiveness. Note: For multi-site programs the auditing requirements of Section 9 or the ISO MD-1 requirements must be followed (see Multi-site Checklist); at a minimum internal audits or monitoring that spans all sites and addresses the relevant part of the SFI Standard is expected.	MF	13						
<i>Notes</i>	<p>The County Forest program conducts periodic internal audits to determine compliance with the County Forest Law, the County Forest Comprehensive Land Use Plan (15 Yr. Plan), and Forest Certification standards. These are supplemented by partnership meetings and by regular review of activities conducted by the Wisconsin DNR Liaison Forester assigned to each county.</p> <p>Intensive county audits are conducted by Wisconsin DNR staff specialists on a rotating basis, on a 3-year cycle and recorded on the “County Forest Internal SFI Audit Checklist”. The records of the following internal audits were reviewed by the audit team (audited by Wisconsin DNR in the past year): Douglas County June 11, 2013; 3/19/13: Eau Claire. Also reviewed an older one, for Barron County 9.07.11; the internal CARs were resolved. Douglas County foresters described the internal audit process.</p> <p>Interviewed Steve Runstrom, Wisconsin DNR Staff Specialist, Northern Region, who conducted the internal audits in the counties reviewed as part of the 2013 audits. He described a process consistent with handbook guidance and with the requirements of this standard.</p> <p>Involvement by all enrolled counties in the Wisconsin County Forests Association (WCFA) and involvement by the WCFA in many aspects of forestry throughout Wisconsin, but particularly public lands management, helps bolster an already strong management system and contributes greatly to consistency and to continual improvement. Work done by WCFA in support of the counties’ forestry programs was evident throughout the audit.</p>								

<i>2013</i>	<b>2010-2014 Requirement</b>	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFl</u>	<u>Likely Gap *</u>	<u>Likely Conf. *</u>
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20.1.2	System for collecting, reviewing, and reporting information to management regarding progress in achieving SFI 2010-2014 Standard objectives and performance measures.	MF	13						
<b>Notes</b>	<p>In addition to the County Forest Administrator, the Wisconsin DNR Liaison Forester and Team Leaders review &amp; approve timber sales to ensure they are silviculturally-sound and address all the ecological and social considerations.</p> <p>Partnership meetings are held annually between each participating county and the Wisconsin DNR. Reviewed the 2012 “Partnership Minutes” folder on Data CD to assess the programs to ensure that the overall County Forestry Program and individual county programs are meeting all requirements, including certification.</p>								

2013	2010-2014 Requirement	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap *</u>	<u>Likely Conf. *</u>
20.1.3	Annual review of progress by management and determination of changes and improvements necessary to continually improve conformance to the SFI 2010-2014 Standard.	MF	13						
<b>Notes</b>	<p>Reviewed: “Minutes, County Forest – Annual Certification Review, August 12, 2013    Invited Participants: Darrell Zastrow, Deputy Forestry Division Administrator, Bob Mather – Director, Bureau of Forest Management, Jim Warren – Chief, Public &amp; Private Forestry Section in Bureau of Forest Management, Jeff Barkley – Assistant Executive Director WCFA, Joe Schwantes – DNR County Forest Specialist, Mark Heyde – DNR Forest Certification Coordinator.    Meeting Objectives: SFI – Indicator 20.1.3 (2010-2014 Std.) – Annual management review to promote continual improvement and align with SFI standard”</p> <p>The minutes, supported by interviews with several of the participants, show a program of annual review of progress by management and determination of changes and improvements necessary to continually improve conformance</p>								

**Multi-site Certification – Two Options**

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

Organization does **NOT** meet the definition above; the remaining questions do not apply and all remaining portions of the multi-site checklists may be deleted from the report.

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

- a) What specific activities are planned, controlled or managed at the central office?
  - Approval of all timber sales and any short-range and long-range plans
  - Record of each timber sale and of overall inventory through WISFIRs
  - Development of policies, procedures
  - Support for Wisconsin SFI Implementation Committee
  - Support for Wisconsin Master Logger Program and FISTA-training
  - Research Support
  - Climate Change requirements
- b) For each activity, provide evidence:  
See main checklist above, which provides evidence of all of the above and much more.

**General Eligibility Criteria:**

A legal or contractual link shall exist between all sites.

Yes       No    Evidence

County Forestry Program: The partnership is codified in Wisconsin statutes 28.10 & 28.11. Order of entry is issued for each participating county; there are provisions for withdrawal of tracts; complete withdrawal would not be politically feasible.

SFI Group: By resolution done by each County Forestry Committee; formal process in the public lands handbook.

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

Yes       No    Evidence

The sites operate within a common framework for inventory, management plans, timber sales, projects, etc. State law and regulations define allowable activities and provide authorization for this unique partnership.

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

Yes       No    Evidence: Procedures within participating counties are nearly identical. There are some local ordinances for land use and customized county timber sale contracts (not issues covered by the SFI Requirements) but even these have many common elements; most of the variation in contracts pertains to timber sale payments (again outside of the SFI Requirements).

**Central Function Requirements:**

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

Yes       No      Evidence: Each participating county has passed a resolution authorizing involvement; the Wisconsin DNR commitment is codified in regulations and in a governor's proclamation.

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

Yes       No      Evidence: The central function is provided by the Wisconsin DNR, supported by the Wisconsin County Forests Association. Many documents were provided and reviewed establishing strong conformance, including minutes of partnership meetings, WCFA meetings, emails, and briefing documents. There is a full-time "county forest specialist" and the WCFA provides very significant certification-related support within the overall organizational mission of supporting sustainable forestry on county forest lands in Wisconsin.

Wisconsin DNR Team Leaders coordinate discussion of CARs and OFIs at annual local meetings; Every three years each county forest undergoes a more comprehensive internal audit including financial, operational, and forest certification; WCFA has a certification topic at most of the three annual meetings. Involvement by all enrolled counties in the Wisconsin County Forests Association (WCFA) and involvement by the WCFA in many aspects of forestry throughout Wisconsin, but particularly public lands management, helps bolster an already strong management system and contributes greatly to consistency and to continual improvement. Work done by WCFA in support of the counties' forestry programs was evident throughout the audit.

"The annual partnership meeting between Bayfield County Forestry and Parks (BCF) and the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) was held on September 19<sup>th</sup>, 2012 at the Washburn Ranger Station."  
County Forest Time Standards Report (FY 12): 2,819 hours of WiDNR time devoted to Bayfield County

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

Yes       No      Evidence: Public lands handbook describes the process for removing a county from the group, in a section titled "Landowner Entry and Departure from the Group Organization(s)". Enrollment of counties in the group is covered by the handbook as well.

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

Yes       No      Evidence      Public Forest Lands Handbook, Group Administration section describes process for maintaining group records, including "Lists and acreages of FSC and SFI group members".

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

Yes       No      Evidence

There are several tiers of monitoring: timber sale inspections, review and approval of all projects by Wisconsin DNR, periodic field visits, and ongoing joint field work serve the monitoring function that covers many aspects of Objectives 1-7. There are supplemented by two levels of internal audits: annual partnership meetings at all counties, and each county forest undergoes a more comprehensive internal audit including financial, operational, and forest certification every three years. These "three-year audits" are largely conducted by a 2-person core team consisting of an accounting specialist and the DNR area forestry staff specialist.

- Bayfield Partnership Minutes 2012;

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

Yes       No      Evidence

Each county forest undergoes a comprehensive internal audit including financial, operational, and forest certification

every three years. These “three-year audits” are largely conducted by a 2-person core team consisting of an accounting specialist and the DNR area forestry staff specialist. The county forest administrator and the WiDNR Liaison Forester are involved in the audits and in the review of the draft report. The reports are ultimately sent to the Wi County Forest Program Specialist and to the DNR Forest Management Bureau Director. The program specialist looks for trends, etc. The internal CARs are also sent to the WCFA Legislative Committee.

Review of records showed that 11 counties were included in audits from July 2012 to July 2013. Records include SFI (and FSC, where applicable) checklists and then reports, often titled “Program Review Executive Summary”.

- From the Douglas County Forest, June 11, 2013, Program Review (2010-2012), Executive Summary “The review was conducted in three parts: a programmatic evaluation of timber sale accountability, a fiscal review of the county’s State Aid Forestry Fund account and associated grants / loans, and a review of Douglas County’s progress on forest certification initiatives.
- Barron SFI Internal Audit checklist 9-7-11

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

Yes  No Evidence See matrix items 20.1.1 and 20.1.2.

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

Yes  No Evidence

Bayfield Partnership Minutes 2012 includes a section: “6. Forest Certification” including SFI findings from past reports.

CARs from the Barron County 2011 audits were resolved.

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

Yes  No Evidence This is a very stable program; no recent changes.

### **Individual Site Functions and Responsibilities**

Sites implement and maintain the requirements of the relevant standard.

Yes  No Evidence Interviews and field audits, 6 counties in 2012; see main checklist.

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

Yes  No Evidence Annual partnership meetings include certification topic.

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

Yes  No Evidence Audit revealed a high level of cooperation between state and county personnel.

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

Yes  No Evidence: Changes in the program over the past few years have moved into practice

quickly in the counties. Third-party CARs have been the focus; site level responses/changes to resolve CARs appear effective. There have been a few internal CARs (Barron, for example) and these internal CARs and the OFIs have been resolved.

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

**Sampling and Non-sampling**

**NA; Option 1 used**

**Appendix IV**



**Audit Site Notes and Participants**

<b>Date: 14 August 2013</b>	
<b>FMU / Location / sites visited</b>	<b>Activities / notes</b>
Bayfield County Courthouse	Opening Meeting
Participants	Dave Wager, FSC Lead Auditor, SCS Global Mike Ferrucci, SFI Lead Auditor, NSF-ISR JoAnn Hanowski, FSC, SFI team auditor Joe Schwantes, County & Public Forest Specialist Mark Heyde, Division of Forestry, Forest Certification Coordinator, Wisconsin DNR Carmen Hardin, Forest Science Section Chief, Wisconsin DNR Todd Naas, Wildlife Biologist, Wisconsin DNR Matt Blaylock, Team Leader, Wisconsin DNR Jay Gallagher, Area Forestry Supervisor, Wisconsin DNR Joseph LeBouton, Bayfield County Liaison, Wisconsin DNR Jeff Barkley, Wisconsin County Forests Association
<b>Date: 14 August 2013</b>	
<b>FMU / Location / sites visited</b>	<b>Activities / notes</b>
Participants	Dave Wager, FSC Lead Auditor, SCS Global Mike Ferrucci, SFI Lead Auditor, NSF-ISR JoAnn Hanowski, FSC, SFI team auditor Joe Schwantes, County & Public Forest Specialist Mark Heyde, Division of Forestry, Forest Certification Coordinator, Wisconsin DNR Carmen Hardin, Forest Science Section Chief, Wisconsin DNR Todd Naas, Wildlife Biologist, Wisconsin DNR Matt Blaylock, Team Leader, Wisconsin DNR Jay Gallagher, Area Forestry Supervisor, Wisconsin DNR Joseph LeBouton, Bayfield County Liaison, Wisconsin DNR Jeff Barkley, Wisconsin County Forests Association Jason Bodine, Forestry & Parks Administrator, Bayfield County Steve Probst, Forestry & Parks Assistant Administrator, Bayfield County Leigh Downing, Recreation Forester, Bayfield County Mike Amman, Forester, Bayfield County Jeremiah Neitzel, Forester, Bayfield County Andrew O'Krueg, Forester, Bayfield County Jason Holmes, Forester, Bayfield County John Mesko, Technician, Bayfield County
Site #1. Stand 11-13	This 32 acre aspen/jack pine stand was whole tree harvested in 2013. The goal for the site is to regenerate jack pine. Due to future site activities (aerial seeding and trenching) the green tree retention guidelines were not followed. The policy is to get these sites as "clean" as possible for safety and disease concerns. Identified that staff are using the NHI database for SGCN species forest management guidelines.
Site #2. Tripp Gravel Pitt Road chemical release site.	This 33 acre site was treated with an aerial application of rodeo, sulfomet XP and TA-40 Surfactant to control competing vegetation. The site had been harvested, fire plowed and then hand planted with red pine in 2009. Good results on knocking down competing vegetation and the red pine looked good. County is using the lowest dosage rates of chemicals in their applications.
Site #3. Stand 40-10	This was an 86 acre aspen regeneration harvest that was completed in Dec 2011. Approximately 5% retention was prescribed for the site, primarily by retaining long-lived conifer species. An ephemeral pond was buffered with a 15 ft no-harvest strip which is above the BMP requirements for this

	wetland type.
Site #4. Stand 12-13	This site is a proposed 14 acre aspen harvest that has a small stream bisecting the proposed sale. A 35 ft buffer on each side of the stream was marked for retention. The goal is to regenerate aspen on the site. The site is scheduled for harvest in 2013 but has not been cut. There are steep slopes on the site and a discussion was had regarding how the logger would remove the wood from the site.
Site #5. Stand 25-11	32 acre aspen clearcut of aspen, mixed hardwood, oak, and jack pine. Excellent retention primarily clumped along intermittent streams and in small islands. Excellent job by operator not damaging conifer regeneration. Adjacent landowner complained about clearcut impacting aesthetics of local beach at Jackman Lake. In response County modified the sale to include a roadside buffer of 2 tree lengths. Buffer was implemented and neighbor was satisfied. Interviewed logger Cliff Johnson and confirmed overall good attention to safety including: operator had FISTA training; hand cutters had chaps, hard hats, gloves, and ear protection; operator carried spill kit, fire extinguisher, and water tank; operator holds monthly safety meetings with workers.
Site #6. County Hwy A chemical release.	This former jack pine stand was clearcut and the site prepped in 2011. Containerized red pine were planted in spring 2012 with seedlings from a Canadian nursery that were grown with a local seed source. County has found that they are getting 90-95% survival with containerized stock. This site is outside the Barnes Barrens area and will be converted to red pine. The overall goal on the forest is to maintain current acres of red and jack pine. Because some red pine in the Barrens will be converted to jack pine, there is a need to convert some jack pine to red pine outside the Barrens management area.
Site # 7. Chemical release of extensive red pine stand.	Good results observed (from vehicle).
Site #8. Road maintenance methods on two-track system road on loose sand.	The County has come up with a way to build and maintain durable road surfaces in the sand soiled areas of the County by incorporating organic material into the surface as a binder and by allowing sod growth to help bind the road surface. Results are quite good. At this stop the adjacent legacy 1320-foot wide fuel break was observed and discussed (moving away from these massive breaks due to challenges maintaining them, in favor of block barrens habitat and more modest breaks associated with roads).
Site # 9. Stand 16-12	This stand is located in the Barnes Barrens management unit (about 11,500 acres) that will be managed on a landscape context for barrens land habitat (an HCVF). This 119 acre mature jack pine stand will be clearcut and then maintained as open habitat within the core area of the floating matrix landscape plan. We had a long discussion on how the plan was developed and how it will be implemented. The area will provide habitat for sharp-tailed grouse and many other barrens habitat dependent species.
Site #10. New road construction.	Road is being constructed for a fire protection break. This is a piece of a comprehensive regional fire protection plan.
Site #11. Stand 59-11	This area will receive three different treatments. A 21- acre stand marked for an overstory removal. Excellent advanced regeneration of mixed hardwoods. Approximately 5 sq ft of basal area was marked to be retained following overstory removal. Retention designated by painting green leave trees and designating all conifers to be maintained. Verified that adequate quality and numbers of retention are marked to remain after overstory removal.  The largest portion of the sale is in a northern hardwood stand managed under selection silviculture. Improvement thinning on 80% of area, with

	<p>canopy gaps on the remainder. Gaps are located systematically, with care taken to ensure sufficiently large canopy gaps to favor varied species of regeneration. Increased emphasis on monitoring the regeneration was discussed, and monitoring forms reviewed.</p> <p>A 27 acre lowland conifer stand will be strip-thinned (clearcut 2 chains wide with 2 chain wide retention strips). The harvest will occur in the winter and only if there is sufficient freeze up. The goal is to regenerate tamarack and black spruce.</p>
<b>Date:</b> 15 August 2013	
<b>FMU / Location / sites visited</b>	<b>Activities / notes</b>
Participants Barron County	<p>Mike Ferrucci, SFI Lead Auditor, NSF-ISR  John Cisek, Barron County Forest Administrator  Mark Heyde, Division of Forestry, Forest Certification Coordinator, Wisconsin DNR  Tom Duke, District Forester, Wisconsin DNR  Chris Rucinski, Liaison Forester, Wisconsin DNR  Dave Kafura, Forest Hydrologist, Wisconsin DNR  Steve Runstrom, Forestry Specialist, Wisconsin DNR  Kevin Morgan, Wisconsin DNR</p>
Site #1: Sale# 330, Red Head Lake	Completed improvement thinning and selection in several stands with varying mixtures of oak, northern hardwood, birch, and Aspen comprising 114 acres. Drier portions will be managed for oak (even-aged) and moister places for northern hardwood (uneven-aged). Habitat classification was used but is not definitive. Also a six-acre stand of red pine that was thinned.
Site #2: Sale# 341, Burnett County Line	Nearly complete except 3-acre oak shelterwood section (logging not taking place). 180 acres total, most sections will be managed using selection systems to gradually convert oak-dominated stands to hardwoods with an oak component. Habitat classification was used but is not definitive. Many portions could be managed for oak (even-aged) or for northern hardwood (uneven-aged), but in many areas this decision will not be made until the next entry. Boundary lines issues were resolved. Portion of Ice-Age Trail located on logging roads; trail was left in good condition.
Site #3: Trailhead for Ice Age Trail (lunch)	Parking area, kiosk and signs, picnic table, warming shed.
Site #4: Sale# 336, Beauty Lake	Completed improvement thinning in a 39 acre Oak Stand. Good documentation of contacts with adjacent landowners regarding access and boundary issues. Close review of silviculture and retention of wildlife trees confirmed that harvest meets handbook provisions for each.
Site#5: Sale #339	Mirror Lake Pine, block on Goose Lake Road Completed Red Pine row thinning.
Site#6: 2011 Oak TSI Release near Sale #339, block on Goose Lake Road	Good results from brush-saw release by TSI Contractor
Site#7: 2011 Oak Overstory Removal near Sale #339, block on Goose Lake Road	Some oaks may be free-to-grow, but most at risk from overtopping. Prescribed fire not implemented (weather conditions not favorable) so TSI may be done to free oak saplings from heavy competition of Aspen and red maple.
Site#8: Goose Lake Road	Recreation road open all year except during spring thaw. Gravel has been added as needed, most sections are holding up well, despite limited

	provisions for drainage and some below-grade sections; soil is well-drained. The road is only heavily used during hunting season, and is one of only two county forest roads that are open, so it receives regular attention.
Site#9: Sale #345, 26 <sup>th</sup> Avenue, Town of Cedar Lake	Active harvest by Butler Forest Products, reviewed small Aspen clearcut nearly complete and landing. Interviewed Dan Tice and Andy Gordon, both FISTA (SFI) trained, and both who clearly described environmentally-appropriate logging practices as well as provisions to leave trees with wildlife activity.
Site#10: Sale #346, Mikana South	Marked and sold, 74 acre sale. Reviewed marking in small portion of selection area and oak shelterwood area. Confirmed that harvest meets handbook provisions regarding silviculture.
Date: 15 August 2013	
Participants Ashland County	Dave Wager, FSC Lead Auditor, SCS Global JoAnn Hanowski, FSC, SFI team auditor Chris Hoffman, Ashland County Forest Administrator/Trail Coordinator Tom Piikilla, WI DNR Ashland County Liaison Forester Joe Schwantes, County & Public Forest Specialist Jeff Barkley, Wisconsin County Forests Association Matt Schultz, Ashland County Assistant Forest Administrator Jerome Wotachek, Ashland County Forester Bruce Bacon, Wildlife Biologist, WI DNR Heather Berklund, Area Team Leader, WI DNR Colleen Matula, Forest Ecologist/Silviculturist, WI DNR Eric Peterson, Forester, WI DNR Jay Gallagher, Area Supervisor, WI DNR
Site#1. Mudline Road	This is one of a 4.2 mile section of County maintained road. The roadside had recently received an herbicide application to control grass. Culverts have recently been replaced and a section of road that had washed out in early summer was repaired. The area of the road over the new culverts were raised to prevent water from flowing over the road. Access points off of road are either gated or bermed to prevent unauthorized off road trucks.
Site #2. Stand 952	This was an 87 acre sale that included three stands, a northern hardwood selection, an aspen coppice and a balsam fir/red maple coppice. Adequate retention was seen in the clearcut areas and was predominantly long lived conifers. The goal for the northern hardwoods is to grow saw logs. Cavity, den and legacy trees were left in the hardwood stand. The stand was successfully converted to aspen. Coppice areas were cut in winter and there were no BMP issues.
Site#3. Stand 965	This sale and harvest was a multi-stand sale in lowland hardwoods. The treatments were either a strip coppice with residuals of cedar and yellow birch or a clearcut with residuals. The State has recently finished the silvicultural chapter for lowland hardwoods and some of the stands in Ashland County are being used as test sites. The site was harvested this past winter and inspection revealed that care had been taken during harvest to protect soils. Stand was coded in WisFIRS for follow-up regeneration monitoring in 3 years.
Site# 4. Active sale Stand 961	Northern hardwood improvement thinning. Residual stand damage was minimized. Good use of slash mats, no BMP violations. Actively being harvested by Bert Schmidt using processor and forwarder. Interviewed logger about BMP's, training, and safety. A portion of the hardwood sale

	that was marked, but not harvested was also inspected. This site had a fairly dense sedge layer and we had a discussion on the difficulty of regenerating sugar maple on these sites. The County is experimenting with chemical treatment of sedges to enhance regeneration.
Site #5. Stand 963	This was an active sale-started but not yet complete. There was a fairly steep slope where a skid trail was placed. The trail was rehabbed with water bars and brush to prevent erosion. A berm was placed on the top of the ridge to prevent water from running down the trail. Retention looked good on the site and wetlands were buffered. Peeler logs were being sold from this site.
Site#6. Compartment 48-8	This planting was completed after a salvage harvest of a spruce plantation that had been damaged by budworm. The site was disc trenched and herbicided before a spring 2013 planting. Heavy competition and the red pine may need to be released in the future. Trees had good growth in year 1. The road into the site was rehabilitated with water bars and a water diversion structure.
Site#7. Hunter Walking Trails	The County manages six hunter walking trails. A sign and map of the trail is located at the trailhead. The locations of the trails are marked on the County map. Mowing is done annually and the trails are plowed and reseeded about every five years to replace clover that has been out competed by the grasses. Walking trails are nationally recognized and contribute to the local economy with out of state bird hunters annually visiting Butternut.
Site#8. Stand 964	This multi-stand, 102 acre sale included an aspen regeneration, a hardwood thin and a swamp hardwood shelterwood. The site was marked but has not been harvested.
Site #9. Stand 957	This mature red pine stand (plantation origin) was recently thinned (40 acres). The trees were utilized for utility poles with high value sale of ~\$85 per cord. The County will continue to harvest mature trees over several more entries and eventually will allow the site to convert to northern hardwoods. The planting occurred on an old farm field and there is advanced regeneration of hardwoods on the site.
Stie #10. Stand 911	This 137-acre northern hardwood sale was comprised of two stands. Both stands received a thinning treatment. Discussion of leave trees, the County has a goal of leaving three or more den, mast and snag trees/acre in their hardwood thinnings. Had a discussion of the new American marten habitat management guidelines which are now in process. Viewed one of several vernal pools in the stand that had 15 foot buffer
Site# 11. Hemlock HCVF	The County has a bit over 500 acres of high conservation value forests in two different blocks, the Snow Shoe Lake Block (374 acres) and Camp K Block (127 acres). We visited a stand that had received a harvest treatment. The goal is to create gaps adjacent to hemlock trees to provide adequate seeding opportunities. The goal is to regenerate both yellow birch and hemlock in these gaps. Some of Ashland County's hemlock stands are part of the silvicultural trials program. The site was harvested in the past year and it is too early to determine regeneration success.
Date: 16 August 2013	Douglas County (Jane Severt Executive Director, Wisconsin County Forests Association office participant only)
Participants Team 1	Jim Latvala – Douglas County Forester ( <i>team leader</i> ) Jason Langenecker – Douglas County Inventory Forester/GIS Specialist Rod Fouks – WDNR Team Leader Greg Kessler – WDNR Wildlife Biologist Jay Gallagher – WDNR Area Leader Joe LeBouton – WDNR Forester (Bayfield County Liaison) Mark Heyde – WDNR Forest Certification Coordinator

	JoAnn Hanowski – Auditor
Site #1: Sale 4107	The site is a mixed aspen clearcut with pockets of black spruce that were strip-thinned. There was good green tree retention that was obtained by prescription (leave pine, oak and white spruce). A 100ft wide buffer was retained along the Little Black River. Good regeneration on site and good species diversity in strips.
Site #2: Kestrel County Road	This dead end road was constructed by a contractor to access timber. The construction of the road was solid and had a surface that was recently graded. The ditches had also recently been brushed.
Site #3: Sale 3949	This 73 acre northern hardwood stand was harvested with a an all-aged single tree selection system. The goal is to promote northern hardwoods on the site. American Marten are known to occur in this area (NHI hit) and management will accommodate their biological requirements. Leave trees were marked and there was good retention of wildlife trees on the site.
Site #4: Japanese Knotweed treatment	A small pocket of knotweed was found by County employees and documented. Staff received permission to chemically treat the site with milestone which did a good at killing the vegetation. The plan is to mechanically treat the site as the knotweed persists.
Site #5: State line flowage	A failed control structure was replaced on the flowage.
Site #6: Sale 4063	This active sale is an 83 acre northern hardwood and red maple stand that is being treated with and even-age clearcut (red maple) and all-aged individual tree selection (northern hardwood) harvest methods. Most of the area had been treated and there was good individual tree retention and a small reserve ash lowland reserve area.
Site #7: Winter recreation Trail	The County has about 300 miles of winter trail and about 100 miles of summer trails. The trails are mowed by private clubs with guidance by the County.
Team 2	Craig Golembiewski – Douglas County Forester ( <i>team leader</i> ) Dave Cizmas – Douglas County Forester ( <i>team leader</i> ) Jon Harris – Douglas County Forest Administrator Dale Rochon – WDNR Forester/Ranger Rick Matlack – WDNR Forester Colleen Matula – WDNR Silviculturist Jeff Barkley – WCFA Representative Mike Ferrucci – Auditor
Site #1: Sale #4078	Active harvest site, VanVleck subcontract logger not present (left for machine repair). Seed-tree harvest in an over-mature red maple-dominated stand. 20 trees (14 square feet of basal area) per acre retained, including designated important or difficult to regenerate species: cedar, yellow birch, white pine, black spruce. Pattern includes scattered and clumped, including clumps in pockets of wet soil, providing protection.
Site #2: Jackson Box Flowage	Flowage originally installed based on Wisconsin DNR’s request to enhance habitat and for hunting. More recently WDNR requires inspections, and where needed, modifications for safety and stability. Douglas County upgraded per inspection; also planted wild rice working with an Indian tribe.
Site #3: Several completed Aspen clearcuts along Jackson Box Road	West side of road is a grouse management area, east side managed to complement, but not as fully directed towards aspen management. Clearcut are separated by uncut areas or by timing, with dispersed and clumped retention. White pine legacy trees retained.
Site #4: Grouse Road	County forest system road used as a main haul road. Built to Douglas County road specification. Roads generally built by timber purchaser’s contractor, and specifications are contained in the timber sale contract template (reviewed by auditor). Roads observed meet BMPs.
Site #5: Wildlife Openings	Several maintained, grassy wildlife openings were observed. These are

	maintained by periodic mowing, and provide cover and places for hunting. Many of these openings are located in legacy, large landings (formerly box company land).
Site #6: Bounty Road, aka Empire Wilderness Road	County forest system road used as a main haul road, but also serves as a winter recreation trail. Built to Douglas County road specification, but significantly wider row clearing so that the truck traffic and snowmobile traffic can be kept separate.
Site #7 Tower Oak Burn, Tower Fire Lane	Northern hardwoods on a site that was good for oak also had been thinned, forester decided it was a good oak regeneration opportunity, consistent with plan. Burned it once, then cut other hardwoods, then burned again somewhat hard. Observed that about one-third of overstory oak are dead, and forester will leave the rest uncut, providing habitat, mast, and structure. Oak in understory are vigorous and plentiful, and should dominate the stand over time. Project is a success; this is important because regenerating stands to have a predominant oak component has been difficult.
Site #8: Sale #4032	Selection harvest in northern hardwoods. Inspected Unit 2, Stand 18, 30 acres reduced from 171 to 81 square feet basal area per acre with some limited gaps. Pole-sized, 63-years old. Silvicultural method and its application appropriate.
Site #9: Northern Hardwood Stand	Adjacent to Sale #4032, this sale was completed 4-5 years ago. Selection harvest with gaps per silvicultural guidelines. Ample sugar maple regeneration between and particularly in gaps, but gaps also had free-to-grow oak saplings. A very successful application of selection per the handbook.
Site #10: Sale #4132	Harvest Unit 2, 47 acre clearcut with reserves of an Aspen/Mixed hardwood stand. Reserves comprised 22 trees per acre with about 12% crown cover, primarily red oak, with white pine and white spruce. Protected vernal pool per BMPs. Confirmed effective sale administration.
Site #11: Sale# 4027	Active birch seed tree harvest. Coleen Matula and Douglas County foresters discussed advantages and disadvantages of this method, and a working group will visit Douglas County soon to review several sites. Forester designates wetland species for retention to help protect soils in moist-to-wet pockets. Contractor T&T is a very high-production outfit. Observed an efficient and very fast roundwood and biomass operation including fixed-head processor, 2 grapple skidders, stroke delimeter, slasher-loader. Felled trees are pre-bunched in harvest area, then limbed before yarding pole-length to main landing for slashing and loading trucks. Piles of biomass are cold-decked, to be yarded later for chipping at main landing.
Team 3 Participants	Mark Hager – Douglas County Forester ( <i>team leader</i> ) Lance Wegner – Douglas County Forestry Technician Mark Schroeder – Douglas County Parks & Recreation Manager Don Luebbe – WDNR Forester (Douglas County Liaison) Ryan Magana – WDNR Endangered Resources Ecologist Tom Duke – WDNR Northern Region Leader Mike Luedeke – WCFA Director-at-Large John Robinson – Douglas County Forest, Parks, & Recreation Committee Member (Vice Chair) Dave Conley – Douglas County Forest, Parks, & Recreation Committee Member Joe Schwantes – WDNR County & Public Forest Specialist Dave Wager – Auditor
Site #1: Twin Lakes Road, Jack Pine Planting Site	31-acre Jack pine planting site. Site preparation completed with fire plow, no chemicals were used. Planting done with containerized stock from locally collected Jack pine seed. Excellent survival at over 99%. Trees will be bud capped in fall 2013.

Site #2: Flat Lake SNA T44N-R11W, Sections 3, 4	104-acre SNA established in 2007. Shallow soft-water seepage lake with lush emergent and submergent marsh community. A timber harvest was conducted adjacent to SNA, but over 100 ft of buffer was left. Confirmed Douglas County Forester consults Ecological Resources whenever operations occur adjacent to SNA to ensure management will not impact rare habitat.
Site #3. Gordan Dam County Park and Adjacent Timber Sale	Gateway to the Wild and Scenic stretch of the St. Croix River. Timber sale was a 31-acre aspen/red maple clearcut with reserves. Efforts were taken to release white pine regeneration. Good protection of advanced regeneration and implementation of BMP's. Excellent reserves left within the stand and in the RMZ along the St. Croix River. Significant care was taken to ensure site maintained aesthetic qualities so as not to impact the high use recreation area.
Site 4. Gordon Dam County Park Campground	County carefully maintains flowage gates to minimize up-river flooding and ensure adequate downstream flows. County recreation site with campgrounds, boat launches, and swimming areas. \$50,000 recently invested to build new bathroom.
Site #5: Sale #3856; Red Pine Plantation Blowdown	July 2011 blowdown impacts on red pine plantation. Majority of the red pine was salvaged and site will be regenerated naturally with a mix of pine and oak.
Site #6: ATV Trail	Trail is well designed, signed, and maintained. Discussed Douglas County's approaches to trail maintenance, monitoring of illegal uses, user groups, enforcement.
Site #7: Sale #4057.	137-acre emergency salvage harvest resulting from July 2011 straight line wind event. Prior to wind-event, stand was composed of oak (which had had a first stage shelterwood cut) and aspen. Both oak and mature aspen were severely impacted by July 2011 wind event. Very good oak regeneration and Douglas County plans to maintain oak on the site by using prescribed fire within 2-3 years. Vernal pool identified and protected from harvesting equipment. Given the extent of blowdown, adequate green tree retention was left around water features and undisturbed patches.
Site #8: Sale #3904.	Seed tree harvest of mature red oak, aspen/red maple, and northern hardwood. The sale was setup, but not yet harvested, prior to the wind event. Harvested in December 2012. Good oak regeneration and plans are to use prescribed fire to promote oak where possible. Good protection of RMZ and overall effective BMP implementation. Biomass guidelines effectively used on sale. Access trail was bermed to prevent unauthorized vehicle access.

## Appendix V



# SFI Reporting Form

Complete form not needed, no changes:

Contact Person:

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