

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

*State of Maryland DNR – Forest Service*

Maryland, USA

**SCS-FM/COC-00069P**

Client Address	580 Taylor Ave, E1 Annapolis, MD 21401
Client Contact	Jack Perdue, Forest Resource Planning, jack.perdue@maryland.gov
Client Website	<a href="http://dnr.maryland.gov/forests/">http://dnr.maryland.gov/forests/</a>

CERTIFIED	EXPIRATION
29 April 2019	28 April 2024

DATE OF FIELD EVALUATION
20-22 July 2019
DATE OF REPORT FINALIZATION
22 September 2021

SCS Contact:  
**Brendan Grady** | Director  
Forest Management Certification  
+1.510.452.8000  
[bgrady@scsglobalservices.com](mailto:bgrady@scsglobalservices.com)



2000 Powell Street, Ste. 600, Emeryville, CA 94608 USA  
+1.510.452.8000 main | +1.510.452.8001 fax  
[www.SCSglobalServices.com](http://www.SCSglobalServices.com)

## Foreword

Cycle in annual surveillance evaluations				
<input type="checkbox"/> 1 <sup>st</sup> annual evaluation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 2 <sup>nd</sup> annual evaluation	<input type="checkbox"/> 3 <sup>rd</sup> annual evaluation	<input type="checkbox"/> 4 <sup>th</sup> annual evaluation	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (expansion of scope, Major CAR audit, special audit, etc.):
<b>Name of Forest Management Enterprise (FME) and abbreviation used in this report:</b>				
MDDNR, DNR				

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

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

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

### Organization of the Report

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

## Table of Contents

SECTION A – PUBLIC SUMMARY .....	4
1. GENERAL INFORMATION .....	4
1.1 Evaluation Team .....	4
1.2 Total Time Spent on Evaluation .....	4
1.3 Applicable Standards .....	5
1.4 Conversion Table English Units to Metric Units.....	5
2. CERTIFICATION EVALUATION PROCESS .....	6
2.1 Evaluation Itinerary, Activities, and Site Notes.....	6
2.2 Evaluation of Management Systems .....	10
3. CHANGES IN MANAGEMENT PRACTICES.....	11
4. RESULTS OF EVALUATION.....	11
4.1 Definitions of Major CARs, Minor CARs and Observations .....	11
4.2 History of Findings for Certificate Period.....	11
4.3 Existing Corrective Action Requests and Observations .....	12
4.4 New Corrective Action Requests and Observations .....	13
5. STAKEHOLDER COMMENTS .....	18
5.1 Stakeholder Groups Consulted .....	18
5.2 Summary of Stakeholder Comments and Evaluation Team Responses .....	19
6. CERTIFICATION DECISION .....	22
7. ANNUAL DATA UPDATE .....	22
SECTION B – APPENDICES (CONFIDENTIAL).....	28
Appendix 1 – List of FMUs Selected for Evaluation .....	28
Appendix 2 – Staff and Stakeholders Consulted.....	28
Appendix 3 – Additional Evaluation Techniques Employed .....	30
Appendix 4 – Required Tracking.....	30
Appendix 5 – Forest Management Standard Conformance Table.....	31
Appendix 6 – Chain of Custody Indicators for FMEs Conformance Table .....	32
Appendix 7 – Trademark Standard Conformance Table.....	72
Appendix 8 – Group Management Program.....	78

Deleted:

Deleted:

## SECTION A – PUBLIC SUMMARY

### 1. General Information

#### 1.1 Evaluation Team

<b>Auditor name:</b>	Beth Jacqmain	<b>Auditor role:</b>	Audit Team Leader
<b>Qualifications:</b>	<p>Senior Certification Forester at SCS Global Services, Forest Ecologist and Certified Forester (SAFCF#1467). Beth has 20+ years’ experience in forestry including public land management, private consulting, and private corporate forest management working with landowners and harvest crews. Qualified ANSI RAB accredited ISO 14001 EMS Lead and 17021 QMS Auditor and FSC®, SFI®, and RW® Lead Auditor for Forest Management/Chain of Custody. Audited and led FSC evaluations, harvest and logging operations certification audits; and joint/combined PEFC® FM (AFS®, RW, SFI, ATFS®).</p> <p>An 11-year member of the Forest Guild, 21-year adjunct-Faculty with Itasca Community College, NR Department. Member 30 years Society of American Foresters. Served SAF MN State Chair 2010 and multiple committees, state and national, throughout. Past and current member on committee revising the SAF CF certification exam. Original lead instructor of UMN “Ecosystem Silviculture” certificate course for professional foresters. BS Forest Management from Michigan State University and MS Forest Biology/Ecology from Auburn University.</p>		
<b>Auditor name:</b>	Michelle Matteo	<b>Auditor role:</b>	Team Auditor
<b>Qualifications:</b>	<p>Michelle L. Matteo is a senior lead auditor for NSF based in Southern New England. Michelle is a forester and arborist and maintains a (state) Massachusetts Forester License as well as an International Society of Arboriculture (ISA) Arborist Certification. In addition to her role as an experienced lead auditor, Michelle serves as the manager of NSF’s Forestry Program. Michelle has completed a 3-day ISO 19011 training designed &amp; presented in relation to the FSC Standards. For over 13 years, she has completed thousands of SFI, PEFC, &amp; FSC Chain of Custody and Certified Sourcing audits, certification audits of the Northeast Master Logger program, and is a senior lead auditor for SFI &amp; FSC Forest Management, American Tree Farm System (ATFS), SFI Fiber Sourcing, and FSC Controlled Wood. Her auditing experience spans the continental US, Canada, and the UK. She earned an MS in Forestry and BS in Wildlife &amp; Fisheries Biology, both from the University of Massachusetts.</p>		

#### 1.2 Total Time Spent on Evaluation

A. Number of days spent on-site for evaluation	3
B. Number of auditors participating in on-site evaluation	2
C. Number of days spent by any technical experts (in addition to amount in line A)	0
D. Additional days spent on preparation, stakeholder consultation, and follow-up	4
<b>E. Total number of person days used in evaluation</b>	<b>10</b>

### 1.3 Applicable Standards

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

Standards applicable <i>NOTE: Please include the full standard name and Version number and check all that apply based on type of certificate.</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Forest Stewardship Standard(s), including version: <a href="#">Click here to enter text.</a>
	FSC US Forest Management Standard, V1-0
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FSC Trademark Standard (FSC-STD-50-001 V2-0)
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SCS COC indicators for FMEs, V8-0
	<input type="checkbox"/> FSC standard for group entities in forest management groups (FSC-STD-30-005), V1-1
	<input type="checkbox"/> Other:

### 1.4 Conversion Table English Units to Metric Units

Length Conversion Factors		
To convert from	To	multiply by
Mile (US Statute)	Kilometer (km)	1.609347
Foot (ft.)	Meter (m)	0.3048
Yard (yd.)	Meter (m)	0.9144
Area Conversion Factors		
To convert from	To	multiply by
Square foot (sq. ft.)	Square meter (m <sup>2</sup> )	0.09290304
Acre (ac)	Hectare (ha)	0.4047
Volume Conversion Factors		
To convert from	To	multiply by
Cubic foot (cu ft.)	Cubic meter (m <sup>3</sup> )	0.02831685
Gallon (gal)	Liter (l)	4.546
Quick reference		
1 acre	= 0.404686 ha	
1,000 acres	= 404.686 ha	
1 board foot	= 0.00348 cubic meters	
1,000 board feet	= 3.48 cubic meters	
1 cubic foot	= 0.028317 cubic meters	

## 2. Certification Evaluation Process

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


20 July - Potomac-Garret State Forest (PGSF)	
FMU/locations	Activities/ notes
7:00 AM	Leave for PGSF from Grantsville lodging.
8 AM PGSF office	Opening Meeting: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Introductions</li> <li>■ Client update</li> <li>■ Review scope of evaluation</li> <li>■ Audit plan</li> <li>■ Intro/update to standards</li> <li>■ Confidentiality and public summary</li> <li>■ Conformance evaluation methods and tools</li> <li>■ Review of open CARs/OBS</li> <li>■ Emergency and security procedures for evaluation team</li> <li>■ Adjustments and audit route review</li> </ul>
PGSF office	Confirm field staff have access to online forestry data for critical forestry activities
Wednesday, 21 July – Savage River State Forest (SRSF)	
8 AM	Abbreviated open meeting, Audit route review
Office team	MM at office for contract documents review
Documents provided for all harvest sites visited: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Invitation to Bid</li> <li>2. Environmental Assessment Summary</li> <li>3. Aerial and Topographic photos in Avenza, georeferenced PDF maps</li> <li>4. Signed Timber sale contracts with Attachments, Amendments, Extensions</li> <li>5. Harvest inspections</li> </ol> Roads and landings for all sales selected by MDDNR staff.	
 <p>Figure 1. Hemlock with Hemlock Woolly Adelgid (HWA).</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Wolf Swamp ESA (HCV)- Meet with Maryland Dept. of Agriculture and Wildlife &amp; Heritage Service (WHS) representatives at Wolf Swamp ESA to discuss hemlock treatment and hemlock management projects. Team targets areas heavy to hemlock. Mixed stands with over 80% hemlock. Objective is maintain hemlock by treating hemlock woolly adelgid (HWA). Project started 2011-2012. Some soil and some by branch injections. Each tree is tagged. Protected HCV – discussion about species of interest. WHS representative presented information sheets regarding RTE and protection measures.</li> </ol>



Figure 2. Tree marked after HWA treatment.

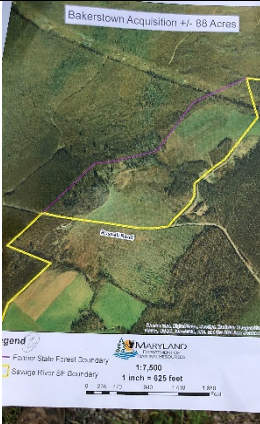


Figure 3. Aerial photo printout of Bakerstown property acquisition.

2. Russell Road, Bakerstown acquisition (HCV). Discussions RE: management goals for the Frosted Elfin butterfly and Henslow’s sparrow by WHS representative, Project Open Space – with Land Acquisition and Planning. DNR does initial site visit using cross-disciplinary form for assessing properties. Issues are identified (examples, junk piles, dilapidated house, etc) which gets put into a contract. This site has restoration goals that complement existing values in the area. For example, plans to plant seeds of host plant species, mowing, and planning possible Rx burns.



Figure 4. Acquisition - field to be restored to meadow conditions.

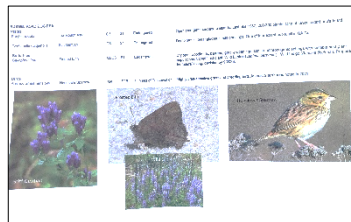


Figure 5. Information sheet HCVs in general area.

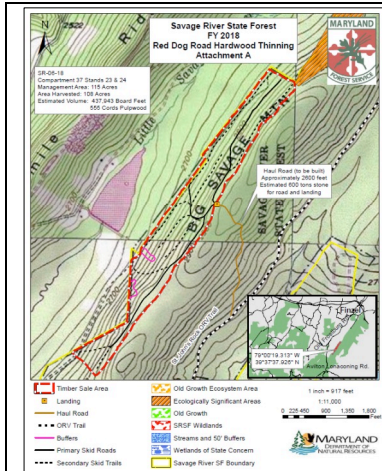


Figure 6. Map of active harvest site, SR-06-18.

3. SR-06-18 Red Dog Road Hardwood Thinning (Active) Glotfelty Lumber Co. (Stands 23 & 24 Compartment 37). Hardwood thinning harvest, 108 acres. The harvest borders on state forest boundary. Access to the sale will off St. John’s Rock ORV Trail (formerly known as Red Dog Road). Boundary marked red paint, pink flagging. Marked red paint on stems to keep.


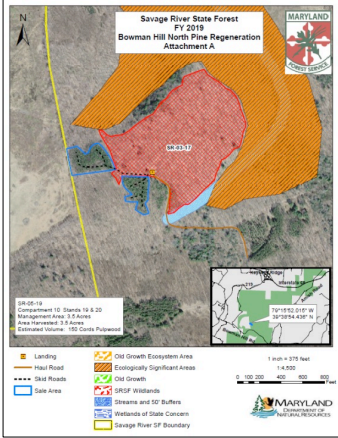
Harvest includes slopes greater than 15%. All appropriate BMPs implemented to prevent excessive soil loss from the harvest site. The sediment and erosion control permit from Department of the Environment. There was a temporary disruption of the use of this area by recreationists during the harvest duration. Sections of both the St. John’s Rock ORV Trail and Big Savage Mountain Hiking Trail were posted with signs warning of the logging activity while the job is active. Standard Erosion & Sediment Control Plan Requirements (Plan and costs).



Logger interview, 4-man operations, machine feller, forwarders & 2 loaders, 3 trucks. Safe operations, PPE, spill kit on-site, 1<sup>st</sup> aid kit, fire extinguishers in machines, map and contract on-site. Daily safety meetings, internal OSHA review within last 3 years, logger completed OSHA program and does refresher classes. Logger planning now for SDS reviews every 6 months. Emergency communications and planning reviewed. Completed OSHA inspections in the past. Logger verified MD Master Logger certified.



Figure 7. Landing w/ loaders, leading into thinning harvest.



 <p>Figure 8. Tree marked in blue to cut.</p>	<p>4. SR-01-20 Bowman Hill North Hardwood Thinning (Active) Cessna Brothers Lumber</p> <p>Boundaries red paint, pink flagging. Gated access. Stems marked blue to cut and red to keep. Some depth to tracks along main skid trail to be recovered following harvest.</p> <p>Active harvest, Logger interview, 4-man operation, not all equipment on-site, self-stop after rainy conditions on rocky soils. PPE, spill kit on-site, 1st aid kit, fire extinguishers in machines, map and contract on-site. Logger verified MD Master Logger certified.</p>
 <p>Figure 9. Aerial photo showing pine harvest areas outlined in blue.</p>	<p>5. SR-05-19 Bowman Hill North Pine Regeneration (Closed Out). Compartment 10, Stands 19 &amp; 20. Harvest all red and white pine. 3.5 acre. Pine regeneration harvest removing undesirable and over mature trees. Thinning to release advanced regeneration present &amp; encourage additional desired regeneration establishing in the understory. No Whole Tree Skidding to prevent excessive damage to site and leave trees. Haul and skid road locations, centerlines, and construction specifications as specified by State Forest Personnel. All tops and other debris kept out of buffer areas and retained within sale boundaries. All large debris must be kept back a minimum of 50 Ft. of the traveled portions of roadways. All unstable material (exposed soil) resulting from road construction or landings with out slopes greater than 30% must be stabilized to the satisfaction of State Forest Personnel</p>
<p>SRSF Office – GIS review</p>	<p>Review of forester access to online resources including soils, RTE, HCV (OGEMA) information.</p>
<p>SRSF Office – Chemical storage</p>	<p>Inspection of chemical storage shed. Only non-HHP chemicals. Labels current and all present for chemicals being used by forest. Verified licensing information. Examination of chemical inventory sheets/system. Interviews with applicators.</p>

Thursday, 22 July - Savage River State Forest (SRSF) Office	
 <p><i>Figure 10. Keyser's Ridge modified seed tree harvest for regeneration.</i></p>	<p>1. SR-05-20 Keyser's Ridge Hardwood Regeneration. Compartment 1 Stands 24 &amp; 26. Sold to Joe Colmer Logging, sold February 2019. Hardwood regeneration harvest, 34-acre site contains maturing northern hardwood stand about 98 years old with average merchantable dbh of 17.7". A breakdown of the stand BA is about 61 ft<sup>2</sup> of acceptable growing stock with the remaining 90 ft<sup>2</sup> recently dead trees and trees of poor form / quality. State Forest records show this stand was last thinned in 1973. The adjacent stand to the northeast was regenerated in 2005.</p> <p>Herbicide treatments done in 2017 and 2018. In July / August 2017 the stand was foliar sprayed to treat ferns and grasses found to be exceptionally dense on the forest floor. In July / August 2018 the stand received cut-stump herbicide treatment of all undesirable understory stems (0.5-6") found to be limiting regeneration.</p> <p>Interview stakeholder, conservation expert, ENGO: OGEMA/HCV nomination and review procedures, collaborative projects.</p>
 <p><i>Figure 11. Stump from prior firewood thinnings w/ fungal growth.</i></p>	<p>2. SR-04-20/SR-04-21 Jacob Yoder Firewood Salvage I &amp; III (Inactive). DNR works with neighbor to set up small, discrete firewood harvest jobs. Last harvest area was inspected from prior year. Forester marks trees to cut, inspected old and new stump and current stand.</p>
<p>10:30 AM SRSF Office</p>	<p>Stakeholder interviews</p>
<p>SRSF Office</p>	<p>Closing Meeting Preparation: Auditor(s) take time to consolidate notes and confirm evaluation findings.</p>
<p>2:00 PM</p>	<p>Closing Meeting: Brief summary of audit activities, present preliminary findings, confidentiality, SCS/FSC dispute policy, timeline for report, and discuss next steps.</p>

## 2.2 Evaluation of Management Systems

SCS deploys interdisciplinary teams with expertise in forestry, social sciences, natural resource economics, and other relevant fields to assess an FME's conformance to FSC standards and policies. Evaluation methods include reviewing documents and records, interviewing FME personnel and contractors, implementing sampling strategies to visit a broad number of forest cover and harvest prescription types, observing implementation of management plans and policies in the field, and collecting and analyzing stakeholder input. When there is more than one team member, each member may review parts of the standards based on their background and expertise. On the final day of an evaluation, team members convene to deliberate the findings of the assessment jointly. This involves an analysis of all relevant field observations, interviews, stakeholder comments, and reviewed documents

and records. Where consensus among team members cannot be achieved due to lack of evidence, conflicting evidence or differences of interpretation of the standards, the team is instructed to report these in the certification decision section and/or in observations.

### 3. Changes in Management Practices

There were no significant changes in the management and/or harvesting methods that affect the FME’s conformance to the FSC standards and policies.

Significant changes occurred since the last evaluation that may affect the FME’s conformance to FSC standards and policies (*describe*):

### 4. Results of Evaluation

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

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

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

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

#### 4.2 History of Findings for Certificate Period

FM Principle	Cert/Re-cert Evaluation (2019)	1 <sup>st</sup> Annual Evaluation (2020)	2 <sup>nd</sup> Annual Evaluation (2021)	3 <sup>rd</sup> Annual Evaluation (2022)	4 <sup>th</sup> Annual Evaluation (2023)
No findings	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
P1			Major 1.1.a		
P2					
P3	Obs 3.3.a				
P4	Obs 4.4.b				
P5					
P6	Obs 6.3.e Minor 6.6.e	Obs 6.3.e			

	Minor 6.7.c				
P7			Minor 7.1.m Minor 7.3.a Obs 7.4.b		
P8	Obs 8.1.a				
P9			Obs 9.2.b		
P10					
COC for FM					
Trademark					
Group					
Other					

### 4.3 Existing Corrective Action Requests and Observations

<b>Finding Number: 2020.1</b>	
<b>Select one:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Major CAR <input type="checkbox"/> Minor CAR <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Observation	
<b>FMU CAR/OBS issued to</b> (when more than one FMU):	
<b>Deadline</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Pre-condition to certification/recertification <input type="checkbox"/> 3 months from Issuance of Final Report <input type="checkbox"/> 12 months or next regularly scheduled audit (surveillance or re-evaluation) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Observation – response is optional <input type="checkbox"/> Other deadline (specify):
<b>FSC Indicator:</b>	FSC FM US 6.3.e
<p><i>Background/ Justification in the case of Observations):</i></p> <p>2019:                  While the seed mix used on landings and roads has been previously approved by State Wildlife staff for food plots and elsewhere at the State level for the Erosion and Sediment Control plan, there is an opportunity to improve the seed mixture species and ratios to include other native species, as the current mix being applied on landings and roads, is comprised of only non-native, naturalized species.</p> <p>2020:                  Explanation: The primary purpose for these seed mix is to provide a quick, reliable covering for disturbed soils and it provides that. It has been used for many years without an incident of being invasive. This seed mix was suggested by our Wildlife &amp; Heritage Service as a good mix for wildlife benefits. It is preferred by our State Forest managers since it is readily available for purchase by logging contractors from local sources and based on its quality, price and productivity. It has been our experience that this planting falls out (diminishes) after about 5-years and must be disked and replanted to maintain these open areas that also serve as wildlife food plots. One of these re-establishment sites was visited during the 2019 audit at Green Ridge State Forest.</p> <p>Seed mixes are determined by MD Department of Wildlife and addressed in timber harvest contracts (Attachment E; medium red clover, ladino clover, orchard grass, perennial rye grass, and timothy grass) and were compliant in 2017 and 2018.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Evidence: MdDNR provided Attachment E from current timber sale contract listing species for Standard Erosion Sedimentation Control Plan Requirements with the following species: 1.</p>	

<p>Medium Red Clover (<i>Trifolium pratense</i>), 2. Ladino Clover (<i>Trifolium Repens</i>), 3. Orchard Grass (<i>Dactylis glomerata</i>), 4. Perennial Rye (<i>Lolium perenne</i>), 5. Timothy (<i>Phleum pratense</i>)</p> <p>None of these are listed as invasive plants by Maryland Department of Agriculture. Evidence: <a href="https://mda.maryland.gov/plants-pests/Pages/maryland_invasive_plants_prevention_and_control.aspx">https://mda.maryland.gov/plants-pests/Pages/maryland_invasive_plants_prevention_and_control.aspx</a>.</p> <p>Although the MdDNR has provided evidence of adherence to state requirements, and consultation with Wildlife program (primarily game management staff), they have not yet consulted Heritage program staff. The audit team identified and communicated with Heritage staff who were able to provide information about native seed sourcing that is available for order online. The MdDNR should include Heritage staff in discussion regarding non-native, naturalized species.</p>	
<p><b>Corrective Action Request (or Observation):</b>                  The current seed mix used for landings and roads has been previously chosen for its ability to quickly germinate and establish and the mix used has been previously approved by State Wildlife staff for food plots and elsewhere at the State level for the Erosion and Sediment Control plan process. However, the Forestry staff should demonstrate consideration of native seed sources which may meet these objectives or meet additional objectives.</p>	
<p><b>FME response</b>                  (including any evidence submitted)</p>	<p>DNR provided copies of emails entailing consultation with Natural Heritage and another DNR Services including a State Botanist, Wildlife and Heritage Service, and an external ENGO, The Nature Conservancy. While all five of these species are non-native to Maryland, none are on the list of Noxious Weeds or Invasive Plants lists for Maryland. Also, even after using this seed mix for many years, we have not found it to be invasive beyond the site it was meant to stabilize.                  Noxious weeds — <a href="https://mda.maryland.gov/plants-pests/Pages/noxious_weeds_in_md.aspx">https://mda.maryland.gov/plants-pests/Pages/noxious_weeds_in_md.aspx</a>                  Invasive plants — <a href="https://mda.maryland.gov/plantspests/Pages/maryland_invasive_plants_prevention_and_control.aspx">https://mda.maryland.gov/plantspests/Pages/maryland_invasive_plants_prevention_and_control.aspx</a>.</p>
<p><b>SCS review</b></p>	<p>The audit team reviewed the email contents and verified that DNR staff consulted and considered native seed sources. Rationale for use of current seed mixes was upheld by this review process.</p>
<p><b>Status of CAR:</b></p>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Closed  <input type="checkbox"/> Upgraded to Major  <input type="checkbox"/> Other decision (refer to description above)</p>

#### 4.4 New Corrective Action Requests and Observations

<b>Finding Number: 2021.1</b>
<p><b>Finding and Deadline</b></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Major CAR: Pre-condition to certification/recertification  <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Major CAR: 3 months from Issuance of Final Report  <input type="checkbox"/> Minor CAR: 12 months or next regularly scheduled audit, whichever comes first (<i>surveillance or re-evaluation</i>)  <input type="checkbox"/> Observation – response is optional  <input type="checkbox"/> Other and deadline (specify):</p>

<b>FMU CAR/OBS issued to</b> (when more than one FMU):	
<b>Standard and Indicator</b>	Indicator 1.1.a Forest management plans and operations demonstrate compliance with all applicable federal, state, county, municipal, and tribal laws, and administrative requirements (e.g., regulations). Violations, outstanding complaints or investigations are provided to the Certifying Body (CB) during the annual audit.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Non-Conformity Evidence</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Observation Justification and/or Explanation</b> System documents: Templates required for harvest are maintained by the Central Office. Multiple templates available for downloads contained errors or omissions. Thus, Forest Service staff did not follow administrative requirements as prescribed by the MD Forest Service. "Maryland Department of Natural Resources Forest Service, Operation Order 2015-601", Effective: April 1, 2015, Timber Operation Order, page 16. Section 5. Administrative Requirements. (d) Contract forms. MDDNR Forest Service has Forest Management training two times per year which included informing managers of required forms provided here, <a href="https://dnr.maryland.gov/forests/Pages/timbersales.aspx">https://dnr.maryland.gov/forests/Pages/timbersales.aspx</a> .  <b>Types of contractual documents for harvests.</b> Of the list of types of contract templates below, 3 out of 13, those with asterisks and bolded, were found to have problems/omissions. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 352B - Invitation to bid</li> <li>• Contracts                         <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <b>310 – Sales under 5k, **</b></li> <li>○ <b>352 – Sales under 5k, Lump Sum **</b></li> <li>○ 352-BL - Sales over 5k, Block</li> <li>○ 352LS – Sales over 5k, One Step Method</li> <li>○ 352N – Sales over 5k and less than 50k</li> <li>○ 352WT - Sales over 5k, Weight</li> <li>○ 352 – Sales over 5k, Lump Sum</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Amendment to Extend</li> <li>• 352F - Amendment to allow harvesting of additional timber</li> <li>• 352D – Special Conditions</li> <li>• <b>402 – Amendment to Extend Completion Date **</b></li> <li>• 405G – Gatewood Agreement</li> </ul> Specific Issues found: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• One link downloads the incorrect template - 352 – Sales under 5k, Lump Sum ** downloads the incorrect template *This template needs to be removed from the website*</li> <li>• One template does not have the corresponding “Certification template” – non-cert version is: DNR/FS-402 ver 05/29/2015</li> <li>• DNR/FS-310 – there is no master logger clause</li> <li>• DNR/FS-352N – Clause 22: Chain of Custody – states an incorrect SFI cert code and notes that that the claim is harvested material is “FSC 100%”, nullifying the SFI claim. (note template was correct)</li> </ul> Because these templates are used by several State Forests for timber sales, and this is a repeated occurrence this finding is graded Major.	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Non-Conformity Corrective Action Request</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Observation; no Corrective Action is required</b> DNR Forest Service staff must ensure they are following administrative requirements regarding legal	

documents such as contracts.	
<b>FME response</b> <i>(including any evidence submitted)</i>	
<b>SCS review</b>	
<b>Status of CAR:</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Closed <input type="checkbox"/> Upgraded to Major <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Other decision (refer to description above)</i>

<b>Finding Number: 2021.2</b>	
<b>Finding and Deadline</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Major CAR:</b> Pre-condition to certification/recertification <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Major CAR:</b> 3 months from Issuance of Final Report <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Minor CAR:</b> 12 months or next regularly scheduled audit, whichever comes first ( <i>surveillance or re-evaluation</i> ) <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Observation</b> – response is optional <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Other</b> and deadline (specify):	
<b>FMU CAR/OBS issued to</b> (when more than one FMU):	
<b>Standard and Indicator</b>	Indicator 7.1.m The management plan describes how species selection and harvest rate calculations were developed to meet the requirements of Criterion 5.6.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Non-Conformity Evidence</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Observation Justification and/or Explanation</b> For the Savage River State Forest (SRSF) and Potomac-Garrett State Forest (PGSF) Management Plans, the sections that describe forest modeling are not consistent with descriptions by field staff on how those are being implemented in operational planning. See SRSF 2019, Section 5.12, page 70 and PGSF 2019, Section 5.12, page 71.	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Non-Conformity Corrective Action Request</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Observation; no Corrective Action is required</b> DNR must ensure that FMPs are accurate and correspond to what is being implemented by forest managers such that species selections and harvest rate calculations are developed and documented. (See also C5.6).	
<b>FME response</b> <i>(including any evidence submitted)</i>	
<b>SCS review</b>	
<b>Status of CAR:</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Closed <input type="checkbox"/> Upgraded to Major <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Other decision (refer to description above)</i>

<b>Finding Number: 2021.3</b>	
<b>Finding and Deadline</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Major CAR:</b> Pre-condition to certification/recertification <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Major CAR:</b> 3 months from Issuance of Final Report <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Minor CAR:</b> 12 months or next regularly scheduled audit, whichever comes first ( <i>surveillance or re-evaluation</i> ) <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Observation</b> – response is optional <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Other</b> and deadline (specify):	

<b>FMU CAR/OBS issued to</b> (when more than one FMU):	
<b>Standard and Indicator</b>	Indicator 7.3.a Workers are qualified to properly implement the management plan; all forest workers are provided with sufficient guidance and supervision to adequately implement their respective components of the plan.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Non-Conformity Evidence</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Observation Justification and/or Explanation</b> Regarding the use of DNR Forest Service templates – Forest Managers did not use the correct template when producing contracts for timber sales. When using DNR/FS-310 there is no master logger clause which is required under Operation Order 2015-601, 5. Policy: (g) Maryland Master Logger, which provides assurance DNR uses qualified loggers to implement forest management planned activities.	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Non-Conformity Corrective Action Request</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Observation; no Corrective Action is required</b> MD DNR must ensure that Forest Managers have sufficient guidance and supervision to implement contracts using correct versions in accordance with Administrative requirements.	
<b>FME response</b> <i>(including any evidence submitted)</i>	
<b>SCS review</b>	
<b>Status of CAR:</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Closed <input type="checkbox"/> Upgraded to Major <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Other decision (refer to description above)</i>

<b>Finding Number: 2021.4</b>	
<b>Finding and Deadline</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Major CAR:</b> Pre-condition to certification/recertification <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Major CAR:</b> 3 months from Issuance of Final Report <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Minor CAR:</b> 12 months or next regularly scheduled audit, whichever comes first ( <i>surveillance or re-evaluation</i> ) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Observation</b> – response is optional <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Other</b> and deadline (specify):	
<b>FMU CAR/OBS issued to</b> (when more than one FMU):	
<b>Standard and Indicator</b>	Indicator 7.4.b Managers of public forests make draft management plans, revisions and supporting documentation easily accessible for public review and comment prior to their implementation. Managers address public comments and modify the plans to ensure compliance with this Standard. Applicability: this Indicator is applicable only to public forests.
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Non-Conformity Evidence</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Observation Justification and/or Explanation</b> Although various “pieces” of the forest management plans are provided there may be opportunity to improve identification of individual forest stand across these management plan pieces. Specifically, it could be improved how Compartment and Stand Silvicultural proposals in the Annual Work Plan (AWP) link to the corresponding Timber Sale Contract #s (TS#) that are enacted.  For example: In the SRSF 2020 AWP page 58, COMPARTMENT 15 – Stand 36 has a 20-acre harvest proposed (a commercial thinning). The AWP is the public facing document that allows for Stakeholder comments. In the Quarterly Report, an internal MD DNR document that is used by the foresters, one can search the FY20 Quarterly Report entries under Column A, titled “Location (AWP-codification)” and find the corresponding Column B, titled “Contract Number” linking the two separate items, as seen below:	



Location (AWP-codification)	Contract
(SR-2020-S-5) Comp 15 Stand 36	SR-08-20
<p>While this internal document clearly links the AWP proposed harvest and the actual harvest/contract #, a stakeholder would not be able to do the same, as there is no publicly available list to display the AWP proposed work with the corresponding harvest that is occurring/has occurred. Thus, in the context of public review of MD DNR forest management planning, timber sale contracts which embody planned implementation of silvicultural prescriptions, are not be easily linked to the supporting prescription documentation.</p>	
<p><input type="checkbox"/> <b>Non-Conformity Corrective Action Request</b>    <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Observation; no Corrective Action is required</b>                      MD DNR should improve how planned and implemented stand management treatments are linked in publicly available documents.</p>	
<b>FME response</b> <i>(including any evidence submitted)</i>	
<b>SCS review</b>	
<b>Status of CAR:</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Closed <input type="checkbox"/> Upgraded to Major <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Other decision (refer to description above)</i>

<b>Finding Number: 2021.5</b>	
<b>Finding and Deadline</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Major CAR:</b> Pre-condition to certification/recertification <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Major CAR:</b> 3 months from Issuance of Final Report <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Minor CAR:</b> 12 months or next regularly scheduled audit, whichever comes first ( <i>surveillance or re-evaluation</i> ) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Observation</b> – response is optional <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Other</b> and deadline (specify):	
<b>FMU CAR/OBS issued to</b> (when more than one FMU):	
<b>Standard and Indicator</b>	Indicator 9.2.b On public forests, a transparent and accessible public review of proposed HCV attributes and HCVF areas and management is carried out. Information from stakeholder consultations and other public review is integrated into HCVF descriptions, delineations and management. (Applicability: this Indicator only applies to public lands.)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Non-Conformity Evidence</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Observation Justification and/or Explanation</b> Consultation with stakeholders was done and identified issues related to proposing new High Conservation Values (HCVs), specifically old growth and “potential” old growth for considerations as Representative Sample Areas (RSAs). Interviews with forestry staff confirm there are specific programmatic steps required to nominate new HCVs or RSAs within Maryland State Forests, which include vetting by an interdisciplinary team who together make determinations regarding State Forest HCVs and RSAs. For example, for FSC Representative Sample Areas, which Maryland DNR terms “Ecologically Sensitive Areas (ESAs)”, are identified by the <b>Wildlife &amp; Heritage Service (WHS) ecologists</b> and flagged in the DNR GIS database. Management activities within these areas are planned in consultation with WHS ecologists	

<p>to recognize, protect and, where possible, enhance the ecological resources present in each site. Similarly, HCVMs undergo this type of review process by WHS staff. However, the process for nominating <u>new</u> HCVMs or RSAs could be clarified so that roles and responsibilities are better defined for the general public. Stakeholders appear to have mistakenly understood that DNR forestry staff alone make these determinations and were apparently not aware of a prescribed process for nominating HCVMs (See also 6.4, RSAs).</p>	
<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Non-Conformity Corrective Action Request</b>    <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Observation; no Corrective Action is required</b> Maryland</p>	
<b>FME response</b> <i>(including any evidence submitted)</i>	
<b>SCS review</b>	
<b>Status of CAR:</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Closed <input type="checkbox"/> Upgraded to Major <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Other decision (refer to description above)</i>

## 5. Stakeholder Comments

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

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

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

### 5.1 Stakeholder Groups Consulted

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

organizations and conservationists, and forest industry groups and organizations, as well as local, state, and federal regulatory agency personnel and other relevant groups.

For the 2021 audit 80 stakeholders were emailed targeted solicitation for input relative to the PC&I selected for evaluation, Principles 1 and 9. The categories for this extra solicitation were based on Principle and drawn from Annex 1, FSC-STD-20-006. There were 12 individual respondents in the following FSC defined categories – Recreation (2), Academic (3), Neighbor/community member (1), and Governmental (4). All respondents answered “No” to the question if they were aware of any violations to national, state, or local laws. All but respondent answered “No” to the question of whether they had any concerns about the HCVF program.

After receiving stakeholder input around HCV and Representative Sample Areas (RSAs), Criterion 6.4 was added to the Audit Plan and 5 additional stakeholders with expertise in the topic area were sent inquiry emails for additional information in support of evaluating this complex topic. These stakeholders were considered to have conservation or ecology expertise (2 responded). Total input received was (14).

*See “FM\_StakeholderEngagement\_MdDNR060921” and “FSC\_AuditPlan\_MdDNR”, both are retained in SCS records.*

## 5.2 Summary of Stakeholder Comments and Evaluation Team Responses

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

<input type="checkbox"/> <i>FME has not received any stakeholder comments from interested parties (who are not members of the enterprise under evaluation) as a result of stakeholder outreach activities during this annual evaluation.</i>
<p><b>Summary of Outreach Activities Conducted (Check all that apply):</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Face to face meetings</li> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Phone calls</li> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Email, or letter</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Notice published in the national and/or local press</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Notice published on relevant websites</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Local radio announcements</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Local customary notice boards</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Social media broadcast</li> </ul>
<p><b>Stakeholder Comments, SCS Response</b> (Comments are listed in the order received)</p>
<p><b>Comment:</b> Recreation stakeholder responded with comments noting they had served on trails projects in 3 of the SF and had formerly served on the Citizen’s Advisory Committee for the MD Forest Service (MDFS) Comment, <i>“I feel the most negative impacts are the red tape, staff shortages and reduced budgets the Forest Managers have to contend with. An example is getting roads repaired for public access to campsites and prime fishing opportunities. One in particular is currently closed on the Potomac State Forest. Hurricane Sandy did substantial damage to the Potomac State Forest. Insects, Ice Storms, Flooding and other weather events have played a roll [sic]. None of which is anyone’s fault.</i></p>

*The managers of Maryland State Forests are the best of the best. These folks are outstanding in the work that they are able to do. Everything they do is above board. I have the utmost respect these folks and their predecessors. Given their limitations, it is amazing what they do get accomplished. They apply experience, science and solid common sense.”*

**Response:** This comment was received as positive. Discussions with MDFS staff acknowledge budgeting and natural events challenges, both of which can be largely out of MDFS staff control. Interviews with staff confirm they actively participate in budgeting processes and generally receive funds needed to meet their program needs and in assisting other Service divisions. The response by stakeholders to broad and targeted solicitations were positive, with stakeholders describing MDFS staff as above, hardworking, dedicated and committed to stewardship of Maryland’s state forests and those who depend on and use the state forests.

**Comment:** Recreation stakeholder had the following comment, *“Our organization is interested in ensuring funds borne of the subsection in law are being expended according to the statutory requirements and legislative intent. Specifically, we are concerned that the \$400,000 in funding received from the Off-Road Vehicle Excise Tax fund is appropriately utilized through development, construction, and implementation of new ORV Trail Projects and implementation of ongoing ORV Trail maintenance projects. We have not seen a noticeable improvement of trail quality, maintenance, or quantity.”*

**Response:** The MDDNR was aware these types of concerns when appraised of this comment. Public comments had been received by the DNR during the annual work plan public review. MDDNR actions related to this include creating a new Western Maryland trails position to work solely with that funding (and others) and to design, build, expand, and maintain trails on Western Maryland state forests. This will release State Forest managers and allow focus for this which has been identified by MDDNR as critical. The position was announced on the Maryland Jobs Openings board on April 26, 2021 (<https://www.jobapscloud.com/MD/sup/bulpreview.asp?R1=21&R2=002309&R3=0004>), and interviews held on June 25. There were 10 applicants for the position. A candidate was selected and has accepted the position. A start date should be announced in August.

**Comment:** An environmental non-governmental organization (ENGO) provided extensive and detailed critique of the MD Forest Service (MDFS) HCV and RSA programs. This stakeholder also had questions about responsiveness to requests for information, specifically mapping information for HCVs and RSAs.

**Response:** Additional Maryland area experts in conservation and ecology were solicited for consultation to corroborate certain aspects of the stakeholder’s concerns. These included wildlife biologists in separate programs of the State of Maryland DNR, academic experts in related topic areas, and experts in a conservation environmental non-governmental organization (ENGO). This summary response is split into 3 parts: 1) HCV, 2) RSAs, 3) Stakeholder responsiveness.

1. **HCV, Principle 9.** The stakeholder presented information questioning both the adequacy and legitimacy of the MDFS state-wide HCV assessment and management.

Intensive review with all stakeholders concluded the process for this is robust and generally directed by Heritage and Wildlife Service (HWS). However, there is a lack of clarity around roles and responsibilities for the general public for HCV proposal of candidates into the MDFS ESAs program. **See finding 2021.5** in Section 4.4 of this report. The determinations of properties as HCV do not reside solely with the MD Forest Service but with an interdisciplinary team.

Wildlife and Heritage biologists are strong members of the Interdisciplinary Team (IDT) and review the process addition and monitoring of HCVMs for each of the state forests. They provide critical information important to the ultimate management decisions made by the State Forest Service managers and their annual work plans. Rare, threatened and endangered species are recorded in the Heritage database. Heritage biologists are involved in **planning, review and approval for each management prescription** and sometimes work directly with the manager in the final boundaries established for a forest harvest to ensure the species of concern and their habitat are properly managed and protected. RTE species protection and management are included in the Forest Management Plan, AWP Forest Harvest Proposal, and GIS. Each AWP silvicultural proposal has a defined "Description/Resource Impact Assessment" which includes information for: Location, Forest Community Type and Condition, Interfering Elements, Historic Conditions, Rare/Threatened/Endangered Species and Habitats, Species of Management Concern, Water Resources, Recreation Resources and Soil Resources. Monitoring efforts follow each management activity that could affect RTE species or their habitats including monitoring of the effects of restoration treatments.

It was confirmed by interviews with multiple individuals both within and external to MDFS that the MD Natural Heritage and Wildlife Service (NWS) has a strong presence and provides primary leadership in assessing Rare, Threatened, and Endangered species and ecosystems, including old-growth ecosystems. The state of Maryland follows a strategic path, led primarily by the NWS, to locate potential old growth stands in contiguous forest areas, among other strategic objectives.

The audit team evaluated the consultation process and portion of the RSAs, which is done primarily by the NWS and determined they were in full conformance for the consultation portions of the FSC requirements under Principle 9, for HCVMs which also covered RSAs, discussed below.

2. **RSAs, Criterion 6.4.** There were several critiques of the MDFS which will not be presented in detail here. In summary: 1) the critique encompassed the concept that critical ecosystem features, primarily combinations of species composition and ages (structure) were not adequately addressed in the state-wide RSA analysis. In one example, it was presented that the MDFS system did not consider mid-story species in older age classes as indicative of more mature understory development and obvious candidate for future old-growth. 2) Maps of RSAs were not publicly available and should be.
  - 1) Similar to the process for old-growth determinations for identification described above, RSAs fall under the purview of an interdisciplinary team who evaluate the assemblage of community species as well as ecosystem structure when identifying RSAs. State of Maryland follows a strategic and robust process for identifying areas most desired for RSA establishment which then entails management and monitoring responsibilities largely carried out by NWS and FS.
  - 2) Regarding responsiveness to stakeholders - there was a complaint about responding to a specific email submitted by the stakeholder to the DNR. In an email, the stakeholder requested copies of maps for OMEGA, or Old Growth Ecosystem Management Areas. MDFS provided evidence of an email response in February 2021 which included a link to the publicly available information which auditors confirmed did include maps. However, the stakeholder then sent an additional email on April 11, 2021 again requesting maps to which there was no response.

In this case, the maps of the RSAs were provided in the DNR February email, but DNR staff referenced “RSA data” with specific references to “tables” while the stakeholder was looking for references to “maps”. After review, the auditors found the maps were provided in a link within an email sent to the stakeholder, but the links were referenced as “tables”, so the stakeholder did not understand the maps were provided. These sorts of human misunderstandings are common in communications. Several discussions with DNR staff determined this was not intentional but SCS will continue to monitor stakeholder communications in future audits.

**Comment:** “MD DNR is a great partner in collaborative projects.”

Similar comments were received from a number of stakeholders. The audit team independently targeted 80 environmental, recreation, and economic stakeholders who were sent targeted solicitation for comments related to Principles 1 and 9. There were 12 responses. After issues were identified by one stakeholder regarding RSAs/HCV and an additional 5 expert stakeholders (conservation/ecology) were consulted. In total there were 14 stakeholders engaged, not including logging contractors. All but 1 were positive and confirmed MDFS to be collaborative and cooperative.

## 6. Certification Decision

The certificate holder has demonstrated continued overall conformance to the applicable Forest Stewardship Council standards. The SCS annual evaluation team recommends that the certificate be sustained, subject to subsequent annual evaluations and the FME’s response to any open CARs.	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Comments:</b> None	

## 7. Annual Data Update

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

### Name and Contact Information

<b>Organization name</b>	State of Maryland DNR – Forest Service		
<b>Contact person</b>	Jack Perdue		
<b>Address</b>	580 Taylor Ave, E1 Annapolis, MD 21401	<b>Telephone</b>	410-260-8505
		<b>Fax</b>	410-260-8595
		<b>e-mail</b>	jack.perdue@maryland.gov
		<b>Website</b>	dnr.state.md.us/forests

**FSC Sales Information**

FSC Sales contact information same as above.

**Scope of Certificate**

<b>Certificate Type</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Single FMU	<input type="checkbox"/> Multiple FMU
	<input type="checkbox"/> Group	
<b>SLIMF (if applicable)</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Small SLIMF certificate	<input type="checkbox"/> Low intensity SLIMF certificate
	<input type="checkbox"/> Group SLIMF certificate	
<b># Group Members (if applicable)</b>	N/A	
<b>Number of FMU's in scope of certificate</b>	1	
<b>Geographic location of non-SLIMF FMU(s)</b>	<i>Latitude &amp; Longitude:</i> Savage River State Forest- 39.576, -79.129 Green Ridge State Forest- 39.631, -78.475 Potomac State Forest- 39.472, -79.439 Garrett State Forest- 39.341, -79.28 Pocomoke State Forest- 38.15, -75.487 Chesapeake Forest Lands - 38.329, -75.799	
<b>Forest zone</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Boreal	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Temperate
	<input type="checkbox"/> Subtropical	<input type="checkbox"/> Tropical
<b>Total forest area in scope of certificate which is:</b> Units: <input type="checkbox"/> ha or <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ac		
privately managed		
state managed	209,207 (revised 2020)	
community managed		
<b>Number of FMUs in scope that are:</b>		
less than 100 ha in area	100 - 1000 ha in area	
1000 - 10 000 ha in area	more than 10 000 ha in area	1
<b>Total forest area in scope of certificate which is included in FMUs that:</b> Units: <input type="checkbox"/> ha or <input type="checkbox"/> ac		
are less than 100 ha in area	-	
are between 100 ha and 1000 ha in area	-	
meet the eligibility criteria as <i>low intensity</i> SLIMF FMUs	-	
<b>Division of FMUs into manageable units:</b>		
FME considers two forest regions based on regional forest types: Eastern and Western Regions. FME then divides the state forest system into four geographic districts. Under each geographic district there are state forests, which are then managed according to a state forest-level long-term management plan and annual work plan. A full description of how the FMU is divided into manageable units is available publicly via the FME's website: <a href="http://www.dnr.state.md.us/forests/">http://www.dnr.state.md.us/forests/</a> .		

**Social Information**

<b>Number of forest workers (including contractors) working in forest within scope of certificate (differentiated by gender):</b>		
# of male workers 25	# of female workers 8	
<b>Number of accidents in forest work since last audit</b>	<b>Serious: # 0</b>	<b>Fatal: # 0</b>

**Pesticide and Other Chemical Use**

<input type="checkbox"/> FME does not use pesticides.				
Commercial name of pesticide / herbicide	Active ingredient	Quantity applied annually (kg or lbs)	Size of area treated during previous year	Reason for use
Round Up Quik Pro	Glyphosate	2-5 lbs.	5-10 acres	Invasive control / weed control
Arsenal	Imazapyr	< 1 lb.	1-2 acres	Invasive control hack and squirt
Vanquish	dicamba	340 oz	3,400 stems	Ailanthus control
Garlon 3A	Triclopyr	8 oz. @ 15% concentration	30 stems	Invasive Species Control (Tree-of-Heaven)
Vastlan	Triclopyr	20 oz. @ 5% concentration	0.6 ac.	Invasive Species Control (Tree-of-Heaven, Chinese lespedeza, Japanese Knotweed)
AquaNeat	Aquatic Glyphosate	10 gallons @ 2% concentration	18 ac.	Invasive Species Control (Murdannia)

*Note 2021: ESRAs incorporated labels, licensed applicator training, and interviews with staff confirmed knowledge of ESRA components appropriate to their roles and responsibilities in the MDDNR chemical use program. Chemical storage was inspected at 2 State Forest operational locations and found to be in good order with up-to-date labels and other documentation, including chemical inventory tracking.*

**Production Forests**

Timber Forest Products	Units: <input type="checkbox"/> ha or <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ac
Total area of production forest (i.e. forest from which timber may be harvested)	35,864 (SR) 20,000 (GR) 10,580 (PG) 88,684 (CF-P) TOTAL = 155,128
Area of production forest classified as 'plantation'	0
Area of production forest regenerated primarily by replanting or by a combination of replanting and coppicing of the planted stems	0



Area of production forest regenerated primarily by natural regeneration, or by a combination of natural regeneration and coppicing of the naturally regenerated stems	35,864 20000 10580 34907
<b>Silvicultural system(s)</b>	<b>Area under type of management</b>
Even-aged management	20,396
Clearcut (clearcut size range 5.5 – 52 ac )	277.3
Shelterwood	471.4
Other: Conifer Thinning	218.6
Uneven-aged management	0
Individual tree selection	0
Group selection	0
Other: Firewood Salvage	332
<input type="checkbox"/> Other (e.g. nursery, recreation area, windbreak, bamboo, silvo-pastoral system, agro-forestry system, etc.)	
The sustainable rate of harvest (usually Annual Allowable Harvest or AAH where available) of commercial timber (m3 of round wood)	2.4 mmbf under vol regulation, plus 780 ac under area regulation
<b>Non-timber Forest Products (NTFPs)</b>	
Area of forest protected from commercial harvesting of timber and managed primarily for the production of NTFPs or services	
Other areas managed for NTFPs or services	
Approximate annual commercial production of non-timber forest products included in the scope of the certificate, by product type	
<b>Explanation of the assumptions and reference to the data source upon which AAH and NTFP harvest rates estimates are based:</b>	
<p>See SFMP Chapter 5, Appendix H and CFI Summary for each State Forest. MD DNR uses Remsoft’s Woodstock program to analyze forest inventory data to project sustainable harvest levels based on allowed silvicultural systems. Harvest rates are based on area control rather than volume control at this point in time. For example, the Green Ridge SFMP includes a description of the maximum number of acres that may be treated with variable retention harvests.</p> <p>Appendix H includes a description of the assumptions behind the growth and yield modeling, including the elements of the indicator. Summaries of projected growth and allowable harvests based on growth rates, mortality, disease, etc. are included in Appendix H. However, see finding 2021.2.</p>	
<b>Species in scope of joint FM/COC certificate: <i>Scientific/ Latin Name (Common/ Trade Name)</i></b>	
Acer rubrum; Acer spp.; Carya spp.; Celtis occidentalis; Fagus grandifolia; Fraxinus spp.; Juglans nigra L.; Liquidambar styraciflua L.; Liriodendron tulipifera L.; Nyssa sylvatica Marsh; Pinus echinata; Pinus taeda; Quercus alba; Quercus rubra; Tilia americana L; Tsuga canadensis (L.) Carr.; Ulmus spp.	

**FSC Product Classification\***

Timber products		
Product Level 1	Product Level 2	Species

<b>W1 Rough Wood</b>	W1.1 Roundwood (logs)	All
	W1.2 Fuel Wood	
	W1.3 Twigs	
<b>W2 Wood charcoal</b>		
<b>W3 Wood in chips or particles</b>	W3.1 Wood chips	All

*\*Note: W1, W2, and W3 product groups usually do not require a separate evaluation to FSC-STD-40-004 (COC) if processing occurs in the field for FM/COC and CW/FM certificate types. N1-N10 (NTFPs) are eligible to be sold with FSC claims under FM/COC certification if reported here. Bamboo and NTFPs derived from trees (e.g. cork, resin, bark) may be eligible for FM/COC and CW/FM certification. NTFPs used for food and medicinal purposes are not eligible for CW/FM certification. Check with SCS if you have any products intended to be sold with an FSC claim outside of any of these categories.*

### Conservation and High Conservation Value Areas

<b>Conservation Area</b>	<b>Units:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> ha or <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ac
<b>Total amount</b> of land in certified area protected from commercial harvesting of timber and managed primarily for conservation objectives (includes both forested and non-forested lands).*	<b>54079</b>

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

<b>High Conservation Value Forest / Areas</b>			<b>Units:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> ha or <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ac
<b>Code</b>	<b>HCV Type</b>	<b>Description &amp; Location</b>	<b>Area</b>
HCV1	Forests or areas containing globally, regionally or nationally significant concentrations of biodiversity values (e.g. endemism, endangered species, refugia).	Ecologically Significant Areas and Wildlands	56,886
HCV2	Forests or areas containing globally, regionally or nationally significant large landscape level forests, contained within, or containing the management unit, where viable populations of most if not all naturally occurring species exist in natural patterns of distribution and abundance.		0
HCV3	Forests or areas that are in or contain rare, threatened or endangered ecosystems.	Core FIDs habitat; DFS Core areas; Old Growth (OG); Old Growth Ecosystem Management Areas (OGEMA)	39,348
HCV4	Forests or areas that provide basic services of nature in critical situations (e.g. watershed protection, erosion control).	Riparian Buffer Areas	8,733 including wetlands

HCV5	Forests or areas fundamental to meeting basic needs of local communities (e.g. subsistence, health).		0
HCV6	Forests or areas critical to local communities' traditional cultural identity (areas of cultural, ecological, economic or religious significance identified in cooperation with such local communities).		0
<b>Total area of forest classified as 'High Conservation Value Forest / Area'</b>			<b>104,967</b>

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

<input type="checkbox"/> <i>N/A – All forestland owned or managed by the certificate holder is included in the scope.</i>		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <i>Certificate holder owns and/or manages other FMUs not under evaluation.</i>		
<input type="checkbox"/> <i>Certificate holder wishes to excise portions of the FMU(s) under evaluation from the scope of certification.</i>		
<b>Note:</b> <i>Excision cannot be applied to CW/FM certificates.</i>		
<b>Explanation for exclusion of FMUs and/or excision:</b>	These other state forests see very little silvicultural activity and are relatively small in acreage. We have no interest in pursuing certification at this time on these lands.	
<b>Control measures to prevent mixing of certified and non-certified product (C8.3):</b>	These additional properties are not located near the areas included in the current or expanded certification scope. Harvesting is very limited and usually for the purpose of salvage or demonstration. These properties are not allowed to use the FSC certificate or license codes.	
<b>Description of FMUs excluded from, or forested area excised from, the scope of certification:</b>		
<b>Name of FMU or Stand</b>	<b>Location (city, state, country)</b>	<b>Size ( <input type="checkbox"/> ha or <input type="checkbox"/> ac )</b>
Elk Neck State Forest	Northeast, MD, Cecil	3,380
Cedarville State Forest	Brandywine, MD, Prince Georges	3,625
Doncaster Demonstration Forest	Ironsides, MD, Charles	1,953
Stoney Demonstration Forest	Aberdeen, MD, Harford	318
Salem State Forest	Leonardtwn, MD, St Mary's	837

## SECTION B – APPENDICES (CONFIDENTIAL)

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

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

### Appendix 2 – Staff and Stakeholders Consulted

#### List of FME Staff Consulted

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

SCS global  
Setting the standard for Quality

DATE: 7/20 ORG: MD ONR OFFICE: PSSF

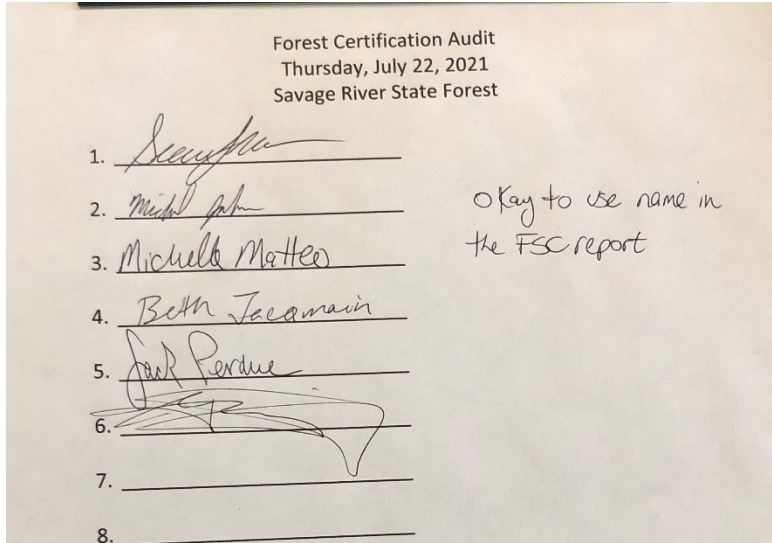
YOU GIVE PERMISSION TO BE RECORDED IN THE CONFIDENTIAL SECTION OF THE AUDIT REPORT BY SIGNING YOUR NAME. THIS SIGN IN SHEET WILL BE SCANNED – PLEASE WRITE LEGIBLY

Name	Job Title	Phone OR Email
Noah Rowe	Asst Manager	noah.rowe@maryland.gov
George Eberling	Regional Forester	george.eberling@maryland.gov
SEAN NOLAN	SRSF MANAGER	sean.nolan@maryland.gov
Scott Campbell	PSSF Manager	scott.campbell@maryland.gov
Jack Perdue	Forest Resource Planning	jack.perdue@maryland.gov
Kenneth Jolly	Acting Director/State Forester	kenneth.jolly@maryland.gov
Beth Jacobson	SCS/FSC Auditor	

Forest Certification Audit  
Wednesday, July 21, 2021  
Savage River State Forest

1. [Signature]
2. [Signature]
3. [Signature]
4. [Signature]
5. [Signature]
6. [Signature]
7. Michelle Matteo
8. Kenneth Jolly
9. \_\_\_\_\_

OK to use names in FSC report.



**List of other Stakeholders Consulted\***

To protect privacy, only stakeholders who have expressly provided written permission are listed. **These records are retained by SCS and subject to FSC or ASI examination.** 1 Stakeholder requested anonymity; records related to this stakeholder kept in confidential records with SCS.

Name	Title	Contact Information	Consultation method	Requests Stakeholder Notification ? (Y/N)
Agnes Helen Kedmenecz	Woodland Stewardship Educator University of Maryland Extension	<akedmen@umd.edu> Wye Research and Education Center PO Box 169   Queenstown, MD 21658-0169	Email	N
Beth Cole	Administrator, Project Review and Compliance Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Department of Planning	beth.cole@maryland.gov 100 Community Place Crownsville, MD 21032 beth.cole@maryland.gov / 410-697-9541 MHT.Maryland.gov	Email	N
Donald "Butch" Glotfelty	Owner/Operator, Logging contractor	Glotfelty Lumber Co., Inc. 301-646-4100	Interview	N
Doug Cessna	Owner/Operator, Logging contractor	Cessna Brothers, 814-767-9518	Interview	N
Eric Cessna	Logging contractor	Cessna Brothers, 814-767-9518	Interview	N
Erin Thomas	Manager, New Germany State Park Maryland Park Service 349 Headquarters Lane Grantsville, Maryland 21536	erin.thomas@maryland.gov	Email	N

Joan Maloof	Executive Director, Old-Growth Forest Network Professor Emerita, Salisbury University	<a href="mailto:Joan@OldGrowthForest.Net">Joan@OldGrowthForest.Net</a>	Email, interview	Y
Kathy Renshaw	Renshaw Logging	email privacy respected	Email	N
Ken Kyler	Maryland Off-Highway Vehicle Alliance	<a href="mailto:ken@kyler.com">ken@kyler.com</a>	Email	N
Mark Diehl	SRSF Citizens Advisory Committee	<a href="mailto:mdieh155@gmail.com">mdieh155@gmail.com</a>	Email	N
Pabodha Galgamuwa <pabodha@TNC.ORG>	Pabodha Galgamuwa G.A. Ph.D. Forest Science Project Manager Resilient Forests Program	<a href="mailto:pabodha@tnc.org">pabodha@tnc.org</a> <a href="tel:+17854777220">+1 (785) 477 7220</a> <a href="http://nature.org">nature.org</a> <a href="http://TheNatureConservancyMaryland/DCChapter81,BaltimoreStreetSuite608,CumberlandMD21502">The Nature Conservancy Maryland/DC Chapter 81, Baltimore Street Suite 608, Cumberland MD 21502</a>	Email, interview	Y
Preston Stevens	Former MD DNR Citizen's Advisory Committee, Recreation projects PSF and SRSF	<a href="mailto:pstevens122656@comcast.net">pstevens122656@comcast.net</a>	Email	N
Rick Latshaw	Rick Latshaw Habitat Manager	Wildlife and Heritage Service Department of Natural Resources 1728 Kings Run Road Oakland MD 21550 301-334-4255 (office) <a href="mailto:rick.latshaw@maryland.gov">rick.latshaw@maryland.gov</a>	Email	N
Sarah Milbourne	Park Manager Rocky Gap State Park	Department of Natural Resources 12500 Pleasant Valley Road Cumberland, Maryland 21530 <a href="mailto:sarah.milbourne@maryland.gov">sarah.milbourne@maryland.gov</a>	Email	N

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

### Appendix 3 – Additional Evaluation Techniques Employed

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

### Appendix 4 – Required Tracking

#### Pesticide Derogations

- There are no active pesticide derogations for this FME.

### Progressive HCVF Assessments

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

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

<input type="checkbox"/>	Not applicable; no significant issues identified that may impact the next audit.
<b>Some issues were identified during this audit that the next audit team could consider in the next audit, such as:</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Scope of certificate:
<input type="checkbox"/>	Audit sampling:
<input type="checkbox"/>	Audit time:
<input type="checkbox"/>	Audit season:
<input type="checkbox"/>	Travel time between sites or FMUs:
<input type="checkbox"/>	Audit frequency:
<input type="checkbox"/>	Suggested audit team competency for next audit:
<input type="checkbox"/>	Suggested requirements to include during the next audit:
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Suggested issues investigate during the next audit: Stakeholder communications for PGSF.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Suggested sites for inspection:
<input type="checkbox"/>	Stakeholders to be consulted:
<input type="checkbox"/>	Other(s) – please describe:

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

### Appendix 5 – Forest Management Standard Conformance Table

Criteria required by FSC at every surveillance evaluation ( <i>check all situations that apply</i> )	<input type="checkbox"/> NA – all FMUs are exempt from these requirements. <input type="checkbox"/> Plantations > 10,000 ha (24,710 ac): 2.3, 4.2, 4.4, 6.7, 6.9, 10.6, 10.7, and 10.8 <input 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
Documents and records reviewed for FMUs/sites sampled	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> All applicable documents and records as required in section 7 of audit plan were reviewed; or <input type="checkbox"/> The following documents and records as required in section 7 of the audit plan were NOT reviewed ( <i>provide explanation</i> ):

### Requirements Reviewed in Annual Evaluation

Evaluation Year	Requirements Reviewed (FSC P&C Reviewed, FM/COC Indicators, Trademark Indicators, Group Standard Indicators, etc.)
-----------------	--

2019	All – (Re)certification Evaluation
2020	P2, P4, P7 and 1.5, 2.3, 3.2, 4.2, 4.4, 5.6, 6.2, 6.3, 6.9, 8.2, and 9.4
2021	P1, P9 and mandatory criteria (Lg-HCV) 1.5, 2.3, 3.2, 4.2, 4.4, 5.6, 6.2, 6.3, 6.9, 8.2, and 9.4. <a href="#">Criterion 6.4 was added for RSAs following stakeholder input.</a>
2022	For projected PC&I see SCS records
2023	

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

REQUIREMENT	C/N C	COMMENT/CAR
<b>P1 Forest management shall respect all applicable laws of the country in which they occur, and international treaties and agreements to which the country is a signatory, and comply with all FSC Principles and Criteria.</b>		
<b>C1.1 Forest management shall respect all national and local laws and administrative requirements.</b>	C	
<p>1.1.a. <b>Forest</b> management plans and operations demonstrate compliance with all applicable federal, state, county, municipal, and tribal laws, and <b>administrative requirements</b> (e.g., regulations). Violations, outstanding complaints or investigations are provided to the <b>Certifying Body</b> (CB) during the annual audit.</p>	C	<p>MD DNR has a legal department, which verifies all contracts and land acquisitions. Timber sales must be approved by the Board of Public Works. There are several other departments and external agencies that evaluate MD DNR for compliance to environmental, legal, and labor requirements. Forest managers also demonstrate knowledge of applicable laws and regulations, which they must consider when preparing management plans. MD DNR reported no new violations or complaints for 2021. Other state agencies with regulatory responsibilities covering forestry activities were consulted and reported no violations.</p> <p>Interviews with a variety of foresters, Natural Heritage biologists and ecologists, and Heritage Wildlife Biologists, and review of forest management plans and observations of management operations described elsewhere in this report confirm that this FME meets the requirements of laws and regulations, including for example those related to the protection of rare species, implementation of BMPs and SMZs.</p> <p>During this 2021 surveillance audit, management plan review, observations and interviews for example confirm compliance with the primary State law that governs the listing of endangered species,</p>



		<p>the Nongame and Endangered Species Conservation Act (Annotated Code of Maryland 10-2A-01) and the associated regulations (Code of Maryland Regulations 08.03.08). See Site Notes.</p> <p>FME staff reported no violations or investigations into alleged noncompliance with legal requirements. No stakeholders interviewed alleged any noncompliance. A review of complaints records at 2 state forest offices sampled in 2021 did not discover any complaints registered. Viewed the log back to 2009.</p> <p>Firewood permits and guidelines were reviewed on all state forests visited in 2019 and were confirmed as unchanged in 2021. While most are similar, FME is in the process of reviewing them to ensure that their restrictions do not differ significantly between state forests. Specifically, a restriction on harvesting within riparian zones is being considered for potential benefits firewood permits and guidelines.</p> <p>Finally, review and examination of timber sale contracts found significant, systemic errors, see Major CAR 2020.1.</p>
<p>1.1.b. To facilitate legal compliance, the <b>forest owner</b> or <b>manager</b> ensures that employees and contractors, commensurate with their responsibilities, are duly informed about applicable laws and regulations.</p>	<p>C</p>	<p>MD DNR employees interviewed demonstrated working knowledge of applicable laws and are provided access to training certifications to cover legal requirements (e.g., certified pesticide applicator, CDL). Logging contractors interviewed were Licensed Forest Products Operators &amp; Master Loggers as verified on state lists of MLOs. Contracts also refer to applicable laws and regulations. Foresters interviewed each held a State of MD Forester License.</p> <p>Foresters inspect and supervise management activities and ensure that operations comply with laws, regulations and BMPs. For example, foresters continue to require by contract that timber harvest operators meet OSHA and other logging safety requirements. Interviews with employees and timber harvest operators; these Master Loggers receive continuing education associated with laws and regulations. Review of training records in 2021 confirms that employees and contractors received training and understand laws and regulations that apply to forest management activities including for</p>

		example chemical use, best management practices, and rare species protection. Training for foresters reviewed in 2021 included first aid, CPR, fire related, forest insect and disease refreshers, among others.
<b>C1.2. All applicable and legally prescribed fees, royalties, taxes and other charges shall be paid.</b>	C	
1.2.a. The forest owner or manager provides written evidence that all applicable and legally prescribed fees, royalties, taxes and other charges are being paid in a timely manner. If payment is beyond the control of the landowner or manager, then there is evidence that every attempt at payment was made.	C	<p>Letters written annually to Counties of FMUs identifying monies to be paid in lieu of taxes for FY were demonstrated for all Counties that receive payments. Payments are also listed w/in Annual Work Plan budget.</p> <p>Statements w/in "PILOT Payment 19 20" spreadsheet detailed FY 2019, \$200,320.33 and FY2020, \$172,666.36 payments by all State Forests to Counties of operation.</p>
<b>C1.3. In signatory countries, the provisions of all binding international agreements such as CITES, ILO Conventions, ITTA, and Convention on Biological Diversity, shall be respected.</b>	C	
1.3.a. Forest management plans and operations comply with relevant provisions of all applicable binding international agreements.	C	<p>Ginseng, which is not allowed to be harvested on MD DNR lands, is regulated by the Maryland Department of Agriculture to comply with CITES.</p> <p>Interviews with Management confirm the absence of known violations or legal challenges; the absence of known violations has been believed to be evidence in the past of conformance with this section of the standard. FME's management plans and supporting documents are based on state laws and regulations, many of which were ratified to comply with federal laws that require compliance to international treaties. For example, the Endangered Species Act is relevant to the Convention on Biological Diversity.</p> <p>The DNR-Forest has reviewed the USDA Forest Service International Programs website in reference to international laws that govern or may govern forest management on Maryland State Forests and have found that only the <a href="http://www.fs.fed.us/global/aboutus/policy/multi/bind.htm#1">http://www.fs.fed.us/global/aboutus/policy/multi/bind.htm#1</a></p> <p>They abide by the Convention on Biological Diversity through collaborative work with the DNR Natural Heritage Program (NHP), and annual work plan review and ID Teams.</p>

		The Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) was established to control the trade of endangered species. Again, their collaborative work with NHP, DNR Natural Resource Police (enforcement) and Maryland Department of Agriculture Ginseng Management Program (licensing and data collection). For example, in 2013, the DNR Secretary signed a policy that effectively eliminated ginseng harvests from all DNR lands as a result of information from NHP and licensing data from MDA.
<b>C1.4. Conflicts between laws, regulations and the FSC Principles and Criteria shall be evaluated for the purposes of certification, on a case by case basis, by the certifiers and the involved or affected parties.</b>	C	
1.4.a. Situations in which compliance with laws or regulations conflicts with compliance with FSC Principles, Criteria or Indicators are documented and referred to the CB.	C	No reports per interview.
<b>C1.5. Forest management areas should be protected from illegal harvesting, settlement and other unauthorized activities.</b>	C	
1.5.a. The forest owner or manager supports or implements measures intended to prevent illegal and unauthorized activities on the <b>Forest Management Unit</b> (FMU).	C	FME has a department of Natural Resources Police (NRP) that regularly patrol state lands to prevent and detect unauthorized activities. In addition, FME gates roads and posts signage that cites applicable laws and regulations. For 2021 the primary challenge discussed was ATV trespass for which DNR staff work with conservation and area LEO, track and repair damage. DNR also uses motion cameras at gates with known issues.
1.5.b. If illegal or unauthorized activities occur, the forest owner or manager implements actions designed to curtail such activities and correct the situation to the extent possible for meeting all land management objectives with consideration of available resources.	C	FME did not report any significant illegal or unauthorized activities since the last audit. Per interviews with staff, FME's NRP prosecutes or fines violators. NRP also works with local law enforcement to deal with more complex situations involving illegal activities, such as marijuana operations. FME staff regularly clean up dump sites to avoid attraction. Interviews with staff indicate that outside of this occasional dumping, there have been no major illegal or unauthorized activities other than chronic ATV annoyances.
<b>C1.6. Forest managers shall demonstrate a long-term commitment to adhere to the FSC Principles and Criteria.</b>	C	
1.6.a. The forest owner or manager demonstrates a long-term commitment to adhere to the FSC Principles	C	MD DNR has been certified since 2003. In 2014, the Maryland legislature passed a law requiring the

and Criteria and FSC and FSC-US policies, including the FSC-US Land Sales Policy, and has a publicly available statement of commitment to manage the FMU in conformance with FSC standards and policies.		State Forest system to maintain compliance to the FSC and SFI standards.
1.6.b. If the certificate holder does not certify their entire holdings, then they document, in brief, the reasons for seeking partial certification referencing FSC-POL-20-002 (or subsequent policy revisions), the location of other managed forest units, the natural resources found on the holdings being excluded from certification, and the management activities planned for the holdings being excluded from certification.	C	See Section A of 2019 recertification report (or section 7/8 of annual audit reports) for a list of all lands outside of the scope of the certificate.
1.6.c. The forest owner or manager notifies the Certifying Body of significant changes in ownership and/or significant changes in management planning within 90 days of such change.	C	
<b>P2 Long-term tenure and use rights to the land and forest resources shall be clearly defined, documented and legally established.</b>		
<b>C2.1. Clear evidence of long-term forest use rights to the land (e.g., land title, customary rights, or lease agreements) shall be demonstrated.</b>	C	
<b>C2.2. Local communities with legal or customary tenure or use rights shall maintain control, to the extent necessary to protect their rights or resources, over forest operations unless they delegate control with free and informed consent to other agencies.</b>  <i>Applicability Note: For the planning and management of publicly owned forests, the local community is defined as all residents and property owners of the relevant jurisdiction.</i>	C	
<b>C2.3. Appropriate mechanisms shall be employed to resolve disputes over tenure claims and use rights. The circumstances and status of any outstanding disputes will be explicitly considered in the certification evaluation. Disputes of substantial magnitude involving a significant number of interests will normally disqualify an operation from being certified.</b>	C	
2.3.a. If <b>disputes</b> arise regarding tenure claims or use rights then the forest owner or manager initially attempts to resolve them through open communication, negotiation, and/or mediation. If these good-faith efforts fail, then federal, state, and/or local laws are employed to resolve such disputes.	C	There was one dispute 2020. Right-of-way dispute with new landowners of inholding along Poplar Lick Trail. Working with Land Acquisition and Planning personnel and legal staff for past year to resolve the issue.
2.3.b. The forest owner or manager documents any significant disputes over tenure and use rights.	C	No reported encroachment issues. Each state forest maintains its own records, but the land planning

		office may become involved in reviewing records and survey information. FME’s lawyers at headquarters review boundary disputes and encroachment and take the final actions to resolve these issues.
<b>P3 The legal and customary rights of indigenous peoples to own, use and manage their lands, territories, and resources shall be recognized and respected.</b>		
<b>C3.1. Indigenous peoples shall control forest management on their lands and territories unless they delegate control with free and informed consent to other agencies.</b>	NE	
<b>C3.2. Forest management shall not threaten or diminish, either directly or indirectly, the resources or tenure rights of indigenous peoples.</b>	NA	
3.2.a. During management planning, the forest owner or manager consults with American Indian groups that have legal rights or other binding agreements to the FMU to avoid harming their resources or rights.	NA	There are no tribal forest management or ownership/ use rights on FME lands. There are no sites of special tribal significance on the certified FMU. There are no tribes with legal rights or binding agreements to the FMU, as confirmed through interviews with staff and review of tenure documents under C2.1, however per email correspondence in Oct 2018, the Accohannock tribe on the eastern shore has "Maryland Indian Status" as of 2018.  Routine communication with Chiefs regarding management activities and public posting of AWP’s on the forest web site.  FME staff reported that activities in 2020-2021 did not affect any tribal issues.
3.2.b. Demonstrable actions are taken so that forest management does not adversely affect tribal resources. When applicable, evidence of, and measures for, protecting tribal resources are incorporated in the management plan.	NA	
<b>C3.3. Sites of special cultural, ecological, economic or religious significance to indigenous peoples shall be clearly identified in cooperation with such peoples, and recognized and protected by forest managers.</b>	NA	
<b>C3.4. Indigenous peoples shall be compensated for the application of their traditional knowledge regarding the use of forest species or management systems in forest operations. This compensation shall be formally agreed upon with their free and informed consent before forest operations commence.</b>	NA	No protected traditional knowledge is used for commercial or forest management purposes.
<b>P4 Forest management operations shall maintain or enhance the long-term social and economic well-being of forest workers and local communities.</b>		
<b>C4.1. The communities within, or adjacent to, the forest management area should be given opportunities for employment, training, and other services.</b>	C	

<p><b>C4.2. Forest management should meet or exceed all applicable laws and/or regulations covering health and safety of employees and their families.</b></p>	<p>C</p>	
<p>4.2.a. The forest owner or manager meets or exceeds all applicable laws and/or regulations covering health and safety of employees and their families (also see Criterion 1.1).</p>	<p>C</p>	<p>FME reported no accidents or safety incidents since the last audit, and that there have been no changes to health &amp; safety regulations or contract templates. Interviews with staff and contractors confirm no accidents reported by forestry staff or contract loggers. OSHA postings were observed in all state forest offices. Per interviews with FME staff, all are aware of health and safety laws and receive regular training on the subject. Training records were provided for FME staff and contractors which include CPR and first aid.</p> <p>Auditors examined personnel files maintained at PGSF and SRSF, which contain training records such as EMS, pest, fire certification, state forestry licenses, first aid and CPR, FEMA, and wildland fire. Noting that Covid-19 pandemic reduced travel and offerings of training. Tracked for CFEs for SAF and to maintain state license issued by Department Labor License and Regulation. Auditors confirmed pesticide applicators' licenses for two qualified staff at SF offices.</p> <p>Review PPE, list of pesticides allowed. MSDS and labels have paper copies in storage shed. Post signs for spray areas depending on chemical, target, and amount of residential. GPS sites and Rx with maps for spray sites includes: date, herbicide, target, applicator, date.</p> <p>Noting there have been a number of Covid-19 pandemic related policies and procedures that were introduced and updated over the last year that affect MD DNR BOF personnel and office operations however noting, no significant impact on forest management planning and implementation.</p>
<p>4.2.b. The forest owner or manager and their employees and contractors demonstrate a safe work environment. Contracts or other written agreements include safety requirements.</p>	<p>C</p>	<p>Evidence of safe felling techniques were observed in the field on stumps and use of slash on skid trails. Contracts contained required safety language. Inspection of active harvest operations (Glotfelty and Cessna Bros) confirmed demonstration of safe work environment – use of PPEs, availability of 1<sup>st</sup> aid kits and training in CPR and 1<sup>st</sup> aid.</p>

<p>4.2.c. The forest owner or manager hires well-qualified service providers to safely implement the management plan.</p>	<p>C</p>	<p>Attachment D of timber sale contract stipulates the Logger must be a Master Logger. This clause is added to this attachment as sales are proposed. See 4.2.b for contract clauses. All loggers interviewed were licensed and had active First AID/CPR certifications.  <a href="https://extension.umd.edu/masterlogger">https://extension.umd.edu/masterlogger</a> (last accessed 27 Mar 2019)</p> <p>Through use of a competitive bidding system and use of strict contracts that include logger licensing and safety requirements, FME ensures that it uses qualified service providers.                      Evidence: contracts for all timber sales visited</p>
<p><b>C4.3 The rights of workers to organize and voluntarily negotiate with their employers shall be guaranteed as outlined in Conventions 87 and 98 of the International Labor Organization (ILO).</b></p>	<p>C</p>	
<p><b>C4.4. Management planning and operations shall incorporate the results of evaluations of social impact. Consultations shall be maintained with people and groups (both men and women) directly affected by management operations.</b></p>	<p>C</p>	
<p>4.4.a. The forest owner or manager understands the likely social impacts of management activities, and incorporates this understanding into management planning and operations. Social impacts include effects on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Archeological sites and sites of cultural, historical and community significance (on and off the FMU);</li> <li>• Public resources, including air, water and food (hunting, fishing, collecting);</li> <li>• Aesthetics;</li> <li>• Community goals for forest and natural resource use and protection such as employment, subsistence, recreation and health;</li> <li>• Community economic opportunities;</li> <li>• Other people who may be affected by management operations.</li> </ul> <p>A summary is available to the CB.</p>	<p>C</p>	<p>The Annual Work Plan and ID Team processes are robust examples of planning efforts that allow for consideration of social impacts. Evidence of conformance includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sustainable Forest Management Plans include descriptions of archeological sites and sites of cultural, historical and community significance.</li> <li>• Forest Management Plans include descriptions of public resources, including air, water and food (hunting, fishing and collecting); the potential social impacts of hunting fishing and collecting were specifically considered and described during interviews.</li> <li>• Forest Management Plans include a description of aesthetics. Planning for harvests includes consideration of aesthetics; field foresters are responsible and are supported by ID Teams. The use of the roadside buffers and variable retention harvest prescriptions are examples of aesthetic considerations during the process of locating retention. Aesthetic considerations were incorporated for example into SR-05-19</li> </ul>

		<p>Bowman Hill North Pine Regeneration (Closed Out). Compartment 10, Stands 19 &amp; 20.</p> <p>Confirmed through document review that the Policy &amp; Procedure Manual includes for example the following section on visual quality: “In laying out forest harvest and thinning operations, particular care will be given to the need for visual quality protection. This will include location and operations of landings, decks, roads, and other areas of concentrated activity. Visual buffers will be maintained along areas where required.” The field forester applies visual buffers as needed and the buffer is illustrated on the harvest plan maps. The <i>‘Forestry Aesthetics Guide: Image and Opportunity’</i> is the reference publication used by staff. Multiple 50’ to 100’ buffers were viewed during the field visits along roadsides for visual aesthetics.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• MD DNR’s PR Procedures MFS and CAC Purpose Statement include community goals for forest and natural resource use and protection such as employment, subsistence, recreation and health. In addition, a 2009 multi-stakeholder partnership including MD DNR representatives, engaged the public through the use of 5 listening sessions located across the state and culminating with the Forestry Summit. Key issues, strategies and recommendations for addressing these issues were developed. A key issue (Maintaining Viable Forests and a Viable Forest Industry in Maryland) included a strategy to inventory and manage State-owned forests as sustainable working forests. <a href="https://dnr.maryland.gov/forests/Documents/sfla_report.pdf">https://dnr.maryland.gov/forests/Documents/sfla_report.pdf</a></li> <li>• Community economic opportunities are addressed in a variety of ways including the use of timber harvest contracts that vary in size and scale, in order to attract a variety of logging operators/buyers. NTFP collection permits are</li> </ul>
--	--	--





		<p>most often issued to local residents. Harvests can be segmented into separate units so that operators/buyers can access smaller units and are able to financially able to access the sale.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Others who may be affected by management are activities are incorporated into the process in the following ways:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Maryland Historical Trust is a member of the Interdisciplinary Team that reviews each Annual Work Plans and projects. Records of Annual Work Plan comments for each State Forest are solicited and considered.</li> <li>○ The first draft of each management plan or Annual Work Plan is reviewed including field visits by DNR’s internal interdisciplinary team members and each revision is reviewed by the Citizens Advisory Committee. The revised plan is posted on the web for a 30-day review period and a public announcement is distributed to each major news outlet in the state, Patch.com and other relevant blog sites. For this audit reviewed SRSF AWP 2022.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Other proposed activities including for example ROW issues with neighboring landowners, ad hoc salvage harvests, road realignments, acid mine mitigation, easement requests, adventure sporting events, insect studies and building razing are submitted to MD DNR for review and approval by DNR staff and the Maryland Historical Trust (if the proposal includes historic or archaeological topics).</li> </ul> <p>MD DNR’s protocol for monitoring and incorporating social impact assessment into management decisions is effective and is based on review by the ID Team and Forest Advisory Committee as confirmed through review of the 2021 PGSF and SRSF complaint log resolution sections.</p>
--	--	---

		<p>The Annual Work Plan and ID Team processes are examples of planning efforts that allow for consideration of social impacts as described in this indicator. FME most recently updated its social impacts summary in 2015. Confirmed that nothing new has been identified since that date.</p> <p>Western State Forests held a cooperative project with Frostburg State University to carry out a Recreation/Tourism Economic Impact Study, with survey work was done spring of 2017 and is published in the following draft October 2018 Technical Report: <i>Visitation and Economics of Recreation/Tourism in Western Maryland State Forests</i>.</p>
<p>4.4.b. The forest owner or manager seeks and considers input in management planning from people who would likely be affected by management activities.</p>	<p>C</p>	<p>The following procedure is similar for both annual work plan and management plan; however, the most frequently used means of seeking and considering input on an annual basis is the Public consultation process for AWP. The first draft is made by management staff, this is reviewed along with necessary field visits by DNR’s internal interdisciplinary team, the revision is reviewed by the Citizen’s Advisory Committee, and then it is put on the web for 30-day review period. A public announcement is distributed to every major news outlet in the State, plus Patch.com and several relevant blog sites.</p> <p>Viewed samples of the internal ID feedback (from Heritage &amp; Wildlife) and changes in the AWP that were made after internal Heritage Biologist comments were received, as well as external comments from stakeholders.</p> <p>MD DNR provided multiple years of operational work plans for review: FY 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, and draft 2020. For example, comments regarding the FY-19 Annual Work Plan were received via e-mail, phone calls and letters, with samples reviewed by the auditors. AWP’s are publicly available online as well.</p> <p>DNR reported that few comments have been received from stakeholders since the last audit on other State Forests. Most comments are received during the Annual Work Plan (AWP) review process from the Citizens Advisory Committees. SCS</p>

		<p>reviewed complaints log at PGSF and SRSF. No reports or discovery of unresolved complaints during the 2021 audit.</p> <p>An example of recent projects include the Garrett Trails project. This was a “share your trail moments” involving hiking/biking trails on state forests across Garrett County.</p>
<p>4.4.c. People who are subject to direct adverse effects of management operations are apprised of relevant activities in advance of the action so that they may express concern.</p>	<p>C</p>	<p>See 4.4.b and 4.4.d.</p> <p>The following procedure is similar for both annual work plan and management plan; however, the most frequently used means of seeking and considering input on an annual basis is the Public consultation process for AWP. The first draft is made by management staff, this is reviewed along with necessary field visits by DNR’s internal interdisciplinary team, the revision is reviewed by the Citizen’s Advisory Committee, and then it is put on the web for 30-day review period. A public announcement is distributed to every major news outlet in the State, plus Patch.com (a local online newspaper/social media source) and several relevant blog sites.</p>
<p>4.4.d. For <b>public forests</b>, consultation shall include the following components:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Clearly defined and accessible methods for public participation are provided in both long and short-term planning processes, including harvest plans and operational plans;</li> <li>2. Public notification is sufficient to allow interested stakeholders the chance to learn of upcoming opportunities for public review and/or comment on the proposed management;</li> <li>3. An accessible and affordable appeals process to planning decisions is available.</li> </ol> <p>Planning decisions incorporate the results of public consultation. All draft and final planning documents, and their supporting data, are made readily available to the public.</p>	<p>C</p>	<p>See 4.4.b for a description of the AWP and SFMP process.</p> <p>Overall, MD DNR’s Timber Operations Order (Tbr_Ops_Procedures_2013-601_v1.pdf) directs how this process is to be followed.</p> <p>All SFMPs state that a 30-day public review process is required.</p>
<p><b>C4.5. Appropriate mechanisms shall be employed for resolving grievances and for providing fair compensation in the case of loss or damage affecting the legal or customary rights, property, resources, or livelihoods of local peoples. Measures shall be taken to avoid such loss or damage.</b></p>	<p>C</p>	
<p><b>P5 Forest management operations shall encourage the efficient use of the forest’s multiple products and services to ensure economic viability and a wide range of environmental and social benefits.</b></p>		

<p><b>C5.1. Forest management should strive toward economic viability, while taking into account the full environmental, social, and operational costs of production, and ensuring the investments necessary to maintain the ecological productivity of the forest.</b></p>	<p>NE</p>	
<p><b>C5.2. Forest management and marketing operations should encourage the optimal use and local processing of the forest’s diversity of products.</b></p>	<p>NE</p>	
<p><b>C5.3. Forest management should minimize waste associated with harvesting and on-site processing operations and avoid damage to other forest resources.</b></p>	<p>NE</p>	
<p><b>C5.4. Forest management should strive to strengthen and diversify the local economy, avoiding dependence on a single forest product.</b></p>	<p>NE</p>	
<p><b>C5.5. Forest management operations shall recognize, maintain, and, where appropriate, enhance the value of forest services and resources such as watersheds and fisheries.</b></p>	<p>NE</p>	
<p><b>C5.6. The rate of harvest of forest products shall not exceed levels which can be permanently sustained.</b></p>	<p>C</p>	
<p>5.6.a. In FMUs where products are being harvested, the landowner or manager calculates the sustained yield harvest level for each sustained yield planning unit, and provides clear rationale for determining the size and layout of the planning unit. The sustained yield harvest level calculation is documented in the Management Plan.</p> <p>The sustained yield harvest level calculation for each planning unit is based on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• documented growth rates for particular sites, and/or acreage of forest types, age-classes and species distributions;</li> <li>• mortality and decay and other factors that affect net growth;</li> <li>• areas reserved from harvest or subject to harvest restrictions to meet other management goals;</li> <li>• silvicultural practices that will be employed on the FMU;</li> <li>• management objectives and desired future conditions.</li> </ul> <p>The calculation is made by considering the effects of repeated prescribed harvests on the product/species and its ecosystem, as well as planned management</p>	<p>C</p>	<p>FME calculates the AAH for each State Forest in the scope. Reported for the 2021 audit:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SRSF Established harvest: 1,200,000 Bd. Ft.; past year’s harvest: 1,161,591 Bd. Ft.</li> <li>• PGSF Established harvest: 582,500 board feet; past year’s harvest: 405,012 board feet as of 5/14/2021</li> <li>• GRSF Established harvest: 200 acres; past years harvest 206.5 acres. Actual was higher than established due to work plan carryover, but multi-year average is maintained under established.</li> <li>• CF/PSF Established harvest: 334,480 tons; past year’s harvest: 91,591 tons)</li> </ul> <p>See SFMP Chapter 5, Appendix H and CFI Summary for each State Forest. MD DNR uses Remsoft’s Woodstock program to analyze forest inventory data to project sustainable harvest levels based on allowed silvicultural systems. Harvest rates are based on area control rather than volume control at this point in time. For example, the Green Ridge SFMP includes a description of the maximum number of acres that may be treated with variable retention harvests.</p> <p>Appendix H includes a description of the assumptions behind the growth and yield modeling,</p>

<p>treatments and projections of subsequent regrowth beyond single rotation and multiple re-entries.</p>		<p>including the elements of the indicator. Summaries of projected growth and allowable harvests based on growth rates, mortality, disease, etc. are included in Appendix H.</p> <p>In 2017, FME completed updated modelling for the Eastern Region using forest inventory data and site indexes modeled using REMSOFT’s software. The model considers growth rates, site quality, current age/ size class, species composition, management zone, operability, management constraints such as FIDS, ESAs and DFS, silvicultural practices, and objectives.  <a href="https://dnr.maryland.gov/forests/Pages/frp.aspx">https://dnr.maryland.gov/forests/Pages/frp.aspx</a>                      Small changes were made to the SFMP with the revisions to the forest inventory data.</p>
<p>5.6.b. Average annual harvest levels, over rolling periods of no more than 10 years, do not exceed the calculated sustained yield harvest level.</p>	<p>C</p>	<p>Each State Forest maintains an annual work plan summary to compare actual acres harvested versus projected (e.g., <a href="http://dnr.maryland.gov/forests/Pages/workplans.aspx">http://dnr.maryland.gov/forests/Pages/workplans.aspx</a>).</p> <p>Harvest levels on an area control basis remain well below what is allowed per the Woodstock model. Each State Forest also prepares quarterly harvest reports, which were reviewed during the audit. Timber Harvest Summaries (PDF) for CF-PSF, GRSF, PGSF, and SRSF were inspected and included data by <i>Fiscal Year for Harvest Bd. Ft Vol. and Harvested Gross Value of sale.</i></p> <p>Refer to 2 of the quarterly reports reviewed for the 2021 audit:</p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; align-items: center;"> <div style="text-align: center;">                           GRSF Quarterly                          Report FY21-Q3.xls                     </div> <div style="text-align: center;">                           PGSF Quarterly                          Report FY 21 Third Qtr                     </div> </div>
<p>5.6.c. Rates and methods of timber harvest lead to achieving desired conditions, and improve or maintain health and quality across the FMU. Overstocked stands and stands that have been depleted or rendered to be below productive potential due to natural events, past management, or lack of management, are returned to desired stocking levels and composition at the earliest practicable time as justified in management objectives.</p>	<p>C</p>	<p>AWP planning is done by the Forest Manager and staff. Western Maryland State Forests audited in 2021 confirm this through alterations inventory, which generate regeneration records using Silva protocols.</p>
<p>5.6.d. For NTFPs, calculation of quantitative sustained yield harvest levels is required only in cases where products are harvested in significant commercial</p>	<p>NA</p>	<p>There are no significant harvests of NTFPs on the FMU, as confirmed in field visits and interviews with FME staff.</p>

<p>operations or where traditional or customary use rights may be impacted by such harvests. In other situations, the forest owner or manager utilizes available information, and new information that can be reasonably gathered, to set harvesting levels that will not result in a depletion of the non-timber growing stocks or other adverse effects to the forest ecosystem.</p>		<p>Hunt leases are used only on the Chesapeake State Forest. The meat acquired is not commercially sold and is not commercially substantial.</p>
<p><b>P6 Forest management shall conserve biological diversity and its associated values, water resources, soils, and unique and fragile ecosystems and landscapes, and, by so doing, maintain the ecological functions and the integrity of the forest.</b></p>		
<p><b>C6.1. Assessments of environmental impacts shall be completed -- appropriate to the scale, intensity of forest management and the uniqueness of the affected resources -- and adequately integrated into management systems. Assessments shall include landscape level considerations as well as the impacts of on-site processing facilities. Environmental impacts shall be assessed prior to commencement of site-disturbing operations.</b></p>	<p>C</p>	
<p>6.1.a. Using the results of <b>credible scientific analysis, best available information</b> (including relevant databases), and local knowledge and experience, an assessment of conditions on the FMU is completed and includes:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Forest community types and development, size class and/or successional stages, and associated <b>natural disturbance regimes</b>;</li> <li>2) <b>Rare, Threatened and Endangered (RTE) species</b> and <b>rare ecological communities</b> (including plant communities);</li> <li>3) Other habitats and species of management concern;</li> <li>4) Water resources and associated riparian habitats and hydrologic functions;</li> <li>5) <b>Soil resources</b>; and</li> <li>6) <b>Historic conditions</b> on the FMU related to forest community types and development, size class and/or successional stages, and a broad comparison of historic and current conditions.</li> </ol>	<p>C</p>	<p>These subject areas are addressed in the SFMPs and AWP for each state forest or region. Specifically, each SFMP discusses current stand conditions and disturbance regimes that have led to current conditions. RTE species and communities are also addressed; however, MD DNR also uses recovery plans. Special habitats discussed in SFMPs include riparian corridors. Water and soil resources are discussed in detail in SFMPs. An overview of land use history that has shaped the landscapes of the Eastern and Western Regions is included in each SFMP.</p>
<p>6.1.b. Prior to commencing site-disturbing activities, the forest owner or manager assesses and documents the potential short and long-term impacts of planned management activities on elements 1-5 listed in Criterion 6.1.a.</p> <p>The assessment must incorporate the <b>best available information</b>, drawing from scientific literature and</p>	<p>C</p>	<p>The Annual Work Plans (AWPs) and the associated Citizen Advisory Committee (CAC) reviews serve as a document assessment of resources identified in 6.1.a and how these could be affected. In addition, the AWP are subject to public review during which any citizen can make comments on how planned activities may affect resources of 6.1.a.</p>

<p>experts. The impact assessment will at minimum include identifying resources that may be impacted by management (e.g., streams, habitats of management concern, soil nutrients). Additional detail (i.e., detailed description or quantification of impacts) will vary depending on the uniqueness of the resource, potential risks, and steps that will be taken to avoid and minimize risks.</p>		<p>MD DNR’s assessments draw from experts on the CACs, scientific literature, and assessment methods carried out by qualified/trained MD DNR staff.</p>
<p>6.1.c. Using the findings of the impact assessment (Indicator 6.1.b), management approaches and field prescriptions are developed and implemented that: 1) avoid or minimize negative short-term and long-term impacts; and, 2) maintain and/or enhance the long-term ecological viability of the forest.</p>	<p>C</p>	<p>The AWP’s include descriptions of prescriptions and measures to avoid or minimize negative impacts. Certain prescriptions, such as road and trail maintenance, are intended to ensure that damaged BMPs are repaired so that impacts to soil and water resources are mitigated. Harvest prescriptions are based on the reproductive ecology of the tree species on site and natural disturbance regimes. Additionally, grants are applied for to study the effects of climate change on hydrology (higher rainfall) and how best to manage road infrastructure.</p>
<p>6.1.d. On public lands, assessments developed in Indicator 6.1.a and management approaches developed in Indicator 6.1.c are made available to the public in draft form for review and comment prior to finalization. Final assessments are also made available.</p>	<p>C</p>	<p>SFMPs and AWP’s are subject to public review in draft form prior to finalization as described in 4.4.d.</p>
<p><b>C 6.2. Safeguards shall exist which protect rare, threatened and endangered species and their habitats (e.g., nesting and feeding areas). Conservation zones and protection areas shall be established, appropriate to the scale and intensity of forest management and the uniqueness of the affected resources. Inappropriate hunting, fishing, trapping, and collecting shall be controlled.</b></p>	<p>C</p>	
<p>6.2.a. If there is a likely presence of RTE species as identified in Indicator 6.1.a then either a field survey to verify the species’ presence or absence is conducted prior to site-disturbing management activities, or management occurs with the assumption that potential RTE species are present.</p> <p>Surveys are conducted by biologists with the appropriate expertise in the species of interest and with appropriate qualifications to conduct the surveys. If a species is determined to be present, its location should be reported to the manager of the appropriate database.</p>	<p>C</p>	<p><b>Wildlife and Heritage biologists are important members of the Interdisciplinary Team (IDT) review process for each of the state forests.</b> They provide critical information important to the ultimate management decisions made by the State Forest managers and their annual work plans. Rare, threatened and endangered species are recorded in the Heritage database. Heritage biologists are involved in planning, review and approval for each management prescription and sometimes working directly with the manager in the final boundaries established for a forest harvest to ensure the species of concern and their habitat are properly protected. RTE species protection and management are included in the Forest Management Plan, AWP</p>

		<p>Forest Harvest Proposal, and GIS. Each AWP silvicultural proposal has a defined “Description/Resource Impact Assessment” which includes information for: Location, Forest Community Type and Condition, Interfering Elements, Historic Conditions, Rare/Threatened/Endangered Species and Habitats, Species of Management Concern, Water Resources, Recreation Resources and Soil Resources. Monitoring efforts follow each management activity that could affect RTE species or their habitats including monitoring of the effects of restoration treatments.</p>
<p>6.2.b. When RTE species are present or assumed to be present, modifications in management are made in order to maintain, restore or enhance the extent, quality and viability of the species and their habitats. <b>Conservation zones</b> and/or <b>protected areas</b> are established for RTE species, including those S3 species that are considered rare, where they are necessary to maintain or improve the short and long-term viability of the species. Conservation measures are based on relevant science, guidelines and/or consultation with relevant, independent experts as necessary to achieve the conservation goal of the Indicator.</p>	<p>C</p>	<p>Wildlife and Heritage Service regularly conduct surveys across the state forest. No new HCVF areas or conservation zones have been established. Possible establishment of an HCVF area for globally rare butterfly (Frosted Elfin) on recently acquired parcel. Heritage Service has been conducting population surveys and working with wildlife service for possible habitat management (mowing, burning, etc.) but plans have not been firmed up.</p> <p>Statewide Maryland DNR have listed species of concern.</p> <p>For example, in SRSF the following have been listed:          9 Mammals – 6 in need of conservation (I), 3 endangered (E)          5 Birds – 1 (E), 2 (I), and 2 threatened (T)          2 Amphibians – 1 (I), 1(E)          9 Insects – 4 (E), 1 (T) and 3 (I)          1 Mollusk – In need of conservation          1 Crustacean – In need of conservation.</p> <p>RTE species are protected through a network of Ecologically Significant Areas (ESAs) located within each of the State Forests. ESAs are described in Chapter 4.3 and Chapter 7.2.1 of each property’s management plan.</p> <p>Sites containing rare plant and/or animal communities have been identified and are managed for their unique attributes.</p> <p>The number and extent of ESAs is evidence of a well-established RTE protection program.</p> <p>Individual Annual Work Plans (AWPs) and the management recommendations for each state</p>



		<p>forest; all conservation zones and/or protected areas are shown on each project map.</p> <p>Western Maryland: Occasionally, timber harvests are conducted near established HCVF areas. When sales occur within close proximity to these protected sites, the sale lines are carefully laid out to assure that they avoid any overlap into the special management zone. <b>All sales are reviewed by the DNR Interdisciplinary Team a year in advance and any necessary alterations are made based on their knowledge and opinion of possible impact.</b> If there is any discrepancy in the possible impact to an HCVF site they commonly consult with other agencies before anything is implemented on the ground.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Eastern Shore: Regeneration harvests: W48 – Peterson Farm, WR45 – Foster Estate</li> <li>• Thinnings: D04 – WT Willis, D16 – Demby, D18 – Shiloh-Apex, W19 – King’s Misfortune, W34 – Herman-Hodgson, W46 – Wicomico Demo Forest, WR10 – Cordery, WR25 – Creek, WR32 – Pepperfield, P02 – Tract 33 (Sand Rd.).</li> </ul> <p>All these activities were authorized and approved by Heritage for improving habitat.</p>
<p>6.2.c. For medium and large public forests (e.g. state forests), forest management plans and operations are designed to meet species’ recovery goals, as well as landscape level biodiversity conservation goals.</p>	<p>C</p>	<p>The requirements of this section of the standard are primarily accomplished through the ID team process described in detail elsewhere in this report. Harvest operations and restoration projects are reviewed by Heritage members of the ID team. Restoration projects for specific sites are listed within each Annual Work Plan.</p> <p>Evidence of conformance: Restoration site for the Frosted Elphin Butterfly. This species is designated as endangered on a state level and will potentially be listed federally. The restoration site was acquired in 2020 and visited during the 2021 audit, see Site Notes.</p>
<p>6.2.d. Within the capacity of the forest owner or manager, hunting, fishing, trapping, collecting and other activities are controlled to avoid the risk of impacts to vulnerable species and communities (See Criterion 1.5).</p>	<p>C</p>	<p>MD DNR relies primarily on the Natural Resource Police for control of hunting, fishing, trapping, collecting and other impacts to RT&amp;E species. Interviews with MD DNR staff.</p> <p>On PGSF, illegal collection/hunting of rattlesnakes occurred in the past and the MD DNR ID team proposed a seasonal road closure and a gate has been installed.</p>

		<p>2021: Western Maryland: The Smithsonian Environmental Research Center’s North American Orchid Conservation Center (NAOCC) has initiated a large-scale (U.S. and Canada) effort to conserve native orchids. DNR requests to collect orchid samples from the DNR properties for an ongoing national orchid conservation program. NAOCC’s approach to conservation is ecological, involving the collection of materials from native orchids (seeds, leaves, roots) for research purposes. The seeds are placed into seed banks to conserve the genetic diversity of native orchids and for conducting germination and propagation experiments both for research and restoration. Leaves are used to isolate DNA in order to determine the level and patterns of genetic diversity of species across the US and Canada.</p> <p>Roots are sampled to isolate, culture and identify the orchid mycorrhizal fungi required by all native orchids to complete their life cycles in nature. The fungi are a source of carbon and other resources for the orchids. All native orchids have a non-photosynthetic stage (protocorm) that can only survive and grow by digesting fungi. The fungi that able be cultured are identified using molecular techniques. Fungi are stored in a fungal-bank and used in germination and propagation studies. Seeds from Maryland native orchids will be stored at SERC and the Mid-Atlantic Seed Bank (MARSB) in New York. Fungi and leaves will be stored at SERC. There are no special considerations related to this project. Fruits and roots will only be collected when the populations are sufficiently large and robust enough to support such collections without damage to the sustainability of the population (Wigham, 2019). Three sites have been identified on the Garrett State Forest within the Snaggy Mountain Complex that contain Roundleaved orchid (<i>Platanthera orbiculata</i>) and Pink Lady’s Slipper (<i>Cypripedium acaule</i>). Eastern Shore: W48 – Peterson Farm final harvest; approved through the review process</p>
<p><b>C6.3. Ecological functions and values shall be maintained intact, enhanced, or restored, including: a) Forest regeneration and succession. b) Genetic, species, and ecosystem diversity. c) Natural cycles that affect the productivity of the forest ecosystem.</b></p>	<p>C</p>	
<p>6.3.a.1. The forest owner or manager maintains, enhances, and/or restores under-represented</p>	<p>C</p>	<p>FME reported the following:</p>

<p><b>successional</b> stages in the FMU that would naturally occur on the types of sites found on the FMU. Where old growth of different community types that would naturally occur on the forest are under-represented in the landscape relative to natural conditions, a portion of the forest is managed to enhance and/or restore old growth characteristics.</p>		<p>Old Growth and OGEMA areas have been established to maintain and expand area dedicated to the later stages of forest succession. MD Forest Service partnered with The Nature Conservancy on their “Old Growth Ecosystem Enhancement” project within the designated OGEMA area of the forest. Hardwood regeneration harvests increase early successional habitats and DNR also partners with the wildlife service to do some early successional management of open / old field sites across the forest. DNR timber sale program explicitly seeks to enhance the composition and structure of our forest stands and promote desirable species regeneration to occupy stands in the future.</p>
<p>6.3.a.2. When a <b>rare ecological community</b> is present, modifications are made in both the management plan and its implementation in order to maintain, restore or enhance the viability of the community. Based on the vulnerability of the existing community, <b>conservation zones</b> and/or <b>protected areas</b> are established where warranted.</p>	<p>C</p>	<p>FME demonstrates efforts to identify rare ecological communities for protection, management and/or restoration. During harvests visited in 2019, ESAs and other protected areas were noted on maps when adjacent or within timber sale boundaries.</p> <p>Critical habitats have been mapped for state listed or uncommon species, shale barrens communities, old growth and potential old growth, vernal pools and unique open habitats in state forest management plans. In most cases, these areas are not entered with equipment.</p> <p>Per interviews with staff, for early successional habitat that is not well-represented on the landscape, FME is attempting to coordinate more opportunities to combine timber sale and prescribed fire layout to reduce costs.</p>
<p>6.3.a.3. When they are present, management maintains the area, structure, composition, and processes of all <b>Type 1</b> and <b>Type 2 old growth</b>. Type 1 and 2 old growth are also protected and buffered as necessary with conservation zones, unless an alternative plan is developed that provides greater overall protection of old growth values.</p> <p>Type 1 Old Growth is protected from harvesting and road construction. Type 1 old growth is also protected from other timber management activities, except as needed to maintain the ecological values associated with the stand, including old growth attributes (e.g., remove exotic species, conduct controlled burning, and thinning from below in dry forest types when and where restoration is appropriate).</p>	<p>C</p>	<p>FME staff reported that there have been no harvests or other activities that have significantly affected old growth stands.</p>

<p>Type 2 Old Growth is protected from harvesting to the extent necessary to maintain the area, structures, and functions of the stand. Timber harvest in Type 2 old growth must maintain old growth structures, functions, and components including individual trees that function as refugia (see Indicator 6.3.g).</p> <p>On public lands, old growth is protected from harvesting, as well as from other timber management activities, except if needed to maintain the values associated with the stand (e.g., remove exotic species, conduct controlled burning, and thinning from below in forest types when and where restoration is appropriate).</p> <p>On American Indian lands, timber harvest may be permitted in Type 1 and Type 2 old growth in recognition of their sovereignty and unique ownership. Timber harvest is permitted in situations where:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Old growth forests comprise a significant portion of the tribal ownership.</li> <li>2. A history of forest stewardship by the tribe exists.</li> <li>3. High Conservation Value Forest attributes are maintained.</li> <li>4. Old-growth structures are maintained.</li> <li>5. Conservation zones representative of old growth stands are established.</li> <li>6. Landscape level considerations are addressed.</li> <li>7. Rare species are protected.</li> </ol>		
<p>6.3.b. To the extent feasible within the size of the ownership, particularly on larger ownerships (generally tens of thousands or more acres), management maintains, enhances, or restores habitat conditions suitable for well-distributed populations of animal species that are characteristic of forest ecosystems within the landscape.</p>	<p>C</p>	<p>Western Maryland continued to partner with the wildlife service to get open areas of the state forest planted in crops and grasses beneficial to wildlife along with scheduled strip mowing of early successional habitats. The planting acreage this past year was significantly lower than years past due to COVID work protocols.</p> <p><b>Rounds Farm</b>  5 acres corn  Mowing of 3 acres of established clover mix</p> <p><b>West Shale</b>  1 acre chicory  2 acres brassica mix  2 acres clover mix</p> <p><b>Horse Farm</b>  5 acres corn  5 acres sorghum  1 acre brassica mix</p>

		<p>Working with neighboring farmer to mow fallow strips in exchange for small hay crop</p> <p>A 13-acre wildlife habitat improvement project was completed that involved partial mowing, planting of cover crops, planting a native shrub hedgerow, removing hardwood infiltration to allow for the presence of early successional habitat and implementation of a 66' crop tree release along the perimeter of the site. 500 red spruce seedlings were planted in an adjacent stand that had been mismanaged prior to the state acquiring the property. Wildlife Service planted and maintained 7.6 acres of early successional habitat in the form of clover fields.</p> <p>79 acres of hardwood regeneration harvests, and 123 acres of thinning provided/will provide a flush of new growth that benefit a broad range of wildlife species.</p> <p>Eastern Shore: Prescribed burning (multiple sites),</p>
<p>6.3.c. Management maintains, enhances and/or restores the plant and wildlife habitat of <b>Riparian Management Zones (RMZs)</b> to provide:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) habitat for aquatic species that breed in surrounding uplands;</li> <li>b) habitat for predominantly terrestrial species that breed in adjacent <b>aquatic habitats</b>;</li> <li>c) habitat for species that use riparian areas for feeding, cover, and travel;</li> <li>d) habitat for plant species associated with riparian areas; and,</li> <li>e) stream shading and inputs of wood and leaf litter into the adjacent aquatic ecosystem.</li> </ul>	<p>C</p>	<p>Watershed protection/improvement is addressed throughout each of the state forests AWP's through forest harvest planning and review to implementation and including specific projects to improve and protect water resources.</p> <p>Western Maryland: The sale area for SR-01-20 contained an ephemeral stream tributary of Bear Creek. A 50-foot no cut buffer was established along the stream and excluded from the sale area. The northern edge of SR-03-20 borders on the established SMZ along Laurel Run. When the sale lines were laid out DNR established a 50-foot no cut buffer and excluded it from the sale area.</p> <p>No timber sales within the past year required stream crossings or permits.</p> <p>A stream enhancement project was completed along Big Run within the state forest in the spring of 2019. The project was set into motion by the fisheries service several years ago and was completed by a contractor (Downstream Strategies). The project focused on increasing the amount of woody debris within the stream to better facilitate brook trout habitat and spawning. The contractor buried and anchored large logs and root balls within the stream channel to create pools and slow moving sections of</p>

		<p>water to better serve the native brook trout population. The contractor also stabilized several sections of stream bank with rip-rap material to ease erosion issues associated with the county road above the stream. We have also been in contact with Trout Unlimited regarding grant funding for large diameter culvert replacement (bridge conversion) at two spots within the state forest. The grant proposal for a culvert replacement in Blue Lick has been approved (unsure of project timing) while a proposal for Mud Lick is still pending. Riparian forest buffer establishment and reinforcement planting along Town Creek.</p> <p>Eastern Shore: Thinnings – D04 – WT Willis, D18 – Shiloh-Apex, W19 – King’s Misfortune, W34 – Herman-Hodgson, W46 – Wicomico Demo Forest, WR25 – Creek, WR32 – Pepperfield, WR45 – Foster Estate</p>
<p><b>Stand-scale Indicators</b> 6.3.d Management practices maintain or enhance plant species composition, distribution and frequency of occurrence similar to those that would naturally occur on the site.</p>	<p>C</p>	<p>Within the eastern region, an abundance of loblolly pine exists and management practices (e.g., retain and release oaks) are designed to decrease the relative abundance of loblolly over time and increase the presence of other native species as confirmed through observations at Pocomoke State Forest P-20-S-01/02. Some harvests include pine seed trees of species that occur naturally on the site, especially in the case of pond, pitch, and short-leaf pines.</p> <p>As confirmed in field site visits, all harvests in the Western Region include retention of oak and larger diameter legacy pine trees. Other hardwoods, such as maples, poplars, and gums, are mostly retained in no-harvest zones and SMZs, as well as within production areas during thinnings. Bald cypress was observed in SMZs, which are typical sites for this species. Recent landscape analyses have provided support for continued efforts to retaining conifers for tree and wildlife habitat diversity.</p>
<p>6.3.e. When planting is required, a local source of known provenance is used when available and when the local source is equivalent in terms of quality, price and productivity. The use of non-local sources shall be justified, such as in situations where other management objectives (e.g. disease resistance or adapting to climate change) are best served by non-</p>	<p>C</p>	<p>Seed mixes are determined by MD Department of Wildlife and addressed in timber harvest contracts (Attachment E; medium red clover, ladino clover, orchard grass, perennial rye grass, and timothy grass).</p> <p>Red spruce seedlings provided by the West Virginia Highlands Conservancy were used as part of a</p>

<p>local sources. <b>Native species</b> suited to the site are normally selected for regeneration.</p>		<p>wildlife habitat enhancement project. Given the proximity to the source material, the seedlings were considered local.</p>
<p>6.3.f. Management maintains, enhances, or restores habitat components and associated stand structures, in abundance and distribution that could be expected from naturally occurring processes. These components include:  a) large live trees, live trees with decay or declining health, <b>snags</b>, and well-distributed coarse down and dead woody material. <b>Legacy trees</b> where present are not harvested; and  b) vertical and horizontal complexity.  Trees selected for <b>retention</b> are generally representative of the dominant species found on the site.</p>	<p>C</p>	<p>MD DNR implemented its Conformance to this policy is monitored by DNR management staff during the Internal Silvicultural Audits These audits are completed by the ID Team during each annual work plan review. The ISA team routinely includes the Regional Forester, Forest Manager &amp; staff, Forest Resource Planning Program Manager and contractors.</p> <p>The audit team observed consistent implementation of MD DNR’s retention policy, See Site Notes.</p> <p>As confirmed in field site visits, all harvests in the Western Region include retention of oak and larger diameter legacy pine trees. Some harvests include pine seed trees of species that occur natural on the site, especially in the case of pond, pitch, and short-leaf pines. Other hardwoods, such as maples and gums, are mostly retained in no-harvest zones and SMZs. Snags were observed on several harvests with harvest areas and in no-harvest zones. Woody material is retained for use on skid trails to control erosion and compaction and distributed over harvest sites. All tree species selected for retention are of dominant species of the site.</p> <p>By SF:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SRSF - 102.5 acres of hardwood thinning, 56.5 acres of hardwood regeneration, 26 acres of conifer thinning and 9 acres of firewood salvage. There were no issues meeting retention objectives.</li> <li>• PGSF - 73 acres of hardwood regeneration and 123 acres of planned thinnings. There were no issues with meeting retention objectives.</li> <li>• GRSF – 206.5 acres were harvested for regeneration on 314 managed acres. There were no problems meeting retention objectives.</li> <li>• CF/PSF - S55 – Marumsc, W48 – Peterson Farm, WR40 – Dunn Swamp (2), WR45 – Foster Estate</li> <li>• No difficulty in meeting retention objectives.</li> </ul>
<p>6.3.g.1 In the Southeast, Appalachia, Ozark-Ouachita, Mississippi Alluvial Valley, and Pacific Coast Regions, when <b>even-aged systems</b> are employed, and during</p>	<p>C</p>	<p>The FME adheres to their internal policy regarding variable retention whereby any harvest for areas</p>

<p>salvage harvests, live trees and other native vegetation are retained within the harvest unit as described in Appendix C for the applicable region.</p> <p>In the Lake States Northeast, Rocky Mountain and Southwest Regions, when even-aged silvicultural systems are employed, and during salvage harvests, live trees and other native vegetation are retained within the harvest unit in a proportion and configuration that is consistent with the characteristic natural disturbance regime unless retention at a lower level is necessary for the purposes of restoration or rehabilitation. See Appendix C for additional regional requirements and guidance.</p>		<p>greater than 20 acres shall have 5% green tree retention component.</p> <p>FME reported the following even-aged harvests:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CFL - All even-aged regeneration harvests carried out this year were completed under principles of variable retention (Green Tree Retention). 51 acres retention over 436 acres harvest area.</li> <li>• PSF – 18 acres retention over 162 acres harvested.</li> </ul>
<p>6.3.g.2 Under very limited situations, the landowner or manager has the option to develop a qualified plan to allow minor departure from the opening size limits described in Indicator 6.3.g.1. A qualified plan:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Is developed by qualified experts in ecological and/or related fields (wildlife biology, hydrology, landscape ecology, forestry/silviculture).</li> <li>2. Is based on the totality of the <b>best available information</b> including peer-reviewed science regarding natural disturbance regimes for the FMU.</li> <li>3. Is spatially and temporally explicit and includes maps of proposed openings or areas.</li> <li>4. Demonstrates that the variations will result in equal or greater benefit to wildlife, water quality, and other values compared to the normal opening size limits, including for sensitive and rare species.</li> <li>5. Is reviewed by independent experts in wildlife biology, hydrology, and landscape ecology, to confirm the preceding findings.</li> </ol>	<p>C</p>	<p>No exemptions to even-aged management restrictions associated with indicator 6.3.g.1 and its applicable regional sub-indicators were detected during field visits or review of management planning documentation.</p>
<p>6.3.h. The forest owner or manager assesses the risk of, prioritizes, and, as warranted, develops and implements a strategy to prevent or control <b>invasive species</b>, including:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. a method to determine the extent of invasive species and the degree of threat to native species and ecosystems;</li> <li>2. implementation of management practices that minimize the risk of invasive establishment, growth, and spread;</li> <li>3. eradication or control of established invasive populations when feasible: and,</li> </ol>	<p>C</p>	<p>FME reported the following:                  Western Maryland: Mechanical treatment and herbicide treatment of established Japanese Knotweed sites. Foliar treatment of mile-a-minute at the St. John’s Rock ORV Trail. Mechanical removal and stump treatment of autumn olive, Japanese barberry and honeysuckle at the TNC OGEMA project site. DNR monitors “known” established sites and actively seeks to detect new infestations across the state forest through the course of our other duties and daily work.</p>



<p>4. monitoring of control measures and management practices to assess their effectiveness in preventing or controlling invasive species.</p>		<p>Mechanical removal of tree of heaven and paulownia. Monitoring of sites for new occurrences or resprouting on treated sites. We continued to chip away at ailanthus control. Approximately 3400 stems were treated.</p> <p>Eastern Shore: Tree-of-heaven, Chinese lespedeza, Japanese knotweed, Murdannia control – herbicide control, monitoring size of known invasive species locations and past controlled areas</p>
<p>6.3.i. In applicable situations, the forest owner or manager identifies and applies site-specific fuels management practices, based on: (1) natural fire regimes, (2) risk of wildfire, (3) potential economic losses, (4) public safety, and (5) applicable laws and regulations.</p>	<p>C</p>	<p>Western Maryland: No fuels reduction or prescribed fire. There was a small 7-8 acre wildfire in the fall of 2020 at the end of God’s Country Road (Blue Lick area). The fire was found to be a result of a neighboring landowner improperly disposing of woodstove ashes. Approximately 30 acres of grass burns.</p> <p>Eastern Shore: 245.1 acres of prescribed burns, primarily in ESAs or restoration areas (*prescribed burns still ongoing as of this report), no naturally occurring fires</p>
<p><b>C6.4. Representative samples of existing ecosystems within the landscape shall be protected in their natural state and recorded on maps, appropriate to the scale and intensity of operations and the uniqueness of the affected resources.</b></p>	<p>C</p>	
<p>6.4.a. The forest owner or manager documents the ecosystems that would naturally exist on the FMU, and assesses the adequacy of their representation and protection in the <i>landscape</i> (see Criterion 7.1). The assessment for medium and large forests include some or all of the following: a) <b>GAP analyses</b>; b) collaboration with state natural heritage programs and other public agencies; c) regional, landscape, and watershed planning efforts; d) collaboration with universities and/or local conservation groups.</p> <p>For an area that is not located on the FMU to qualify as a Representative Sample Area (RSA), it should be under permanent protection in its natural state.</p>	<p>C</p>	<p>The Representative Sample Area (RSA) exercise is complete as confirmed by GIS review, interviews and management plan review and review of <i>“Methodology for Locating Representative Sample Areas (RSA) for Naturally Occurring Ecosystems within the Region of Maryland State Forests”</i>. This methodology was developed in cooperation with MD DNR Natural Heritage Program. This GAP analysis is based on the spatial analysis of the surrounding. Ecosystem data is complete as confirmed through interviews and data review. MD DNR met with Natural Heritage and identified the presence/absence/adequacy of types in surrounding landscape as well as within State Forests.</p>
<p>6.4.b. Where existing areas within the landscape, but external to the FMU, are not of adequate protection, size, and configuration to serve as representative samples of existing ecosystems, forest owners or managers, whose properties are conducive to the establishment of such areas, designate ecologically viable RSAs to serve these purposes.</p>	<p>C</p>	<p>RSAs have been established to protect purpose 2 (RTE and rare communities) and purpose 3 (other habitats and species of management concern) and are most often also described by the FME’s Ecologically Significant Areas (ESAs). See also section 6.1.a. (1) and 6.1.a. (2).</p>

<p>Large FMUs are generally expected to establish RSAs of purpose 2 and 3 within the FMU.</p>		
<p>6.4.c. Management activities within RSAs are limited to low impact activities compatible with the protected RSA objectives, except under the following circumstances:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) harvesting activities only where they are necessary to restore or create conditions to meet the objectives of the protected RSA, or to mitigate conditions that interfere with achieving the RSA objectives; or</li> <li>b) road-building only where it is documented that it will contribute to minimizing the overall environmental impacts within the FMU and will not jeopardize the purpose for which the RSA was designated.</li> </ul>	<p>C</p>	<p>RSAs are protected from routine timber management thus serving their intended purpose as a control as confirmed through interviews, observations and management plan review.</p>
<p>6.4.d. The RSA assessment (Indicator 6.4.a) shall be periodically reviewed and if necessary updated (at a minimum every 10 years) in order to determine if the need for RSAs has changed; the designation of RSAs (Indicator 6.4.b) is revised accordingly.</p>	<p>C</p>	<p>This indicator will be assessed by MD DNR in 2022 (i.e. 10 years after the completion of the original 2012 RSA assessment.</p>
<p>6.4.e. Managers of large, contiguous public forests establish and maintain a network of representative protected areas sufficient in size to maintain species dependent on interior core habitats.</p>	<p>C</p>	<p>As confirmed through management plan review, this is accomplished through the establishment of management zones that include the following: ESA's, Wildlands, HCVFs, FIDS habitat, Old Growth Management Complex.</p>
<p><b>C6.5. Written guidelines shall be prepared and implemented to control erosion; minimize forest damage during harvesting, road construction, and all other mechanical disturbances; and to protect water resources.</b></p>	<p>C</p>	
<p><b>C6.6. Management systems shall promote the development and adoption of environmentally friendly non-chemical methods of pest management and strive to avoid the use of chemical pesticides. World Health Organization Type 1A and 1B and chlorinated hydrocarbon pesticides; pesticides that are persistent, toxic or whose derivatives remain biologically active and accumulate in the food chain beyond their intended use; as well as any pesticides banned by international agreement, shall be prohibited. If chemicals are used, proper equipment and training shall be provided to minimize health and environmental risks.</b></p>	<p>C</p>	
<p><b>C6.7. Chemicals, containers, liquid and solid non-organic wastes including fuel and oil shall be disposed</b></p>	<p>C</p>	

<p>of in an environmentally appropriate manner at off-site locations.</p>		
<p><b>C6.8. Use of biological control agents shall be documented, minimized, monitored, and strictly controlled in accordance with national laws and internationally accepted scientific protocols. Use of genetically modified organisms shall be prohibited.</b></p>	C	
<p><b>C6.9. The use of exotic species shall be carefully controlled and actively monitored to avoid adverse ecological impacts.</b></p>	C	
<p>6.9.a. The use of <i>exotic species</i> is contingent on the availability of credible scientific data indicating that any such species is non-invasive and its application does not pose a risk to native biodiversity.</p>	C	<p>FME reported that no exotic species have been used for commercial or management purposes since the last audit, which the auditor confirmed in field observation.</p>
<p>6.9.b. If exotic species are used, their provenance and the location of their use are documented, and their ecological effects are actively monitored.</p>	C	<p>The Norway Spruce, Red Pine and Scotch Pine plantations were established several decades ago. Norway Spruce and Scotch Pine are from Europe and Red Pine is from colder regions Eastern North America. No offsite regeneration is occurring and plans have been developed to restore these areas to semi-natural management. In most instances, this means that these exotic species will be maintained, but within a matrix of native flora and fauna.</p>
<p>6.9.c. The forest owner or manager shall take timely action to curtail or significantly reduce any adverse impacts resulting from their use of exotic species</p>	C	<p>See 6.9.a.</p>
<p><b>C6.10. Forest conversion to plantations or non-forest land uses shall not occur, except in circumstances where conversion:</b>  <b>a) Entails a very limited portion of the forest management unit; and b) Does not occur on High Conservation Value Forest areas; and c) Will enable clear, substantial, additional, secure, long-term conservation benefits across the forest management unit.</b></p>	C	
<p><b>P7 A management plan -- appropriate to the scale and intensity of the operations -- shall be written, implemented, and kept up to date. The long-term objectives of management, and the means of achieving them, shall be clearly stated.</b></p>		
<p><b>C7.1. The management plan and supporting documents shall provide:</b>  <b>a) Management objectives. b) description of the forest resources to be managed, environmental limitations, land use and ownership status, socio-economic conditions, and a profile of adjacent lands.</b>  <b>c) Description of silvicultural and/or other management system, based on the ecology of the</b></p>	C	<p>The general structure of the FMP is based on each state forest with the structure and content of the documents being based on the same templates. Each state forest within the scope of the FSC certificate has an overarching Sustainable Forest Management Plan (SFMP) and Annual Work Plans (AWP) prepared for management activities to occur</p>

<p><b>forest in question and information gathered through resource inventories. d) Rationale for rate of annual harvest and species selection. e) Provisions for monitoring of forest growth and dynamics. f) Environmental safeguards based on environmental assessments. g) Plans for the identification and protection of rare, threatened and endangered species. h) Maps describing the forest resource base including protected areas, planned management activities and land ownership. i) Description and justification of harvesting techniques and equipment to be used.</b></p>		<p>in the upcoming fiscal year. Summaries of the AWP's are also prepared.</p> <p>Chesapeake and Pocomoke State Forests additionally have individual summaries for their SFMPs and other supporting documentation available online as they have been certified for longer periods of time.</p> <p>MD DNR also maintains a Policy Handbook and procedures for implementing certain components of the FMP.</p>
<p>7.1.a. The management plan identifies the ownership and legal status of the FMU and its resources, including rights held by the owner and rights held by others.</p>	<p>C</p>	<p>Each SFMP includes a section on the history of the state forest, along with an ownership history. Allowable public uses are described in the Chapter 9 of each SFMP. Each FMP contains tables and figures on land use within and surrounding state forests.</p>
<p>7.1.b. The management plan describes the history of land use and past management, current forest types and associated development, size class and/or successional stages, and natural disturbance regimes that affect the FMU (see Indicator 6.1.a).</p>	<p>C</p>	<p>Each SFMP includes a section on the history of the state forestlands. Chapters 2, 3 and 4 of each SFMP include a description of the current forest resource and guidelines on management based on natural disturbance regimes. Certain appendices may also cover special disturbance regimes, such as fire.</p> <p>The AWP includes a brief description of past land uses and management as an introduction for the basis of the planned management activities for the fiscal year.</p>
<p>7.1.c. The management plan describes: a) current conditions of the timber and non-timber forest resources being managed; b) desired future conditions; c) historical ecological conditions; and d) applicable management objectives and activities to move the FMU toward desired future conditions.</p>	<p>C</p>	<p>Chapters 2-8 of each SFMP (Resource Assessment, Resource Characterization, Land Management Area Guidelines, Forest Management, Water Quality, Ecologically Significant Areas, and Wildlife Habitat). Objectives are stated in various chapters; however, Chapter 5 includes management objectives of forest management/ silviculture.</p> <p>The AWP includes a description of the current conditions of resources and what will be done in the fiscal year to accomplish desired future conditions based on a given state forest's ecology or past management.</p>
<p>7.1.d. The management plan includes a description of the landscape within which the FMU is located and describes how landscape-scale habitat elements described in Criterion 6.3 will be addressed.</p>	<p>C</p>	<p>See Chapters 2-8 of each SFMP (Resource Assessment, Resource Characterization, Land Management Area Guidelines, Forest Management, Water Quality, Ecologically Significant Areas, and Wildlife Habitat).</p>

		<p>The AWP provides a description in the summary.</p> <p>The required information is found in each SFMP and AWP including a description of retention.</p>
<p>7.1.e. The management plan includes a description of the following resources and outlines activities to conserve and/or protect:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• rare, threatened, or endangered species and natural communities (see Criterion 6.2);</li> <li>• plant species and community diversity and wildlife habitats (see Criterion 6.3);</li> <li>• water resources (see Criterion 6.5);</li> <li>• soil resources (see Criterion 6.3);</li> <li>• Representative Sample Areas (see Criterion 6.4);</li> <li>• High Conservation Value Forests (see Principle 9);</li> <li>• Other special management areas.</li> </ul>	C	<p>Chapters 2-8 of each SFMP (Resource Assessment, Resource Characterization, Land Management Area Guidelines, Forest Management, Water Quality, Ecologically Significant Areas, and Wildlife Habitat).</p> <p>The AWP includes descriptions of activities planned to protect or enhance RTE species, plant communities (e.g., Atlantic white-cedar swamps), wildlife, water and soil resources (e.g., soil series appendix), RSAs, and HCVs. Other management areas are described depending on each state forest’s resources (e.g., ORV trails).</p>
<p>7.1.f. If invasive species are present, the management plan describes invasive species conditions, applicable management objectives, and how they will be controlled (see Indicator 6.3.j).</p>	C	<p>Chapters 3 and 5 of each SFMP include a section on invasive species based on FSC-US guidelines.</p>
<p>7.1.g. The management plan describes insects and diseases, current or anticipated outbreaks on forest conditions and management goals, and how insects and diseases will be managed (see Criteria 6.6 and 6.8).</p>	C	<p>Each SFMP treats insects and diseases in its Resource Assessment and Characterizations (Chapters 2 and 3), but mostly throughout the SFMPs and especially when dealing with fire. Information confirmed with GIS data as well.</p>
<p>7.1.h. If chemicals are used, the plan describes what is being used, applications, and how the management system conforms with Criterion 6.6.</p>	C	<p>Herbicide use is described in Chapters 5, 6, 7 and 10 of the SFMP. Each of these Chapters describes basic use and restrictions near sensitive sites.</p> <p>Some SFMPs and AWP describes chemicals to be used, applications, and how the FME is conforming with C6.6. (GRSF MP Section 5.9 Chemical Use, page 86-87 . Limited chemical use was observed on the SFs, and tracking documentation was reviewed for the two SF site visits.</p>
<p>7.1.i. If biological controls are used, the management plan describes what is being used, applications, and how the management system conforms with Criterion 6.8.</p>	C	<p>Biological control is maintained as an option in Chapter 10 of each SFMP. Other State and Federal agencies are in charge of biological control on MD DNR-managed lands. See C6.8 for more details.</p>
<p>7.1.j. The management plan incorporates the results of the evaluation of social impacts, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• traditional cultural resources and rights of use (see Criterion 2.1);</li> <li>• potential conflicts with customary uses and use rights (see Criteria 2.2, 2.3, 3.2);</li> </ul>	C	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sections of Chapter 2 of western MD SFMPs and Chapter 9 of CFL SFMP include descriptions of traditional cultural resources and rights of use.</li> </ul>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• management of ceremonial, archeological, and historic sites (see Criteria 3.3 and 4.5);</li> <li>• management of aesthetic values (see Indicator 4.4.a);</li> <li>• public access to and use of the forest, and other recreation issues;</li> <li>• local and regional socioeconomic conditions and economic opportunities, including creation and/or maintenance of quality jobs (see Indicators 4.1.b and 4.4.a), local purchasing opportunities (see Indicator 4.1.e), and participation in local development opportunities (see Indicator 4.1.g).</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sections of Chapter 11 of each western MD SFMP and Chapters 1, 9 and 10 of CFL SFMP describe potential conflicts.</li> <li>• Each of the 5 management plans include text from state code that requires protection of these special sites. Chapter 2 of each SFMP describes sites and GIS data points have been established. Sections of Chapter 11 include a description of the process and time table for consultation and review by representatives of tribal groups. Individual AWP's also include details associated with aesthetics (Kirk Orchard). During the 2019 audit, the protection of special sites (Marumscoc Tract Stands 1,3,7, 10 &amp; 11) were observed. Maps of cemeteries and other special sites were presented and reviewed for 1 State Forest on the eastern shore and 1 State Forest located in western MD.</li> <li>• Aesthetic values are introduced in Chapter 1 and described in Chapter 5 within some of descriptions of forest management activities (e.g. forest buffer thinning, regeneration harvest) and in the some of the AWP's (S49 Saltz Powell Track).</li> <li>• Chapter 9 and sections of Chapter 10 of each SFMP includes public access, use and education Local and regional economic condition and opportunity are introduced in Chapter 1 and described in sections of chapters 2, 3, 4, 5, 8 and 9 of each SFMP. Chapter 1 of each SFMP includes the following text: <i>"The primary goal of the Green Ridge State Forest Sustainable Management Plan is to demonstrate that an environmentally sound, sustainably managed forest can contribute to local and regional economies..."</i> A recent study cited in each SFMP also addresses some of this indicator: see Comprehensive Strategy for Reducing Maryland's Vulnerability to Climate Change, Phase II: Building societal, economic, and ecological resilience (Jan 2011) <a href="http://www.dnr.state.md.us/climatechange/climate_change_phase2_adaptation_strategy.pdf">http://www.dnr.state.md.us/climatechange/climate_change_phase2_adaptation_strategy.pdf</a></li> </ul> <p>The AWP's summary includes a description of maintenance and protections needs for archeological and historic sites.</p>
---	--

		The AWP includes descriptions of special projects, their costs, and intended benefits. Many special projects are for ecological restoration, public education, road/ trail upgrades for management and recreation.
7.1.k. The management plan describes the general purpose, condition and maintenance needs of the transportation network (see Indicator 6.5.e).	C	Chapters 5, 6, and 9 of the SFMP cover this topic. The AWP's summary includes a description of road conditions and planned maintenance activities based on said conditions.
7.1.l. The management plan describes the silvicultural and other management systems used and how they will sustain, over the long term, forest ecosystems present on the FMU.	C	Chapter 5 of the SFMP discusses silvicultural systems based on the resource assessment. Other management systems, such as those used to control access or maintain protected areas, are dealt with in other chapters.
7.1.m. The management plan describes how species selection and harvest rate calculations were developed to meet the requirements of Criterion 5.6.	C	Chapter 5 of the SFMP discusses forest inventory and how harvest rates are determined. Tables and figures of inventory and projected harvests are included SFMP. See Minor CAR 2021.2.
7.1.n. The management plan includes a description of monitoring procedures necessary to address the requirements of Criterion 8.2.	C	Certain monitoring is covered throughout the SFMP, but Chapters 5 and 10 specifically deal with the subject of monitoring.
7.1.o. The management plan includes maps describing the resource base, the characteristics of general management zones, special management areas, and protected areas at a level of detail to achieve management objectives and protect sensitive sites.	C	MD DNR maintains maps on GIS and many maps are available online to the public that address this indicator. Detailed maps are available in the SFMP and AWP for each state forest, confirmed these maps are also present in the GIS.
7.1.p. The management plan describes and justifies the types and sizes of harvesting machinery and techniques employed on the FMU to minimize or limit impacts to the resource.	C	The SFMPs for the Eastern and Western Regions discuss equipment in the general sense; low-impact equipment is desired in certain situations over conventional logging. Details are noted in the 'Forest Harvesting Equipment' section of each SFMP.
7.1.q. Plans for harvesting and other significant site-disturbing management activities required to carry out the management plan are prepared prior to implementation. Plans clearly describe the activity, the relationship to objectives, outcomes, any necessary environmental safeguards, health and safety measures, and include maps of adequate detail.	C	AWP's summary includes goals for the upcoming fiscal year's management activities. AWP includes a description of proposed management activities, such as silvicultural prescriptions. The prescriptions include an analysis of resources that could be impacted and how to reduce/mitigate those risks, as well as objectives and desired outcomes. Pre-sale conferences are held in which a checklist is filled out by loggers and MD DNR staff to review the sale prior to operations. Sediment and erosion control permits may also be required prior to plan implementation and are considered a part of the site-plan. These plans were viewed for each harvest site visited,

<p>7.1.r. The management plan describes the stakeholder consultation process.</p>	<p>C</p>	<p>The SFMP describes the role of the Citizens Advisory Committee for each state forest in the development of the plan (Appendix A). The SFMP also includes a flow chart on how AWP's are developed, including when stakeholder consultation and review occurs.</p> <p>The AWP's summary includes a description of how MD DNR Forestry Division works with other agencies and local colleges/universities. Citizen Advisory Committee and public comments are included at the end of each AWP.</p>
<p><b>C7.2. The management plan shall be periodically revised to incorporate the results of monitoring or new scientific and technical information, as well as to respond to changing environmental, social and economic circumstances.</b></p>	<p>C</p>	
<p>7.2.a The management plan is kept up to date. It is reviewed on an ongoing basis and is updated whenever necessary to incorporate the results of monitoring or new scientific and technical information, as well as to respond to changing environmental, social and economic circumstances. At a minimum, a full revision occurs every 10 years.</p>	<p>C</p>	<p>SFMPs are currently on a 10 year cycle for updating that coincides with forest inventory and resources assessment reviews. All SFMPs are up to date. AWP's are developed annually and can more readily incorporate experience from prior years into the planning process. Updates in 2018 or 2019 were reviewed for the CF-SFMP, PSF-SPMP, SRSF-SFMP, and GRSF-SFMP.</p>
<p><b>C7.3. Forest workers shall receive adequate training and supervision to ensure proper implementation of the management plans.</b></p>	<p>C</p>	
<p><b>C7.4. While respecting the confidentiality of information, forest managers shall make publicly available a summary of the primary elements of the management plan, including those listed in Criterion 7.1.</b></p>	<p>C</p>	
<p>7.4.a. While respecting landowner confidentiality, the management plan or a management plan summary that outlines the elements of the plan described in Criterion 7.1 is available to the public either at no charge or a nominal fee.</p>	<p>C</p>	<p>The entire management plan is available freely to the public at <a href="http://www.dnr.state.md.us/forests/mdforests.asp">http://www.dnr.state.md.us/forests/mdforests.asp</a>.</p>
<p>7.4.b. Managers of public forests make draft management plans, revisions and supporting documentation easily accessible for public review and comment prior to their implementation. Managers address public comments and modify the plans to ensure compliance with this Standard.</p>	<p>C</p>	<p>All draft AWP's are available for comment at <a href="http://www.dnr.state.md.us/forests/workplans/index.asp">http://www.dnr.state.md.us/forests/workplans/index.asp</a>. When SFMPs are up for revision, these also are made available publicly through the website and submitted to the Citizen Advisory Committee for review. Once draft plans undergo complete public review, the revised plan becomes the final plan presented on the website.</p> <p>See Minor CAR 2021.4.</p>



<p><b>P8 Monitoring shall be conducted -- appropriate to the scale and intensity of forest management -- to assess the condition of the forest, yields of forest products, chain of custody, management activities and their social and environmental impacts.</b></p> <p><i>Applicability Note: On small and medium-sized forests (see Glossary), an informal, qualitative assessment may be appropriate. Formal, quantitative monitoring is required on large forests and/or intensively managed forests.</i></p>		
<p><b>C8.1. The frequency and intensity of monitoring should be determined by the scale and intensity of forest management operations, as well as, the relative complexity and fragility of the affected environment. Monitoring procedures should be consistent and replicable over time to allow comparison of results and assessment of change.</b></p>	C	
<p><b>8.2. Forest management should include the research and data collection needed to monitor, at a minimum, the following indicators: a) yield of all forest products harvested, b) growth rates, regeneration, and condition of the forest, c) composition and observed changes in the flora and fauna, d) environmental and social impacts of harvesting and other operations, and e) cost, productivity, and efficiency of forest management.</b></p>	C	
<p>8.2.a.1. For all commercially harvested products, an inventory system is maintained. The inventory system includes at a minimum: a) species, b) volumes, c) stocking, d) regeneration, and e) stand and forest composition and structure; and f) timber quality.</p>	C	<p>SRSF - Intensive stand level inventory was completed on 6 sites totaling 293 acres. These sites composed the target areas to be included as silvicultural proposals in the FY22 annual work plan. We did not have any sites fall within the 5-year post harvest regeneration window, but we have 184 acres to be surveyed in the summer of 2021.</p> <p>PGSF - Basal area cruises of previous harvests; stand cruises performed to determine harvest areas for AWP.</p> <p>GRSF - Woodland exams for Annual workplan were done this past year to evaluate stands ready for regeneration.</p> <p>CF/PSF - Seedling counts and regeneration inspections.</p>
<p>8.2.a.2. Significant, unanticipated removal or loss or increased vulnerability of forest resources is monitored and recorded. Recorded information shall include date and location of occurrence, description of disturbance, extent and severity of loss, and may be both quantitative and qualitative.</p>	C	<p>FME reported no recent timber theft during interviews with forest managers. No new major storm or disease events were reported in 2019.</p>
<p>8.2.b The forest owner or manager maintains records of harvested timber and NTFPs (volume and product and/or grade). Records must adequately ensure that the requirements under Criterion 5.6 are met.</p>	C	<p>Ledgers, annual timber summaries and compartment files that relate to harvested timber are maintained in the state office. MD DNR maintains records of harvested timber on GIS and a</p>

		<p>timber sale contract database (area, acres, volumes, income tracking). These records are used to compare projected harvest to actual harvest.</p> <p>2021:                  SRSF - 1,161,591 Bd. Ft. of sawtimber and 1,432 cords of pulpwood                  PGSF - 405,012 board feet of sawtimber and 522 cords of pulpwood.                  GRSF - 696,663 BF of sawtimber and 2632 cords of pulpwood.                  CF/PSF - 91,591 tons</p> <p>MD DNR provides an annual Timber Sale Summary. Harvest records for lump-sum, stumpage, and gatewood sales were provided.</p>
<p>8.2.c. The forest owner or manager periodically obtains data needed to monitor presence on the FMU of:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Rare, threatened and endangered species and/or their <b>habitats</b>;</li> <li>2) Common and rare plant communities and/or habitat;</li> <li>3) Location, presence and abundance of invasive species;</li> <li>4) Condition of protected areas, set-asides and buffer zones;</li> <li>5) High Conservation Value Forests (see Criterion 9.4).</li> </ol>	<p>C</p>	<p><b>SRSF</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Nature Conservancy implemented phase I and II of their “Old Growth Ecosystem Enhancement” project.</li> <li>• University of Delaware continues to partner with Wildlife Service on Bobcat population survey.</li> <li>• Eastern Hemlock Target Tree Release sites were visited and the trees evaluated for wooly adelgid.</li> <li>• WVU Plant Pathology Dept. continue to monitor Chestnut Blight treatment sites.</li> <li>• American Chestnut Foundation continues to maintain and expand germplasm orchard at Rounds Farm.</li> <li>• Virginia Tech. University is monitoring Laricobius nigrinus soil emergence sites.</li> <li>• Cornell Lab of Ornithology is working on a bird banding / blood sampling project.</li> <li>• Western Kentucky University worked on a stonefly collection project across the state forest.</li> <li>• National Zoo &amp; Conservation Biology Institute – Salamander sampling for Chytrid disease.</li> </ul> <p><b>PGSF</b> - Smithsonian Environmental Research Center Orchid Collection, Target tree Release of Eastern Hemlock.</p> <p><b>GRSF</b> - Black bear, bobcat, bats, bees(pollinators)</p> <p><b>CF/PSF</b> – Delmarva Fox Squirrel occurrences; hunters provide hunting harvest reports annually, DNR reports wildlife harvests to FS annually</p>

<p>8.2.d.1. Monitoring is conducted to ensure that site specific plans and operations are properly implemented, environmental impacts of site disturbing operations are minimized, and that harvest prescriptions and guidelines are effective.</p>	<p>C</p>	<p>In the eastern region, Parker Forestry and MD DNR foresters completes inspection forms on Chesapeake Forest Projects and Pocomoke, and MD DNR foresters also inspect tracts and fill out reports. In the western region, MD DNR field foresters conduct post-harvest monitoring and complete Timber Sale Inspection Reports that were presented and reviewed for each of the sites visited during this audit program. This FME also instituted an internal silvicultural audit system to examine the environmental and management impacts of silvicultural activities. This monitoring system was recently been expanded to include a post-harvest review by the ID team.</p> <p>Logging contractors reported that MD DNR staff conduct site visits at least once per week during active harvests. Timber Sale Inspection forms are maintained for these visits. This form is used for the final inspections.</p> <p>Timber Sale Inspection forms are maintained for harvest monitoring visits and finalized at the end of harvest. Parker Forestry Services demonstrated inspection forms for the sites visited in 2019. Parker Forestry Services also demonstrated chemical application maps that show application trails and that protected areas were avoided.</p>
<p>8.2.d.2. A monitoring program is in place to assess the condition and environmental impacts of the forest-road system.</p>	<p>C</p>	<p><i>A Forest Roads Management For Forest Operations on Maryland State Forests</i> has been implemented. This policy creates a systematic inventory of the State Forest roads including ORV trails. This plan documents each road segment and drainage feature in a GIS-based identification system and allows the development of a priority plan for road maintenance and feature replacement that is incorporated into annual work plans for each state forest.</p>
<p>8.2.d.3. The landowner or manager monitors relevant socio-economic issues (see Indicator 4.4.a), including the social impacts of harvesting, participation in local economic opportunities (see Indicator 4.1.g), the creation and/or maintenance of quality job opportunities (see Indicator 4.1.b), and local purchasing opportunities (see Indicator 4.1.e).</p>	<p>C</p>	<p>Through the ID Team, Forest Advisory Committee and other cooperative processes, this FME conducts many socioeconomic analyses and monitoring activities through partnership with other departments within the DNR and other state or federal agencies.</p> <p>2021: Economic Adjustment Strategy for Maryland’s Forest Products Sector. Management activities have occurred in Special Wildlife Habitat Areas primarily</p>

		to maintain and enhance early successional forest and upland habitats. Activities include field border cutbacks, brush mowing, shrub planting, prescribed fire, and brushpile construction. (Minimum) weekly monitoring of logging operations (BMPs, sediment and erosion control, etc.), public comments for work plans
8.2.d.4. Stakeholder responses to management activities are monitored and recorded as necessary.	C	MD DNR maintains a complaint log in each SF office.  Each forest manager responds to inquiries and complaints with direct communications. When these cannot be resolved locally the issue is occasionally referred to the Annapolis office. The main mechanism for soliciting comments is response to each posted State Forest Management Plans and Annual Work Plan that details the proposed activities for the upcoming year.
8.2.d.5. Where sites of cultural significance exist, the opportunity to jointly monitor sites of cultural significance is offered to tribal representatives (see Principle 3).	C	There are no such sites on MD DNR lands. However, MD DNR offered this opportunity to Tribes participating in the CAC. In addition, MD DNR is cooperating with the MD Commission of Indian Affairs.  The most significant change since 2017 is that managers in the Eastern Region have initiated contact with a new recognized tribal representative and are trying to attain tribal participation on the CAC.
8.2.e. The forest owner or manager monitors the costs and revenues of management in order to assess productivity and efficiency.	C	Timber harvest inspections are completed on a weekly basis while sales are active to ensure contract compliance, proper utilization of forest products and BMP compliance.  Cost and revenue is monitored as part of the AWP process. AMPs contain a summary of cost and revenue information. Each SF has its own operational budget. Each SF maintains a spreadsheet and reports these to state offices in Annapolis. Accounting reviews all expenditures.
<b>C8.3. Documentation shall be provided by the forest manager to enable monitoring and certifying organizations to trace each forest product from its origin, a process known as the "chain of custody."</b>	C	

<p><b>C8.4. The results of monitoring shall be incorporated into the implementation and revision of the management plan.</b></p>	<p>C</p>	
<p><b>C8.5. While respecting the confidentiality of information, forest managers shall make publicly available a summary of the results of monitoring indicators, including those listed in Criterion 8.2.</b></p>	<p>C</p>	
<p><b>P9 Management activities in high conservation value forests shall maintain or enhance the attributes which define such forests. Decisions regarding high conservation value forests shall always be considered in the context of a precautionary approach.</b></p> <p><b>High Conservation Value Forests are those that possess one or more of the following attributes:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>a) Forest areas containing globally, regionally or nationally significant: concentrations of biodiversity values (e.g., endemism, endangered species, refugia); and/or large landscape level forests, contained within, or containing the management unit, where viable populations of most if not all naturally occurring species exist in natural patterns of distribution and abundance</b></li> <li><b>b) Forest areas that are in or contain rare, threatened or endangered ecosystems</b></li> <li><b>c) Forest areas that provide basic services of nature in critical situations (e.g., watershed protection, erosion control)</b></li> <li><b>d) Forest areas fundamental to meeting basic needs of local communities (e.g., subsistence, health) and/or critical to local communities’ traditional cultural identity (areas of cultural, ecological, economic or religious significance identified in cooperation with such local communities).</b></li> </ul>		
<p><b>C9.1. Assessment to determine the presence of the attributes consistent with High Conservation Value Forests will be completed, appropriate to scale and intensity of forest management.</b></p>	<p>C</p>	
<p>9.1.a. The forest owner or manager identifies and maps the presence of High Conservation Value Forests (HCVF) within the FMU and, to the extent that data are available, adjacent to their FMU, in a manner consistent with the assessment process, definitions, data sources, and other guidance described in Appendix F.</p> <p>Given the relative rarity of old growth forests in the contiguous United States, these areas are normally designated as HCVF, and all old growth must be managed in conformance with Indicator 6.3.a.3 and requirements for legacy trees in Indicator 6.3.f.</p>	<p>C</p>	<p>The DNR maintains a HCVF feature class layer in GIS which is available to all foresters as confirmed in the C/PSF &amp; SRFS offices, and Annapolis central office. Each SF management plan includes a resource description and maps of HCVFs. When work is to be completed near or in an HCVF the AWP also includes detailed information. HCVF designations include old-growth designations (OGEMA) and nearly old-growth as demonstrated by the GRSF management plan section 5.2.3. Old growth areas are not part of the management zone and are excluded from timber harvest, including salvage, or other physical alterations.</p> <p>The FME provides for not only planning state-wide and SF level but the management system ensures field staff incorporate identification into harvest plans. AWPs provide numerous examples.</p>
<p>9.1.b. In developing the assessment, the forest owner or manager consults with qualified specialists, independent experts, and local community members</p>	<p>C</p>	<p>As conformed through interviews and document review, this FME consulted with a variety of experts on a number of different occasions during the past</p>

<p>who may have knowledge of areas that meet the definition of HCVs.</p>		<p>10 years during the completion of this assessment process. Specialists included TNC and MD DNR Heritage program.</p>
<p>9.1.c. A summary of the assessment results and management strategies (see Criterion 9.3) is included in the management plan summary that is made available to the public.</p>	<p>C</p>	<p><i>The Sustainable Forest Management Plan Public Summary</i>, for example, for the PSF and the GMSF were reviewed and include a summary of HCVF assessment results and management strategies.</p>
<p><b>C9.2. The consultative portion of the certification process must place emphasis on the identified conservation attributes, and options for the maintenance thereof.</b></p>	<p>C</p>	
<p>9.2.a. The forest owner or manager holds consultations with stakeholders and experts to confirm that proposed HCVF locations and their attributes have been accurately identified, and that appropriate options for the maintenance of their HCV attributes have been adopted.</p>	<p>C</p>	<p>Eastern shore: Stakeholder consultation meetings were held in 2006 to determine HCVF boundaries and maintenance options. Western MD: In fall of 2010 staff met with representatives from The Nature Conservancy, New Page and internal experts (Manager/MD DNR Heritage and Wildlife Staff) to formulate initial HCVF designations for the western forests.</p>
<p>9.2.b. On public forests, a transparent and accessible public review of proposed HCV attributes and HCVF areas and management is carried out. Information from stakeholder consultations and other public review is integrated into HCVF descriptions, delineations and management.</p>	<p>C</p>	<p>Each SFMP and AWP include HCVF designations and was part of a multi-stage public review process; each plan contains detailed information on proposed HCV's. See example under 9.1.a, above. See also finding 2021.5.</p>
<p><b>C9.3. The management plan shall include and implement specific measures that ensure the maintenance and/or enhancement of the applicable conservation attributes consistent with the precautionary approach. These measures shall be specifically included in the publicly available management plan summary.</b></p>	<p>C</p>	
<p>9.3.a. The management plan and relevant operational plans describe the measures necessary to ensure the maintenance and/or enhancement of all high conservation values present in all identified HCVF areas, including the precautions required to avoid risks or impacts to such values (see Principle 7). These measures are implemented.</p>	<p>C</p>	<p>Each SF management plan includes a resource description and maps of HCVFs. All sites inspected in 2019 had active HCVF layer data shown on maps. When work is to be completed near or in an HCVF the AWP also includes detailed information. For example, one control projects on the PSF targets Japanese stiltgrass, <i>Microstegium vimineum</i>, on the PSF. Stiltgrass is found especially along roadsides. Intensive monitoring and control also targets areas where RT&amp;E species or natural communities are present. Treatments are also considered to prevent non-native invasive plants from invading an HCVF to maintain values and avoid risks or impacts to HCVs. Another area was the Hemlock Woolly Adelgid Management (HWA) along 15 Mile Creek, which are</p>

		<p>in the SMZ HCVF. Hemlocks are part of a larger DNR HWA research project that has these streamside hemlocks are injection treated, to prevent impacts to the SMZ HCVF. See site notes.</p>
<p>9.3.b. All management activities in HCVFs must maintain or enhance the high conservation values and the extent of the HCVF.</p>	<p>C</p>	<p>Each SFMP describes the management activities within HCVFs. For example, the GRSF plan states <i>“management prescriptions will focus on enhancing and protecting the designated ESA. See Chapter 7 of the plan for detailed explanations on the type of management activity recommended for each zone and for the specific definition and prescription for each ESA category. ESAs have been designated as High Conservation Value Forest (HCVF)...”</i> Management activities observed during this 2019 audit program within or near HCVFs are described above and elsewhere in this report and confirm the requirements of this section as well as conformance to management plan requirements.</p>
<p>9.3.c. If HCVF attributes cross ownership boundaries and where maintenance of the HCV attributes would be improved by coordinated management, then the forest owner or manager attempts to coordinate conservation efforts with adjacent landowners.</p>	<p>C</p>	<p>FME routinely coordinates management across ownership boundaries. An example of the joint management with Wildlife Division personnel was discussed at the 2018 site PG-2016-S-04 which was a joint Goshawk management site. Goshawks prefer large canopy trees with an open understory for hunting as part of critical habitat features. Forestry division staff worked collaboratively to remove under- and mid-story woody stems to open flight lanes for Goshawk hunting in this stand.</p>
<p><b>C9.4. Annual monitoring shall be conducted to assess the effectiveness of the measures employed to maintain or enhance the applicable conservation attributes.</b></p>	<p>C</p>	
<p>9.4.a. The forest owner or manager monitors, or participates in a program to annually monitor, the status of the specific HCV attributes, including the effectiveness of the measures employed for their maintenance or enhancement. The monitoring program is designed and implemented consistent with the requirements of Principle 8.</p>	<p>C</p>	<p>Nearly all of the State’s HCVF is designated as “no management”. Thus, the need for regular monitoring is greatly reduced due to the lack of potential impacts from management although monitoring does occur in HCVF areas. As confirmed through interviews, annual work plan review and management plan review, monitoring of HCV attributes occurs through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Stand level inventory of the forest using SILVAH OAK methodology.</li> <li>• Heritage Ecologist’s formal and informal surveys and research of ESA’s and other designated areas.</li> </ul>

		<p>Heritage service personnel complete surveys in HCVF areas and monitor a variety of RTE species present within these sites. Post-harvest monitoring in conifer harvests conducted in HCVF for targeted RTE occurrences by Wildlife and Heritage biologists. Reporting completed by hunt clubs of Delmarva Fox Squirrel sent to USF&amp;WS, monitoring by Natural Heritage Program of Ecologically Significant Areas management, Maryland Biological Stream Survey stream monitoring, age and stand typing inventory in Old Growth Ecosystem Management Areas.</p>
<p>9.4.b. When monitoring results indicate increasing risk to a specific HCV attribute, the forest owner/manager re-evaluates the measures taken to maintain or enhance that attribute, and adjusts the management measures in an effort to reverse the trend.</p>	<p>C</p>	<p>Each SFMP Chapter 10 and the current Annual Work Plans include a description of this process. Implementation of this requirement is noted in the 2019 GRSF-SFMP, regarding monitoring and potential future action, depending on how the pockets of garlic mustard (<i>Alliaria petiolata</i>) found on the forest change over time.</p> <p>While the treatments are considered to be reasonably effective, follow-up monitoring and treatment is necessary due to potential impacts to the nearby weed-free ESA and HCVF communities if this non-native invasive plant is not controlled.</p>

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

Chain of Custody indicators were not evaluated during this evaluation although standard COC records were checked as outlined in the Audit Plan.

### Appendix 7 – Trademark Standard Conformance Table

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

<b>1. General Requirements for Use of the FSC Trademarks</b> (FSC “checkmark-and-tree” logo, initials “FSC,” and/or name “Forest Stewardship Council”)			
<b>Trademark uses reviewed:</b>			
<b>Trademark Application (on-product/promotional)</b>	<b>Case Approval #, or Email (include approver name &amp; date), or other appropriate documentation</b>	<b>Are all elements correct? (e.g., trademark symbol, color scheme, size, etc.) If not, describe in Nonconformities below.</b>	
Timber sale contracts templates	Older versions, approved last 2018	Y <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/>	



Website	Older versions	Y <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/>	
		Y <input type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/>	
		Y <input type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/>	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> All known uses reviewed. <input type="checkbox"/> Sample reviewed. Rationale that sample choice is sufficient to confirm requirements are met: <input type="checkbox"/> Trademark uses detected include those grandfathered in under prior FSC trademark rules (e.g., FSC-TMK-50-201). Place the initials "GF" by the specific Trademark Applications above. <i>Note: This only applies to printed items or physical promotional materials (e.g., hats, load tickets) in stock. New printings, items, and websites must be updated per FSC-STD-50-001 requirements. If the organization only has GF uses and no new uses, the rest of this checklist is NA.</i>			
<b>1.2 Trademark License Agreement and valid certificate</b> In order to use these FSC trademarks, the FME shall have a valid FSC trademark license agreement and hold a valid certificate. <i>Note: Consultations for certification Organizations applying for forest management certification or conducting activities related to the implementation of controlled wood requirements, may refer to FSC by name and initials for stakeholder consultation.</i>			Maintained on file by SCS Main Office
<b>Evidence 1.2:</b> Maintained on file by SCS Main Office.			
<b>1.6 Product Group List</b> The products intended to be labeled or promoted as FSC certified have been included in the organization's certified product group list.			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> NC <input type="checkbox"/> C w/ OBS
<b>Evidence 1.6:</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Refer to Product Groups List in Public Summary Report; <input type="checkbox"/> The following nonconformance(s) were detected in Product Groups:           ; or <input type="checkbox"/> Refer to OBS related to Product Groups: EVIDENCE: Search of Maryland Department of Natural Resources website, <a href="https://dnr.maryland.gov/forests/Pages/landplanning/bmp.aspx">https://dnr.maryland.gov/forests/Pages/landplanning/bmp.aspx</a> for the terms "FSC" and "Forest Stewardship Council". Trademark information properly references with correct symbology. Confirmed via review of product group list, website, annual work plans, and brochure. Trademark License Agreement was viewed, and certificate via FSC database.			
<b>1.3 Trademark License Code</b> The FSC trademark license code assigned by FSC to the organization accompanies any use of the FSC trademarks. It is sufficient to show the code once per product or promotional material.			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> NC <input type="checkbox"/> C w/ OBS
<b>1.4 Trademark Symbol</b> The FSC logo and the 'Forests For All Forever' marks shall include the trademark symbol ® in the upper right corner when used on products or materials to be distributed in a country where the relevant trademark is registered. For use in a country where the trademark is not yet registered, use of the symbol ™ is recommended. The Trademark Registration List document is available in the FSC trade-mark portal and marketing toolkit. The symbol ® shall also be added to 'FSC' and 'Forest Steward-ship Council' at the first or most prominent use in any text; one use per material is sufficient (e.g. website or brochure). <i>NOTE: The use of the trademark symbol is not required for FSC claims in sales and delivery documents, or for the disclaimer statement specified in requirement 6.2.</i>			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> NC <input type="checkbox"/> C w/ OBS <input type="checkbox"/> NA, one or more of noted exceptions applies/ una o más de las exenciones anotadas aplica
<b>2.1 Restrictions on using FSC trademarks</b> The organization <b>has not used</b> the FSC trademarks in the following ways: a) in a way that could cause confusion, misinterpretation, or loss of credibility to the FSC certification			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> NC <input type="checkbox"/> C w/ OBS

<p>scheme;</p> <p>b) in a way that implies that FSC endorses, participates in, or is responsible for activities performed by the organization, outside the scope of certification;</p> <p>c) to promote product quality aspects not covered by FSC certification;</p> <p>d) in product brand or company names, such as ‘FSC Golden Timber’ or website domain names;</p> <p>e) in connection with FSC controlled wood or controlled material – they shall not be used for labelling products or in any promotion of sales or sourcing of controlled material or FSC controlled wood; the initials FSC shall only be used to pass on FSC controlled wood claims in sales and de-livery documentation, in conformity with FSC chain of custody requirements.</p>	
<p><b>2.2 Translations</b>                  The name ‘Forest Stewardship Council’ has not been replaced with a translation. A translation may be included in brackets after the name, for example: Forest Stewardship Council® (translation)</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> C</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> NC</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> C w/ OBS</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NA, no translations/ no hay traducciones</p>
<p><b>Evidence 1.3, 1.4, 2.1, and 2.2:</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Refer to Trademark uses reviewed above;</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> The following nonconformance(s) were detected ; or</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Refer to OBS:</p> <p><i>Additional evidence: Review of timber sale documents including contracts, log-load tickets, FMPs, and other program documents as encountered during the audit. Confirmed via review of annual work plans, contracts, brochure, and website.</i></p>	
<p><b>Sections 8 and 9 Graphic Rules</b>                  The organization has only used FSC logos that conform to the standard requirements governing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• color and font (8.1-8.3);</li> <li>• format and size (8.4-8.9);</li> <li>• label placement (8.10); and</li> <li>• ‘Forests For All Forever’ marks (9.1-9.7).</li> </ul>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> NC</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> C w/ OBS</p>
<p><b>1.5 Trademark Use Approval</b>                  The organization has submitted all intended uses of the FSC trademarks to SCS for approval.                  OR                  The organization has <b>an approved trademark use management system</b> in place. (If the organization has a trademark use management system, complete Annex A.)</p>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> NC</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> C w/ OBS</p>
<p><b>4.6 FSC trademarks may be used to identify FSC-certified materials in the chain of custody before the products are finished. It is not necessary to submit such segregation marks for approval. All segregation marks shall be removed before the products go to the final point of sale or are delivered to uncertified organizations.</b></p>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> NC</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> C w/ OBS</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> NA, trademarks no used for segregation marks/ no se usan las marcas registradas en marcas de separación</p>
<p><b>Evidence Graphic Rules, 1.5, and 4.6:</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Refer to Trademark uses reviewed above;</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> The following nonconformance(s) were detected ; or</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Refer to OBS:</p>	

**2. On-Product Use of FSC Trademarks**

NA, no use of on-product trademarks (*on-product checklist may be deleted*)

<p><b>3.4 FSC Trademark Portal</b> The organization has only used artwork provided by the trademark portal, or other-wise issued and approved by the certification body or FSC.</p>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> NC <input type="checkbox"/> C w/ OBS</p>
<p><b>3.7 Product types</b> Specific product names have not been used as product types. A list of product types (e.g. 'paper', 'wood') is provided in the trademark portal. These are intended as broad categories. The list is not exhaustive and organizations shall contact FSC via the certification body with any request for a new product type (e.g. a non-timber forest product) to be added.</p>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> NC <input type="checkbox"/> C w/ OBS</p>
<p><b>4.1 Partial Claims</b> The label shall be used only where all forest-based parts of the product are covered by FSC certification, as specified in FSC-STD-40-004. Packaging made of forest-based materials is considered a separate element. Therefore, the label may refer to the packaging, the product inside, or both, depending on which elements are certified.</p>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> NC <input type="checkbox"/> C w/ OBS <input type="checkbox"/> NA, all permanent forest-based product parts certified/ se certifican todas las partes permanentes del producto de origen forestal</p>
<p><b>4.2 Visibility of Label</b> The FSC label should be made clearly visible on the product, its packaging, or both.</p>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> NC <input type="checkbox"/> C w/ OBS</p>
<p><b>4.3 Other Forestry Certification Scheme Logos</b> When a product is FSC labelled, <b>marks of other forest certification schemes shall not be used on the same product.</b> In catalogues, books, and similar FSC-labelled publications, other forest certification scheme marks may be used for promoting other products or for educational purposes.</p>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> NC <input type="checkbox"/> C w/ OBS</p>
<p><b>4.4 Different Label Types</b> When the FSC logo with the license code is applied as a heat brand or stencil directly to the product without all required label elements, a standard label has also been used, either on the packaging or attached as a sticker or hang-tag.</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> NC <input type="checkbox"/> C w/ OBS <input type="checkbox"/> NA, not using brand/stencil <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NA, brand/stencil includes all elements\</p>
<p><b>4.5</b> If the FSC label is <b>visible</b> to the consumer then additional FSC logos or reference to FSC may be used. For example, if the on-product label is inside the sales packaging, no additional logos, marks, or references to FSC shall be applied on the outer surface of the packaging. If the FSC label is <b>NOT visible</b> to the consumer, then NO additional FSC logos or reference to FSC may be used.</p>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> NC <input type="checkbox"/> C w/ OBS</p>
<p><b>4.7 Labeling semi-finished products</b></p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> C</p>

<p>If an organization labels semi-finished products, the FSC label has only been applied in such a way that it can be removed before or during further processing.</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> NC <input type="checkbox"/> C w/ OBS <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NA, not labeling semi-finished products
<p><b>4.8 Labeling arrangements between organizations</b>                  When two certified organizations enter into an agreement whereby the supplier labels products with the buyer’s FSC trademark license code, the following conditions have been met:</p> <p>a) Products to be labelled are included in the certificate scope of both organizations.                  b) Both parties have informed their certification bodies in writing about the agreement. It has been defined who is responsible for approval of on-product labels – either the certification body or the certificate holder with an approved trademark use management system.                  c) The supplier is responsible for ensuring that the buyer’s code is used only on eligible products that are supplied to that buyer.                  d) If contractors are being used by the supplier, the supplier is responsible for ensuring that contractors only use it for eligible products supplied to the buyer.                  e) Both organizations shall keep the agreement easily available for auditing by certification bodies.</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> NC <input type="checkbox"/> C w/ OBS <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NA, no labeling arrangement
<p><b>Evidence 3.4, 3.7, 4.1-4.5, 4.7, and 4.8:</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Refer to Trademark uses reviewed above;  <input type="checkbox"/> The following nonconformance(s) were detected ; or  <input type="checkbox"/> Refer to OBS:</p>	

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

<p><b>6.1 Catalogues, Brochures, and Websites</b>                  When the FSC trademarks have been used in catalogues, brochures, or websites, the following requirements apply:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>It is sufficient to present the promotional elements only once in catalogues, brochures, websites, etc.</li> <li>If both FSC-certified and uncertified products are listed then a text such as “Look for our FSC®-certified products” shall be used next to the promotional elements and the FSC-certified products shall be clearly identified.</li> <li>If some or all of the products are available as FSC certified on request only, this is be clearly stated.</li> </ul>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> NC <input type="checkbox"/> C w/ OBS <input type="checkbox"/> NA, not using trademarks in catalogues/ brochures/websites
<p><b>6.2 Sales and Delivery Documents</b>                  When the FSC trademarks are included on sales or delivery document templates that may be used for both FSC and non-FSC products, the following or a similar statement is included: “Only the products that are identified as such on this document are FSC certified”.  <i>NOTE: Use of the FSC claim and certificate code on the invoices does not qualify as FSC trademark use.</i></p>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> NC <input type="checkbox"/> C w/ OBS <input type="checkbox"/> NA, not using trademarks on templates for FSC & non-FSC products
<p><b>6.3 Promotional Items</b>                  All promotional items (e.g., mugs, pens, T-shirts, caps, banners, vehicles, etc.) have displayed, at minimum, the FSC logo and FSC trademark license code.</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> NC <input type="checkbox"/> C w/ OBS <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NA, not labeling promotional items
<p><b>6.5 Trade Fairs</b>                  When the FSC trademarks are used for promotion at trade fairs, the organization has:</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> NC

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

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

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

## **Appendix 8 – Group Management Program**

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