

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

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CERTIFIED	EXPIRATION
29 April 2019	28 April 2024

DATE OF FIELD EVALUATION
19-22 April 2022
DATE OF REPORT FINALIZATION
10 May 2022

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Foreword

Cycle in annual surveillance evaluations				
<input type="checkbox"/> 1 st annual evaluation	<input type="checkbox"/> 2 nd annual evaluation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 3 rd annual evaluation	<input type="checkbox"/> 4 th annual evaluation	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (expansion of scope, Major CAR audit, special audit, etc.):
Name of Forest Management Enterprise (FME) and abbreviation used in this report:				
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 DNR 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	4
1.4 Conversion Table English Units to Metric Units.....	5
2. CERTIFICATION EVALUATION PROCESS	5
2.1 Evaluation Itinerary, Activities, and Site Notes.....	5
2.2 Evaluation of Management Systems	12
3. CHANGES IN MANAGEMENT PRACTICES.....	13
4. RESULTS OF EVALUATION.....	14
4.1 Definitions of Major CARs, Minor CARs and Observations.....	14
4.2 History of Findings for Certificate Period.....	15
4.3 Existing Corrective Action Requests and Observations	15
4.4 New Corrective Action Requests and Observations	24
5. STAKEHOLDER COMMENTS	25
5.1 Stakeholder Groups Consulted	25
5.2 Summary of Stakeholder Comments and Evaluation Team Responses	25
6. CERTIFICATION DECISION	26
7. ANNUAL DATA UPDATE	26
SECTION B – APPENDICES (CONFIDENTIAL).....	33
Appendix 1 – List of FMUs Selected for Evaluation	33
Appendix 2 – Staff and Stakeholders Consulted.....	33
Appendix 3 – Additional Evaluation Techniques Employed	35
Appendix 4 – Required Tracking.....	35
Appendix 5 – Forest Management Standard Conformance Table.....	36
Appendix 6 – Chain of Custody Indicators for FMEs Conformance Table	67
Appendix 7 – Trademark Standard Conformance Table.....	71
Appendix 8 – Group Management Program.....	76

SECTION A – PUBLIC SUMMARY

1. General Information

1.1 Evaluation Team

Auditor name:	Beth Jacqmain	Auditor role:	Audit Team Leader
Qualifications:	<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, ISO 17021 QMS, and 19001 QMS Lead Auditor and FSC®, SFI®, and RW® Lead Auditor for Forest Management/Chain of Custody. Audited and led FSC evaluations, harvest and logging operations certification audits; and joint/combined PEFC® FM (AFS®, RW, SFI, ATFS®).</p> <p>An 11-year member of the Forest Guild, 21-year adjunct-Faculty with Itasca Community College, NR Department. Member 30 years Society of American Foresters. Served SAF MN State Chair 2010 and multiple committees, state and national, throughout. Past and current member on committee revising the SAF CF certification exam. Original lead instructor of UMN “Ecosystem Silviculture” certificate course for professional foresters. BS Forest Management from Michigan State University and MS Forest Biology/Ecology from Auburn University.</p>		
Auditor name:	Tucker Watts	Auditor role:	Team Auditor
Qualifications:	<p>Tucker Watts is a partner in Watts Consulting LLC. His primary focus is forest certification through auditing. Since 2008, Watts has been involved with SFI Forest Management, Fiber Sourcing, Certified Sourcing, and Chain of Custody auditing, FSC Forest Management and Chain of Custody auditing, Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification Chain of Custody auditing, auditing of the American Tree Farm System’s Group certification, auditing of the Responsible Procurement Program of the National Wood Flooring Association and auditing of the Sustainable Biomass Partnership. Watts has 30 years of experience in forest management with a large forest products corporation involved in the manufacturing of paper, lumber and plywood. For 10 years, Watts was a system manager for the forest certification system.</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
E. Total number of person days used in evaluation	10

1.3 Applicable Standards

All applicable FSC standards are available on the websites of FSC International (www.fsc.org) or SCS Global Services (www.SCSglobalServices.com). All standards are available on request from SCS Global Services via the comment form on DNR website. When no national standard exists for the country/region, SCS Interim Standards are developed by modifying SCS’s

Generic Interim Standard to reflect forest management in the region and by incorporating relevant components of any Draft Regional/National Standard and comments from stakeholders. More than one month prior to the start of the field evaluation, SCS Draft Interim Standards are provided to stakeholders identified by FSC International, SCS, forest managers under evaluation, and the FSC National or Regional Office for comment. SCS's COC indicators for FMEs are based on the most current versions of the FSC Chain of Custody Standard, FSC Standard for Group Entities in Forest Management Groups (FSC-STD-30-005), and FSC Accreditation Requirements. "Applicable standards" are all FSC standards with which the certified entity must comply, not just the standards selected for evaluation this year.

Standards applicable <i>NOTE: Please include the full standard name and Version number and check all that apply based on type of certificate.</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Forest Stewardship Standard(s), including version: FSC US 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 ²)	0.09290304
Acre (ac)	Hectare (ha)	0.4047
Volume Conversion Factors		
To convert from	To	multiply by
Cubic foot (cu ft.)	Cubic meter (m ³)	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

Documents in all timber sale file folders unless otherwise specified:

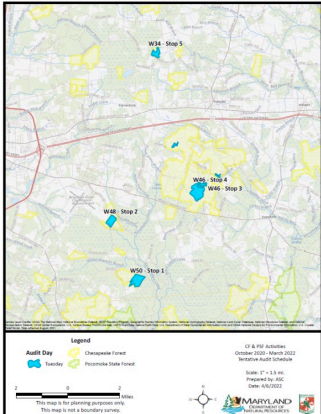
1. Parker customized Audit - Sale Summary Sheet
2. Timber Sale Contract (completed sales).
3. SESCP - Permit - Timber Sale Contract Attachment "C", Compliance Agreement for the

Standard Erosion and Sediment Control Plan for Forest Harvest Operations. (FP Sales <\$50M)

4. Pre-sale Timber Sale/Thinning Checklist for environmental requirements.
5. Pre-harvest Conference Checklist - with signatures fully executed unless otherwise stated.
6. Aerial, topographic, legal maps
7. Reference in Annual Work Plans (AWP)
8. Tract Timber sale administration log
9. Forest Harvest Operations – Harvest Site Review on State Lands (BMP)
10. Close out plot notes and maps

Terms:

- Core FIDS – Forest interior dwelling birds’ habitat. These birds require large forest areas to breed successfully, and their areas have been identified and incorporated into forest management planning.
- ESA Zones 1, 2, 3 - Areas within the identified HCVF. [Ecologically Significant Areas](#) (ESA).
- BA – Tree volume measurement, basal area expressed in square feet per acre (sqft)

Site Notes:	
Tuesday, 19 April 2022	
Opening meeting / records review MD DNR Forest Service – Nassawango office (Pocomoke) 6572 Snow Hill Road, Snow Hill, MD 21863	
	<p><i>Map of sites, complete doc review and site sample pool. Produced by MDDNR</i></p>
<p>WR10 - Corddry Tract - Active Sale. LLP. 216.3 acres. Purchased by Eastern Shore Forest Products. Combination of ESA 1, HCVF, and ESA 3 in Mesawa Bay Complex. Combination of 1st thinning, 2nd thinning, Seed tree harvest. Access is matted with chips spread for stabilization. Using herring bone pattern for thinning. Discussed advantage in protecting residual stand in using technique. BA 70-80. Beginning sale - 2 days harvesting. No issues identified. Sale with 3 harvest areas, final harvest 32 ac, 2nd thin 55 ac, 1st thin 108 ac. Sale just started. Logger interview and harvest operation inspection.</p>	
<p>W50 – Piney Grove – Stand 2 – 94.6 ac. First Thinning COMPLETE. Purchased by Eastern Shore Forest Products. Access road has been daylighted for drying. Leased for recreation. Agriculture ditches buffered. Minor skinning. Debris spread for stabilization. Drain protected at choice of Parker Forestry Services. Flagged in blue. Old house excluded from sale. Overstocked LLP plantation. Core FIDS, stream buffer, and General Management. Planted 1998. Old home site, protected. Harvest started 11/2/21, done 12/13/21. Residual BA 74 sqft/acre. Most of the area is HCV. Old home site excluded.</p>	



Blue flagging to mark stream buffer.

W48 – Peterson Farm – Stand 2 – 60.9 ac. Planting site. Final Harvest COMPLETE. ESA Zones 1, 3. Harvest required by FAA near airport. Trees were too tall for area. Purchased by Eastern Shore Forest Products. Old home site buffered. No issues. Bridge mats used to cross agriculture ditch. Crossing clean. Banks are stable. Site has been planted. PW, Stream buffer. Poor regeneration found in monitoring check. Planted all site March 2022, improved LLP stock from local nursery.

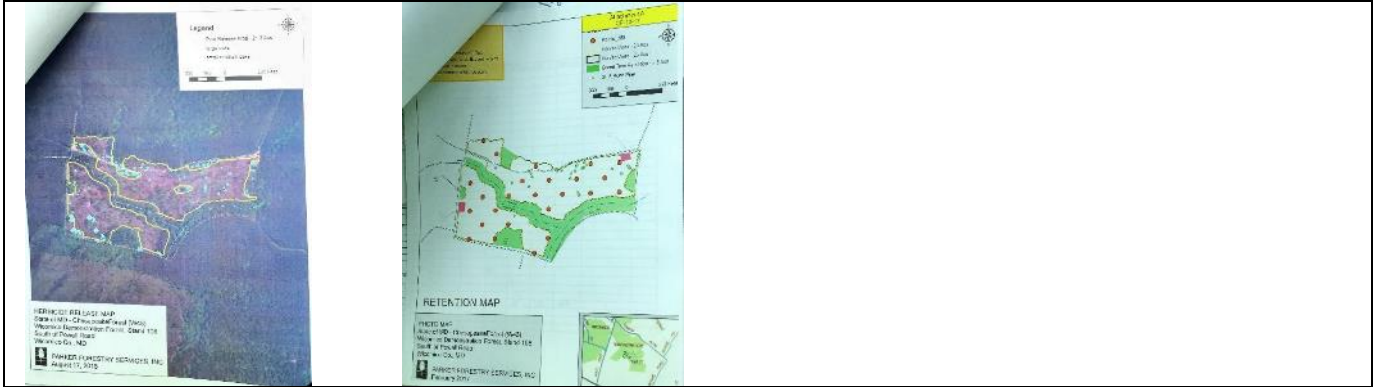


Bridge installation point, removed after harvest. Good condition.

W46 – Wicomico Demo Forest – Stand 108 – Regenerated/Prescribed Burn COMPLETE. Harvested from 2013 to 2017. Original purchase for state Forest for demonstration of forest management and research. Contains forest trails for non-motorized travel. There have been some issues with ATVs. Sprayed in 2020 to control Greenbriar and spot planted. Good seed crop in 2020 resulted in 2,400 TPA. Wildfire in 2021. Spot planted in 2022. Reviewed planting contract for Champion Forest Service. Escaped burn encroached from adjacent prescribed burn killing patches of seedlings so came in and spot planted those area March 11, 2021. Hardwood green tree retention planned and mapped. Examined Fire Plan and After burn Assessment. Escaped fire was limited to State Forest.



Circles showing patches of mortality to be planted using old spray photo.



Add-on site. Kiosk for recreation use. Multi use non – motorized Wicomico Demo Forest trail. At entrance gate to next site.



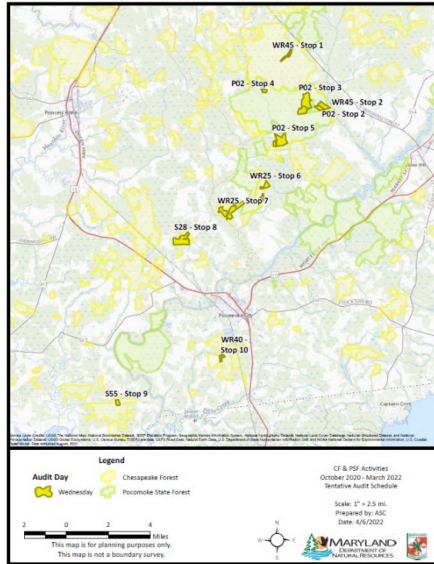
Map of Trail Kiosk.

Discussion about ATV users. If there are issues typically the DNR Natural Resources Police handle the issue. Experience issues such as damage to gates, sites, etc. Will use game cameras as well. Discussed types of recreational trail users. One active user group in the area are horse riders. DNR will use horse trail counters, infrared, to track and monitor use patterns. Horse trail users are proactive and will help by reporting problems which the FS then fixes.

W46A – Wicomico Demo Forest, Prescribed Burn COMPLETE. Prescribed burn area adjacent to last site. 40-50 acres planned burn site. Requested burn plan and after-action report. Those were reviewed. The after-action report for this event was quite weak.

W34 – Herman Hodgson – Stands 1&2 – 40.1 ac. First Thinning COMPLETE. Stream buffer. Plantings in 1985 and 1988. Sold to Timber Harvest, Inc. Harvest done 10/20/2020. Residual BA 61 sqft/acre. Purchased by Timber Harvest Inc. Erosion control. Work Plan for 2010 and 2011. 50 foot no cut buffer along stream. BA 60. Additional buffer along ditch. Debris spread to stabilize skid trails.

Wednesday April 20th



Map of sites, complete doc review and site sample pool. Produced by MDDNR

Start - Parker Forestry Services office
1323 Mt Hermon Rd, Suite 8B, Salisbury, MD 21804

WR45 – Foster Estate – Multiple Stands. Herbicide Spray/Prescribed Burn COMPLETE. Natural Heritage restoration site. HCV. Unit 3, spray site. Burned 2021, burn plan provided. Sprayed for phragmites. Burn plan provided, burning on approx. 3 year rotation. Herbicide spray with prescribed burn for pollinator habitat. Chemicals used to control invasive Phragmites. Verified and discussed training. Matt conducts DNR training. Witness documentation in invasive layer of GIS. Application data recorded. Will monitor site and treat as necessary. Adjacent 1,300 acre RSA for old growth ecosystem area. Natural Heritage will setup a 3 year burn rotation. TSI (Hack & Squirt) used to lower density. Native plants planted for bees. Goal is to convert to savannah.

Witnessed trail head kiosk for hiking, biking, and horseback riding. Algonquin Cross Country trail. Website and phone number provided for comments.

Adjacent to RSA. 1300 acre which is also OGEMA HCVF. In 2012 DNR started identifying contiguous forest as potential OG. Mature not yet OG but could be if managed as such. Upland pine flat wood.



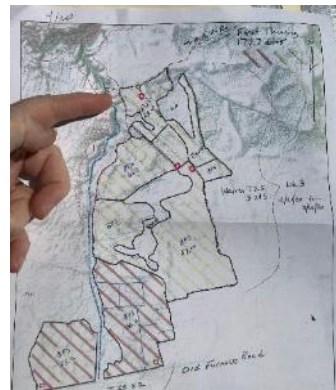
Invasive phragmites treatment area.

P02/WR45 – Furnace – Multiple Stands. Prescribed Burn COMPLETE. Burn plan and after action assessment review. Reduced pine and retained scattered oaks to restore more savanna-like conditions. Retained trees to provide litter as host for various species. Lupine management area. Purchased 2013. Targeted land purchase for frosted elfin butterfly habitat. Objective for the stand is to produce habitat for lupine host species of the butterfly. Initial area was 5 acres. MD Natural Heritage (MDNH) was allowed to manage for lupine/butterfly by private company. MDNH then identified whole area as high-quality potential habitat for the frosted elfin

butterfly as well as its lupine host which is also threatened. Property is now planned for 3% year burn rotation is goal but is fuel dependent. Witnessed burn plan and after burn assessment. Purchased in 2013 from Forest Land Group for Frosted Elphin to host Lupins. Chipped pine and retained oak. Oak leaves are host for Elphin. Implementing 3 year burn rotation.



P02 – Nazareth Church/Warren – 177.7 ac. First Thinning COMPLETE. Tract 7, Stand 1; Tract 25, Stands 1, 2, 5. 2 agreements. ESA Zones 1, Stream buffer, Delmarva Fox Squirrel (DFS) Future Core. Edified no cut buffer along west edge. Pink flagging. 50’ buffer, both sides. 100’ buffer. Harvested in 2 parts August and December 2020. Retain hard mast trees, Pond Pine, Pitch Pine, and Shortleaf Pine. Purchased by Eastern Shore Forest Products Company, Inc. Includes Gatewood sale to Paul M Jones Lumber Company, Inc. Minor skinning. Pink flag for buffer.



P02 – Nazareth Church – 34.5 ac. First Thinning INCOMPLETE. Tract 3, Stands 3&5. DFS Future Core, Core FIDS. Loblolly plantation planted 1985 and 1992. Harvest suspended 10/2020. Log deck inspection, no issues. Had been working towards stand 5 but too wet and rutting so logger shut down. Sale not complete. Usually check 2x week, bad weather will do every day. Have not had issues. Discussion MD guidelines for rutting.



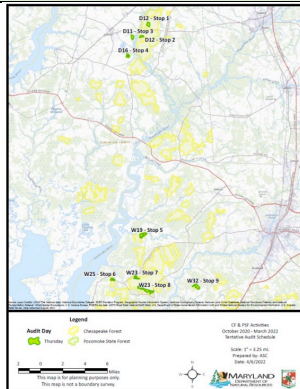
WR25 – Creek/Tankard Farm - Stand 11 – 56.3 ac. Regeneration Harvest COMPLETE. “Site from Hell”. Left hardwoods/oaks for green tree retention. DFS future core. Sold to Millville lumber. Natural regen. Moved in and out 7 times due to weather conditions. Erosion control plan & custom buffer. Lump sum sale to Millville Lumber Company, Inc. Natural regeneration. Discussed green up policy. No issue identified. Adjacent sale completed in 2014. This sale sold in 2017. Cutting began in 2021.

WR40 – Dunn Swamp – Stand 23 – 29.9 ac. Regeneration Harvest COMPLETE. Planted 1971. Sale done

December 2020. Matted skid trail. Extensive matting. Green tree retention. Hardwood green tree retention for hard mast and biodiversity. Delivered to Paul Jones Lumber. Lump sum sale. 2010 Work Plan. Erosion control Plan. Access matted for stability. Plan is to grade area. 2 buffers included in sale. Pink flagging for delineation. 1 crossing. Crossing removed. No issue. Shovel logging used for skid trails. Hardwood retention observed.



Thursday April 21st



Map of sites, complete doc review and site sample pool. Produced by MDDNR

Start
 Parker Forestry Services office, 1323 Mt Hermon Rd, Suite 8B, Salisbury, MD 21804

W19 – King’s Misfortune – Stands 1&3 – 88.6 ac. First Thinning COMPLETE. Thin down to 25-30 sqft for Bobwhite Quail Habitat (most RX have been to 70 sqft). Stream Buffer, DFS Future Core. LLP planted 1988 and 1994. Critical area THP, SESCO. Old home site, cemetery, vernal pools, Quantico Creek 300’ buffer (SMZ, HCV). Powerline activities Retain hard mast species, pitch pine, ponds and sl pines. Timber contract sold to Eastern Shore Forest Products, 7/28/2020. Sale started 8/5/2020, done 10/28/20. Residual BA 29 sqft/ac. Because this was much lower BA than usual, forester set up 3 acres for "calibration" with logging crew. Interesting rain and mat notes in timber sale admin log. Log records BA checks and corrective actions to lower to target BA, 30 sqft/ac. Critical 1000’ buffer for Chesapeake required County approval (verified). Leased hunting tract. Verified cemetery protections. (1862). Vernal pond buffer verified. Excluded through pink flagging.



W25 – Taylor #2 – Stand 4 – 30 ac. Herbicide Spray COMPLETE. Field acquired 4years ago. Machine planted 2 yrs. ago. 30.7 acres planted. 2021 Aug release spray. 8x 10’ planting. 544 TPA. Seedling monitoring. 520 TPA. Patches of low- to no-stocking. Used a bush hog about a month ago to clear out 13.6 acres which was replanted within the last month with LLP. Reforestation plan provided. release spray prior to spot replanting. Afforestation of agriculture field. Planted 8X10 (520 TPA). Goal to exceed 300 TPA. Survival check identified adequate stocking with spots with no regeneration. Decision was made to replant spots. Site was treated for release with Sweetgum as the target species. Buffer included in shape file. Aerial application. Areas were mowed and replanted. Loblolly replanted. Site was originally machine planted. Replant was by hand.



Closing Meeting, Parker Forestry Office

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 and Systems

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*):

- The state of MD experienced social and economic impacts from the 2019 closure of the paper mill that had been in Luke, MD for over 130 years. Following that closure, the State of Maryland worked with a broad partnership and funding from the US Economic Development Administration to develop the *MD Forestry Economic Adjustment Strategy*.
- The MD Stewardship and Utilization Program Manager has been investing in relationships with the Rural Maryland Council, regional economic development groups, and many other partners and building understanding of the broad values of forestry and wood products. There is growing recognition of the value of wood and forestry in the local economy. Examples:

Forestry Hub on the Eastern Shore Regional GIS Collaborative website
<https://maryland-forestry-resources-salisburyu.hub.arcgis.com/>
 has:

 - 1) The **Maryland Forestry Economic Adjustment Strategy (EAS)** document (growth/drain, industry types by region, potential market opportunities by timber shed, more)
 - 2) **Forest Industry Story Map** (telling the story of sustainable forestry and wood with Maryland stats)
 - 3) **Forest Resource Industry Viewer** an Interactive mapping application for prospective businesses to estimate location and suitability of potential harvest areas.
- **WPIEI Fund Response:** State pandemic relief funding was made available on short notice through Maryland Agricultural & Resource Based-Industry Development Corporation (MARBIDCO) to the logging and wood products industry in Spring 2021, following the attention and energy generated by the EAS. Historically MARBIDCO had few forestry applicants, but the Maryland Wood Products Industry Equity Incentive Relief Fund proved to be very popular with businesses navigating the stresses of the pandemic. Using \$750,000 of relief funding, 21 MD businesses invested another \$6.8 million in private funds to expand businesses and adopt new technologies, a 9:1 leverage. This program helped Maryland wood fiber harvesters, processors and manufacturers to purchase new equipment or construct facilities so that they can engage in increased production and utilization of locally sourced wood fiber, enhanced commercial revenue generation, and retention and creation of new job opportunities. Requests were submitted for more than twice the available funds, showing the demand for wood products industry to update and expand. Actual FY21 Projects Included:

 - Thermally modified wood kiln, dry vacuum kiln, harvesters, forwarders, hurdle saws, in-wood chippers, fence post processing equipment, loaders, forklifts, trailers and knuckle boom loaders, de-limbers, metal detectors, excavators with feller head, firewood processing equipment and log splitters.
- Two major projects have been funded by the Rural Maryland Council as early implementation steps for the EAS: 1) ESG wood branding and 2) Maryland Forest Products Risk Analysis.

- 1) The **ESG branding proposal** is led by The Greater Cumberland Committee, a regional 501(c)3 non-profit focused on economic development, transportation infrastructure, education and workforce development, energy and natural resources and next generation leadership. It is creating a certified branding program to promote Maryland wood products as a preferred option for local commercial, institutional and retail buyers. This is an opportunity to establish the standard branding/certification protocols specific to forest products for meeting the goals of corporate ESG (Environmental, Social, and Governance) investment objectives. By focusing on certifying ESG outcomes, the branding program will open up Maryland businesses to \$3 trillion in corporate investments that nearly every Maryland manufacturer is denied access. Maryland's Forestry Economic Adjustment Strategy highlights the need to address certified and branded supply chains as a critical access point for both domestic and international markets. An analysis of changing state procurement to encourage a 10% increase in local allocation for forest products under a certification and branding program indicates that such purchases would increase employment by nearly 200 jobs, produce \$37 million dollars in manufacturing output, and add \$1.2 million dollars in state and local tax base (Source: ACDS, LLC legislative testimony, 2019).

- 2) The Maryland Forest Products Risk Analysis is led by the Western Maryland Resource Conservation & Development Council (WMRC&D) and contracted with Interforest and New March. The Maryland Forest Products Risk Analysis is evaluating the Maryland's forest products supply chain as a source of sustainably and responsibly sourced forest products for domestic and export markets. The robust regulations and enforcement present in Maryland has the state's forest products sector well-positioned to take advantage of emerging demand for sustainable wood resources while continuing to promote excellent forestry practices which benefit the health of the Chesapeake Bay Watershed. One of the data sources mentioned was Bionet in the State Wildlife Action Plan at https://dnr.maryland.gov/wildlife/Pages/plants_wildlife/SWAP_background.aspx.

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 st Annual Evaluation (2020)	2 nd Annual Evaluation (2021)	3 rd Annual Evaluation (2022)	4 th 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 (Closed)		
P2					
P3	Obs 3.3.a				
P4	Obs 4.4.b				
P5					
P6	Obs 6.3.e Minor 6.6.e Minor 6.7.c	Obs 6.3.e			
P7			Minor 7.1.m Minor 7.3.a Obs 7.4.b	Obs 7.3.a	
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

Finding Number: 2021.1	
Finding and Deadline	
<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):	
FMU CAR/OBS issued to (when more than one FMU):	
Standard and Indicator	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"/> Non-Conformity Evidence <input type="checkbox"/> Observation Justification and/or Explanation 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, https://dnr.maryland.gov/forests/Pages/timbersales.aspx .	
<p>Types of contractual documents for harvests. Of the list of types of contract templates below, 3 out of 13, those with asterisks and bolded, were found to have problems/omissions.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 352B - Invitation to bid • Contracts <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 310 – Sales under 5k, ** ○ 352 – Sales under 5k, Lump Sum ** ○ 352-BL - Sales over 5k, Block ○ 352LS – Sales over 5k, One Step Method ○ 352N – Sales over 5k and less than 50k ○ 352WT - Sales over 5k, Weight ○ 352 – Sales over 5k, Lump Sum • Amendment to Extend • 352F - Amendment to allow harvesting of additional timber • 352D – Special Conditions • 402 – Amendment to Extend Completion Date ** • 405G – Gatewood Agreement <p>Specific Issues found:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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* • One template does not have the corresponding “Certification template” – non-cert version is: DNR/FS-402 ver 05/29/2015 • DNR/FS-310 – there is no master logger clause • 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) <p>Because these templates are used by several State Forests for timber sales, and this is a repeated occurrence this finding is graded Major.</p>	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Non-Conformity Corrective Action Request <input type="checkbox"/> Observation; no Corrective Action is required DNR Forest Service staff must ensure they are following administrative requirements regarding legal documents such as contracts.	
FME response <i>(including any evidence submitted)</i>	Timber sale contract templates are revised as necessary and maintained on a single webpage on the DNR website and made available to state forest staff. As revisions are made, these documents are uploaded to that webpage. A previous

	<p>audit discovered errors in several of these documents. While most of these documents were properly revised, one did not have the incorrect forest certification coding removed — that has been corrected. A second issue was with a redundant and incorrect document link — that document has been removed from the website. Finally, a third did not contain the Master Logger requirement — the issue with that contract document is explained below.</p> <p>The timber sale contract documents identified in the 2021 audit report have revised, removed, or explained.</p> <p>See https://dnr.maryland.gov/forests/Pages/timbersales.aspx</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ FS-352N_Weight_v07-2021_CoC - Timber Sale Agreement (Sales Over \$5,000 – by weight bid) (revised 07/2021) ▪ FS-310_5KL_v07-2021_CoC - Timber Sale Agreement (Sales \$5,000 or less – by lump sum bid) (revised 07/2021) ▪ DNR/FS-352F_v1.3_CoC - Amendment Allowing Harvest of Additional Timber (revised 07/2021) ▪ FS-402_Date_Extension_v07-2021_CoC - Amendment to Extend Completion Date (revised 07/2021)
SCS review	<p>This finding resulted from repeated errors or omissions in MD DNR contract templates. The DNR provided evidence that they have completed a thorough review of online contract templates used by forestry staff and have corrected or justified issues that were discovered with timber sale contracts during the 2021 annual audit. The justifications, revisions and corrected documents were reviewed and verified. This finding is closed, Beth Jacquain, 12/20/2021.</p>
Status of CAR:	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Closed</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Upgraded to Major</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Other decision (refer to description above)</p>

Finding Number: 2021.2	
Finding and Deadline	
<p><input type="checkbox"/> Major CAR: Pre-condition to certification/recertification</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Major CAR: 3 months from Issuance of Final Report</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Minor CAR: 12 months or next regularly scheduled audit, whichever comes first (<i>surveillance or re-evaluation</i>)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Observation – response is optional</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Other and deadline (specify):</p>	
FMU CAR/OBS issued to (when more than one FMU):	
Standard and Indicator	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.
<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Non-Conformity Evidence <input type="checkbox"/> Observation Justification and/or Explanation</p> <p>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.</p>	
<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Non-Conformity Corrective Action Request <input type="checkbox"/> Observation; no Corrective Action is required</p> <p>DNR must ensure that FMPs are accurate and correspond to what is being implemented by forest</p>	

<p>managers such that species selections and harvest rate calculations are developed and documented. (See also C5.6).</p>	
<p>FME response (including any evidence submitted)</p>	<p>Forest modeling was done for all of the certified land units using the Remsoft Woodstock application and the analysis was incorporated into the Sustainable Forest Management Plans, but DNR has not been satisfied with the results for Savage River and Potomac Garrett State Forests. The State Forest managers in the western region (Savage River, Potomac Garrett use volume regulation to determine harvest levels) have invested a great amount of time and resources over the years to build geographic information systems (GIS) systems that display forest stands based on forest types, age-classes and species distribution, previous harvests, plus areas reserved from harvest or subject to harvest restrictions, such as Wildlands, Old Growth Ecological Management Areas (OGEMA), Ecologically Significant Areas (ESA), Water Management Zones, and planned retentions areas.</p> <p>A forest inventory based on the SILVAH-Oak protocol was completed in 2016 for Potomac Garrett State Forest and 2017 for Savage River State Forest. This data provided forest managers information on the status of the forest and basis from which to apply the SILVAH protocol for regeneration conditions and when to apply silviculture to achieve management objectives.</p> <p>DNR communicated with USFS and Remsoft regarding modeling capabilities and potential for improvements.</p> <p>The section of the Potomac Garrett State Forest Sustainable Forest Management Plan (SFMP) entitled Determination of Annual Incremental Forest Growth and Sustainable Harvest Volume on Harvestable Acreage in Potomac-Garrett State Forest details how the allowable harvest has been calculated. Similar text is part of the SRSF SFMP.</p> <p>DNR has revised that section in the PGSF and SRSF Sustainable Forest Management Plans to describe DNR process more appropriately for selecting harvest levels and units scheduled for prescriptive management and removed the Woodstock graphs.</p>
<p>SCS review</p>	<p>Examined revised management plans:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ <i>Sustainable Forest Management Plan for Potomac – Garrett State Forest: Sustainable Forests for People, the Bay and Appalachia</i>. Revised: 2022.04.14 ■ <i>Sustainable Forest Management Plan for Savage River State Forest</i>. Revised: April 14, 2022. <p>Confirmed Section 5.12 have been revised to reflect the linkage more accurately between larger scale planning and operational implementation that was described by forestry staff. Root cause analysis of the disparities in large-scale growth and yield modeling and operational planning was identified. DNR continues to pursue reconciliation as demonstrated by email exchanges and comprehensive review of the modeling program and process. Although DNR has concluded the results of the Woodstock model have not been satisfactory, but state forests staff will continue to work with the Remsoft and SILVAH teams to determine best options for modeling hardwood forests. See Appendix H – Long-term Sustainability and Determination of Annual Incremental Growth for more information on determining sustainable forest harvest levels. Potomac Garrett State Forest</p>

	Sustainable Forest Management Plan 2022, pg. 72. Savage River State Forest Sustainable Forest Management Plan, pg. 70-71. This finding is closed.
Status of CAR:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Closed <input type="checkbox"/> Upgraded to Major <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Other decision (refer to description above)</i>

Finding Number: 2021.3	
Finding and Deadline	
<input type="checkbox"/> Major CAR: Pre-condition to certification/recertification <input type="checkbox"/> Major CAR: 3 months from Issuance of Final Report <input checked="" 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):	
FMU CAR/OBS issued to (when more than one FMU):	
Standard and Indicator	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"/> Non-Conformity Evidence <input type="checkbox"/> Observation Justification and/or Explanation 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"/> Non-Conformity Corrective Action Request <input type="checkbox"/> Observation; no Corrective Action is required MD DNR must ensure that Forest Managers have sufficient guidance and supervision to implement contracts using correct versions in accordance with Administrative requirements.	
FME response (including any evidence submitted)	<p>The process of posting timber sale contract documents revisions to the DNR website has been established for many years to reduce chances of using previous versions. There was a minor breakdown in use of this protocol. State forest staff was again and will be routinely reminded of the process.</p> <p>While the majority of DNR timber sale contracts were correct in using the most current versions of timber sale contract documents, some were discovered to have used previous versions.</p> <p>State Forest manager’s meetings are held twice a year to discuss forest management, administration, and forest certification issues. Use of the proper documentation is continually emphasized. As timber sale contracts and other documents are revised, this will be communicated to the State Forest staff by email. DNR have identified this as a mistake, has a process in place to prevent such occurrences, and recognizes need to be diligent in reemphasizing this policy. The attention brought to this issue via the corrective action has drawn greater attention to the importance of this policy.</p> <p>Timber sale contract documents have been revised since the July 2021 audit and the State Forest managers have been advised of the established process through emails and the State Forest manager meeting held on October 20, 2021, and again in March 9, 2022.</p>

	See https://dnr.maryland.gov/forests/Documents/SFI_ReviewMeeting_2022.pdf – Item #8. Evidence: Email dated 11/1/21 to five identified state employees notifying them of revisions to contracts, and online locations to find current contract templates.
SCS review	Root cause analysis described above was reviewed, corrective actions designed to prevent reoccurrence were reviewed and confirmed with DNR forestry staff. Routine reminders are accepted as an ongoing intervention to avoid repeated use of outdated contract templates. The practice now instituted provides a level of training and continuous training to enable the ability of the DNR to demonstrate management system effectiveness in meeting legal contractual obligations with particular attention to requirements of the certification standard. The routine reminder approach constitutes an ongoing training for correct use of contracts and ability to articulate deviations from procedures, where justified. Given the critical importance of contracts and contract language to various aspects of certification, the auditor notes that contracts are and will be examined at every audit as part of the audit program. This finding is closed.
Status of CAR:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Closed <input type="checkbox"/> Upgraded to Major <input type="checkbox"/> Other decision (refer to description above)

Finding Number: 2021.4	
Finding and Deadline	
<input type="checkbox"/> Major CAR: Pre-condition to certification/recertification <input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Observation – response is optional <input type="checkbox"/> Other and deadline (specify):	
FMU CAR/OBS issued to (when more than one FMU):	
Standard and Indicator	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"/> Non-Conformity Evidence <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Observation Justification and/or Explanation 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"/> Non-Conformity Corrective Action Request <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Observation; no Corrective Action is required MD DNR should improve how planned and implemented stand management treatments are linked in publicly available documents.</p>	
<p>FME response <i>(including any evidence submitted)</i></p>	<p>The State Forest Annual Work Plan Codification policy has been drafted and implemented across all timber sale contracts on certified land units. (See policy and contract example on pages 8-9). The codification document has been added to the list of Timber Sale Contract Documents available to State Forest managers online. See https://dnr.maryland.gov/forests/Documents/timbersales/AWP-Codification_2021-08-04.pdf</p> <p>State Forest Annual Work Plan Codification Revised: 2021.08.04 Purpose: To establish a standard and common naming system for each annual work plan (AWP) component to enable rapid and consistent referencing and to create a link between timber sale contracts and approved AWP.</p> <p>Each component will include DNR components:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • forest code, • AWP FY (two digits), • activity type code, and • sequential number for that activity type. <p>The code will only be used in the final AWP document since AWP proposals may be eliminated or deferred through the AWP review process.</p> <p>Forest Code PG = Potomac Garrett State Forest SR = Savage River State Forest GR = Green Ridge State Forest CF = Chesapeake Forest P = Pocomoke State Forest</p> <p>Activity Type M = Maintenance Projects R = Recreation Projects P = Special Projects (ecosystem, inventory, habitat improvement, watershed protection) S = Silvicultural Projects</p> <p>Naming Convention Forest - AWP - Type - #</p> <p>Example</p>



	<p>GR-15-S-1</p> <p>Timber Sale Contract Application</p> <p>On timber sale contracts, the codification sequence will be placed to the right of the timber sale contract identification.</p> <p>Example</p> <p>GR-03-16 / GR-15-S-1</p>
SCS review	<p>The Annual Workplan codification was verified, https://dnr.maryland.gov/forests/Documents/timbersales/AWP-Codification_2021-08-04.pdf (last accessed 5/4/22). This was a simple “Legend” exercise and provides a critical link making it easier for members of the public to link planned to completed activities at the forest stand scale. Interviews with staff and stakeholder confirm this as an effective corrective action to ensure there are not continued gaps. This finding is closed.</p>
Status of CAR:	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Closed</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Upgraded to Major</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Other decision (refer to description above)</p>

Finding Number: 2021.5	
Finding and Deadline	
<p><input type="checkbox"/> Major CAR: Pre-condition to certification/recertification</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Major CAR: 3 months from Issuance of Final Report</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Minor CAR: 12 months or next regularly scheduled audit, whichever comes first (<i>surveillance or re-evaluation</i>)</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Observation – response is optional</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Other and deadline (specify):</p>	
FMU CAR/OBS issued to (when more than one FMU):	
Standard and Indicator	<p>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.)</p>
<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Non-Conformity Evidence <input type="checkbox"/> Observation Justification and/or Explanation</p> <p>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.</p> <p>For example, for FSC Representative Sample Areas, which Maryland DNR terms “Ecologically Sensitive Areas (ESAs)”, are identified by the Wildlife & Heritage Service (WHS) ecologists and flagged in the DNR GIS database. Management activities within these areas are planned in consultation with WHS ecologists to recognize, protect and, where possible, enhance the ecological resources present in each site. Similarly, HCVFs undergo this type of review process by WHS staff.</p> <p>However, the process for nominating <u>new</u> HCVs 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</p>	

<p>prescribed process for nominating HCVs (See also 6.4, RSAs).</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Non-Conformity Corrective Action Request <input type="checkbox"/> Observation; no Corrective Action is required</p> <p>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.</p> <p>For example, for FSC Representative Sample Areas, which Maryland DNR terms “Ecologically Sensitive Areas (ESAs)”, are identified by the Wildlife & Heritage Service (WHS) ecologists and flagged in the DNR GIS database. Management activities within these areas are planned in consultation with WHS ecologists to recognize, protect and, where possible, enhance the ecological resources present in each site. Similarly, HCVs undergo this type of review process by WHS staff.</p> <p>However, the process for nominating <u>new</u> HCVs 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 HCVs (See also 6.4, RSAs).</p>	
<p>FME response <i>(including any evidence submitted)</i></p>	<p>The FY 2023 annual work plan public review and comment period ended on March 4, 2022. Part of the public announcement included a statement to better inform and more completely detail to the interested public of the process for review and approval of DNR work plans.</p> <p><i>The public comment period is the final part of a three-step process. The first step includes an internal review by natural resource professionals with expertise in wildlife and fishery habitats, recreation, forest management, water quality, and ecologically significant species. The second includes a review by a local citizens advisory committee. Following the conclusion of the public comment period, each forest manager will review, revise and finalize their specific plan.</i></p> <p>https://dnr.maryland.gov/forests/Pages/workplans.aspx</p> <p>Since the 2021 audit, DNR has hired a GIS planner who was tasked with revising DNR RSA analysis and protocol. DNR has completed the 2022 Representative Sample Areas (RSAs) analysis and included within that analysis summary that the review process included a variety of agencies and natural resource programs. An update will be made available at the 2022 audit and has been uploaded to the audit Google Drive folder.</p>
<p>SCS review</p>	<p>The inclusion of the above language for members of the public were verified, https://dnr.maryland.gov/forests/Pages/workplans.aspx (last accessed 5/4/22). Review of relevant stakeholder communications confirm the raised issues have been addressed.</p> <p>Noting also that a significant revision was done for State of Maryland FSC RSA’s, which the DNR finalized in March 2022, <i>Methodology for Evaluating Representative Sample Areas (RSA) for Naturally Occurring Ecosystems with the Region of Maryland State Forests</i>. This analysis was completed to update the 2012 analysis that was done by leveraging advances in GIS, data sharing, and new competencies and expertise in staff. The analysis used LANDFIRE Existing Vegetation Type (EVTs) data. Protected areas within the analytical landscape were identified using the Protected Areas Database of the United States (PAD-US 2.1).</p>

	The boundaries of the analytical landscapes were revised to encompass a larger area that coincides with ecological subsection boundaries from the USDA Forest Service ECOMAP framework. Auditor notes that the effectiveness of the DNR management system in tracking and responding to stakeholders with subject expertise for FSC high risk areas, such as HCV and RSAs, is done annually. Given the relevance of public disclosure to the public comment process and resolution with stakeholders this finding is closed.
Status of CAR:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Closed <input type="checkbox"/> Upgraded to Major <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Other decision (refer to description above)</i>

4.4 New Corrective Action Requests and Observations

Finding Number: 2022.1	
Finding and Deadline	
<input type="checkbox"/> Major CAR: Pre-condition to certification/recertification <input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Observation – response is optional <input type="checkbox"/> Other and deadline (specify):	
FMU CAR/OBS issued to (when more than one FMU):	
Standard and Indicator	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 type="checkbox"/> Non-Conformity Evidence <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Observation Justification and/or Explanation The MD DNR has effective training systems in place for foresters as evidence by training records reviewed during the 2022 audit (records retained in SCS files). Foresters receive and are supported to pursue relevant training for their roles and responsibilities, including use of chemicals for site preparation and treatment of invasives on state forest lands. Note pesticide applicator licensing was verified as current for DNR staff which demonstrates completion of legally required ongoing training and education. DNR has met requirements in the new FSC pesticides FSC Pesticide Policy (FSC-POL-30-001 V3-0 EN). They have met this through adoption of national and other FSC Environmental and Social Risk Assessments, https://dnr.maryland.gov/forests/Pages/pesticide-use.aspx (last accessed 5/4/22). Correct application at the site level applications were confirmed during field inspections (See Site Notes of this report for examples) and use of PPE verified in interviews with staff and review of documentation. The DNR have overall compliance with FSC pesticides requirements. Training for the newly adopted ESRAs could be improved, however. Field foresters interviewed during the audit were not aware that the MD DNR has adopted FSC ESRAs and were not aware of specific, relevant mitigations for public or communities included within those ESRAs. For example, the national FSC ESRA for glyphosate was adopted but staff with roles and responsibilities were unaware if there were specific community safety requirements they needed to apply at the stand level. See page 6 of the adopted Glyphosate ESRA , where public safety mitigations are relatively small, in this case, but foresters who apply these chemicals should be aware of any mitigations that may be necessary.	
<input type="checkbox"/> Non-Conformity Corrective Action Request <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Observation; no Corrective Action is required DNR could improve knowledge of and familiarity with FSC ESRA policies that have been adopted by MD	

DNR as part of implementing the new FSC pesticides policy.	
FME response <i>(including any evidence submitted)</i>	
SCS review	
Status of CAR:	<input type="checkbox"/> Closed <input type="checkbox"/> Upgraded to Major <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Other decision (refer to description above)</i>

5. Stakeholder Comments

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

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

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

5.1 Stakeholder Groups Consulted

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

5.2 Summary of Stakeholder Comments and Evaluation Team Responses

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

<input type="checkbox"/> 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.
Summary of Outreach Activities Conducted (Check all that apply):
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Face to face meetings <input type="checkbox"/> Phone calls <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Email, or letter <input type="checkbox"/> Notice published in the national and/or local press <input type="checkbox"/> Notice published on relevant websites <input type="checkbox"/> Local radio announcements <input type="checkbox"/> Local customary notice boards <input type="checkbox"/> Social media broadcast
Stakeholder Comments, SCS Response (Comments are listed in the order received)
A stakeholder representing recreational horse trail riders on state forests visited during the 2022 audit, when interviewed described the MD DNR staff as important partners in providing and recreational riding opportunities, trail maintenance, and trail improvements. The stakeholder specifically referenced trail repair, and use monitoring done by the DNR in collaboration with the user group.
These comments were accepted as evidence of conformance under a number of FSC indicators related to stakeholder interests in planning and operational activities. Additionally, this was considered as evidence of conformance under monitoring requirements, specifically, Indicators 8.2.d.1 and 8.2.d.2.

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"/>
Comments: 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

Organization name	State of Maryland DNR – Forest Service		
Contact person	Jack Perdue		
Address	580 Taylor Ave, E1	Telephone	410-260-8505

	Annapolis, MD 21401	Fax	410-260-8595
		e-mail	jack.perdue@maryland.gov
		Website	dnr.state.md.us/forests

FSC Sales Information

FSC Sales contact information same as above.

Scope of Certificate

Certificate Type	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Single FMU	<input type="checkbox"/> Multiple FMU
	<input type="checkbox"/> Group	
SLIMF (if applicable)	<input type="checkbox"/> Small SLIMF certificate	<input type="checkbox"/> Low intensity SLIMF certificate
	<input type="checkbox"/> Group SLIMF certificate	
# Group Members (if applicable)	N/A	
Number of FMU's in scope of certificate	1	
Geographic location of non-SLIMF FMU(s)	<i>Latitude & 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	
Forest zone	<input type="checkbox"/> Boreal	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Temperate
	<input type="checkbox"/> Subtropical	<input type="checkbox"/> Tropical
Total forest area in scope of certificate which is:		Units: <input type="checkbox"/> ha or <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ac
privately managed		
state managed	209,207 (revised 2020)	
community managed		
Number of FMUs in scope that are:		
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
Total forest area in scope of certificate which is included in FMUs that:		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	-	
Division of FMUs into manageable units:		
FME considers two forest regions based on regional forest types: Eastern and Western Regions. FME then divides the state forest system into DNR 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: http://www.dnr.state.md.us/forests/ .		

Social Information

Number of forest workers (including contractors) working in forest within scope of certificate (differentiated by gender):		
# of male workers 26	# of female workers 8	
Number of accidents in forest work since last audit	Serious: # 0	Fatal: # 0

Pesticide and Other Chemical Use

Notes:

1. Pesticide use was reported for each MDDNR state forest and in summary.
2. FSC ESRA's, or equivalents, were examined and reviewed with relevant staff, e.g., those with roles and responsibilities that required whole or partial knowledge of chemical ESRA's adopted by MD DNR and used in the forestry program.
3. Bt is a biocontrol and is not required to be reported in this section. It is relevant tracking for overall FSC conformity, so it was retained here for informational purposes.

Commercial name	Active ingredient	Quantity applied annually	Reason for use	Acres
B.t.	Bacillus thuringiensis	Unknown - applied by MDA	Gypsy moth	20±
Vanquish	Dicamba	238oz	Ailanthus altissima control	~2,200 stems
Round Up Quick Pro	Glyphosate	61oz. (dry granule) @ 2%	Brush / weed / grass / fern control along roads and campsites	<5 Acres
Roundup Pro Concentrate	Glyphosate	26oz	Site Prep	1/2ac
Glyphomax Plus	Glyphosate 41%	12.3 ounces	NNIS Control - Japanese knotweed, Grass Control	2
Rodeo	Glyphosate 53.8%	13.67 ounces	NNIS Control - Japanese knotweed, multiflora rose, autumn olive	4
Esplanade EZ	Glyphosate isopropylamine salt	1.1 gal	Weed/grass control	20
Makaze	Glyphosate isopropylamine salt	0.25 gal	Invasive species control	0.5
Arsenal (or generic equivalent)	Imazapyr	6.9 gal	Pine release/woody plant control	82.2
Arsenal AC	Imazapyr	6oz. (liquid) @3%	Hack and Squirt Invasives - tree of heaven & knotweed	<5 Acres
Arsenal AC	Imazapyr 53.1%	1 ounce	NNIS Control - Tree of Heaven	<1
PrimeraOne	Imidacloprid 2F	2,368oz	Hemlock Woolly Adelgid	205 trees
Quali-Pro	Imidacloprid 2F	512oz	Hemlock Woolly Adelgid	45 trees

Escort	Metsulfuron methyl	0.64 gal	Pine release/woody plant control	82.2
Vastlan	Triclopyr choline	0.1 L	Invasive species control	0.2

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)	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	101,463
Silvicultural system(s)	Area under type of management
Even-aged management	20,200.5
Clearcut (clearcut size range 20-43.2 ac)	121.2
Shelterwood	487.9
Other: Seed Tree	216.1
Uneven-aged management	
Individual tree selection	
Group selection	20,000
Other:	
<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)	See explanation below and a summary is included in each SFMP, and current harvest data is summarized in AWP. These are all available at http://www.dnr.state.md.us/forests/mdforests.asp .
Non-timber Forest Products (NTFPs)	
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	
Explanation of the assumptions and reference to the data source upon which AAH and NTFP harvest rates estimates are based:	
See Sustainable Forest Management Plans. The section of the Potomac Garrett State Forest Sustainable Forest Management Plan (SFMP) entitled Determination of Annual Incremental Forest Growth and Sustainable Harvest Volume on Harvestable Acreage in Potomac-Garrett State Forest details how the allowable harvest has been calculated. Similar text is part of the SRSF SFMP. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>Potomac Garrett State Forest Sustainable Forest Management Plan 2022, pg. 72.</i> 	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>Savage River State Forest Sustainable Forest Management Plan, pg. 70-71.</i> ▪ <i>Green Ridge State Forest Sustainable Forest Management Plan, Section 5.7 General Forest Management Area – Area Management Forest Regulation, pg. 79.</i> ▪ <i>Chesapeake Forest Lands Sustainable Forest Management Plan, Appendix K Modeling Long-Term Sustainability, pg. 156-164.</i>
Species in scope of joint FM/COC certificate: <i>Scientific/ Latin Name (Common/ Trade Name)</i>
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
W1 Rough Wood	W1.1 Roundwood (logs)	All
	W1.2 Fuel Wood	
	W1.3 Twigs	
W2 Wood charcoal		
W3 Wood in chips or particles	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

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

**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.*

High Conservation Value Forest/ Areas				
High Conservation Values present and respective areas:				Units: <input type="checkbox"/> ha or <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ac
	Code	HCV Type	Description & Location	Area
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	HCV1	Forests or areas containing globally, regionally or nationally significant concentrations of biodiversity values	Ecologically Significant Areas and Wildlands	56,452

		(e.g., endemism, endangered species, refugia).		
<input type="checkbox"/>	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
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	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)	42,609
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	HCV4	Forests or areas that provide basic services of nature in critical situations (e.g., watershed protection, erosion control).	Riparian Buffer Areas	10,198
<input type="checkbox"/>	HCV5	Forests or areas fundamental to meeting basic needs of local communities (e.g., subsistence, health).		0
<input type="checkbox"/>	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
Total Area of forest classified as 'High Conservation Value Forest/ Area'				109259 acres

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>	
Note: <i>Excision cannot be applied to CW/FM certificates.</i>	
Explanation for exclusion of FMUs and/or excision:	These other state forests see very little silvicultural activity and are relatively small in acreage. DNR has no interest in pursuing certification at this time on these lands.
Control measures to prevent mixing of certified and non-certified product (C8.3):	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.	
Description of FMUs excluded from, or forested area excised from, the scope of certification:		
Name of FMU or Stand	Location (city, state, country)	Size (<input type="checkbox"/> ha or <input type="checkbox"/> ac)
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.**


Notes: All parties signing the following Sign-In sheets (Days 1-3) were informed verbally as a group each day that signing indicates permission to be listed in this report and such consent was given.



Larry Hogan, Governor
Boyd Rutherford, Lt. Governor
Jeannie Haddaway-Riccio, Secretary
Allan Fisher, Deputy Secretary

April 19, 2022
2022 Certification Audit Sign-In – Day 1


Name	Organization/Location
1 <u>Beth Jacobson</u>	<u>SCS/FSC/ST-1</u>
2 <u>Justin Anselcalt</u>	<u>MD DNR FS / Annapolis</u>
3 <u>Matthew Hurd</u>	<u>MD DNR FS/Salisbury</u>
4 <u>Anne Hairston-Stang</u>	<u>MD DNR FS/Annapolis</u>
5 <u>John F. Conner</u>	<u>PFS</u>
6 <u>Kenneth Jolly</u>	<u>MFS</u>
7 <u>Jack Ferriere</u>	<u>MFS / Annapolis</u>
8 <u>William</u>	<u>PFS</u>
9 <u>Thomas Kez</u>	<u>FSC-US</u>
10 <u>Stacy Elin</u>	<u>PFS</u>
11 <u>James Todd Pratt</u>	<u>NSF</u>
12 <u>Alexander Cabel</u>	<u>MFS</u>



Larry Hogan, Governor
 Boyd Rutherford, Lt. Governor
 Jeannie Haddaway-Riccio, Secretary
 Allan Fisher, Deputy Secretary

April 20, 2022
 2022 Certification Audit Sign-In - Day 2

Name	Organization/Location
1 <u>Alexander Clark</u>	<u>MFS</u>
2 <u>Matthew Hurd</u>	<u>MFS</u>
3 <u>Suzie Arseneault</u>	<u>MFS</u>
4 <u>W. Allen</u>	<u>PFS</u>
5 <u>Greg Egan</u>	<u>PFS</u>
6 <u>Jack Perdue</u>	<u>MFS Annapolis</u>
7 <u>Beth Joy</u>	<u>SCS/FSC/SFI</u>
8 <u>Judith Zaito</u>	<u>NSF</u>
9 <u>Thomas Klein</u>	<u>FSC-USA</u>
10 <u>Kenneth Jolly</u>	<u>MFS</u>



Larry Hogan, Governor
 Boyd Rutherford, Lt. Governor
 Jeannie Haddaway-Riccio, Secretary
 Allan Fisher, Deputy Secretary

April 21, 2022
 2022 Certification Audit Sign-In - Day 3

Name	Organization/Location
1 <u>Alexander Clark</u>	<u>MFS</u>
2 <u>Jack Perdue</u>	<u>MFS Annapolis</u>
3 <u>Suzie Arseneault</u>	<u>MFS Annapolis</u>
4 <u>Thomas Klein</u>	<u>FSC USA</u>
5 <u>Matthew Hurd</u>	<u>MFS</u>
6 <u>John F. Connors</u>	<u>PFS</u>
7 <u>W. Allen</u>	<u>PFS</u>
8 <u>Beth Joy</u>	<u>SCS/FSC/SFI</u>
9 <u>Judith Zaito</u>	<u>NSF</u>
10 <u>Dina Lempert</u>	<u>DNR WWS NHP</u>
11 <u>Greg Egan</u>	<u>PFS</u>
12 <u>Kenneth Jolly</u>	<u>MFS</u>

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)
Jessica Massey	Interviewed on-site RE: her role as a recreational horse trail user.	Available via MD DNR	Interview	N
Logging Contractor	Confidential – Notes on file		Interview	N

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

Appendix 3 – Additional Evaluation Techniques Employed

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

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.
Some issues were identified during this audit that the next audit team could consider in the next audit, such as:	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Scope of certificate: Audit will be on west side of state for 2023.
<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 type="checkbox"/>	Suggested issues investigate during the next audit:
<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. Criterion 6.4 was added for RSAs following stakeholder input.
2022	P3, P8 and Mandatory (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.
2023	

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

REQUIREMENT	C/NC	COMMENT/CAR
Principle #1: Compliance with Laws and FSC Principles 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.		
1.1 Forest management shall respect all national and local laws and administrative requirements.	NE	
1.2. All applicable and legally prescribed fees, royalties, taxes and other charges shall be paid.	NE	
1.3. In signatory countries, the provisions of all binding international agreements such as CITES, ILO Conventions, ITTA, and Convention on Biological Diversity, shall be respected.	NE	
1.4. Conflicts between laws, regulations and the FSC Principles and Criteria shall be evaluated for the purposes of certification, on a case by case basis, by the certifiers and the involved or affected parties.	NE	
1.5. Forest management areas should be protected from illegal harvesting, settlement and other unauthorized activities.	C	
1.5.a. The forest owner or manager supports or implements measures intended to prevent illegal and unauthorized activities on the <i>Forest Management Unit</i> (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. In 2022, MD DNR reports that Savage River State Forest (SRSF) had an issue in December of 2021 where a neighboring landowner harvested their property and had the logging crew set up on state property and cut a few state trees. This is a known boundary dispute that has been addressed with a survey. The issue is currently with the state’s attorney’s office.
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	In 2022, MD DNR reports that Savage River State Forest (SRSF) had an issue in December of 2021 where a neighboring landowner harvested their property and had the logging crew set up on state property and cut a few state trees. This is a known boundary dispute that has been addressed with a survey. The issue is currently with the state’s attorney’s office. 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 and the above-mentioned trespass issue.
1.6. Forest managers shall demonstrate a long-term commitment to adhere to the FSC Principles and Criteria.	NE	
Principle #2: Long-term tenure and use rights to the land and forest resources shall be clearly defined, documented and legally established.		
2.1. Clear evidence of long-term forest use rights to the land (e.g., land title, customary rights, or lease agreements) shall be demonstrated.	NE	
2.2. Local communities with legal or customary tenure or use rights shall maintain control, to the extent necessary to protect their rights or resources, over forest operations unless they delegate control with free and informed consent to other agencies. <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>	NE	
2.3. Appropriate mechanisms shall be employed to resolve disputes over tenure claims and use rights. The circumstances and status of any outstanding disputes will be explicitly considered in the certification evaluation. Disputes of substantial magnitude involving a significant number of interests will normally disqualify an operation from being certified.	C	
2.3.a If <i>disputes</i> arise regarding tenure claims or use rights then the forest owner or manager initially attempts to resolve them through open communication, negotiation, and/or mediation. If these good-faith efforts fail, then federal, state, and/or local laws are employed to resolve such disputes.	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 resolved the issue. 2022 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.
2.3.b The forest owner or manager documents any significant disputes over tenure and use rights.	C	See 2.3.a., above
Principle #3: The legal and customary rights of indigenous peoples to own, use and manage their lands, territories, and resources shall be recognized and respected.		
3.1. Indigenous peoples shall control forest management on their lands and territories unless they delegate control with free and informed consent to other agencies.	NA	There are no Federally recognized native American tribes in Maryland. However, with assistance from the Maryland Commission on Indian Affairs, one Tribal member has been placed on the SF Citizens Advisory Committee.



		There is no tribal forest management or ownership/ use rights on MD DNR lands.
3.1.a Tribal forest management planning and implementation are carried out by authorized tribal representatives in accordance with tribal laws and customs and relevant federal laws.	NA	
3.1.b The manager of a tribal forest secures, in writing, informed consent regarding forest management activities from the tribe or individual forest owner prior to commencement of those activities.	NA	
3.2. Forest management shall not threaten or diminish, either directly or indirectly, the resources or tenure rights of indigenous peoples.	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	<p>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.</p> <p>Routine communication with Chiefs regarding management activities and public posting of AWP's on the forest web site.</p> <p>FME staff reported that activities in 2018-2019 did not affect any tribal issues.</p>
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	
3.3. Sites of special cultural, ecological, economic or religious significance to indigenous peoples shall be clearly identified in cooperation with such peoples, and recognized and protected by forest managers.	NA	
3.3.a. The forest owner or manager invites consultation with tribal representatives in identifying sites of current or traditional cultural, archeological, ecological, economic or religious significance.	C	<p>As part of the management planning process, tribal representatives are invited to comment on the DNR's planned activities. No comments have been received during the past three years, per interviews with FME staff and review of the AWP's. All state forest proposals are reviewed by the Maryland Historical Trust during the planning phase. FME staff maintains contact with the Maryland Commission on Indian Affairs (CIA) since tribal leadership changes periodically and, at times, there are conflicts between tribes over political issues according to FME staff.</p> <p>The forest owner or manager last had formal consultation with tribal representatives in identifying sites of current or traditional cultural, archeological, ecological, economic or religious</p>

		significance approximately 5-6 years ago. Per interview, there is not a regularly scheduled interval to re-evaluate the MD DNR SF outreach efforts. The Citizen's Advisory Committee meeting for Chesapeake & Pocomoke Forest Annual Work Plan Meeting, December 2021 shows attendance by the Native American representative on the committee.
3.3.b In consultation with tribal representatives, the forest owner or manager develops measures to protect or enhance areas of special significance (see also Criterion 9.1).	NA	No protected traditional knowledge is used for commercial or forest management purposes.
3.4. Indigenous peoples shall be compensated for the application of their traditional knowledge regarding the use of forest species or management systems in forest operations. This compensation shall be formally agreed upon with their free and informed consent before forest operations commence.	NA	
3.4.a The forest owner or manager identifies whether <i>traditional knowledge</i> in forest management is being used.	NA	
3.4.b When traditional knowledge is used, written protocols are jointly developed prior to such use and signed by local tribes or tribal members to protect and fairly compensate them for such use.	NA	
3.4.c The forest owner or manager respects the confidentiality of tribal traditional knowledge and assists in the protection of such knowledge.		
Principle #4: Forest management operations shall maintain or enhance the long-term social and economic well-being of forest workers and local communities.		
4.1. The communities within, or adjacent to, the forest management area should be given opportunities for employment, training, and other services.	NE	
4.2. Forest management should meet or exceed all applicable laws and/or regulations covering health and safety of employees and their families.	NE	
4.3 The rights of workers to organize and voluntarily negotiate with their employers shall be guaranteed as outlined in Conventions 87 and 98 of the International Labor Organization (ILO).	NE	
4.4. Management planning and operations shall incorporate the results of evaluations of social impact. Consultations shall be maintained with people and groups (both men and women) directly affected by management operations.	C	
4.4.a The forest owner or manager understands the likely social impacts of management activities, and incorporates	C	The Annual Work Plan and ID Team processes are examples of planning efforts that allow for consideration of social impacts. Evidence of conformance includes:




<p>this understanding into management planning and operations. Social impacts include effects on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Archeological sites and sites of cultural, historical and community significance (on and off the FMU; • Public resources, including air, water and food (hunting, fishing, collecting); • Aesthetics; • Community goals for forest and natural resource use and protection such as employment, subsistence, recreation and health; • Community economic opportunities; • Other people who may be affected by management operations. <p>A summary is available to the CB.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sustainable Forest Management Plans include descriptions of archeological sites and sites of cultural, historical and community significance. • 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. • Forest Management Plans include a description of aesthetics. Planning for harvests includes consideration of aesthetics; field foresters are responsible and are supported by Interdisciplinary Teams (ID Team). The use of the roadside buffers and variable retention harvest prescriptions are examples of aesthetic considerations during the process of locating retention. Aesthetic considerations are incorporated into SF 5.8.6 “Regeneration Harvest”, page 67 which also includes Green Tree Retention program. Both were noted during 2022 site inspections, see Site Notes. • 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 using 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. https://dnr.maryland.gov/forests/Documents/sfla_report.pdf • 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 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. • Others who may be affected by management are activities are incorporated into the process in the following ways: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Maryland Historical Trust is a member of the Interdisciplinary Team that reviews each Annual
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		<p>Work Plans and projects. Records of Annual Work Plan comments for each State Forest are solicited and considered.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 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. ● 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). <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 Citizens 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. DNR most recently updated its social impacts summary in 2015. Confirmed that nothing new has been identified since that date.</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 Citizens 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 & 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>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. DNR provided selected stakeholder communications upon request by auditor in follow up to prior year issues. A copy of the individual letter to the stakeholder, dated 3/18/2022 was provided and retained as evidence of conformity in SCS records.</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. 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 Citizens 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 <i>public forests</i>, consultation shall include the following components:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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; 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; 3. An accessible and affordable appeals process to planning decisions is available. <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_2015-601_v2.pdf) directs how this process is to be followed. See <i>II. Annual Work Plans</i>, page 5, <i>Section A</i>, parts i-k; and see <i>Section D Operational Procedures</i>, page 11, 2.8-2.10.</p> <p>All SFMPs require a 30-day public review process.</p>
<p>4.5. Appropriate mechanisms shall be employed for resolving grievances and for providing fair compensation in the case of loss or damage affecting the legal or customary rights, property, resources, or livelihoods of local peoples. Measures shall be taken to avoid such loss or damage.</p>	<p>C</p>	
<p>4.5.a The forest owner or manager does not engage in negligent activities that cause damage to other people.</p>	<p>C</p>	<p>No evidence was found or discovered during the audit that the MDDNR is negligent in activities that may cause damage to other people. Areas that have been identified as high risk in the forestry program proactively have written policies, forms and training which includes driving, harvest safety, prescribed burning, wildfire fighting, and other common forest</p>

		management activities. Methods in forests are used to avoid known potential danger areas and activities including safety for public recreational use, signage, and flagging.
<p>4.5.b The forest owner or manager provides a known and accessible means for interested stakeholders to voice grievances and have them resolved. If significant disputes arise related to resolving grievances and/or providing fair compensation, the forest owner or manager follows appropriate dispute resolution procedures. At a minimum, the forest owner or manager maintains open communications, responds to grievances in a timely manner, demonstrates ongoing good faith efforts to resolve the grievances, and maintains records of legal suites and claims.</p>	C	<p>MD DNR website has a publicly accessible Contact Us, which allows direct submission to the state of Maryland.</p> <p><i>The Forest Service offers program contact online, Contact the Forest Service</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 410-260-8531 • Contact Us • Email Us <p>Additionally, FME maintains a State Forest Grievance Policy readily accessible from the State Forest’s main page, State Forest Grievance Policy (last 5/3/2022), noted and imbedded below:</p> <div data-bbox="841 680 1555 865" style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> <p>Have a complaint?</p> <p>The Maryland Department of Natural Resources Forest Service has a  State Forest Grievance. If you would like to file a grievance or complaint regarding the management of a State Forest, please contact the State Forest office with which you wish to file the grievance or complaint or email your message here.</p> </div> <div data-bbox="912 871 966 934" style="text-align: center;">  </div> <p>SFMGrievancePolicy.pdf</p> <p>The pdf Grievance policy is located here, http://dnr.maryland.gov/forests/Documents/SFMGrievancePolicy.pdf (last accessed 27 Mar 2019). The content of this Grievance Policy is copied below: Updated: 04/16/2012</p>
<p>4.5.c Fair compensation or reasonable mitigation is provided to local people, communities or adjacent landowners for substantiated damage or loss of income caused by the landowner or manager.</p>	C	<p>No cause for compensation or mitigation has been reported on the part of MD DNR or stakeholders. Any compensation or mitigation would be managed by the legal department.</p>
<p>Principle #5: Forest management operations shall encourage the efficient use of the forest’s multiple products and services to ensure economic viability and a wide range of environmental and social benefits.</p>		
<p>5.1. Forest management should strive toward economic viability, while taking into account the full environmental, social, and operational costs of production, and ensuring the investments necessary to maintain the ecological productivity of the forest.</p>	NE	
<p>5.2. Forest management and marketing operations should encourage the optimal use and local processing of the forest’s diversity of products.</p>	NE	
<p>5.3. Forest management should minimize waste associated with harvesting and on-site processing operations and avoid damage to other forest resources.</p>	NE	

<p>5.4. Forest management should strive to strengthen and diversify the local economy, avoiding dependence on a single forest product.</p>	<p>NE</p>	
<p>5.5. Forest management operations shall recognize, maintain, and, where appropriate, enhance the value of forest services and resources such as watersheds and fisheries.</p>	<p>NE</p>	
<p>5.6. The rate of harvest of forest products shall not exceed levels which can be permanently sustained.</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"> documented growth rates for particular sites, and/or acreage of forest types, age-classes and species distributions; mortality and decay and other factors that affect net growth; areas reserved from harvest or subject to harvest restrictions to meet other management goals; silvicultural practices that will be employed on the FMU; management objectives and desired future conditions. <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 treatments and projections of subsequent regrowth beyond single rotation and multiple re-entries.</p>	<p>C</p>	<p>FME calculates the AAH for each State Forest in the scope. Reported for the 2022 audit:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (CFL/PSF) W14 - Helmick tract, Stand 7 – 43.2 acres – 716,167 BF – Contract CF-13-20 W44 – Warren-Dungan, Stand 10 – 20.0 acres – 277,657 BF – Contract CF-12-21 Annual Allowable Harvest: 7,162,000 BF; FY2021 Harvests: 993,823 BF (GRSF) Harvests include 221 Managed Acres (123 acres harvested). The annual target is 200 Managed acres. This number is slightly over due to a carryover harvest from the previous year that was delayed due to COVID related issues. (PGSF) Established harvest: 582,500 board feet; past year's harvest 348,609 board feet. (SRSF) Established harvest threshold 1.2MMBF annually. FY 2021 Harvest 785MBF <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.</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., http://dnr.maryland.gov/forests/Pages/workplans.aspx).</p> <p>Harvest levels on an area control basis remain well below what is allowed per the Woodstock model. 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 2022 audit.</p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; align-items: center;"> <div style="text-align: center;">  GRSF Quarterly Harvest Report FY22 </div> <div style="text-align: center;">  PGSF Quarterly Timber Report FY22 </div> <div style="text-align: center;">  SRSF Quarterly Timber Reports FY22 </div> </div> <p>(SRSF) No, annual harvest threshold has remained the same. FY21 harvest number were low as a result of COVID issues relating to seasonal employees. FY22 harvest volume is on pace to capture the FY21 deficit.</p>
<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. Eastern Maryland State Forests audited in 2022 confirm this through review of GIS inventory, which include regeneration data.</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 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>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>Hunt leases are used only on the Chesapeake State Forest. The meat acquired is not commercially sold and is not commercially substantial.</p>
<p>Principle #6: Forest management shall conserve biological diversity and its associated values, water resources, soils, and unique and fragile ecosystems and landscapes, and, by so doing, maintain the ecological functions and the integrity of the forest.</p>		
<p>6.1. Assessments of environmental impacts shall be completed -- appropriate to the scale, intensity of forest management and the uniqueness of the affected resources -- and adequately integrated into management systems. Assessments shall include landscape level considerations as well as the impacts of on-site processing facilities. Environmental impacts shall be assessed prior to commencement of site-disturbing operations.</p>	<p>NE</p>	
<p>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.</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>Wildlife and Heritage biologists are important members of the Interdisciplinary Team (IDT) review process for each of the state forests. They provide critical information important to the 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 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. Interviews with Heritage staff during the 2022 audit confirmed monitoring and surveys are part of an overall program conducted by Natural Heritage that ensures prioritized and critical activities are completed as planned. The following surveys were reported for 2021:</p> <p>Chesapeake Forest Lands</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Surveyed for frosted elfin (<i>Callophrys irus</i>) and its host plants (<i>Lupinus perennis</i> and <i>Baptisia tinctoria</i>) at the Marshyhope Sand Ridge Complex. - Surveyed for King's hairstreak at the Wicomico Demo Forest/Campbell Complex and the CF Timmons-Donnaway Tract; DNR is currently writing up results for publication in a peer-reviewed journal. - Assisted with a prescribed burn at the Wicomico Demonstration Forest to benefit rare plant species. - Surveys for the following rare plant species: <i>Dichanthelium filiramum</i> (<i>D. aciculare</i>), <i>Desmodium strictum</i>, <i>D. fernaldii</i>, and <i>Aristida lanosa</i> at Marshyhope Sand Ridge Complex. - Inland dune plant diversity surveys at Marshyhope Sand Ridge Complex focusing on the genus <i>Dichanthelium</i> (witch grasses). - Pre and post burn photo-point monitoring of vegetation on inland dunes, Marshyhope Sand Ridge Complex (burn unit 2-7).
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Post-burn surveys in burn units 2-1, 2-3, 2-4, Marshyhope Sand Ridge Complex for response of species such as <i>Baptisia tinctoria</i> (host plant for Frosted elfin). - <i>Lupinus perennis</i> monitoring and habitat management, Marshyhope Sand Ridge Complex - Invasive species monitoring and herbicide treatments of Japanese knotweed and Japanese stiltgrass along firebreaks in area 2, Marshyhope Sand Ridge Complex. - Invasive species monitoring and herbicide treatments of Wavyleaf basketgrass, Phragmites, Lespedeza Autumn olive, Japanese stiltgrass, and Asiatic carpetgrass at Brookview Ponds. - Monitoring of <i>Minuartia caroliniana</i> at Campbell Complex. - Post-burn monitoring of <i>Platanthera blephariglottis</i> and census of <i>Asclepias rubra</i> at Powell Road Wetlands. - Field trip destinations for the <i>Desmodium</i> workshop in September. - Surveys, habitat management, and conservation planning for the globally rare <i>Agalinis skinneriana</i> at Brookview Ponds. <p>Pocomoke State Forest</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Surveyed for frosted elfin (<i>Callophrys irus</i>) and its host plants (<i>Lupinus perennis</i> and <i>Baptisia tinctoria</i>) at the Furnace Tract; including post-burn monitoring and vegetation monitoring via transects. - Surveyed for King’s hairstreak and other Lycaenidae at the Foster Tract. - Surveyed all native bees at Furnace and Foster Tracts. - Assisted with prescribed burns at the Furnace Tract and herbicide treatments/mechanical clearing at the Furnace and Foster Tracts to benefit the species listed above. - Installed a temporary electric fence at the Furnace Tract to protect RTE species listed above. - Gave a short field presentation for the State Board of Public Works at the PSF Furnace Tract on Frosted elfin, lupine, and pollinator management. - General inland dune plant diversity surveys focusing on the genus <i>Dichanthelium</i>; post-burn surveys for <i>Digitaria villosa</i>, and monitoring of <i>Cyperus plukenetii</i>. - Surveys and monitoring of <i>Asclepias rubra</i>. - Photo-point monitoring, habitat management at Dividing Creek Ponds, herbicide treatment of 500 trees of gum/maple around wetland basin. - Permanent photo-point monitoring of vegetation at Furnace Dunes (burn units G, H).
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Monitoring and habitat management of small <i>Lupinus perennis</i> population at Furnace Dunes unit H. - General post-burn assessment and response of species such as <i>Baptisia tinctoria</i> at Wango Pines. - Surveys and seed collection of <i>Cyperus plukenetii</i>, and surveys for <i>Digitaria villosa</i>, <i>Desmodium strictum</i>, and <i>Tephrosia spicata</i> at Bird Hill Road. - Community observation plot within a species-diverse inland dune grassland at Bird Hill Road. <p>Green Ridge State Forest</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Surveys and monitoring for rare plant species: <i>Cypripedium parviflorum</i> var. <i>pubescens</i>, several species of <i>Crateagus</i>, <i>Prunus allegheniensis</i>, <i>Arctostaphylos uva-ursi</i>, <i>Liparis liliifolia</i>, <i>Trifolium virginicum</i>, <i>Zanthoxylum americanum</i>, and <i>Polygala senega</i>. - Surveyed all native bee and butterfly species (including a new occurrence for Leonard’s skipper, <i>Hesperia leonardus</i>), with emphasis on RTE species in Town Creek area. - Continued to work with Land Manager on the pollinator field management to benefit the insect taxa listed above. - Prepared for regional grizzled skipper (<i>Pyrgus centaureae wyandot</i>) survey project by mapping potential survey sites (south facing slopes, openings, associated species, etc.); field surveys will begin in April 2022. - Monitored winter hibernacula bat populations at Stickpile, Kessler, and Indigo Tunnels, all that while technically are located in the C&O Canal National Historic Park, these sites are embedded within Green Ridge State Forest which is summer range for many if not most of the inhabitants. - Continued freshwater mussel augmentation/monitoring project on Town Creek with Maryland Biological Stream Survey, including several parcels on Green Ridge State Forest. <p>Savage River State Forest</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Surveyed for frosted elfin (<i>Callophrys irus</i>) and discussed potential management strategies at Russel Rd. - Surveyed for West Virginia White (<i>Pieris virginiensis</i>) along the Savage River. - Monitored Allegheny woodrat population at High Rock. - Surveyed bat population at High Rock and Meadow Mt. powerline using stationary acoustic detectors. - A floristic inventory along the upper Savage River documented new populations of several RTE plants, including American yew (<i>Taxus canadensis</i>), filmy angelica (<i>Angelica triquinata</i>), rose twisted stalk (<i>Streptopus roseus</i>),
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		<p>and Northern beech fern (<i>Phegopteris connectilis</i>) and Allegheny vine (<i>Adlumia fungosa</i>).</p> <p>Potomac-Garrett State Forest</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Monitored bat box at Backbone Mountain using visual exit and acoustic techniques.
<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. Conservation zones and/or protected areas 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. 2022 reviewed a newly established HCVF area for globally rare butterfly (Frosted Elfin) on recently acquired parcel, see Site notes. Heritage Service has been conducting population surveys and working with wildlife service for habitat management (mowing, burning, etc.).</p> <p>(CFL/PSF) Multiple thinnings; buffers were flagged around known ESA/RTE zones, potential habitats (i.e., vernal pools) were also buffered. All activities in or near protected areas were authorized and approved by Heritage for improving habitat.</p> <p>(PGSF) Timber harvests regularly occur near HCVF and all appropriate BMPs and harvest guidelines are diligently implemented to ensure that the elements of the protected areas are not affected in any way. Consultation with other agencies concerning established HCVF boundaries is sought out to further clarify any discrepancies.</p> <p>(SRSF) 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 DNR avoids any overlap into the special management zone. All sale areas 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. If there is any discrepancy in the possible impact to and HCVF site DNR commonly consults with other agencies before anything is implemented on the ground.</p> <p>Statewide Maryland DNR have listed species of concern. 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. The number and extent of ESAs is evidence of a well-established RTE protection program. Individual Annual Work Plans (AWPs) and the management recommendations for each state forest; all</p>

		<p>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. 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. 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>
<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 2022 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&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 to determine the level and patterns of genetic diversity of species across the US and Canada. 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</p>

		<p>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 Round leaved orchid (<i>Platanthera orbiculata</i>) and Pink Lady’s Slipper (<i>Cypripedium acaule</i>).</p> <p>Eastern Shore: W48 – Peterson Farm final harvest; approved through the review process</p>
<p>6.3. Ecological functions and values shall be maintained intact, enhanced, or restored, including: a) Forest regeneration and succession. b) Genetic, species, and ecosystem diversity. c) Natural cycles that affect the productivity of the forest ecosystem.</p>	<p>C</p>	
<p>6.3.a. Landscape-scale indicators</p>	<p>C</p>	
<p>6.3.a.1 The forest owner or manager maintains, enhances, and/or restores under-represented <i>successional</i> stages in the FMU that would naturally occur on the types of sites found on the FMU. Where old growth of different community types that would naturally occur on the forest are under-represented in the landscape relative to natural conditions, a portion of the forest is managed to enhance and/or restore old growth characteristics.</p>	<p>C</p>	<p>FME reported the following: (CFL/PSF) Meetings have been scheduled with the Heritage Service to formulate a restoration plan for Atlantic White Cedar. (GRSF) Early Successional habitat is slightly less represented across the forest due to large areas of Wildlands, etc. where no harvesting occurs, and more mature forest exists. To compensate for this there are several Early Successional Wildlife Habitat Areas throughout the forest where special management practices are carried out to maintain early succession for extended periods of time. Timber harvests also provide early succession for a limited period. (PGSF) Regeneration harvests contribute to the percentage of early successional habitat found throughout the forest in the short term. Old growth areas and OGEMAs have been established to protect/expand this stage of forest succession. Integrated pest management regimes have been established to protect native conifers from non-native invasive threats. Overall, intermediate timber harvests contribute to maintaining and enhancing native species by reducing competition, enhancing vigor and growth, while allowing for regeneration to be established that will occupy the future stand and ensuring the continued presence of the species on the landscape. Wildlife and Heritage Service planted and maintained 7.6 acres of early successional habitat in the form of clover fields. (SRSF) Old Growth and OGEMA areas have been established to maintain and expand area dedicated to the later stages of forest</p>

		<p>succession. DNR have partnered with The Nature Conservancy in their "Old Growth Ecosystem Enhancement" project within the dedicated OGEMA area of the state forest. DNR hardwood regeneration harvests increase the early successional habitat area maintained across the state forest. Wildlife and Heritage personnel also work with us to plant some early successional habitat sites within some of the open areas located across the forest. DNR timber sale program strives to enhance the composition and structure of DNR forest stands and promote desirable species regeneration to occupy the site in the future.</p>
<p>6.3.a.2 When a <i>rare ecological community</i> 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, <i>conservation zones</i> and/or <i>protected areas</i> 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 <i>Type 1</i> and <i>Type 2 old growth</i>. 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>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,</p>	<p>C</p>	<p>FME staff reported that there have been no harvests or other activities that have significantly affected old growth stands. (SRSF) No harvests have been implemented in or near DNR established old growth areas. DNR staff are currently working with The Nature Conservancy on an "Old Growth Ecosystem Enhancement" project located within the OGEMA area of the state forest. TNC is attempting to accelerate old growth characteristics within a young (80–100-year-old) stand through stand enhancement practices. The project does not involve the harvest of any trees, but they have girdled some standing trees to enhance canopy gaps and stand structure.</p>

<p>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"> 1. Old growth forests comprise a significant portion of the tribal ownership. 2. A history of forest stewardship by the tribe exists. 3. High Conservation Value Forest attributes are maintained. 4. Old-growth structures are maintained. 5. Conservation zones representative of old growth stands are established. 6. Landscape level considerations are addressed. 7. Rare species are protected. 		
<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>	C	<p>For the 2022 audit DNR reported: (CFL/PSF) A quail management public private partnership was formed, which resulted in a heavy thinning and prescribe burn regime on the Kings Misfortune tract. (GRSF) Activities in the Early Successional Habitat Areas in the past year include annual mowing. (PGSF) 58-acre hardwood regeneration harvest provides a flush of new growth that benefits a broad range of wildlife species. (SRSF) DNR works with wildlife personnel on an annual basis to plant cover crops and food sources for wildlife species in some of the open areas and agriculture fields within the state forest. DNR has 8-10 areas which are planted annually with some combination of warm season grass, corn, sorghum, brassicas, clover, sunflowers, millet, chicory, etc. Some of these areas are also left fallow and then strip mowed for early successional habitats.</p>
<p>6.3.c Management maintains, enhances and/or restores the plant and wildlife habitat of Riparian Management Zones (RMZs) to provide:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) habitat for aquatic species that breed in surrounding uplands; b) habitat for predominantly terrestrial species that breed in adjacent aquatic habitats; 	C	<p>Watershed protection/improvement is addressed throughout each of the state forests AWP through forest harvest planning and review to implementation and including specific projects to improve and protect water resources.</p> <p>(CFL/PSF) Thinnings: D11 – Harper, W04 – Hodgson #2, W19 – King’s Misfortune, W34 –Hodson, W46 – Wicomico Demo</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> c) habitat for species that use riparian areas for feeding, cover, and travel; d) habitat for plant species associated with riparian areas; and, e) stream shading and inputs of wood and leaf litter into the adjacent aquatic ecosystem. 		<p>Forest, WR24 – Cox Farm, WR25 – Creek, WR32 – Pepperfield, P02 – Nazareth Church (SRSF) Timber sale SR-01-21 bordered on an unnamed tributary to Bear Creek along the eastern sale boundary. A 50-foot no cut buffer was established along the stream and excluded from the sale. Timber sale SR-06-21 bordered an unnamed tributary to Bear Creek along the southern sale boundary. A 50-foot no cut buffer was established along the stream and excluded from the sale. No timber sales within the last year required stream crossings or permits.</p>
<p>Stand-scale Indicators 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, loblolly pine is maintained 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 prior year 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 of the eastern state forests, 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-local sources. Native species suited to the site are normally selected for regeneration.</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>(CFL/PSF) Native seed source, grown in State of Maryland operated nursery (GRSF) Southern States Coop (Cumberland, MD)</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:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) large live trees, live trees with decay or declining health, snags, and well-distributed coarse down and dead woody material. Legacy trees where present are not harvested; and b) vertical and horizontal complexity. 	<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 & 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>Trees selected for retention are generally representative of the dominant species found on the site.</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"> • 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. • PGSF - 73 acres of hardwood regeneration and 123 acres of planned thinnings. There were no issues with meeting retention objectives. • GRSF – 206.5 acres were harvested for regeneration on 314 managed acres. There were no problems meeting retention objectives. • CF/PSF - S55 – Marumsc, W48 – Peterson Farm, WR40 – Dunn Swamp (2), WR45 – Foster Estate <p>No difficulty in meeting retention objectives.</p>
<p>6.3.g.1 In the Southeast, Appalachia, Ozark-Ouachita, Mississippi Alluvial Valley, and Pacific Coast Regions, when even-aged systems are employed, and during 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>NORTHEAST REGION: 6.3.g.1.a Silvicultural systems favor natural regeneration where appropriate, and forest operations are planned to protect pre-established natural regeneration of desirable species.</p>	<p>C</p> <p>Important in consideration for this indicator is that MD DNR clearcuts are overall not large. Reported for 2022: Western state forests average for 10 regeneration harvests was 30 acres in size. In Eastern state forests and forest lands there 4 regeneration harvests which averaged 40 acres in size. The DNR adheres to their internal policy regarding variable retention whereby any harvest for areas greater than 20 acres shall have 5% green tree retention component. Abundant green tree retention was observed through the sites visited in 2022, with focus on hardwood retention for diversity and complexity development in largely even aged natural and planted loblolly pine stands.</p> <p>DNR reported 2022 the following even-aged harvests:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • (CFL/PSF) W14 - Helmick tract, Stand 7 – 43.2 acres, W44 – Warren-Dungan, Stand 10 – 20.0 acres. • No difficulty in meeting retention objectives. • (GRSF) All harvests were Variable Retention even aged type harvests. There were no issues meeting any of these objectives. • (PGSF) 58-acre hardwood regeneration harvest. There were no issues with meeting retention objectives. • (SRSF) 142.5 acres of even-aged harvest occurred in FY21 (119 hardwood shelterwood / thinning and 23.5 conifer

		<p>thinning). There were no issues meeting retention objectives.</p>
<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"> 1. Is developed by qualified experts in ecological and/or related fields (wildlife biology, hydrology, landscape ecology, forestry/silviculture). 2. Is based on the totality of the best available information including peer-reviewed science regarding natural disturbance regimes for the FMU. 3. Is spatially and temporally explicit and includes maps of proposed openings or areas. 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. 5. Is reviewed by independent experts in wildlife biology, hydrology, and landscape ecology, to confirm the preceding findings. 	<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 invasive species, including:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. a method to determine the extent of invasive species and the degree of threat to native species and ecosystems; 2. implementation of management practices that minimize the risk of invasive establishment, growth, and spread; 3. eradication or control of established invasive populations when feasible: and, 4. monitoring of control measures and management practices to assess their effectiveness in preventing or controlling invasive species. 	<p>C</p>	<p>(GRSF) Control of <i>Ailanthus altissima</i> occurred across the entire forest with special emphasis on areas scheduled to be harvested soon to prevent spread from seed once the canopy is removed and additional light is introduced to the forest floor.</p> <p>(PGSF) The State Forest staff has treated and/or is monitoring 35 plant colonies or sites including: 18 tree-of-heaven sites, 12 Japanese knotweed sites, 1 mile-a-minute weed site, 2 Japanese barberry sites, 1 Oriental bittersweet site and 1 Japanese spirea site.</p> <p>(SRSF) Invasives management over the past year has been primarily focused on spot treatments of know infestations which DNR believes it can eradicate. Most of this has been focused on small Japanese Knotweed and Mile-A-Minute infestations.</p> <p>Review of chemical records for PGSF, see Site notes, included treatment of invasives and site visits verified chemical treatment of invasives, for example, treatment of Phragmites for a HCV/RSA site visited in 2022.</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>Reported for 2022: (CFL/PSF) Prescribe burns on the Furnace tract & the Kings Misfortune tract. No wildfires occurred. (SRSF) DNR had one wildfire occur in FY21. 8 acres were involved and the origin was human-caused burning of refuse on the neighboring property.</p>

<p>6.4. Representative samples of existing ecosystems within the landscape shall be protected in their natural state and recorded on maps, appropriate to the scale and intensity of operations and the uniqueness of the affected resources.</p>	<p>NE</p>	
<p>6.5 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.</p>	<p>NE</p>	
<p>6.6. Management systems shall promote the development and adoption of environmentally friendly non-chemical methods of pest management and strive to avoid the use of chemical pesticides. World Health Organization Type 1A and 1B and chlorinated hydrocarbon pesticides; pesticides that are persistent, toxic or whose derivatives remain biologically active and accumulate in the food chain beyond their intended use; as well as any pesticides banned by international agreement, shall be prohibited. If chemicals are used, proper equipment and training shall be provided to minimize health and environmental risks.</p>	<p>NE</p>	
<p>6.7. Chemicals, containers, liquid and solid non-organic wastes including fuel and oil shall be disposed of in an environmentally appropriate manner at off-site locations.</p>	<p>NE</p>	
<p>6.8. Use of biological control agents shall be documented, minimized, monitored, and strictly controlled in accordance with national laws and internationally accepted scientific protocols. Use of genetically modified organisms shall be prohibited.</p>	<p>NE</p>	
<p>6.9. The use of exotic species shall be carefully controlled and actively monitored to avoid adverse ecological impacts.</p>	<p>C</p>	
<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>	<p>C</p>	<p>DNR 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>	<p>C</p>	<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. Where naturalized regeneration occurs, it is monitored.</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>	<p>C</p>	<p>See 6.9.a.</p>
<p>6.10. Forest conversion to plantations or non-forest land uses shall not occur, except in circumstances where conversion: a) Entails a very limited portion of the forest management unit; and b) Does not occur on High Conservation Value Forest areas; and c) Will enable clear, substantial, additional, secure, long-term conservation benefits across the forest management unit.</p>	<p>NE</p>	
<p>Principle #7: A management plan -- appropriate to the scale and intensity of the operations -- shall be written, implemented, and kept up to date. The long-term objectives of management, and the means of achieving them, shall be clearly stated.</p>		
<p>7.1. The management plan and supporting documents shall provide: 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. Description of silvicultural and/or other management system, based on the ecology of the forest in question and information gathered through resource inventories. d) Rationale for rate of annual harvest and species selection. e) Provisions for monitoring of forest growth and dynamics. f) Environmental safeguards based on environmental assessments. g) Plans for the identification and protection of rare, threatened and endangered species. c. Maps describing the forest resource base including protected areas, planned management activities and land ownership. d. Description and justification of harvesting techniques and equipment to be used.</p>	<p>NE</p>	
<p>7.2 The management plan shall be periodically revised to incorporate the results of monitoring or new scientific and technical information, as well as to respond to changing environmental, social and economic circumstances.</p>	<p>NE</p>	
<p>7.3 Forest workers shall receive adequate training and supervision to ensure proper implementation of the management plans.</p>	<p>NE</p>	
<p>7.4 While respecting the confidentiality of information, forest managers shall make publicly available a summary</p>	<p>NE</p>	

<p>of the primary elements of the management plan, including those listed in Criterion 7.1.</p>		
<p>Principle #8: Monitoring shall be conducted -- appropriate to the scale and intensity of forest management -- to assess the condition of the forest, yields of forest products, chain of custody, management activities and their social and environmental impacts. <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>8.1 The frequency and intensity of monitoring should be determined by the scale and intensity of forest management operations, as well as, the relative complexity and fragility of the affected environment. Monitoring procedures should be consistent and replicable over time to allow comparison of results and assessment of change.</p>	<p>C</p>	
<p>8.1.a Consistent with the scale and intensity of management, the forest owner or manager develops and consistently implements a regular, comprehensive, and replicable written monitoring protocol.</p>	<p>C</p>	<p>All monitoring occurs per established in SFMPs and AWP, and as according to MD DNR procedures and policies. Certain monitoring is required per legislation, such as for accounting purposes. Monitoring for certain activities is done through, or in concert with, other DNR programs such as Natural Heritage.</p>
<p>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.</p>	<p>C</p>	
<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>	<p>C</p>	<p>Such an inventory system is maintained through GIS which was reviewed with staff forester in 2022 at the CF Office.</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>	<p>C</p>	<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 timber sale contract database (area, acres, volumes, income tracking). These records are used to compare projected harvest to actual harvest. MD DNR provides an annual Timber Sale Summary. Harvest records for lump-sum, stumpage, and gatewood sales were provided. See 5.6.b for copies of volume reports and more detail.</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>	<p>C</p>	<p>1) RTE data and monitoring is accomplished through the ID team process and an established relationship with the MD Natural Heritage Program as confirmed through interviews with Natural Heritage Program staff. 2) Common and rare plant communities and habitats are monitored using SILVAH OAK inventory system. In addition, the Wildlife and Heritage Service, and Fresh Water Fisheries gather information on plant and animal populations.</p>

		<p>3) The <i>Early Detection and Rapid Response Plan</i> associated monitoring protocol led by DNR’s Heritage program to monitor invasive species. SILVAH OAK inventory system also includes documentation of the presence of invasive plants. In addition, it is clear from site observations and staff interviews that the DNR staff is well-trained and knowledgeable about this issue.</p> <p>4) Zones including protected HCVF, buffer zones, Wildlands, RSAs and Old Growth are monitored through stand level inventory (SILVAH OAK protocol).</p> <p>2019: FME reported the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GRSF — Woodcock singing ground survey, wood turtle and herpetology surveys, wild turkey poultry production, bear den reproduction surveys, bear bait surveys, nightjar survey, golden-winged warbler survey, camera trapping surveys for spotted skunk and Frostburg University study of black cohosh. • SRSF — Various research projects have been ongoing throughout the forest focusing on a plethora of plant and animal communities including northern long-eared bats, American chestnut, eastern red-backed salamanders, millipedes, golden-winged warblers, Allegheny wood rats and <i>Monarda didyma</i>. Projects to control the non-native invasive species garlic mustard and Japanese spirea were conducted in the Bear Pen Wildlands. Wildlife and Heritage Division of DNR have ongoing monitoring for black bears, golden eagles, striped skunks and Appalachian cottontails, Pennsylvania Natural Heritage Program at the Western Pennsylvania Conservancy observance of lichens and Frostburg State University study of black cohosh. • PGSF — DNR Wildlife and Heritage Program’s surveys for both New England Cottontail and Spotted Skunks, as well as annual Goshawk Nesting monitoring, Frostburg State University investigating various aspects of dragonfly ecology in high elevation wetlands and Frostburg State University study of black cohosh. • CF/PSF — Delmarva Fox Squirrel monitoring by the USFWS, bat monitoring by Salisbury University & plant community monitoring by DNR Wildlife & Heritage Unit.
<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"> 1) Rare, threatened and endangered species and/or their <i>habitats</i>; 2) Common and rare plant communities and/or habitat; 3) Location, presence and abundance of invasive species; 4) Condition of protected areas, set-asides and buffer zones; 5) High Conservation Value Forests (see Criterion 9.4). 	<p>C</p>	<p>In the eastern region, Parker Forestry and MD DNR foresters complete inspection forms on Chesapeake Forest 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. Inspection reports that were presented and reviewed for each of the sites selected for the candidate pool during the 2022 audit. The DNR also instituted an internal silvicultural audit system to examine the environmental and management impacts of silvicultural activities. The internal silvicultural audits were examined and checklists contain review of the elements in this indicator. <i>Internal Silvicultural Audit 2022</i>, and included the following schedule:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Green Ridge State Forest — March 29

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Potomac Garrett State Forest — March 30 ■ Savage River State Forest — March 31 ■ Chesapeake & Pocomoke Forests — April 5 <p>Logging contractors reported that MD DNR staff conduct site visits at least once per week during active harvests and often more frequently if there is rain activity. Timber Sale Inspection forms are maintained for these visits. This form is used for the final inspections as well and reviews of all completed inspections for sites visited reflect that eastern region monitoring is thorough and consistent.</p> <p>In a significant monitoring and revision to RSA's, the DNR finalized in March 2022, <i>Methodology for Evaluating Representative Sample Areas (RSA) for Naturally Occurring Ecosystems with the Region of Maryland State Forests</i>. This analysis was completed to update the 2012 one leveraging advances in GIS, data sharing, and new competencies and expertise in staff. The analysis used LANDFIRE Existing Vegetation Type (EVTs) data. Protected areas within the analytical landscape were identified using the Protected Areas Database of the United States (PAD-US 2.1). The boundaries of the analytical landscapes were revised to encompass a larger area that coincides with ecological subsection boundaries from the USDA Forest Service ECOMAP framework.</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>See 8.2.a-c, above for descriptions of site level inspections and inspection forms used in DNR process.</p> <p>Stakeholder comments from horse trail recreational user during the 2022 audit confirmed that DNR program tackles environmental damage quickly when notified and monitors for such damage.</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>Through the ID Team, Forest Advisory Committee and other cooperative processes, DNR conducts many socioeconomic analyses and monitoring activities through partnership with other departments within the DNR and other state or federal agencies.</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</p>	<p>C</p>	<p>MD DNR maintains a complaint log in each SF office as confirmed in CP Office in 2022 audit.</p>

<p>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>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.</p>
<p>8.2.d.4 Stakeholder responses to management activities are monitored and recorded as necessary.</p>	C	<p>The mechanisms for such responses are incorporated in several areas for the DNR. See 4.4.a, above for detailed description.</p>
<p>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).</p>	C	<p>FME reported that CF/PSF holds quarterly & biweekly meetings with the Contract Manager. All state forests have weekly BMP inspections of harvesting operations.</p> <p>Cost and revenue are 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.</p>
<p>8.2.e The forest owner or manager monitors the costs and revenues of management in order to assess productivity and efficiency.</p>	C	<p>2022 confirmed by interview that CF/PSF still holds quarterly & biweekly meetings with the Contract Manager. All state forests have weekly, if not more frequent, BMP inspections of harvesting operations. This was verified by review of BMP Inspection forms and interviews with staff and harvesters. 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.</p>
<p>8.3 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."</p>	C	<p>Timber sale contracts for each site described in section 2.1 (Site Notes) were reviewed for the entire pool of selected sites. (Note – the candidate pool included more sites than those inspected in the field). These include, for example, a description of the location of harvest and FM/COC code, the FSC claim ("FSC 100 %") and maps of the harvested stand(s). There is no risk of mixing certified and non-certified products prior to the point of sale because each State Forest where certified products are harvested is entirely certified. While small parcels are not included in the certified land base, the non-certified parcels are geographically separate from the certified parcels and these non-certified parcels do not include routine harvest of timber but instead may involve only occasional demonstration or salvage projects.</p>
<p>8.3.a When forest products are being sold as FSC-certified, the forest owner or manager has a system that prevents mixing of FSC-certified and non-certified forest products prior to the point of sale, with accompanying documentation to enable the tracing of the harvested</p>	C	<p>Timber sale contract copies are maintained and were reviewed for each site described in section 2.1 (Site Notes). Each contract includes for example a description of the location of harvest and the FM/COC code, the FSC claim ("FSC 100 %") and maps of the harvested stand(s). Gatewood sale documentation also includes delivery slips in the form of trip tickets and settlement sheets</p>

<p>material from each harvested product from its origin to the point of sale.</p>		<p>and each of these delivery documents also includes a description of the location of harvest and the FM/COC code and the FSC claim ("FSC 100 %").</p>
<p>8.3.b The forest owner or manager maintains documentation to enable the tracing of the harvested material from each harvested product from its origin to the point of sale.</p>	<p>C</p>	<p>See Appendix 6, Chain of Custody checklist.</p>
<p>8.4 The results of monitoring shall be incorporated into the implementation and revision of the management plan.</p>	<p>C</p>	
<p>8.4.a The forest owner or manager monitors and documents the degree to which the objectives stated in the management plan are being fulfilled, as well as significant deviations from the plan.</p>	<p>C</p>	<p>Regular management planning update processes under C7.2 are being used to ensure that monitoring information is being incorporated into the plans. Monitoring results of ongoing projects are frequently reported on in AWP's, including on whether or not project objectives are being met. Monitoring reports are also published on the MD DNR website. BMP monitoring and forest inventory updates occur on schedule every few years so that achievement of forest management objectives can be assessed.</p>
<p>8.4.b Where monitoring indicates that management objectives and guidelines, including those necessary for conformance with this Standard, are not being met or if changing conditions indicate that a change in management strategy is necessary, the management plan, operational plans, and/or other plan implementation measures are revised to ensure the objectives and guidelines will be met. If monitoring shows that the management objectives and guidelines themselves are not sufficient to ensure conformance with this Standard, then the objectives and guidelines are modified.</p>	<p>C</p>	<p>Regular management planning update processes under C7.2 are used to ensure that monitoring information is being incorporated into the plans. SFMP's are currently on a 10-year cycle for updating that coincides with forest inventory and resources assessment reviews. All SFMP's are up to date. AWP's are developed annually and can more readily incorporate experience from prior years into the planning process. Updates in 2020 and 2021 were reviewed for the CF-SFMP and PSF-SPMP.</p>
<p>8.5 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.</p>	<p>C</p>	
<p>8.5.a While protecting landowner confidentiality, either full monitoring results or an up-to-date summary of the most recent monitoring information is maintained, covering the Indicators listed in Criterion 8.2, and is available to the public, free or at a nominal price, upon request.</p>	<p>C</p>	<p>A complete forest re-inventory was conducted, for the Western State Forests and the Eastern state forests (Pocomoke State Forest and Chesapeake Forest). Results are found in the Sustainable Forest Management Plan's available online on the relevant state forest webpages. Example – CSF - http://dnr.maryland.gov/forests/Pages/chesapeakeforestlands.aspx. (Last accessed 5/4/22).</p>
<p>Principle #9: Management activities in high conservation value forests shall maintain or enhance the attributes which define such forests. Decisions regarding high conservation value forests shall always be considered in the context of a precautionary approach.</p>		

High Conservation Value Forests are those that possess one or more of the following attributes:

- 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) Forest areas that are in or contain rare, threatened or endangered ecosystems**
- c) Forest areas that provide basic services of nature in critical situations (e.g., watershed protection, erosion control)**
- 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).**

Examples of forest areas that *may have* high conservation value attributes include, but are not limited to:

Central Hardwoods:

- Old growth – (see Glossary) (a)
- Old forests/mixed age stands that include trees >160 years old (a)
- Municipal watersheds –headwaters, reservoirs (c)
- Rare, Threatened, and Endangered (RTE) ecosystems, as defined by GAP analysis, Natural Heritage Inventory, and/or the World Wildlife Fund's Forest Communities of Highest Conservation Concern, and/or Great Lakes Assessment (b)
- Intact forest blocks in an agriculturally dominated landscape (refugia) (a)
- Intact forests >1000 ac (valuable to interior forest species) (a)
- Protected caves (a, b, or d)
- Savannas (a, b, c, or d)
- Glades (a, b, or d)
- Barrens (a, b, or d)
- Prairie remnants (a, b, or d)

North Woods/Lake States:

- Old growth – (see Glossary) (a)
- Old forests/mixed age stands that include trees >120 years old (a)
- Blocks of contiguous forest, > 500 ac, which host RTEs (b)
- Oak savannas (b)
- Hemlock-dominated forests (b)
- Pine stands of natural origin (b)
- Contiguous blocks, >500 ac, of late successional species, that are managed to create old growth (a)
- Fens, particularly calcareous fens (c)
- Other non-forest communities, e.g., barrens, prairies, distinctive geological land forms, vernal pools (b or c)
- Other sites as defined by GAP analysis, Natural Heritage Inventory, and/or the World Wildlife Fund's Forest Communities of Highest Conservation Concern (b)

Note: In the Lake States-Central Hardwoods region, old growth (see Glossary) is both rare and invariably an HCVF.

In the Lake States-Central Hardwoods region, cutting timber is not permitted in old-growth stands or forests.

Note: Old forests (see Glossary) may or may not be designated HCVFs. They are managed to maintain or recruit: (1) the existing abundance of old trees and (2) the landscape- and stand-level structures of old-growth forests, consistent with the composition and structures produced by natural processes.

Old forests that either have or are developing old-growth attributes, but which have been previously harvested, may be designated HCVFs and may be harvested under special plans that account for the ecological attributes that make it an HCVF.

Forest management maintains a mix of sub-climax and climax old-forest conditions in the landscape.

<p>9.1 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.</p>	<p>NE</p>	
<p>9.2 The consultative portion of the certification process must place emphasis on the identified conservation attributes, and options for the maintenance thereof.</p>	<p>NE</p>	
<p>9.3 The management plan shall include and implement specific measures that ensure the maintenance and/or enhancement of the applicable conservation attributes consistent with the precautionary approach. These measures shall be specifically included in the publicly available management plan summary.</p>	<p>NE</p>	
<p>9.4 Annual monitoring shall be conducted to assess the effectiveness of the measures employed to maintain or enhance the applicable conservation attributes.</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"> • Stand level inventory of the forest using SILVAH OAK methodology. • Heritage Ecologist’s formal and informal surveys and research of ESA’s and other designated areas. <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&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>
<p>Principle #10: Plantations shall be planned and managed in accordance with Principles and Criteria 1-9, and Principle 10 and its Criteria. While plantations can provide an array of social and economic benefits, and can contribute to satisfying the world's</p>		

needs for forest products, they should complement the management of, reduce pressures on, and promote the restoration and conservation of natural forests.

Given current management practices and desired future conditions described in SFMPs, as well as observation of implementation of management state forestlands are managed under a semi-natural management regime. Retention and site-preparation practices in the Eastern Region are at higher levels than in comparable semi-natural-managed stands of the US Southeast. Moreover, rotations of the Southern Yellow Pine species are in most cases more than double (60-80 years) those of typical southern plantation management. Areas where exotic species (e.g., *Picea abies*) and native species have been planted offsite (e.g., *Pinus resinosa*) are being managed to restore natural species composition or mixed conifer-hardwood semi-natural forests. As confirmed in field observation of species composition and management practices and review of the management plan, the management system consists of natural/semi-natural forest management. Thus, P10 does not apply.

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.

REQUIREMENT	C/NC/NA
1. Quality Management	
1.1 The FME shall appoint a management representative as having overall responsibility and authority for the organization’s compliance with all applicable requirements of this standard.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> NC
Evidence 1.1: As confirmed through review of COC procedures, interviews with Jack Perdue and field staff, Jack Perdue has been appointed as the Chain of Custody Administrator with responsibility and authority for this FME’s conformance with the requirements of this standard.	
1.2 A system shall be implemented to track and trace all products that are sold with an FSC Claim from the <i>forest of origin</i> to the <i>forest gate(s)</i> . When legally required, and for group and multiple FMU certificates, this system shall also be documented. <i>The forest of origin should be the smallest reportable manageable unit, such as a tax parcel. It shall never be larger than a Forest Management Unit (FMU).</i> <i>The forest gate is defined as the point where the change in ownership of the certified-forest product occurs.</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> NC <input type="checkbox"/> NA, FME does not sell any products with an FSC claim
Evidence 1.2: As confirmed in interviews with Jack Perdue and review of all contract documents for 100% of the sites listed in the Site Notes.	
1.3 The FME shall maintain complete records of all FSC-related COC activities, including sales and training, for at least 5 years.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> NC
Evidence 1.3: This FME’s sale records were presented and reviewed and appear to be complete for at least the past 5 years. COC procedures and training records have been created, maintained and presented. Training records for staff foresters reviewed in CP Office 2022.	
1.4 The FME shall define its <i>forest gate(s)</i> (check all that apply):	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> NC
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Stump <i>Stumpage sale or sales of standing timber; transfer of ownership of certified-forest product occurs upon harvest.</i>	
<input type="checkbox"/> On-site concentration yard <i>Transfer of ownership of certified-product occurs at concentration yard under control of FME.</i>	
<input type="checkbox"/> Off-site Mill/ Log Yard/ Port	

<p><i>Transfer of ownership occurs when certified-product is unloaded or paid for at purchaser’s facility or a facility under the purchaser’s control.</i></p>	
<p><input type="checkbox"/> Auction house/ Brokerage <i>Transfer of ownership occurs at a government-run or private auction house/ brokerage.</i></p>	
<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Lump-sum sale/ Per Unit/ Pre-Paid Agreement <i>A timber sale in which the buyer and seller agree on a total price for marked standing trees or for trees within a defined area before the wood is removed — the timber is usually paid for <u>before</u> harvesting begins. Similar to a per-unit sale.</i></p>	
<p><input type="checkbox"/> Log landing <i>Transfer of ownership of certified-product occurs at landing/yarding areas.</i></p>	
<p><input type="checkbox"/> Other (Please describe):</p>	
<p>1.5 The FME shall have sufficient control over its <i>forest gate(s)</i> to ensure that there is no risk of mixing of FSC-certified forest products covered by the scope of the FM/COC certificate with forest products from outside of the scope prior to the transfer of ownership.</p>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> NC <input type="checkbox"/> NA, FME does not sell any products with an FSC claim</p>
<p>1.6 The FME and its contractors shall not process FSC-certified material prior to transfer of ownership at the <i>forest gate(s)</i> without conforming to applicable chain of custody requirements. <i>NOTE: This does not apply to log cutting or de-barking units, small portable sawmills, on-site processing of chips/biomass or primary processing of Non-Timber Forest Products (NTFPs) under the FME’s control (e.g., latex, rattan, maple syrup, etc.) originating from the FMU under evaluation.</i></p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> NC <input type="checkbox"/> NA</p>
<p>and lump sum, pre-paid agreements and gate wood. The gate wood sales include tree cutting and log hauling and are in conformance to the COC requirements.</p>	
<p>1.7 The FME has supported transaction verification conducted by SCS and Assurance Services International (ASI) by providing samples of FSC transaction data as requested by SCS. <i>NOTE: Pricing information is not within the scope of transaction verification data disclosure.</i></p>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> NC <input type="checkbox"/> NA, no verification requested</p>
<p>1.8 The FME shall support fiber testing by surrendering samples and specimens of materials and information about species composition and the location where the sample originated for verification, as requested by its certification body, ASI or FSC.</p>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> NC <input type="checkbox"/> NA, no verification requested</p>
<p>2. Product Control, Sales and Delivery</p>	

<p>2.1. Products from the certified forest area shall be identifiable as certified at the <i>forest gate(s)</i>.</p>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> NC <input type="checkbox"/> NA, FME does not sell any products with an FSC claim</p>
<p>Evidence 2.1: A variety of contracts were presented and reviewed. These documents include the identification of these products as certified (FSC 100%). Timber sale contracts for 100% of the sites listed in Site Notes were reviewed.</p>	
<p>2.2 Information about all products sold shall be compiled and documented for all FMUs in the scope of certification, including: 1) Common and scientific species name; 2) Product name or description; 3) Volume (or quantity) of product; 4) Information to trace the material to the source of origin harvest block; 5) Harvest date; 6) If basic processing activities take place in the forest, the date and volume/quantity produced; and 7) Whether or not the material was sold with an FSC Claim.</p>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> NC</p>
<p>Evidence 2.2: See evidence cited above. Contracts, inspection forms and other sale documents were reviewed for all sites listed in Site Notes.</p>	
<p>2.3. The FME shall ensure that all sales documents issued for outputs sold with FSC claims include the following information: a) name and contact details of the FME; b) information to identify the customer, such as their name and address; c) date when the document was issued; d) product name or description, including common and scientific species name(s); e) quantity of products sold; f) the FME’s FSC Forest Management (FM/COC) or FSC Controlled Wood (CW/FM) code; g) clear indication of the FSC claim for each product item or the total products as follows: i. the claim “FSC 100%” for products from FSC 100% product groups; or ii. the claim “FSC Controlled Wood” for products from FSC Controlled Wood product groups.</p>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> NC <input type="checkbox"/> NA, FME does not sell any products with an FSC claim</p>
<p>2.4 If the sales documentation issued by the FME is not included with the shipment of the product and this information is relevant for the customer to identify the product as being FSC certified, the related delivery documentation has included the same information as required in indicator 2.3 and a reference linking it to the sales documentation. Note: 2.3 and 2.4 are based on FSC-STD-40-004 V3-0 Clauses 5.1 and 5.3</p>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> NC <input type="checkbox"/> NA, delivery documentation not required or FME is not responsible for issuing delivery documentation <input type="checkbox"/> NA, FME does not sell any products with an FSC claim</p>
<p>Evidence 2.3/2.4: A variety of timber sale contracts, trip tickets, wood settlement sheets and a timber harvest summary spreadsheet, copies in 5.6 in forest conformity table above, were reviewed and include the volume of products sold. A variety of timber sale contracts, trip tickets and wood settlement sheets were presented and reviewed for each site described in section 2.1 (Site Notes). Contracts are created on the basis of an existing template that includes each of the required items a-g. Specifically, this FME’s FSC Forest Management (FM/COC) code and a clear indication of the FSC claim (FSC 100%) are included in this template and recent contracts. Separate transport documents (item h) are used in eastern shore State</p>	

Forest contracts only and include sale name to link the trip ticket to the sale document (timber sale contract). Gate wood documents and wood settlement sheets for all completed sales were reviewed, see section 2.1.	
2.5 If the FME is unable to include the FSC claim and/or certificate code in sales or delivery documents, the required information has been provided to the customer through supplementary documentation (e.g. supplementary letters). In this case, the FME has obtained permission from SCS to implement supplementary documentation in accordance with the following criteria: a. there shall exist clear information linking the supplementary documentation to the sales or delivery documents; b. there is no risk that the customer will misinterpret which products are or are not FSC certified in the supplementary documentation; and c. where the sales documents contain multiple products with different FSC claims, each product shall be cross-referenced to the associated FSC claim provided in the supplementary documentation.	<input type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> NC <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NA, all information included per 2.3 and/or 2.4
Evidence 2.5: When this FME sells certified materials as stumpage and lump sum, pre-paid agreements, the trees are paid for before the trees are harvested and the purchaser is responsible for shipping documents. When the DNR sells certified materials as gate wood, the sales document (contract) is not included with the shipment of this product (eastern shore State Forest contracts review for all sites). In these cases, the shipping documents include each of the requirements (a-h) of section 2.3.	
2.6 The FME may identify products exclusively made of input materials from small or community producers by adding the following claim to sales documents: "From small or community forest producers." This claim can be passed on along the supply chain by certificate holders. <i>A forest management unit (FMU) or group of FMUs that meet(s) the small and low-intensity managed forest eligibility criteria (FSC-STD-1-003a) and addenda. A community FMU must comply with the tenure and management criteria defined in FSC-STD-40-004.</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> NC <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NA, not a small or community producer; or does not wish to pass along this claim
Evidence 2.6: See evidence cited above.	
3. Labeling and Promotion	
<input type="checkbox"/> NA – FME does not use/ intend to use trademarks and no trademark uses were detected during the audit.	
<input type="checkbox"/> NA – CW/FM certificates are not allowed to use FSC trademarks and no trademark uses were detected during the audit (<i>Note: it is a Major nonconformity to 3.1 if CW/FM certificates are found to be using trademarks</i>).	
3.1 The FME shall adhere to relevant trademark use requirements of FSC-STD-50-001 described in the <i>SCS Trademark Annex for FMEs</i> .	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> NC
Evidence 3.1: Refer to evidence and findings cited in applicable trademark checklist(s) cited below. <input type="checkbox"/> <i>FSC trademark use was detected for a CW/FM certificate as described in Major CAR for 3.1, FSC-STD-30-010, Annex 3, 1.2, and FSC-STD-50-001, 2.1e and 11.2:</i> See Trademark Checklist in this Audit report.	
4. Outsourcing	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NA – FME does not outsource any COC-related activities, as confirmed via interviews, sales documentation, and field observation.	
<input type="checkbox"/> NA – FME outsources low-risk activities such as transport and harvesting, as confirmed via interviews, sales documentation, and field observation.	
4.1 The FME shall provide the names and contact details of all outsourced service providers.	<input type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> NC <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NA
4.2 The FME shall have a control system for the outsourced process and agreement which ensures that:	<input type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> NC

a) The material used for the production of FSC-certified material is traceable and not mixed with any other material prior to the point of transfer of legal ownership; b) The outsourcer keeps records of FSC-certified material covered under the outsourcing agreement; c) The FME issues the final invoice for the processed or produced FSC-certified material following outsourcing; d) The outsourcer only uses FSC trademarks on products covered by the scope of the outsourcing agreement and not for promotional use; e) The outsourcer does not further outsource the material; and f) The outsourcer accepts the right of the certificate body to audit them.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NA
Evidence 4.1/4.2: Logging and transportation of forest products are considered low risk and therefore these indicators are NA.	
5. Training and/or Communication Strategies/	
5.1 All relevant FME staff and outsourcers shall be trained in the FME’s COC control system commensurate with the scale and intensity of operations and shall demonstrate competence in implementing the FME’s COC control system.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> NC
5.2 The FME shall maintain up-to-date records of its COC training and/or communications program, such as a list of trained employees, completed COC trainings or communications, the intended frequency of COC training (e.g., training plan), and related program materials (e.g., presentations, memos, contracts, employee handbooks, etc.).	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> NC
Evidence 5.1/5.2: FME staff members are knowledgeable of the COC control system and standard. A COC plan has been established, implemented, presented and reviewed. A COC communications program and records of training were reviewed.	

Appendix 7 – Trademark Standard Conformance Table

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

1. General Requirements for Use of the FSC Trademarks (FSC “checkmark and tree” logo, initials “FSC,” and/or name “Forest Stewardship Council”)		
Trademark uses reviewed:		
Trademark Application (on-product/promotional)	Case Approval #, or Email (include approver name & date), or other appropriate documentation	Are all elements correct? (e.g., trademark symbol, color scheme, size, etc.) If not, describe in Nonconformities below.
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</i>		

<p><i>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></p>	
<p>1.2 Trademark License Agreement and valid certificate In order to use these FSC trademarks, the FME shall have a valid FSC trademark license agreement and hold a valid certificate. <i>Note: Consultations for certification Organizations applying for forest management certification or conducting activities related to the implementation of controlled wood requirements, may refer to FSC by name and initials for stakeholder consultation.</i></p>	Maintained on file by SCS Main Office
<p>Evidence 1.2: Maintained on file by SCS Main Office.</p>	
<p>1.6 Product Group List The products intended to be labeled or promoted as FSC certified have been included in the organization’s certified product group list.</p>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> NC <input type="checkbox"/> C w/ OBS
<p>Evidence 1.6: <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, https://dnr.maryland.gov/forests/Pages/landplanning/bmp.aspx 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.</p>	
<p>1.3 Trademark License Code The FSC trademark license code assigned by FSC to the organization accompanies any use of the FSC trademarks. It is sufficient to show the code once per product or promotional material.</p>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> NC <input type="checkbox"/> C w/ OBS
<p>1.4 Trademark Symbol The FSC logo and the ‘Forests For All Forever’ marks shall include the trademark symbol ® in the upper right corner when used on products or materials to be distributed in a country where the relevant trademark is registered. For use in a country where the trademark is not yet registered, use of the symbol ™ is recommended. The Trademark Registration List document is available in the FSC trade-mark portal and marketing toolkit. The symbol ® shall also be added to ‘FSC’ and ‘Forest Steward-ship Council’ at the first or most prominent use in any text; one use per material is sufficient (e.g. website or brochure). <i>NOTE: The use of the trademark symbol is not required for FSC claims in sales and delivery documents, or for the disclaimer statement specified in requirement 6.2.</i></p>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> NC <input type="checkbox"/> C w/ OBS <input type="checkbox"/> NA, one or more of noted exceptions applies
<p>2.1 Restrictions on using FSC trademarks The organization has not used the FSC trademarks in the following ways: a) in a way that could cause confusion, misinterpretation, or loss of credibility to the FSC certification scheme; b) in a way that implies that FSC endorses, participates in, or is responsible for activities performed by the organization, outside the scope of certification; c) to promote product quality aspects not covered by FSC certification; d) in product brand or company names, such as ‘FSC Golden Timber’ or website domain names; e) in connection with FSC controlled wood or controlled material – they shall not be used for labelling products or in any promotion of sales or sourcing of controlled material or FSC controlled wood; the initials FSC shall only be used to pass on FSC controlled wood claims in sales and de-livery documentation, in conformity with FSC chain of custody requirements.</p>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> NC <input type="checkbox"/> C w/ OBS

<p>2.2 Translations 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>	<input type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> NC <input type="checkbox"/> C w/ OBS <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NA, no translations
<p>Sections 8 and 9 Graphic Rules The organization has only used FSC logos that conform to the standard requirements governing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • color and font (8.1-8.3); • format and size (8.4-8.9); • label placement (8.10); and • ‘Forests For All Forever’ marks (9.1-9.7). 	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> NC <input type="checkbox"/> C w/ OBS
<p>1.5 Trademark Use Approval The organization has submitted all intended uses of the FSC trademarks to SCS for approval. OR The organization has an approved trademark use management system in place. (If the organization has a trademark use management system, complete Annex A.)</p>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> NC <input type="checkbox"/> C w/ OBS
<p>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.</p>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> NC <input type="checkbox"/> C w/ OBS <input type="checkbox"/> NA, trademarks no used for segregation marks

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

<p>3.4 FSC Trademark Portal The organization has only used artwork provided by the trademark portal, or other-wise issued and approved by the certification body or FSC.</p>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> NC <input type="checkbox"/> C w/ OBS
<p>3.7 Product types 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>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> NC <input type="checkbox"/> C w/ OBS

<p>4.1 Partial Claims 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</p>
<p>4.2 Visibility of Label 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>4.3 Other Forestry Certification Scheme Logos When a product is FSC labelled, marks of other forest certification schemes shall not be used on the same product. 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>4.4 Different Label Types 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>4.5 If the FSC label is visible 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 NOT visible 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>4.7 Labeling semi-finished products 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>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> NC <input type="checkbox"/> C w/ OBS <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NA, not labeling semi-finished products</p>
<p>4.8 Labeling arrangements between organizations 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: 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</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> NC <input type="checkbox"/> C w/ OBS <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NA, no labeling arrangement</p>

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.	

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

<p>6.1 Catalogues, Brochures, and Websites When the FSC trademarks have been used in catalogues, brochures, or websites, the following requirements apply:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is sufficient to present the promotional elements only once in catalogues, brochures, websites, etc. If both FSC-certified and uncertified products are listed then a text such as “Look for DNR FSC®-certified products” shall be used next to the promotional elements and the FSC-certified products shall be clearly identified. If some or all of the products are available as FSC certified on request only, this is be clearly stated. 	<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>6.2 Sales and Delivery Documents 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>6.3 Promotional Items 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>6.5 Trade Fairs When the FSC trademarks are used for promotion at trade fairs, the organization has:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> clearly marked which products are FSC certified, or add a visible disclaimer stating “Ask for DNR FSC®-certified products” or similar if no FSC-certified products are displayed. <p><i>NOTE: Use of text to describe the FSC certification of the organization does not require a disclaimer.</i></p>	<input type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> NC <input type="checkbox"/> C w/ OBS <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NA, not using trademarks at trade fairs
<p>Section 6.6 and 6.7 Investment/Financial Claims 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>	<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>7.1 and 7.2 Other Forestry Certification Scheme Logos</p>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> NC

<p>The FSC trademarks have not been used together with the marks of other forest certification schemes in a way which implies equivalence, or in a way which is disadvantageous to the FSC trademarks in terms of size or placement.</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> C w/ OBS <input type="checkbox"/> NA, not using other scheme logos</p>
<p>7.3 Business Cards 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>7.4 Promotion with CB Logo 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>

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.