

ATFS Audit Report

American Tree Farm System Group Recertification



for

Wisconsin Managed Forest Law Tree Farm Group

July 17, 2015

Scott Berg

NSF

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ATFS Public Audit Report

The American Tree Farm System® (ATFS®) Program of the Wisconsin Managed Forest Law Tree Farm Group has achieved conformance with the AFF 2015-2019 Standards of Sustainability for Forest Certification of Private Lands, according to the NSFATFS Certification Audit Process.

The Wisconsin Managed Forest Law Tree Farm Group was initially certified in 2004 and recertified in 2011. The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources manages a Group Certification program for non-industrial forestland enrolled in the Managed Forest Law (MFL). MFL Group Certification focuses on DNR's administration of the group and quality of management on member land. There are approximately 46,879 orders included in this certification that total approximately 2,544,239 acres (January 2015). These tree farms are scattered across the state.

The audit was performed by NSF on June 8-12, 2015 by an audit team headed by Scott Berg (ATFS Lead) with Kyle Meister (FSC Lead) and Dave Wager as the Team Auditors. Audit team members fulfill the qualification criteria for conducting ATFS Certification Audits contained in the AFF requirements. The objective of the audit was to assess conformance to the requirements of the American Tree Farm Program.

The scope of the ATFS Audit included the enrolled Wisconsin Managed Forest Law Program members in the Southwestern Counties of the State of Wisconsin that elected to take part in the certification. Forest practices that were the focus of field inspections included those that have been under active management over the planning period of the past 5 years. In addition, practices conducted earlier were also reviewed as appropriate (regeneration and BMP issues, for example). The management obligations of the group were also reviewed.

Some of the ATFS requirements were not observed as being within the scope of Wisconsin Managed Forest Law Tree Farm Group's ATFS program and were not audited during the scope of the ATFS Certification Audit:

- Performance Measure 4.3 - When used, prescribed fire must conform to forest owner's objectives, the forest management plan and pre-fire planning. Prescribed fire is not generally used in central and northern hardwood management.

No indicators were modified.

ATFS Audit Process

NSF initiated the ATFS audit process with a planning call and extensive follow up relative to site selection and to prepare a detailed audit plan. NSF then conducted the ATFS Recertification Audit of conformance to the ATFS Standards. A report was prepared and final approval was done by an independent Certification Board Member assigned by NSF. Follow-up or Surveillance Audits are required. The next Surveillance Audit is tentatively scheduled for the first week of June 2016.

The NSF "Upgrade" audit to the ATFS 2015-2019 Standards was governed by a detailed Audit Plan designed to enable the audit team to determine conformance with the applicable ATFS requirements. The plan included detailed provisions for the assembly and review of audit evidence consisting of documents, tract files, maps, reports, interviews, and on-site inspections of planned, ongoing or completed forest practices.

During the audit, NSF reviewed a sample of the written documentation assembled to provide objective evidence of ATFS Conformance. NSF also selected field sites for inspection based upon the risk of environmental impact, likelihood of occurrence, special features, and other criteria outlined in the NSFATFS-SOP. NSF also selected and interviewed stakeholders such as landowners, Certified Plan Writers (CPWs), forestry consultants, other interested parties including the Wisconsin Paper Council, and interviewed employees within the organization to confirm that the ATFS Standard was understood and actively implemented.

The possible findings of the audit included Exceed the Basic Requirements, Full Conformance, Major Non-conformance, Minor Non-conformance, and Opportunities for Improvement.

Overview of Audit Findings

Wisconsin Managed Forest Law Tree Farm Group's ATFS Program was determined to be in full conformance with the AFF (2015-2020) Standards of Sustainability and Independently Managed Group (IMG Standard. The NSFATFS Certification Audit Process determined that there are a number of Exceed the Basic Requirements and Opportunities for Improvement. The Executive Summary of the audit reports were reported at the Closing Meeting and are included herein:

Executive Summary:

Recommend continuing ATFS Certification to the 2015-2019 Standards of Sustainability and the Independently Managed Group (IMG) Certification Standard. WDNR MFL is the showcase and premier ATFS IMG in the country.

Findings:

Exceed the Basic Requirements:

Standard 1

Performance Measure 1.1 Landowners have detailed written management plans that exceed the requirements of the ATFS. A lot of thought goes into the plans and the partnership between WDNR and Cooperating Foresters provides landowners with excellent advice and service.

Standard 2

Performance Measure 2.1, Indicator 2.1.1 Landowners comply with laws and regulations and take corrective action to correct conditions leading to BMP violations.

Indicator 2.1.2 Landowners obtain advice from Qualified Natural Resource professionals that are trained and in support of regulatory compliance. Advice is not only from DNR but other agencies with expertise.

Standard 3

Indicator 3.1.1 Landowners achieve adequate stocking, reflecting landowner objectives. TSI is used to achieve desired species, girdling of Ironwood. Marketing and promotion of wood products is ramping up and may help landowners market low valued trees.

Standard 4 Air, Water & Soil

Performance Measure 4.1.

Indicator 4.1.1 Landowners exceed State BMPs. Very light touch on the land. Minimum soil disturbance. Good use of water bars. Only one skid trail observed where an additional water bar could have been installed. Some were trenches and not water bars.

Standard 5. Fish, Wildlife, Biodiversity

Performance Measure 5.1

Indicator 5.1.1-2 Landowners confer with qualified resource professionals for information on T&E and other species through the NHI inventory. Inspected a Bat cave located and protected on site. Signs posted to avoid disturbance of the site.

General observation that input from professionals foresters on the locations of important resources are not always inputted and documented in the database.

Performance Measure 5.2 Landowners are strong in inserting their objectives in the management plan. Consistently, conservation, hunting and wildlife are the highest priority of landowners. Large legacy trees are consistently left behind for wildlife.

Standard 6

Performance Measure 6.1

Indicator 6.1.1 Landowners apply visual quality considerations. Most sites are Single tree and Group Selections where harvesting is not visible or evident across the forests. Very little visual evidence of forestry going on in the hilly driftless area.

Standard 8. Forest Product Harvests and Other Activities

Performance Measure 8.1

Indicator 8.1.1 Landowners consistently seek out the help of DNR Foresters, Cooperating Foresters, Kickapoo Landowner Cooperative and other organizations. Landowners are receiving and have multiple access points for professional forestry advice. Best opportunity in the US to ensure professional forestry advice is provided.

All other Performance Measures and Indicators are in full conformance.

Opportunities for Improvement (OFI)

IMG Indicator 1.3. WDNR uses the copyrighted term “American Tree Farm System” in old correspondence to landowners (11/10/2014). Technically, ATFS requires that the ® mark be used to indicate that “American Tree Farm System” is a registered trademark of the AFF on all internal and external communication. Interviews with DNR staff indicated that they are aware of the registered trademark and ATFS use requirements and are in the process of working through their old forms and procedures and incorporating the use of the registration mark after the use of the term American Tree Farm System®. An opportunity for continual improvement is to review and update internal and external correspondence and documents to correctly use the registered trademark symbol.

Indicator 3.1.1. An *Opportunity for Improvement (OFI)* is to provide additional information to other landowners/Cooperating Foresters about steps that can be taken to conduct additional post-harvest Timber Stand Improvement (TSI).

Performance Measure 5.4 ATFS has introduced the concept of Forests of Recognized Importance (FORI). These are at a Landscape level focused on regional, national and global rare and unique values. Evaluation is to be conducted at the landscape level. While T&E species, archeological sites and caves are considered, an *Opportunity for Improvement (OFI)* is for the DNR to review what opportunities exist to promote FORI. May be broader than SFI FECV and FSC HCVF.

Indicator 5.4.1. An *Opportunity for Improvement (OFI)* is for the WDNR to review and discuss the approach in the AFF Standard regarding a landscape look at forests of recognized importance and determine if any additional measures and procedures would be appropriate.

Performance Measure 8.1 ATFS says landowners should engage qualified logging professionals. Note that it is Not a Shall. But, landowners do not have access to qualified contractors (trained loggers) in very many cases in the Grant & Vernon Counties. There are few SFI Mills or CoC Mills to require trained loggers. So, there appears to be a disparity between the Driftless area and other regions of the State and DNR jurisdictions. An *Opportunity for Improvement (OFI)* is to promote and logger training with logging contractors and small sawmills in the areas where industry does not require logger training and there is a shortage of qualified contractors.

Indicator 8.1.2 An *Opportunity for Improvement (OFI)* is to promote and encourage logger training with logging contractors and small sawmills in the areas where industry does not generally require logger training.

Other issues & Observations: (These are observations for consideration and not warrant the status of an official finding)

IMG Indicator 3.1.b. On the first day of the audit during the Desk Review, three (3) DNR staff had not yet taken the ATFS Inspector Training refresher course to the new 2015-2019 Standards. By the Closing Meeting, one had taken the refresher training, another no longer has MFL responsibilities and the other will take the course immediately upon return from Vacation. Thus, this issue was resolved prior to the closing meeting and was not a finding.

IMG Indicator 1.4.a Group Members are required to be notified that they must meet the ATFS requirements. While correspondence has been sent and provided, some landowners were not aware of ATFS and that they are members of the Group Program. As MFL goes to an Opt-In Consent approach, as currently proposed by the Wisconsin legislature, it would be unfortunate if landowners Opted-Out for lack of awareness and the potential benefits of ATFS certification. As the Opt-in process is rolled out for new entries into the program, more effective communication, information and awareness of ATFS certification may serve to help landowners decide to stay in the Program.

For additional information contact:

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END OF SUMMARY REPORT

Other Required Information

Note: The remaining portions of this ATFS Audit Report are not part of the Public Report and may be kept confidential at the discretion of the ATFS Program Participant. This additional information is required by ATFS protocols.

Audit Team

The audit team is fully qualified to conduct the ATFS Certification Audit, with an understanding of the forest industry, certification requirements of the ATFS Standard, and of sustainable forestry practices within your region. Qualifications of audit team members are described in the Audit Plan (attached as Section A).

Confidentiality

NSF requires all auditors to adhere to strict agreements regarding confidentiality and prohibiting consulting during audits. A copy of this agreement is available from NSF on request.

Scope of Audit

The scope statement to appear on the certificate is as follows:

**Enrolled Wisconsin Managed Forest Law Program members.
The ATFS Certificate Number is NSF-ATFP-1Y942.**

NSF ATFS Audit Process and Reporting

The NSF Audit Report consists of all documents used in the audit process, including the Audit Plan and Upgrade Audit documents.

The actual NSF ATFS Upgrade Audit was governed by a detailed Audit Plan that was prepared specifically for your ATFS Audit. The Audit Plan is included here as Section A (with various Attachments). The Audit Plan was focused on helping the audit team determine whether there were any deficiencies and inconsistencies between your ATFS Program and the ATFS requirements that apply to your organization.

As described in the Audit Plan, the objective of the audit was to assess conformance of your ATFS Program to the requirements of the AFF 2015-2019 Standards of Sustainability for Forest Certification of Private Lands. The possible findings of the audit included Exceed the Basic Requirements, Full Conformance, Major Non-conformance, Minor Non-conformance, and Opportunities for Improvement. The detailed spreadsheets addressing the above findings are contained in the ATFS Audit Checklists (Section B).

There were no non-conformances that needed to be documented in the Public Audit Report and uploaded into NSF's online interface.

Completion of Recertification Process

This complete Final Report is the sole property of your organization and will be treated with the utmost confidentiality and privacy. The report is intended for use by your organization in understanding your conformance with the ATFS Standard and for purposes of improving your ATFS Program. NSF may provide copies of the report to audit team members.

The Public Audit Report section provides a summary of the audit results intended for public disclosure. If necessary, NSF's ATFS Program Manager can work with your designee to modify the summary, consistent with ATFS requirements, to meet your needs. Organizations must follow ATFS annual reporting requirements, including providing a summary of the audit report that is appropriate for public distribution.

The Lead Auditor may, at your direction, provide a copy of the final ATFS Public Report to AFF. NSF must also provide the ATFS Reporting Form (Section D) to AFF; the data from the form are posted on various certification-tracking websites.

You are responsible for informing NSF immediately regarding any change to your program or ownership that would affect the accuracy of the certificate. NSF will work with you to accommodate any changes.

Once the Audit Report is approved by the Certification Board, NSF will issue a formal Certificate of Conformance to the 2015-2019 ATFS Standard to your organization. The Certificate includes the NSF Logo, your organization's name, the standard certified to, the date of the certification, and signatures of responsible authorities.

Follow-up or Surveillance Audits are required by the ATFS. The next Surveillance Audit is tentatively scheduled for the first week of June 2016. The assigned lead auditor will contact you 2 months prior to this date to reconfirm and begin preparations for the audit.

Certification Report Sections:

- Section A Audit Plan
- Section B ATFS Audit Checklists and Agendas
- Section C ATFS Reporting Form
- Section D Site Visit Documentation
- Section E Opening and Closing Meeting Attendees



Section A
Audit Plan



April 30, 2015
Tentative Audit Plan
for the Wisconsin DNR MFL Tree Farm Group
2015 Audit
Upgrade Audit for ATFS (2015-2019)
Surveillance Audit for FSC
FRS#1Y942

Certification Coordinator: Wisconsin DNR

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Audit Team:

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FSC Lead Auditor for SCS

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Audit Team Member

Audit Dates: June 8-12, 2015
See [schedules](#) at the end of this document.

Opening meetings

- Monday morning June 8: Opening Meeting at the Wisconsin DNR Office in Madison, Wisconsin.
- Participants: Scott Berg (ATFS Auditor), Kyle Meister and Dave Wager (FSC Auditors). Mark Heyde, DNR Forest Certification Coordinator, DNR Lead Jerry Crow and other DNR personnel as assigned.

Certification Objectives:

ATFS:

1. Determine whether the Group Organization’s administration and management remains in conformance with the requirements of ATFS Independently Managed Group Certification Requirements, ATFS document Number: ATFS-IMG-2015-2020.
2. Determine whether the forest management of the Group Members is in conformance with the AFF Standards, Core Performance Measures and Primary Indicators of the 2015-2020 Standards.

FSC:

1. Determine conformance of MFL Program with FSC US Forest Management Standard V1.0 (Family Forest Indicators); v FSC-STD-30-005 FM Group Evaluation, and SCS FM Chain-of-Custody Indicators.

ATFS Audit Scope:

The scope of the audit, to appear on the certificate, will be as follows:

- Enrolled Wisconsin Managed Forest Law Program members.
- The ATFS Certificate Number is NSF-ATFP-1Y941.

Performance Measures & Indicators:

ATFS-IMG-2015-2020: ATFS Independently Managed Group (IMG) Certification Requirements
AFF STANDARDS (2015 –2020) Monitoring Checklist (NSF to provide)

FSC Audit Scope:

State of Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, Managed Forest Law Program

Performance Measures & Indicators:

FSC US Forest Management Standard V1.0 (Family Forest Indicators); FSC-STD-30-005 FM Group Evaluation, and SCS FM Chain-of-Custody Indicators

Overview

A three-person audit team from NSF (including two auditor from SCS) will assess a sample of the members of the Wisconsin MFL Tree Farm Group (all MFL enrollees who have not opted out) against the current requirements of the Tree Farm Program and FSC requirements. The Forestry Division of Wisconsin DNR serves as the “Group Manager”; the program will also be assessed against the requirements for Independently Managed Groups.

Scott Berg is leading the audit for ATFS and Kyle Meister is leading the audit for FSC. Dave Wager will serve as the Team Auditor for both standards. A total of six (6) DNR Offices/Counties will be visited. Preliminary results will be presented in a closing session on Friday June 12th at 12:00 PM.

Information on the field tours, including final sites, maps, and itineraries, will be provided by Wisconsin DNR representatives on the first day at the Opening Meeting. Wisconsin DNR representative will reserve hotels for the auditors and will provide locations to meet each day.

Sampling Plan County Selections and Auditor Assignments:

DNR Office	Auditor	Dates	
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Grant	Scott Berg	June 8-9	
Vernon	Scott Berg	June 10-11	
Juneau	Kyle Meister	June 8-9	
Adams	Kyle Meister	June 10-11	
LaCrosse	Dave Wager	June 8-9	
Monroe	Dave Wager	June 10-11	

Sample methodology and preliminary sample size & configuration:

Sample procedures for ATFS Independent Managed Groups are contained in Accreditation Rule 27, Annex 2, as amended by the “ATFS Sampling Procedures for Regional Groups, IMGs and Individual Certificate holders.

For this Recertification audit AR 27 specifies the number of sites (county offices) as 0.8 times the square root of the total number of sites. Thus 8 county offices would be visited. The rule specifies 2.5 days per office, but up to 20% of our audit time can be in document review, planning, and reporting. We would spend 2 days at each DNR Office and area reviewing MFL properties. We would deploy 3 qualified auditors so that the 6 selected DNR Offices would all be audited during the same week.

Scott Berg, the ATFS Lead Auditor, is responsible for working with you to plan the audits and develop the audit sample. Two sites per DNR Field Office have been randomly selected and are contained in the attached Spreadsheet (Appendix A). When selecting the 7 other properties to audit, the lead auditor, working with the Wisconsin DNR, is expected to factor in harvesting schedules and shall sample a mixture of landowners who are in the process of conducting a harvest or have harvested within the past year, as well as landowners who have not harvested within the past year. Please also select two (2) additional sites as back-ups in the event that access or other issues prevent visits to the original nine (9) selections. In addition the following criteria should be reflected in the final audit sample and should guide preliminary selections by the WDNR:

- Risk Sites that pose higher environmental risk (water quality, soil and wildlife resources);
- Range Sites that represent forest management practices across the ownership;
- Richness Sites that allow for concurrent auditing of different AFF Performance Measures;
- Location Sites that cover an appropriate range of administrative units;
- Active harvests Sites that are currently being harvested or have been recently; and
- Special features Sites containing T&E species, special management areas, and visual considerations.

All auditors will conduct their DNR Field audits Monday afternoon through Thursday. Scott and Kyle (at the Madison HQ) will review central office functions following the Opening Meeting on Monday morning. The Closing Meeting for the ATFS/FSC audit will occur Friday at 1:00 pm and should last about two hours.

Selection of Tree Farms for Site Visits:

1. Scott/Kyle select previously unaudited counties randomly
2. WDNR provides spreadsheet of TF sites with activity in selected counties
3. Scott/Kyle randomly select 2 TF for each county (Appendix A)
4. WDNR to make additional selections (7 per DNR Office/County) near 2 random selections, plus 2 back-up sites

5. WDNR provides updated table with number of Tree Farms in each DNR Office/County
6. WDNR to develop schedules and field routes/timing

For each DNR Office/County, seven (7) Tree Farms were selected. These seven and two random selections represent the core parcels for “tours” of nine (9) field audits to be conducted for each DNR Office/County over a four (4) day period. Two (2) additional sites should be identified and held in reserve if back-up sites are needed.

DNR Office/County Selections are based on: 1) Offices/Counties not audited previously and 2) Logical grouping.

Factors to emphasize in selecting the additional Tree Farms (in order of importance)

1. Adjacency to the 2 randomly selected sites
2. Tree Farm owner known to or likely to be available on site during the visit
3. Recent significant management activity
4. Other factors from the criteria provided above (risk, range, risk, location, special features)

Each county should ultimately develop two (2) full day “tours” for a total of nine (9) selections per DNR Office/County (five (5) one day and four (4) the next). Again, it would be prudent to have 2 backups for each DNR Office/County also; backups could be owners known well to the foresters (perhaps someone who is flexible regarding our visit to their property).

Documentation Requested

Background material on the MFL and on the “Certified Plan Writer Program” should be updated, if there have been any changes.

On the first day in each DNR Office/County, please provide each auditor the following for the selected sites:

- Daily agendas including starting time and location
- List of Tree Farms selected (Note: The names of landowners and foresters we are expected to meet would be helpful but not critical to have in advance.)
- Management plans for the selected tracts
- Example timber harvest contracts (not required for all selections; a sample can be provided when we meet owners)
- Copies of the most recent inspection forms for the selected tracts

Report & Certificate Timeline:

For the ATFS Audit, the lead auditor will provide the Draft Final and Public Summary reports within 2 weeks of the closing meeting for a review of factual accuracy. You should submit any comments to the lead auditor within two weeks of receipt of the report date. Within one week of receiving any comments from the group representative, the lead auditor will make any necessary changes and send on for NSF-ISR CB review. CB review will be completed within one week.

MFL Final & Summary Report Content:

Final Report	Public Summary Report
<p>1.1 The certification audit scope and objectives;</p> <p>1.2 A general description of the group’s operations and overall membership;</p> <p>1.3 A description of the audit process used, including time period;</p> <p>1.4 Identification of the group manager and audit team personnel (later are normally listed in audit plan);</p> <p>1.5 Audit findings and conclusions, including a general description of any nonconformances and corrective action plans to address them, opportunities for improvement, and exceptional practices;</p> <p>1.6 A schedule for surveillance and recertification audits;</p> <p>1.7 The distribution and confidential nature of the Final Report; and</p> <p>1.8 Appendices as follows;</p> <p>1.8.1 Audit Plan;</p> <p>1.8.2 ATFS Certification Checklists;</p> <p>1.8.3 NSF-ISR Corrective Action Request (CAR) form(s), including corrective action plans developed by the group’s representative (which may be contained on additional pages). Note: This section should include documentation of all CARs, even those that were closed prior to the Certification Audit; and Reporting form for ATFS Certification.</p>	<p>1.1 The Public Report contents shall include, at a minimum:</p> <p>1.2 A description of the audit process, objectives, and scope;</p> <p>1.3 The name of group that was audited, including its ATFS representative;</p> <p>1.4 A general description of the group’s operations and overall membership;</p> <p>1.5 The name of the audit firm and lead auditor;</p> <p>1.6 The dates the certification was conducted and completed;</p> <p>1.7 A summary of the findings, including general descriptions of any nonconformances and corrective action plans to address them, opportunities for improvement, and exceptional practices; and</p> <p>1.8 The certification recommendation.</p>

Confidentiality and non-disclosure:

Evidence and information collected by the audit team will remain confidential and discussed only with the Group manager or NSF-ISR. Unless stated below and discussed with the Group Manager and NSF-ISR Forestry Program Manager, no member of the audit team shall have provide any consulting, appraisal services, brokerage services, or advice within the past two years.

Dispute Resolution Process:

In the event that there is a dispute between the lead auditor and the group’s representative over any issues involved in the certification audit, the first step is for the group’s management representative to call the Audit Manager (888-NSF-9000) to resolve the dispute.

- If the dispute continues, the dispute resolution processes of NSF-ISR will be followed (Dispute Resolution Process in NSF-ISR Policies for Management Systems Registration AESOP 4876).

- Disputes or appeals between an external party and a group's representative are governed by the provisions of "P&P-09 – ATFS: National Interpretation And Dispute Resolution, American Tree Farm System" which states

"The National Standards Interpretation Committee (NSIC) is a committee subordinate and reporting to the Center for Family Forests Operating Committee (CFF COC) (see P&P-03, Governance). The NSIC role is to provide appropriate interpretations of the American Forest Foundation (AFF) Standards of Sustainability. It will also serve in an advisory role in handling disputes between an IMG Organization and Certification Bodies related to interpretations of the AFF Standards and SOP-01."

Summary of NSF/SCS Auditors' Background and Qualifications

ATFS Lead Auditor: Scott Berg

Scott Berg is the president of R.S. Berg & Associates, Inc. Scott has been on contract with the American Forest Foundation to develop its Independently Managed Group (IMG) Standard, conduct auditor training, and assist with PEFC Endorsement of the ATFS Program. Scott has conducted approximately sixty (60) Tree Farm audits and served as Tree Farm Program Manager in Washington State. He conducted the initial Wisconsin MFL ATFS audit. Scott has audited and consulted with over two hundred and seventy (270) organizations in the forestry sector to achieve conformance to the AFF, SFI, FSC, PEFC and ISO 14001 EMS Standards. He is also assisting Wood Pellet Mills achieve the recently released requirements of the Sustainable Biomass Partnership (SBP) feedstock standards. Scott helped develop the SFI Standards in the early 1990's, represented the U.S. forest & paper industry at over thirty (30) international sustainable forestry standards negotiations and developed the SFI auditing standards. Scott recently served on the SFI Standards Review Task Groups addressing SFI Fiber Sourcing and Chain of Custody. Scott has a Masters of Forest Resources from the University of Washington.

FSC Lead Auditor: Kyle Meister

Kyle Meister is a Certification Forester with Scientific Certification Systems. He has been with SCS since 2008 and has conducted FSC FM pre-assessments, evaluations, and surveillance audits in Brazil, Panama, Mexico, Costa Rica, Bolivia, Indonesia, India, Japan, New Zealand, Spain, and all major forest producing regions of the United States. He has conducted COC assessments in Oregon, Pennsylvania, and California. Mr. Meister has successfully completed CAR Lead Verifier, ISO 9001:2008 Lead Auditor, and SA8000 Social Systems Introduction and Basic Auditor Training Courses. He holds a B.S. in Natural Resource Ecology and Management and a B.A. in Spanish from the University of Michigan; and a Master of Forestry from the Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies.

Audit Team Member: Dave Wager

Dave Wager was the previous FM Director for SCS, Dave spent ten years managing and/or leading Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) endorsed certification assessments on more than 100 forest management operations covering over 25 million acres of forestland across 16 countries. As a certification practitioner, Dave Wager has led FSC forest management and chain-of-custody assessments on a range of private and public operations across North America, Asia, and Latin America. In other natural resources work, Dave played a key role in the development of Starbucks CAFE Practices- a program to ensure procurement of sustainably grown and processed coffee. Dave has 17 years' experience working in forestry and the environmental field. He has expertise in forest ecology and business (B.S. Business, Skidmore College; M.S. Forest Resources, Utah State University). While studying forest ecology at Utah State University, Dave was awarded a NASA Graduate Student Research

Fellowship to develop dendrochronological techniques to assess Douglas-fir growth in Utah's Central Wasatch Mountains.

Mike Ferrucci is the proposed Certification Board (CB) Reviewer for the ATFS portion of the audit.

Appendix A

(Refer to Randomly Selected Field Sites--2 per DNR Office/County)

2015 Wisconsin MFL Audit Itinerary

Dual ATFS/FSC Audit Team

Scott Berg, ATFS Lead Auditor
Kyle Meister, SCS Lead Auditor
Dave Wager, Audit Team Member

DNR Central Office/Forest Tax Staff Attending Opening/Closing Meetings and Audit

Allness, Michele M - DNR (Shelly) <Michele.Allness@wisconsin.gov>;
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Zirbel, Adam – DNR <Adam.Zirbel@wisconsin.gov>

Schedule:

Monday, June 8th: Opening Meeting, audit in selected counties

8:30-9:30 AM Opening Meeting (Location: **Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources Central Office, Madison; rm 413.**) **Conference Call number 855-947-8255 Passcode: 6687 760#**

9:30- Dave Wager and Chris Martin leave to audit in LaCrosse County

9:30-11am office audit of centralized MFL records, then:

-Jerry Crow and Kyle Meister travel to Juneau County.

-Mark Heyde and Scott Berg travel to Grant County.

LaCrosse County (Wager/Martin)

1:00 – Arrive at DNR service center, 3550 Mormon Coulee Rd., La Crosse; DNR Forester- Kevin Schilling – acting La Crosse County forester; Office-608-785-9007 Cell-608-792-3984

-Proceed to sites 1 through 3 until 4:30 to 5:00 PM. Return to Radisson LaCrosse

Juneau County (Meister/Crow)

1:00 - Arrive at DNR field station, Mauston; Mauston DNR Forestry Field Office, Juneau County Forestry & Parks Building, 650 Prairie Street, Mauston, WI 53948, DNR Forester Dylan Bell (Cell 608-547-2135), DNR Forester Chad Nickols (608-547-1813)

-proceed to sites 1 through 3 until 4:30 to 5:00 PM. Return to Quality Inn & Suites, Mauston

Grant County (Berg/Heyde)

1:00 – Arrive at Potosi Brewing parking lot; DNR Forester Allen King (608-723-9007)

-proceed to sites 1 through 4 until 4:30 to 5:00 PM. Return to Fennimore Hills Hotel, Fennimore,

WI.

Tuesday, June 9th: 8 am to 4:30 pm - auditing in selected counties

LaCrosse County (Wager/Martin)

8:00 -4:30 Audit sites 4-9; return to Radisson, La Crosse

Juneau County (Meister/Crow)

8:00-4:30 Audit Sites 4-9; DNR field staff to drive Meister to Quality Inn & Suites, Mauston. Crow at MFL transfer LEAN meeting in Wis. Rapids then returning to Mauston.

Grant County (Berg/Heyde)

8:00-4:30 Audit Sites 4-9 return to Fennimore Hills Hotel, Fennimore, WI

Wednesday, June 10th: 8 am to 4:30 pm - auditing in selected counties

Wager/Martin – Finishing up LaCrosse County and/or travel to Monroe County.

Monroe County- Audit selected sites (see itinerary) Best Western, Tomah



Monroe Itinerary for
June 10 and 11 2015.

Meister/Crow – Finishing up Juneau County and/or travel to Adams County.
Adams County-audit sites 1-4, return to Quality Inn & Suites, Mauston.

Berg/Heyde - Finishing audit of Grant County and/or travel to Vernon County.
Vernon County-audit sites 1-4, return to Vernon Inn and Suites, Viroqua

Thursday June 11th: 8:00 am – 4:30 pm – auditing in selected counties

Monroe County (Wager/Martin) – Finishing up Monroe County. See itinerary.



Monroe Itinerary for
June 10 and 11 2015.

Adams County (Meister/Crow) – Finishing up Adams County Audit sites 5-9, return to Quality Inn & Suites, Mauston.

Vernon County (Berg/Heyde) - Finishing audit of Vernon County. Vernon County-audit sites 5-9, return to Vernon Inn and Suites, Viroqua

Friday, June 12th: Finishing audits in selected counties. Closing meeting.

8:00am – Finish audit sites in respective counties if needed. Travel to Madison, GEF2 for closing meeting.

1:00 pm Closing Meeting – DNR Central Office, Madison, WI

Conference Call number 855-947-8255 Passcode: 6687 760#

Random Selections (see “Selection of Tree Farms for Site Visits” above)

	County	Primary Owner	Order Number	Invoice Number
0.019997	ADAMS	NAVAR, SKIP	01-027-1993	FY52924
0.027754	ADAMS	CELEK, JOHN	01-085-1998	FY52626
0.075977	GRANT	SCHULTZ, TIMOTHY ETAL	22-027-1996	FY55441
0.092771	GRANT	MAAHS, LARRY	22-001-2008	FY55439
0.03335	JUNEAU	HAMM, EARL	29-018-2009	EXEMPT
0.041794	JUNEAU	SMITH, CECIL	29-026-2001	FY52998
0.047952	LA CROSSE	S & J SKEMP FAMILY 3 L L C	32-019-2007	FY51916
0.121053	LA CROSSE	SENN, JOHN	32-004-2009	EXEMPT
0.030705	MONROE	LAXTON, GERALD	42-006-2004	FY52843
0.063098	MONROE	LUDWIG, ROBERT	42-068-2002	FY52847
0.195314	VERNON	MILLER, RONALD ETAL	63-016-1993	FY53727
0.201	VERNON	BERTRAND, RICHARD	63-015-2007	FY52312

Hotels for MFL Audit June 2015

Madison Concourse Hotel, June7 – Berg, Meister, Wager, Crow
 1 W Dayton St, Madison, WI 53703
 Phone: (608) 257-6000

Quality Inn and Suites, June 8-11 – Meister and Crow
 1001 Hwy 82, Mauston, WI, 53948
 Phone: (608) 847-5959 Fax: (608) 847-4160

Fennimore Hills Hotel, June 8 & 9 – Berg and Heyde
 5821 US Hwy. 18
 Fennimore, WI 53809
 Phone: (608) 822-3281

Vernon Inn & Suites, June 10 & 11 – Berg and Heyde; Confirmation 091976
 1325 N Main St, Viroqua, WI 54665
 Phone:(608) 637-3100

Radisson, June 8 & 9 – Wager and Martin
 200 South 2nd Street
 200 Harborview Plaza
 La Crosse Wisconsin 54601
 Phone: (608) 784-6680

Best Western, June 10 & 11 – Wager and Martin
 1017 E McCoy Blvd, Tomah, WI 54660
 Phone: (608) 372-3211



Section B
ATFS Recertification Audit Checklists

AFF STANDARDS (2015 - 2020) MONITORING CHECKLIST

Group Organization's Name: Wisconsin DNR
Group Member's Tree Farm Name: Managed Forest Law Program
Auditor's Signature: Scott Berg, Lead Auditor
Date: June 26, 2015

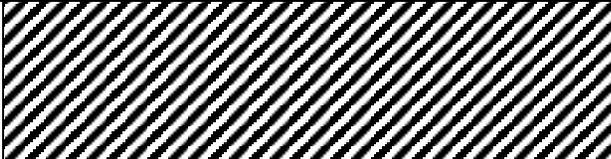
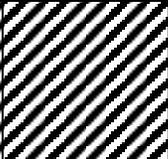
Group Organization Internal monitors are encouraged to use this Monitoring Checklist to record and document objective evidence and findings for each AFF Standards Core Performance Measure and Primary Indicator. A narrative description of the objective evidence should be provided indicating what documents were reviewed, personnel interviewed, or field sites inspected. A check Mark (X) should be placed in the correct column indicating Conformance (Conform), Major Non-conformance (Major), Minor Non-conformance (Minor), and Opportunity for Improvement (OFI). Where a major or minor non-conformance is found, the internal auditor should fully document the rationale for the non-conformance on a Corrective Action Request (CAR) form (GO-06). Indicate (N/A) if the Core Performance Measure and/or Primary Indicators is not applicable under Objective Evidence. (Note that conformance is measured to the Core Performance Measures and Primary Indicators. Performance Measures and Indicators with the term *Shall* are considered Core and Primary, respectively).

AFF Standards Requirements	<u>Briefly Described the Objective Evidence of Conformance (Documents Reviewed, Personnel Interviewed, Sites Visited)</u>	<u>Conform</u>	<u>Major</u>	<u>Minor</u>	<u>OFI</u>
Standard 1: Commitment to Practicing Sustainable Forestry Landowner demonstrates commitment to forest health and sustainability by developing a forest management plan and implementing sustainable practices.	[Hatched Area]				
Performance Measure 1.1 Landowner shall have and implement a written forest management plan consistent with the size of the forest and the scale and intensity of the forest activities.	All enrolled MFL properties audited have written plans that are consistent with forest size and landowner objectives. Management plans reflect not only the landowner's specific plan, but the other procedures and programs of the DNR's MFL Program. Significant thought goes into the plans and the partnership between the WDNR and Cooperating Foresters provides landowners with excellent advice and service. The level of management planning <i>Exceeds the Basic Requirements</i> of the AFF Standard.	15			

AFF Standards Requirements	<u>Briefly Described the Objective Evidence of Conformance (Documents Reviewed, Personnel Interviewed, Sites Visited)</u>	<u>Conform</u>	<u>Major</u>	<u>Minor</u>	<u>OFI</u>
<p>Indicator 1.1.1</p> <p>Management plan shall be active, adaptive and embody the landowner's current objectives, remain appropriate for the land certified and reflect the current state of knowledge about natural resources and sustainable forest management.</p>	<p>Management plans are updated periodically and amended as needed. Tract files that are part of the management planning process are continually updated. Maps and other descriptions, including Cutting Notices, address landowner objectives and information on cultural, heritage, T&E Species and invasive species.</p>	15			
<p>Indicator 1.1.2</p> <p>Management plans shall describe current forest conditions, landowner's objectives, management activities aimed at achieving landowner's objectives, document a feasible strategy for activity implementation and include a map accurately depicting significant forest related resources.</p> <p>The forest management plan shall demonstrate consideration of the following resource elements: forest health, soil, water, wood and fiber production, threatened and endangered species, special sites, invasive species and forests of recognized importance. Where present and relevant to the property, the plan shall describe management activities related to these resource elements.</p> <p>Where present, relevant to the property, and consistent with landowner's objectives, the plan preparer should consider and describe and evaluate the following resource elements: fire, wetlands, desired species, recreation, forest aesthetics, biomass and carbon.</p>	<p>MFL Management Plans and management planning are comprehensive and address landowner objectives, mandatory practices, protection of water and special sites.</p> <p>The Forest of Recognized Importance are sufficiently reflected in the resource considerations in the Cutting Notice, maps and other tract file documents.</p>	15			
<p>Indicator 1.1.3</p> <p>Landowner should monitor for changes that could interfere with the management objectives as stated in management plan. When problems are found, reasonable actions are taken.</p>	<p>The Wisconsin DNR conducts continual monitoring of the properties enrolled in the MFL program and are notified of mandatory practices. DNR foresters are continually providing expert advice to landowners.</p>	15			

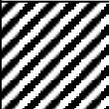
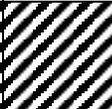
AFF Standards Requirements	<u>Briefly Described the Objective Evidence of Conformance (Documents Reviewed, Personnel Interviewed, Sites Visited)</u>	<u>Conform</u>	<u>Major</u>	<u>Minor</u>	<u>OFI</u>
Standard 2: Compliance With Laws Forest management activities comply with all relevant federal, state and local laws, regulations and ordinances.					
Performance Measure 2.1 Landowner shall comply with all relevant federal, state, county and municipal laws, regulations and ordinances governing forest management activities.	The Wisconsin DNR Foresters, Silviculturists, Ecologists, and District Leads provide assistance in complying with applicable laws and regulations. No legal compliance issues were uncovered during the audit. The DNR Foresters work with landowner and loggers to accomplish any corrective actions related to water quality BMPs before the management activity is completed and closed out. This level of oversight and compliance <i>Exceeds the Basic Requirements</i> of the AFF Standards.	15			
Indicator 2.1.1 Landowner shall comply with all relevant laws, regulations and ordinances and will correct conditions that led to adverse regulatory actions , if any.	Corrective Action to implement BMPs is immediate and oversight by the WDNR assures legal compliance	15			
Indicator 2.1.2 Landowner should obtain advice from appropriate qualified natural resource professionals or qualified contractors who are trained in, and familiar with, relevant laws, regulations and ordinances.	Landowners receive professional forestry advice from the WDNR Foresters, Cooperating Foresters and other resource professionals. The level of forestry and natural resources expertise <i>Exceeds the Basic Requirements</i> of the AFF Standard.	15			
Standard 3: Reforestation and Afforestation Landowner completes timely restocking of desired species of trees on harvested sites and non-stocked areas where tree growing is consistent with land use practices and the landowner's objectives .					
Performance Measure 3.1 Reforestation or afforestation shall be achieved by a suitable process that ensures adequate stocking levels.	Regeneration is prolific and no regeneration issues were observed. If anything, single tree and small group selections do not allow sufficient light to regenerate some Oaks and other shade intolerant species.	15			

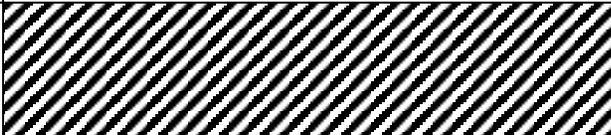
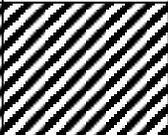
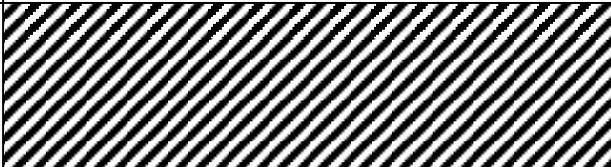
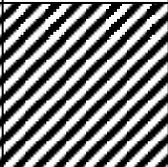
AFF Standards Requirements	<u>Briefly Described the Objective Evidence of Conformance (Documents Reviewed, Personnel Interviewed, Sites Visited)</u>	<u>Conform</u>	<u>Major</u>	<u>Minor</u>	<u>OFI</u>
Indicator 3.1.1 Harvested forest land <u>shall</u> achieve adequate stocking of desired species reflecting the landowner's objectives , within five years after harvest, or within a time interval as specified by applicable regulation.	Landowners achieve adequate stocking, reflecting landowner objectives. TSI is used to achieve desired species, girdling of Ironwood. Marketing and promotion of wood products is ramping up and may help landowners market low valued trees. <i>An Opportunity for Improvement (OFI) is to provide additional information to other landowners/Cooperating Foresters about steps that can be taken to conduct additional post-harvest Timber Stand Improvement (TSI).</i>				15
Standard 4: Air, Water and Soil Protection Forest management practices maintain or enhance the environment and ecosystems, including air, water, soil and site quality.					
Performance Measure 4.1 Landowner shall meet or exceed practices prescribed by state forestry Best Management Practices (BMPs) that are applicable to the property.	Landowners exceed State BMPs. Very light touch on the land. Minimum soil disturbance. Good use of water bars. Only one skid trail was observed where an additional water bar could have been installed. Some were trenches and not water bars and landowner outreach could help improve waterbar installation.	15			
Indicator 4.1.1 Landowner shall implement specific state forestry BMPs that are applicable to the property.	Landowners exceed State BMPs. Where BMP issued were observed, they were immediately addressed and landowner fully cooperated to take corrective action. Single and Group selection leaves a very light touch on the land and no water quality issues were encountered.	15			

AFF Standards Requirements	<u>Briefly Described the Objective Evidence of Conformance (Documents Reviewed, Personnel Interviewed, Sites Visited)</u>	<u>Conform</u>	<u>Major</u>	<u>Minor</u>	<u>OFI</u>
Indicator 4.1.2 Landowner shall minimize road construction and other disturbances within riparian zones and wetlands.	Field site inspections demonstrated that roads were generally kept out of riparian zones. One skid trail was located adjacent to a Dry Wash, which was not considered to have a riparian zone.	15			
Performance Measure 4.2 Landowner shall consider a range of forest management activities to control pests, pathogens and unwanted vegetation.	WDNR Foresters prescribe restrictions on harvesting during Oak Wilt season. Cutting Notices routinely contact prescriptions to address invasive plants. Emerald Ash Borer is a major problem with no mitigation options.	15			
Indicator 4.2.1 Landowner should evaluate alternatives to pesticides for the prevention or control of pests, pathogens and unwanted vegetation to achieve specific management objectives	Herbicides are rarely used on the tracts that were inspected. Some Roundup is applied to control weeds and invasive plants. Most invasive plants are not treated with chemicals. And most of the girdling of low valued trees did not involve chemicals.	15			
Indicator 4.2.2 Pesticides used shall be EPA-approved and applied, stored and disposed of in accordance with EPA-approved labels and by persons appropriately trained, licensed and supervised.	Not broadcast applications of herbicides were observed. One landowner was observed using a back-pack sprayer, which appeared to be common practice. Very little herbicide use was evident.	15			
Performance Measure 4.3 When used, prescribed fire shall conform with landowner's objectives and pre-fire planning.	No prescribed fire was observed or reported. Thus, this Performance Measure is not applicable.	NA			
Indicator 4.3.1 Prescribed fire shall conform with the landowner's objectives and state and local laws and regulations.	No prescribed fire was observed or reported. Thus, this Indicator is not applicable.	NA			
Standard 5: Fish, Wildlife, Biodiversity and Forest Health Forest management activities contribute to the conservation of biodiversity .					

AFF Standards Requirements	<u>Briefly Described the Objective Evidence of Conformance (Documents Reviewed, Personnel Interviewed, Sites Visited)</u>	<u>Conform</u>	<u>Major</u>	<u>Minor</u>	<u>OFI</u>
<p>Performance Measure 5.1 Forest management activities <u>shall</u> protect habitats and communities occupied by threatened or endangered species as required by law.</p>	<p>Site inspections confirmed the presence and protection of a Bald Eagle and Northern Long-eared Bat. Both were documented on the Cutting Notice and fully protected. Cooperating Foresters interviewed were knowledgeable and work with WNDR Foresters and Ecologists. Appropriate NIH databases are queried to identify known occurrences.</p>	15			
<p>Indicator 5.1.1 Landowner shall confer with natural resource agencies, state natural resource heritage programs, qualified natural resource professionals or review other sources of information to determine occurrences of threatened or endangered species on the property and their habitat requirements.</p>	<p>Landowners confer with qualified resource professionals for information on T&E and other species through the NH inventory. Inspected a Northern Long-eared Bat cave located and protected on site. Signs were posted to avoid disturbance of the site.</p> <p>Involvement of qualified natural resource professionals <i>Exceeds the Basic Requirements</i> of the Standard.</p> <p>There is a general observation that input from professionals foresters on the locations of important resources are not always inputted and documented in the database by the responsible agency. This process could be improved and feedback from forestry professionals could be encouraged.</p>	15			
<p>Indicator 5.1.2 Forest management activities <u>shall</u> incorporate measures to protect identified threatened or endangered species on the property.</p>	<p>Inspection of field sites confirmed that the locations of T&E are know by WDNR Foresters and Cooperating Foresters and are translated on the ground and habitats are protected.</p>	15			

AFF Standards Requirements	<u>Briefly Described the Objective Evidence of Conformance (Documents Reviewed, Personnel Interviewed, Sites Visited)</u>	<u>Conform</u>	<u>Major</u>	<u>Minor</u>	<u>OFI</u>
Performance Measure 5.2 Landowner should address the desired species and/or desired forest communities when conducting forest management activities, if consistent with landowner's objectives .	MFL Group Members strongly express their landowner objectives, particularly in terms of their preference for wildlife, game species for hunting and protection of nature. Large legacy trees are consistently left as wildlife trees. This representation of landowner objectives for desired species <i>Exceeds the Basic Requirements</i> of the Standard.	15			
Indicator 5.2.1 Landowner should consult available and accessible information on management of the forest for desired species and/or forest communities and integrate it into forest management.	Landowners receive input from multiple sources including the WDNR, Cooperating Foresters, other agencies, hunters and outside conservation organizations. This input is integrated into forest management plans and decisions.	15			
Performance Measure 5.3 Landowner should make practical efforts to promote forest health .	Landowners take steps to promote forest health by controlling invasive species where practical, treating unwanted species during TSI and observing Oak Wilt restrictions. WDNR communicates and promotes protection from the Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) in an effort to limit the spread of the insect.	15			
Indicator 5.3.1 Landowner should make practical efforts to promote forest health , including prevention, control or response to disturbances such as wildland fire, invasive species and other pests, pathogens or unwanted vegetation, to achieve specific management objectives.	Field site inspections demonstrated that landowners, the WDNR and Cooperating Foresters do take steps to address invasive species and other pests.	15			

AFF Standards Requirements	<u>Briefly Described the Objective Evidence of Conformance (Documents Reviewed, Personnel Interviewed, Sites Visited)</u>	<u>Conform</u>	<u>Major</u>	<u>Minor</u>	<u>OFI</u>
Performance Measure 5.4 Where present, forest management activities should maintain or enhance forests of recognized importance .	<p>The DNR Cutting Notices include several categories of forests of recognized importance including Natural Heritage Sites, Archaeological, Cultural and Historic sites.</p> <p>ATFS has introduced the concept of Forests of Recognized Importance (FORI) into the 2015 version of the Standard. These are features at a Landscape level focused on regional, national and global rare and unique values. Evaluation is to be conducted at the landscape level.</p> <p>While T&E species, archeological sites and caves are considered, an <i>Opportunity for Improvement</i> (OFI) is for the DNR to review what opportunities exist to promote FORI. May be broader than SFI FECV and FSC HCVF.</p>				15
Indicator 5.4.1 Appropriate to the scale and intensity of the situation, forest management activities should incorporate measures to contribute to the conservation of identified forests of recognized importance .	See the finding in 5.4 above. An <i>Opportunity for Improvement</i> (OFI) is for the WDNR to review and discuss the approach in the AFF Standard regarding a landscape look at forests of recognized importance and determine if any additional measures and procedures would be appropriate.				15
Standard 6: Forest Aesthetics Forest management activities recognize the value of forest aesthetics.					

AFF Standards Requirements	<u>Briefly Described the Objective Evidence of Conformance (Documents Reviewed, Personnel Interviewed, Sites Visited)</u>	<u>Conform</u>	<u>Major</u>	<u>Minor</u>	<u>OFI</u>
Performance Measure 6.1 Landowner should manage the visual impacts of forest management activities consistent with the size of the forest, the scale and intensity of forest management activities and the location of the property.	The scale of single tree and group selections is highly consistent with visual protection. Most harvested sites are not visible or obvious across the driftless landscape that was audited. Most Tree Farms visited were aesthetically very pleasing with seeded paths and food plots throughout the forest. The level of aesthetic consideration by landowners <i>Exceeds the Basic Requirements</i> of the Standard.	15			
Indicator 6.1.1 Forest management activities should apply visual quality measures compatible with appropriate silvicultural practices.	See the findings in 6.1 above. Visual considerations <i>Exceed the Basic Requirements</i> of the Standard.	15			
Standard 7: Protect Special Sites Special sites are managed in ways that recognize their unique historical, archeological, cultural, geological, biological or ecological characteristics.					
Performance Measure 7.1 Forest management activities <u>shall</u> consider and maintain any special sites relevant on the property.	The DNR Cutting Notices include several categories of special sites including Natural Heritage Sites, Archeological, Cultural and Historic sites. T&E species habitats are identified and protected. Legacy trees, including large White Pine, are also protected.	15			
Indicator 7.1.1 Landowner shall make a reasonable effort to locate and protect special sites appropriate for the size of the forest and the scale and intensity of forest management activities.	Reasonable efforts are taken to protect special sites as appropriate to landowner objectives and inputs from the DNR Foresters and Cooperating Foresters.	15			
Standard 8: Forest Product Harvests and Other Activities Forest product harvests and other management activities are conducted in accordance with the landowner's objectives and consider other forest values.					

AFF Standards Requirements	<u>Briefly Described the Objective Evidence of Conformance (Documents Reviewed, Personnel Interviewed, Sites Visited)</u>	<u>Conform</u>	<u>Major</u>	<u>Minor</u>	<u>OFI</u>
<p>Performance Measure 8.1 Landowner should use qualified natural resource professionals and qualified contractors when contracting for services.</p>	<p>ATFS says landowners should engage qualified logging professionals. It is Not a Shall. But, landowners do not have access to qualified contractors (trained loggers) in very many cases in Grant & Vernon Counties. There are few SFI Mills or CoC Mills to require trained loggers. So, there appears to be a significant disparity between the Driftless area and other regions of the State.</p> <p><i>An Opportunity for Improvement (OFI) is to promote and encourage logger training with logging contractors and small sawmills in the areas where industry does not generally require logger training. Logger training is now required under the SFI 2015-2019 Standards and that influence could be extended to the Driftless area by other members of the forestry community engaged in forest certification.</i></p>				15

AFF Standards Requirements	<u>Briefly Described the Objective Evidence of Conformance (Documents Reviewed, Personnel Interviewed, Sites Visited)</u>	<u>Conform</u>	<u>Major</u>	<u>Minor</u>	<u>OFI</u>
Indicator 8.1.1 Landowner should seek qualified natural resource professionals and qualified contractors .	Landowners consistently seek out the help of DNR Foresters, Cooperating Foresters, Kickapoo Landowner Cooperative and other organizations. Landowners are receiving and have multiple access points for professional forestry advice. The Wisconsin MFL Program is offers the best opportunity in the US to ensure professional forestry advice is provided.	15			
Indicator 8.1.2 ¹ Landowner should engage qualified contractors that carry appropriate insurance and comply with appropriate federal, state and local safety and fair labor rules , regulations and standard practices.	See findings in 8.1 above. <i>An Opportunity for Improvement (OFI)</i> is to promote and encourage logger training with logging contractors and small sawmills in the areas where industry does not generally require logger training.				15
Indicator 8.1.3 Landowners should retain appropriate contracts or records for forest product harvests and other management activities to demonstrate conformance to the Standards.	The tract files, Cutting Notices, prospectuses, and Notices of Timber Sales constitutes sufficient records of forest product harvests.	15			
Performance Measure 8.2 Landowner shall monitor forest product harvests and other management activities to ensure they conform to their objectives.	Wisconsin DNR and Cooperating Foresters effectively monitor timber harvesting and other forest management activities to ensure they conform to the Managed Forest Law and the AFF Standards of Sustainability.	15			
Indicator 8.2.1 Harvest, utilization, removal and other management activities <u>shall</u> be conducted in compliance with the landowner's objectives and to maintain the potential of the property to produce forest products and other benefits sustainably.	Inspected properties are managed to meet landowner objectives and produce future crops of trees. That is the main objective of the MFL Program.	15			

¹ Auditors shall consider any complaints alleging violation of fair labor rules filed by workers or organized labor since the previous third-party certification audit. The auditor shall not take action on any labor issues pending in a formal grievance process or before federal, state or local agencies or the courts, however, until those process are completed. Absent a record of documented complaints or noncompliances, contractors and managers are assumed to be in compliance with this indicator.

Wisconsin DNR MFL Tree Farm Group, FRS #1Y942

Date of audit: June 8-12, 2015

ATFS Audit Report Checklist

Based on

- [American Tree Farm System ® Standards 2015 – 2020.](#)
- [American Tree Farm System ® Independently Managed Group \(IMG\) Certification Standards 2015-2020.](#)
- [American Tree Farm System ® Eligibility Requirements and Guidance for Certification, Enacted January 1, 2015.](#)
- [PEFC Annex 6, Certification and Accreditation Procedures](#)

Group Organization's Name: Wisconsin DNR

Group Manager's Name: Mr. Jerry Crow, Acting Group Manager/Forest Tax Law Field Manager

NSF Auditor's Name: Scott Berg

Date: June 26, 2015

Check one: Full Review Partial Review (Surveillance Audit)

Check one: Regional Groups (RG) Independent Management Groups (IMG)

Yes No N.A. Logo use requirements under ATFS are met.

Audit Notes: One old use of the American Tree Farm System did not have the Registration Mark. An Opportunity for Improvement is to clean up all old documents.

Yes No N.A. Information from external parties about this program was reviewed

Audit Notes: The Wisconsin Paper Council was interviewed. Voicemail messages were left with 3-4 other organizations. The Governor's Council on Forestry was meeting during the week and many stakeholders were not available for interview.

Yes No N.A. For IMGs only: Program categorized group member into one of 3 categories for types of group members.

Audit Notes: All Group Members retain final decision-making authority under Category 1. The Procedures for Administration of the MFL Group are contained in Chapter 21 of the Forest Law Handbook.

Section 1. Group Organization Administration

1.1 Legal and General Requirements

a. The Group Organization must be a legal entity competent to sign agreements with Group Members and to enter into binding contracts with Certification Bodies and other outside entities.

Yes No N.A. Audit Notes: The WDNR Division of Forestry is a legal entity created by the state legislature. Group Organizations roles and responsibilities are contained in Chapter 21.

b. The Group Organization must identify Group Members' category.

I. The Group Organization *must* document the group member category (see above section on Group Member types).

Yes No N.A. Audit Notes: Group member category is declared in the revised Forest Tax Law Handbook, Chapter 21 p21-2 as Group 1.

II. The Group Organization *must* describe roles and responsibilities of the Group Manager and Group Members with respect to forest management decisions and actions with respect to the implementation of the AFF Standards (e.g. plan development, harvesting, monitoring, etc.)

Yes No N.A. Audit Notes: WDNR oversees all aspects of maintaining group certification. The DNR administration of the program includes the Division of Forestry, the DNR districts, the DNR foresters and technicians, and the cooperating foresters. The Department determines eligibility and membership requirements of the group, at the direction of the State Legislature. Group Manager and Group Member roles are defined in Chapter 21.

The Division of Forestry Forest Tax Law Program is designated as the group manager that administers the MFL Certified Group. The group manager may delegate authority to the WDNR Sustainable Forest Certification Coordinator, other central office staff, regional staff and cooperating foresters.

III. The Group Organization *must* have a written commitment to sustainable forestry and conformance to the AFF Standards.

Yes No N.A. Audit Notes: As documented in the *Forest Law Handbook*, DNR is committed to conform to ATFS principles, criteria and performance measures in the administration of the Managed Forest Law. Inspected the Authority and Purpose Section of the Handbook. MFL participants who elect not to depart from the MFL Certified Group also agree to conform to ATFS standards. The Legislature is set to change to an Opt-in approach.

1.2 Roles & Responsibilities

a. The Group Organization must adhere to ATFS eligibility requirements and may further define membership parameters for their Group, if desired.

Yes No N.A. Audit Notes: WDNR has further defined its group membership parameters including: at least 10 contiguous acres, except as provided in this subdivision. A lake, river, stream or flowage, a public or private road or a railroad or utility right-of-way separating any part of the land from any other part does not render a parcel of land noncontiguous. The WDNR has established additional eligibility requirements that will not be repeated here, but are contained in the Eligibility Section of Chapter 21.

b. The Group Organization must designate a Group Manager(s) that is responsible for overseeing all of the administrative details of ATFS Group Certification and for ensuring compliance with all applicable requirements.

Yes No N.A. Audit Notes: The Division of Forestry Forest Tax Law Program and Policy Chief is designated as the group manager who administers the MFL Certified Group. The group manager may delegate authority to the WDNR Sustainable Forest Certification Coordinator, other central office staff, regional staff and cooperating foresters.

1.3 Group Membership

a. The Group Organization must inform Group Members of any and all fees associated with administration of the Group, if any, when they join the group organization.

Yes No N.A. Audit Notes: WDNR does not charge any fees to MFL owners. This is documented in the letter to each landowner.

b. The Group Organization must hold the ATFS Certificate on behalf of the Group Members

Yes No N.A. Audit Notes: WDNR does hold the Certificate on behalf of the Group. Inspected the ATFS IMG Certificate in the Conference Room.

c. The Group Organization must follow the ATFS logo use guidelines and ensure proper use of promotional claims about the Group Certification.

Yes No N.A. Audit Notes: WDNR is working to meet the ATFS logo use guidelines and ensures proper use of promotional claims about group certification. An old landowner letter did use the term American Tree Farm System without the Registration Mark. DNR staff is aware of this one incident, but overall meets the Logo use rules. An *Opportunity for Improvement* is to review all uses of the term ATFS and American Tree Farm System to ensure proper use of the Registration Mark.

d. The Group Organization must issue a document to each Group Member that confirms the Group Member participation and coverage by the scope of the third-party certificate.

Yes No N.A. Audit Notes: The application for enrollment in the MFL program has a declaration that contains: I/we understand that participation in the MFL program will automatically result in membership in the MFL Certified Group unless MFL Certified Group Departure Request is submitted. Inspected letter from Paul DeLong in 2008. Inspected example letter sent as recently as 11/10/14.

Material given to potential members includes the document “Wisconsin’s Managed Forest Law – a program summary” that includes this language: “An independent certification body verifies that MFL Group lands are managed in conformance with American Tree Farm System (ATFS) and Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) standards of responsible forestry.”

1.4 Group Member Entry & Departure from the Group Organization

a. The Group Organization must ensure that Group Members are notified that they are subject to all of the requirements and privileges of membership in the American Tree Farm System. Under this requirement, category 1 Group Members must be notified to the individual landowner level and category 2 Group Members must be notified to the portfolio level.

Yes No N.A. Audit Notes: The application for enrollment in the MFL program has a declaration that contains: I/we understand that participation in the MFL program will automatically result in membership in the MFL Certified Group unless MFL Certified Group Departure Request is submitted. Inspected confirmation letter sent to landowners.

IMG Indicator 1.4 requires Group Members to be notified that they must meet the ATFS requirements. While correspondence has been sent and provided, some landowners were not aware of ATFS. As MFL goes to an Opt-In Consent approach, it would be unfortunate if landowners Opted-Out for lack of awareness and the potential benefits of ATFS certification. As the Opt-in process is rolled out, more information and awareness of ATFS cert may serve to keep landowners in the Program.

b. The Group Organization must define and administer a procedure for admitting Group Members.

Yes No N.A. Audit Notes: Procedures for admitting group members are the same as for admittance into MLF. These procedures are extensive and found in various portions of the “Tax Law Handbook”.

c. The Group Organization must maintain a procedure for expelling Group Members if they do not meet the requirements of the AFF Standard, and are not willing or able to take appropriate corrective action.

Yes No N.A. Audit Notes: MFL Certified Group membership for an MFL Order may be deactivated under certain circumstances following appropriate procedures as outlined in Chapter 60 on Enforcement. Also inspected Chapter 21 addressing voluntary departure from Group Membership. Those Procedures will not be repeated here.

d. The Group Organization must maintain and update the membership list and ATFS database to reflect entries and departures of Group Members from the Group Organization.

Yes **No** **N.A.** Audit Notes: WDNR maintains a database that contains all required information about current members. Interviews indicated that a Master File Database is maintained, but was not witnessed. Information about departures is maintained in the History database.

1.5 Dispute Resolution

a. The Group Organization must have a procedure for addressing and resolving disputes regarding conformance with the AFF Standards between and among the Group Members and the Group Organization pertaining to Tree Farm certification.

Yes **No** **N.A.** Audit Notes: The Forest Tax Law Handbook has a section titled: Enforcement and Dispute Resolution Process.

b. The Group Organization must follow and conform to the AFF Dispute Resolution Policy and assist ATFS in resolving any such complaints.

Yes **No** **N.A.** Audit Notes: WDNR's dispute resolution process conforms to the AFF Policy. Most enforcement cases are related to the MFL Law.

1.6 Maintaining Records of Group Member

a. The Group Organization must maintain internal Group Member records and provide updated information on a regular basis to the ATFS Database.

Yes **No** **N.A.** Audit Notes: WDNR maintains a database that contains all required information about current members. Information is provided to ATFS on an annual basis.

Section 2. Requirements of Participation in the American Tree Farm System

2.1 Access to the AFF Standards

a. The Group Organization must make the AFF Standards of Sustainability for Forest Certification accessible to Group Members.

Yes **No** **N.A.** Audit Notes: Confirmed the Standards are accessible via external links on WDNR's website. The current AFF Standard were inspected on the web link.

2.2 Conformance with AFF Standards

a. The group organization must have a procedure for evaluating conformance with AFF Standards prior to property enrollment under the group certificate.

Yes **No** **N.A.** Audit Notes: Procedures for admitting group members are the same as for admittance into MFL. These procedures are extensive and found in various portions of the "Tax Law Handbook", Chapter 21.

b. Management Plan:

The Group Organization must ensure that each Group Member either has an individual management plan or is covered by a larger group management plan where responsibility for management has been delegated to a Category 2 with a qualified natural resource professional.

Yes **No** **N.A.** Audit Notes: WDNR requires that each group member has a current individual management plan. DNR provides potential group members with a list of Certified Plan Writers. Other DNR Procedures contained in Handbooks and other documents also constitute Group Organization planning.

2.3 Eligibility

a. The Group Organization must have a procedure for evaluating eligibility according to the ATFS Eligibility Requirements prior to property enrollment under the group certificate.

Yes No N.A. Audit Notes: Procedures for admitting group members are the same as for admittance into MFL. These procedures are extensive and found in various portions of the "Tax Law Handbook".

Section 3. Internal Monitoring and Reporting

3.1 Ongoing Monitoring

a. The Group Organization must establish and maintain a procedure and schedule for conducting ongoing monitoring of conformance with the AFF Standards.

Yes No N.A. Audit Notes: Certified Plan Writers complete a Land Exam and Practices Report for new members in conjunction with developing the management plan. This report contains stand level data as well as management prescriptions. This data is entered into WisFIRS which sends alerts to the DNR district foresters who notify the landowners of mandatory practices. District foresters confirm that the practice has been conducted and documents this in WisFIRS. For overall Group Management, WDNR conducts annual internal audits. Inspected May 2014 Internal Audit Report.

b. IMG Inspectors of the Group Organization conducting internal monitoring must have completed the current ATFS Tree Farm Inspector training course.

Yes No N.A. Audit Notes: Review of the DNR training database indicated that three foresters had not taken the ATFS Inspector Refresher Training Course at the beginning of the audit. By the Closing Meeting, one had taken the course, one no longer has Group ATFS Responsibilities, and one will take the course upon return from vacation.

c. The Group Organization must review conformance to the AFF Standards and document the relevant findings.

Yes No N.A. Audit Notes: Certified Plan Writers complete a Land Exam and Practices Report for new members in conjunction with developing the management plan. This report contains stand level data as well as management prescriptions. Tract files also contain documentation of procedures to ensure Standards conformance.

d. Where a non-conformance is identified during ongoing monitoring, the Group Organization must document the non-conformity and work with the Group Member and other appropriate parties to take corrective action.

Yes No N.A. Audit Notes: WDNR has a detailed procedure for working with Group Members with a non-conformity found in the Forest Tax Law Handbook, Section 60 which includes: multiple meetings and correspondence with the member, fines and finally, expulsion. These activities are documented on the Management Recommendation Records completed by the foresters. The next internal audit is scheduled for September 2015.

e. The Group Organization must ensure implementation of the corrective action and monitor conformity as part of the regular schedule of internal monitoring.

Yes No N.A. Audit Notes: Forest Tax Law Handbook contains procedures to ensure conformities are resolved. This is documented on the Management Recommendation Records completed by the foresters. Jerry Crow is currently serving as Acting Group Manager and intends to monitor corrective actions and trends.

3.2 Annual Reporting to the American Tree Farm System

a. The Group Organization must adhere to the annual reporting requirements as defined by ATFS and maintain copies of past annual reports.

Yes No N.A. Audit Notes: Inspected the Group Certification Annual report and that it was submitted to ATFS.

Section 4. Independent Audit

4.1 Managing the Group Certification Process

a. The Group Organization must contract with an accredited Certification Body to conduct the independent certification. Accredited Certification Body is required to conduct the audit according to accreditation rule under ANSI – American National Accreditation Body or the Standards Council of Canada.

Yes No N.A. Audit Notes: WDNR has contracted with NSF to conduct an independent certification according to the ANSI accreditation rules.

b. The Group Organization must coordinate the independent audit procedure to ensure the Certification Body has access to sufficient information and Group Member properties to determine conformance to the AFF Standard and ATFS Group Certification Standard.

Yes No N.A. Audit Notes: Any and all information was provided by DNR staff during the 2015 audit.

c. If the certification audit results in a non-conformity, the Group Organization must work with all appropriate parties take corrective action and ensure timely implementation.

Yes No N.A. Audit Notes: No nonconformances were detected during the 2015 audit. This requirement is not applicable. Inspected NSF Close-out of 2014 nonconformances issued by Norman Boatwright on 8/4/14.

d. The Group Organization must submit a copy of the ATFS Certificate and a summary of the audit report that is appropriate for public distribution to ATFS.

Yes No N.A. Audit Notes: Inspected the Summary Audit Report from 2014 that was emailed to ATFS (11/20/14).

e. The Group Organization must keep the Group Organization's program up-to-date and in ongoing conformance with the AFF Standard.

Yes No N.A. Audit Notes: All documents and procedures reviewed appeared to be current and up-to-date.



Section C ATFS Reporting Form

ATFS Audit Reporting Form

Note: This form is to be started by the Lead Auditor with assistance from the group's management representative. It is to be included as the final page of the ATFS Audit Report. After the final report is approved by the NSFCB Reviewer, the form is completed by the NSF Certification Services Specialist (CSS). The CSS will submit the form to:

American Forest Foundation, 1111 19th St., NW, Washington, DC 20036
(T) 202 463 2738 (F) 202 463 2461



American Tree Farm System

Form for Reporting a Forest Management Certificate

For groups certified in conformance to the American Forest Foundation Standards of Sustainability for Forest Management 2004-2009

CERTIFICATE INFORMATION

Certificate Holder Name	Wisconsin Managed Forest Law Tree Farm Group
Certification Body Name	NSF
Certificate Number	1Y942-FC1
Certification Date	8-Aug-11
Certificate Expiry Date	7-Aug-14
Number of Properties Certified	46,879
Number of Landowners Enrolled When Certification Issued	

CERTIFIED FOREST INFORMATION

Forest Area (to which certification applies)	2,544,239
Listing by State [if certificate covers forestland located in more than one state - for accounting purposes]	WI

LandOwnershipType	Cat1
Isthissameareacertifiedtoanotherforest	FSC

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GROUP ENTITY CONTACT INFORMATION

ContactName	Gerald (Jerry) Crow, Acting Group Mgr./Forest Tax Program Field
Street, No.	101 South Webster St Fr/4
City, State	Madison, WI
Zip Code	53703
Telephone	(715) 453-2188 x1260 cell: (715) 612-0980
E-mail	gerald.crow@wisconsin.gov
Fax	NA
WebAddress	www.dnr.wi.gov

CERTIFICATION BODY CONTACT INFORMATION

Contact Name	Dan Freeman
Street, No.	789 N. Dixboro Road
City, State	Ann Arbor, MI
Zip Code	48105
Telephone	734-214-6228
E-mail	dfreeman@nsf.org
Fax	734-827-7102
WebAddress	

Reporting Guidelines for Forest Management Certificates

Change to Certification Status

Certification bodies are asked to report certifications and decertifications as they become aware of this status. In the case of a change in ownership, the new entity's certification will only be included when a certificate is issued in the new organization's name by an accredited certification body.

Reporting Frequency

Certification bodies are responsible for completing the American Tree Farm System Certificate Reporting Form at the time of the certification audit, surveillance audit, and recertification audit.

Reporting Improvement

Certification bodies are welcome to propose a new reporting guideline or change to the existing guideline that they feel will benefit the transparency and consistency of reporting. All suggestions are welcome and will be considered. If an organization becomes aware of a certification that was reported incorrectly, please bring it to AFF staff's attention.



Section D
Site Visit Documentation

2015

Wisconsin Managed Forest Law Tree Farm Group
Consolidated ATFS & FSC Field Notes

8 – June – 2014	
FMU/Location/ sites visited	Activities/ notes
DNR offices, Madison, WI	Opening Meeting: Introductions, client update, review audit scope, audit plan, intro/update to FSC and SCS standards and protocols, review of open CARs/OBS, final site selection. ATFS Opening Meeting and Desk Audit of Independently Managed Group (IMG) Standard.
Depart for field	
Berg: Grant	<p><u>Larry Maahs 22-001-2008</u></p> <p>Met DNR Forester Allen King and Cooperating Forester TD Hawkereid at Potosi and reviewed the ATFS Standard. Discussed location of harvest just above town but on the top of the bluff with no visual impact on the tourist town. Accessed the harvest from the top and inspected the overstory removal and group selection of larger trees to release the hardwood regeneration. Logging occurred during winter under frozen conditions to minimize any ground impacts. Regeneration was vigorous with ample maple and walnut coming in. Several invasive plants had also come up, but would be shaded out as the trees filled in.</p> <p>The Cooperating Forester and DNR Forester encouraged the Mr. Maahs to apply for cost-share to treat the unmerchantable and low valued hardwoods left in the understory. Mr. Maahs has the option to conduct the TSI work himself or contract it out.</p> <p>The small openings were not large enough to gain oak regeneration. To maintain oak in the stand going forward, consideration could be given to selecting larger openings to gain additional regeneration and survival.</p> <p><u>Larry Maahs 22-002-2008</u></p> <p>Directly adjacent to the recently completed overstory removal, another tract is located down the hill and across the road from Potosi. Similar overstory removal operations are not scheduled until 2026. No activity on this site.</p> <p><u>Timothy Schultz 22-027-1996</u></p> <p>We had scheduled to meet the landowner on site, but arrived late and he had left to return to Madison. Landowner objectives are heavily weighted toward deer habitat enhancement. TD Hawkereid has worked with Mr. Schultz for over 20 years with the objective of removing single trees of overmature walnuts and salvage of oaks infected with Oak Wilt. The stand is dominated by Walnut, which is the highest returning species of trees in the area. Walked the manicured paths that were also used as skid trails during winter logging operations.</p> <p>Mr. Schultz is a bow hunter and had conducted extensive food plot plantings</p>

	<p>to attract the deer. Hunting stands are located throughout the property. The deer habitat benefits of forest management have motivated the landowner to actively manage the walnut and improve the stands. Oak wilt was present in patches of Oak. The single tree selections for the Oak and Walnut are quite small and probably not big enough to promote adequate Oak regeneration.</p> <p><u>Timothy Schultz 70-002-2008</u></p> <p>The most recent harvest of small groups was during the Winter of 2015 to remove Oak Wilt on a stand adjacent to the previous harvest in 2010. TD Hawkereid was also the Cooperating Forester and Allen King is the DNR Forester. The site contained a rich and diverse forest community among a rock outcrop and grading down into a draw with lush vegetation and dense stands of largely pure Walnut.</p> <p>Oaks will need larger openings to promote adequate sunlight and regeneration.</p>
Meister: Juneau	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Juneau field office: Review of group member records (ownership, management plans, cutting notices, correspondence, maps, enforcement actions, yield taxes, and MFL fees) and training records of MFL staff. Discussion of record-keeping process and conversion of forestland to non-forest use. 2. MFL Order # 29-011-2015: patch selection (partially completed) and improvement thinning (marked and planned). Patch cuts being driven by forest health issues (oak wilt) and marked where advanced oak regeneration is present. Thinnings used to improve growing conditions for designated crop trees with good form and strong crowns. Observation of retention of many species (including minority species), snags, and larger trees. Interview with landowner/ manager (ownership and access rights; property boundary marking; stakeholder consultation over timber harvests, training, etc.). 3. MFL 29-030-2012: property boundaries marked and posted. 2013 regeneration/ overstory removal of jack pine to allow stand to naturally succeed to red/ silver maple present in mid-story. Jack pine present in other stands. Oak improvement thinning to favor better formed, more vigorous trees. Group selection stand for uneven-aged bottomland hardwood stand. Discussion on post-harvest monitoring and data updates to plans/ group member files. 4. MFL 20-018-2009: property boundaries marked and posted. Red pine salvage from 2011 storm; release of oak, white pine, and jack pine regeneration present and minor species. 2009 harvest of jack pine and observation of riparian management zone (RMZ). 15 ft. equipment exclusion on three foot wide stream; can harvest within RMZ. RMZ management practices are consistent with protecting the species of concern identified on the site in past years.
Wager: LaCrosse/Monroe	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. MFL 32-019-2007: Combination thinning and overstory removal in a stand with low quality timber due to past management. Excellent example of native prairie maintained through CRP adjacent to woods. Observed sensitive species (bobolink). Sawlog sale combined with pulp to help make it economically viable. Follow-up TSI treatment of less desirable box-elder. 2. MFL 32-007-1994: 1923 stump sprout origin oak stand. DNR forester's direct involvement helped ensure better results of sale as green tree retention islands were added and WFLGAP funds were sought and received to ensure smaller non merchantable stems were removed following clearcut. Good BMP's on steep terrain. 3. MFL 32-009-1997: Oak stand transitioning to northern hardwoods. Selection harvest designed and executed to move stand to northern hardwoods. Excellent sugar maple regeneration. Forester showed good awareness of ensuring NHI species not impacted.
9 – June – 2014	

FMU/Location/ sites visited*	Activities/ notes
Berg: Grant	<p data-bbox="565 111 963 142"><u>Mattie Orchard Trust 22-010-1996</u></p> <p data-bbox="565 174 1385 321">Met with Richard Valigura, the Cooperating Forester, that marked the timber on the Mattie Orchard tract. The harvests were a light uneven-aged thinning of overmature and declining stands. Remaining stems of Oaks and Walnut are of good to very good quality and high value. Robust regeneration was observed on the entire harvested portion of the track.</p> <p data-bbox="565 359 1385 569">The skid trail at the lower portion could have used additional water bars. Seeding of the skid trails was excellent and the upper portion of the track had better water bar coverage. Oak Wilt pockets were observed across the track and is reported to be the predominate forest pest. Effort are made to harvest infected trees as well as trees around the perimeter of the infestation. The combination of overmature trees and Oak Wilt was referred to as “decline” that the forester is seeking to reverse.</p> <p data-bbox="565 600 963 632"><u>Mattie Orchard Trust 22-003-2013</u></p> <p data-bbox="565 663 1377 810">This overmature stand was similar to the other Trust track including overmature Oaks and Walnut. Other component of the stand included other species of Oak, Hickory, Maple and Elm. Corridors of thinned stand lead out from central skid trails to allow for felling without the tops and equipment in the advanced regeneration.</p> <p data-bbox="565 842 1385 1146">The Cooperating Foresters approach is to a leave buffer along of the edge of the agricultural fields and the forest. A bald eagle was viewed on-site and probably nesting in the Wisconsin River corridor to the West. Discussions with the Forester confirmed that light is the limiting factor on the generally productive sites. The discussion revealed that the openings need to be larger to promote more and better Oak regeneration. Constraints to gaining more Oak regeneration involve landowner objectives for smaller openings and maintenance of more residual volume as well as the lack of disturbance during winter logging. Dry weather logging would likely result in better preparation of the seedbed.</p> <p data-bbox="565 1178 992 1209"><u>Windy Ridge Tree Farm 22-004-2007</u></p> <p data-bbox="565 1220 1385 1388">This unique track involved an overstocked stand where the trees have been marked and sold, but not yet harvested. The Cooperating Forester, Craig Hollingsworth, cruised the entire stand and marked the timber as appropriate and needed. The landowner, Frank Brazelton, is a hands-on landowner that maintains mowed access and conduct much of the timber stand improvements himself.</p> <p data-bbox="565 1419 1385 1545">The non-MFL stands were also visited and discussed. Several involved row panting of White Pine and Walnut with the pine either thinned or removed altogether. The final crop trees of Walnut are free to grow and largely occupying the sites.</p> <p data-bbox="565 1577 1336 1755">A stream crossing on the non-MFL portion of the property was also inspected, largely due to the lack of other examples of stream crossings. The rocked approaches and streambed are the preferred BMP for stream crossings and is a text-book example of a proper installation. Rock is reported to be readily available and the approaches extended well up the slope.</p> <p data-bbox="565 1787 1122 1818"><u>The Cheryl Graves Revocable Trust 22-002-2007</u></p> <p data-bbox="565 1850 1377 1936">This tract followed the same pattern of overmature timber that is in need to overstory removal and salvage. The regeneration was prolific, but the forester acknowledged that the openings were not of sufficient size to allow</p>

	<p>Oak regeneration. Elm and Butternut Hickory are reported to be the dominate species, which are not the most desirable from an economic standpoint.</p> <p>Two plant species were identified as part of the Natural Heritage Inventory (NHI), but were not observed on the site. A bat cave was identified by the Cooperating Forester, Craig Hollingsworth, and well buffered. The Team visited the cave and discussed the opportunity for Cooperating Foresters and others to notify the NHI program and improve the database. However, field reports to the NHI program are not generally addressed and forestry professional input is not followed up on. An Observation is for the WDNR staff to more aggressively communicate improvements to the database.</p> <p>A Bald Eagle nest was visible from the track on the opposite side of the road and stream. Retention roost trees and nest trees are available on the tract for future recruitment. Cultural, ecological and natural heritage sites are identified on the Cutting Notices, along with BMPs to address invasive species.</p> <p><u>The Cheryl Graves Revocable Trust 22-003-2007</u></p> <p>The additional tract owned by Mike Graves was visited as part of the drive through. The Cooperating Forester prescribed the same general overstory removal and salvage. The landowner was met on site and discussed his manual application of Roundup herbicide to control vegetation on the bridge crossing the large stream that separated the agricultural lands from the forest. The landowner objective was not to harvest timber, but the mandatory practice of the MFL resulted in the timber harvesting and stand improvement.</p> <p><u>Daniel Kratochwill 22-003-2009</u></p> <p>Inspected skid trail along a Dry Wash leading into the tract. Landowner was not able to gain permission to access the tract from the ridge and was forced to use the narrow skid trail. The trail had encroached on the channel and scouring was evident, along with skid trails leading directly up hill.</p> <p>The DNR Forester and County Conservation Agency personnel contacted the landowner, documented the soil damage and prescribed excelsior mats to be installed, along with straw bales. Corrective Action was taken and further damage to the site was averted.</p> <p>The designation of the stream channel as a Dry Wash was unexpected and the BMP Manual addressing such depressions was reviewed. Additional training within the DNR has been conducted on what constitutes a Dry Wash and what the appropriate BMPs should be. Most skid trails and disturbed areas had been seeded and were sufficiently occupied by vegetation to prevent soil erosion. More seeding of skids was observed than on any other audits.</p>
Meister: Juneau	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Juneau field office: review of conversion policies and recent conversions to nonforest land use. 2. MFL 29-033-2013: Interview with landowner (benefits of MFL, objectives, site history). Observation of property boundaires and posts. Review of road quality and recent removals of oak wilt pockets and jack pine. Objectives to maintain unaffected oaks and white pines; allow natural succession of oak, maple, and pine. Discussion of relationship with adjacent landowners. Review of cutting notice for natural heritage and archeaological information. 3. MFL 29-041-2001: white and red pine third row thinnings with operator-select in between remaining rows. Observation of property

	<p>boundaries. Open to hunting. Interviews with land managers. Review of cutting notice for natural heritage and archeological information.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4. MFL 29-052-2013: Interview with consulting forester (confirmation of participation in MFL trainings and other continuing forestry education). Overstory removal to release advanced regeneration of oaks with retention of overstory oaks and white pine in areas with little to no established regeneration. Observation of den trees. Open to hunting. Inspection of adjacent red pine thinning with removal of suppressed and damaged trees. Review of cutting notice for natural heritage and archeological information. 5. MFL 29-026-2001: Interview with landowner and consulting forester. Inspection of oak regeneration harvest with advanced regeneration of oak and jack pine; oak stump sprouts after harvest. Retention of overstory oaks in areas with lower density of regeneration. Inspection of pond conversion. Less than 1 acre and less than 1% of ownership. No HCVs present. Pond will contribute to wildlife habitat and recreational opportunities. Review of cutting notice for natural heritage and archeological information. 6. MFL 29-022-1992: Interview with landowner and consulting forester. Inspection of fire-damaged stands due to railroad in May 2015. Discussion with landowner and consulting forester over whether or not to salvage and what strategies for retention and harvest openings could be implemented. Observation of railroad right-of-way and adjacent oak wilt salvage area. Discussion of consultation with neighbors. Review of cutting notice for natural heritage and archeological information. 7. MFL 29-003-2008: Interview with landowner and logger (confirmation of training credentials: FISTA, SFI, First AID/CPR). Inspection of improvement thinning area used to improve conditions for residual oaks and white pine and transition to group selections in bottomland hardwoods harvested in frozen conditions. Inspection of regeneration in group selection (silver and red maple, ash, swamp white oak, etc.). Review of skid trails; discussion of BMPs for winter trails and riparian areas, and how cutting can be postponed in order to achieve right soil conditions for harvest. Review of cutting notice for natural heritage and archeological information.
Wager: LaCrosse/Monroe	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. MFL 32-002-1993: Oak site transitioning to central hardwoods. Previous management included TSI to encourage oak establishment. Landowners participated in site audit. Scheduled harvest to remove overstory and regenerate oak. Oak was present in the understory but may not be adequate to ensure site is regenerated to oak. More likely outcome is site will be regenerated to central hardwoods with component of oak. There is an opportunity to add clarity to silvicultural prescriptions to ensure that landowners have realistic expectations on oak regenerations. Landowner does TSI work himself. 2. MFL 32-003-1994: Landowner Owen Johnson participated in site audit. Visited three different activities on property. First area was a 7 year old regeneration harvest. Oak established after overstory removal and was competing among aspen and central hardwoods, but in need of release. Second area was a red pine thinning that was well executed. Final area was scheduled regeneration harvest to release oak. TSI work (reverse diameter limit cut and mist blowing glyphosate on ferns) had been done to assist oak regeneration. Parts of stand had very good oak established, but in other areas oak seedlings were scarce. 3. MFL 32-004-2009: Oak jack pine clearcut with reserves to promote oak and pine regeneration. Good markets for pulp as 8 bids were received. Brief interview with landowner originally. Advanced oak regeneration was abundant and not damaged during harvest. 4. MFL 32-020-2003: Jack pine and scrub oak types. Clearcut with retention. Compromise reached with landowner to leave slightly more stocking than if managed solely for silvicultural objectives. Oak regeneration abundant. NHI species protected through timing of

	<p>harvest.</p> <p>5. MFL 32-002-2004: Annosum and red pine pocket decline in mature red and white pine plantation. Forester demonstrated good knowledge of forest health and mitigation measures. Good natural regeneration of oak and white pine thus no replanting is necessary. Good marketing of diversity of forest products: telephone poles, saw logs and bolts, pulpwood. Looked at adjacent black walnut planting that was growing fairly well. Good example of landowner/forester understanding appropriate species for micro site conditions.</p> <p>6. MFL 32-20-2014: Two stand property with oak on hillside and bottomland hardwoods along river. Site marked but not yet harvested. DNR forester was successful in encouraging landowner to work with Cooperating Forester. Good silvicultural prescriptions for site including regeneration with retention along hillside patch cuts in bottomland hardwood. Legacy pine trees retained along hillside. Sale will be scheduled in accordance with red shouldered hawk seasonal restrictions.</p>
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10 – June – 2014

FMU/Location/ sites visited*	Activities/ notes
<p>Berg: Vernon</p>	<p><u>Ron Miller 63-019-1993</u></p> <p>Inspected three (3) small aspen clearcuts. Met Mr. Bill Buckley who is the Cooperating Forester and received an overview of the tract. Also met both Ron Miller and Harold Havlik on site and reviewed landowner objectives for returning the site to nature and for hunting. Observed a good crossing of a Dry Wash with no activity within the depression and plenty of shade.</p> <p>This MFL property is up for renewal in two years. Mr. Buckley intends to rewrite the management plan and incorporate any needed revisions from the ATFS Standard. Landowner was unaware of the ATFS Program and what opportunities exist to receive the magazine and attend Tree Farm meetings and events. Ad new landowners opt-in as part of the renewal process, and Opportunity for Improvement is to better communicate the benefits of ATFS Certification.</p> <p><u>Richard Bertrand 63-015-2007</u></p> <p>Inspected a White Pine thinning operation where the Pine were in very poor condition due to blister rust, branching and likely ice damage to the tops. The market for pine pulpwood is very limited due to the long haul distances to pulp and paper mills located further north.</p> <p>Options are limited on the tract. Discussed the option to liquidate the stand and start over. Discussed tree planting programs of the past and why planting of off-site or low valued tree species was not very successful.</p> <p>Drove by a Red Pine thinning and observed from road and skid trail. The Red Pine appeared stagnant and not growing well on this portion of the tree farm. Management options are to thin again and reevaluate the condition and response of the trees.</p> <p><u>Catherine Speth 63-045-1992</u></p> <p>Climbed up the hill to inspect small single or group selections of Aspen overstory removal by an Amish logger. Stand is overmature in places and is in need of additional thinning. Discussions with the DNR Forester, Joel Jepsen and the Area Forest Leader, Aaron Young indicated a range of views on what prescription come next.</p> <p>Several management opportunities exist and the treatments would not likely be uniform across the tract. Discussion between the three DNR Foresters</p>

	<p>revolved around what would be the proper silvicultural treatment, including the need for even-aged management. The input of the DNR foresters is then modified by what the landowner objectives are and how much harvesting they are inclined to do. The objective of the DNR is to work with the landowner to explain what is best for the forest.</p> <p><u>Paul Hayes 63-016-2002</u></p> <p>Met Mr. Paul Hayes and his Grandson on-site to review the recent single tree selection to remove over-mature Oaks and a few White Pine. The White Pine were aged at around 140 years on a rather steep hillside overlooking a Blue Ribbon Trout Stream. The landowner is very hands-on and has girdled some of the understory trees to remove ironwood and other low valued species.</p> <p>The landowner and grandson planted Oak Seedlings, but discussions revealed that they are not receiving enough light to grow and occupy the site. The Landowner is very conservation minded with objective to protect the trout stream, managed for wild turkey and leave a conservation forest to the next generation. The landowner planted prairie grasses on the top of the ridge for wildlife and restoration.</p> <p>Water bars were installed and seeded, but were not sufficiently outsloped to remove water. Rather, they serve as trenches that and were too frequent, thus causing more soil disturbance. The one main skid trail was well out sloped. Again, the landowner was not well versed on the American Tree Farm System, but was very active in local clubs and conservation organizations. Landowner management plans are detailed and include all required elements. Mgt. plans Exceed the Basic Requirements of the ATFS.</p> <p><u>Lee Cunningham 63-201-2004</u></p> <p>Met Lee Cunningham on site at his home and travelled to the field. He and a partner conducted the logging themselves without the advice of a Cooperating Forester. The Landowners objective is return site to nature and wildlife while removing the old overstory and allowing more light to the ground.</p> <p>Mr. Cunningham is on the Board of the Kickapoo Landowner Cooperative that wants to become more active in finding markets and a fair price for landowner members. The landowner is aggressively seeking assistance from the DNR on ways that the Coop can be more effective in serving its members and marketing their timber.</p> <p>Walked up the skid trail and observed a large area of overstory removal with more light to the ground than in other harvesting activities that had been inspected over the previous three days. This and other stand are in need of additional TSI Treatment to remove poor quality trees and release the next generation of crop trees. A general observation is that not enough overstory is removed to allow sufficient light for regeneration.</p> <p>Prescription included harvesting in invasive species areas last to avoid spreading seed across the property. Invasive plants were prevalent across all sites visited, most are understory plants that are shaded out following crown closure.</p>
Meister: Adams	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Adams office: verification of MFL staff training records and qualifications. Review of sample of group members records (ownership, management plans, cutting notices, correspondence, maps, enforcement actions, yield taxes, and MFL fees). Review of cutting

	<p>notice for natural heritage and archeological information.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. MFL 01-029-1994: completed fourth red pine thinning and red pine overstory removal to liberate established white pine and oak regeneration, and marked, unharvested oak regeneration in response to oak wilt; leave tree marking. Observation of black spruce and balsam fir, likely holiday tree abandonment. Verification of property signage and boundaries. Review of cutting notice for natural heritage and archeological information. 3. MFL 01-041-2014: First stage of oak shelterwood and operator-select white pine thinning. More mesic site and likely will regenerate to mix of oak, ash, maple, white pine, elm, and other species characteristic of central hardwood type; white pine, maples, oaks, and other species used as crop trees. Concern over invasives near road (buckthorn) and within stand (barberry). Some tamarack planted. Inspection of property boundary. Review of cutting notice for natural heritage and archeological information. 4. MFL -1-055-1004: Oak regeneration (black and bur oaks), wetland complex, and red pine thinning. Discussion of training for new DNR staff (forest economist and utilization foresters). Site is at low risk of failure to meet oak regeneration objectives since much of area was fully treated. Pockets of red maple were not felled as specified in plan, but is up to group member to enforce. Discussion of wetland BMPs (winter-harvested), options for adjacency of stands and changing harvest dates to accommodate to lower costs, and archaeological sites. Observation of property boundary. Review of cutting notice for natural heritage and archeological information. 5. MFL 01-085-1998: Oak regeneration harvest due to oak wilt and storm damage (winter harvest); focusing on retention of health black oaks and all white oak per group member's objectives. Group member liberates individual oak seedlings manually; mostly red maple and poplar regeneration present. Property surveyed when purchased; observation of property corner and survey marker. Interview with group member and consulting foresters. Discussion of lumping sales due to winter harvests, and consultation and interaction with neighbors over property boundaries and other issues. Review of cutting notice for natural heritage and archeological information. 6. MFL 01-013-2015: oak regeneration, red pine thinning, and red pine clearcut (all marked, but not harvested). Oak wilt and red pine decline are factors. Will plant mix of white pine and white oak due to site conditions and presence of oak wilt. Many mid- to over-story black oaks will be removed throughout stands to be harvested due to oak wilt; most healthy retention trees identified within stands. Some areas will allow to succeed to central hardwood type for diversity. Property boundary near sale given ~200 ft. buffer to avoid any potential conflicts over ownership; forester has requested survey. Interview with consulting forester over archeological and natural heritage training. Discussion over harvest monitoring and post-harvest regeneration checks, which can be coordinated with MFL staff. Review of cutting notice for natural heritage and archeological information. 7. MFL 01-033-1991: first red pine thinning (third row with no removal in between remaining rows). Shorter reentry period on red pine to possibly combine with other timber sales on property. Stumps treated during harvester with cellu-treat (Disodium Octaborate Tetrahydrate (CAS No. 12280-03-4)) to prevent the spread of <i>H. annosum</i> root rot that affects red pine; discussion over chemical use policy and derogations. Cellu-treat is not on FSC-prohibited list. Oak regeneration harvest in area miscategorized as riparian; however, area is typed correctly in cutting notice and will be updated as part of next planning cycle. Review of cutting notice for natural heritage and archeological information.
Wager: LaCrosse/Monroe	1. MFL 42-006-2004: Oak and central hardwood stand with two aspen

	<p>stands that were regenerated via clearcut. Aspen regenerated successfully.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. MFL 42-204-1996: Red pine thinning marked by Cooperating Forester and cut by landowner. Excellent marking and harvesting with no residual stand damage. Harvest was timed to mitigate impacts to NHI species that may have been present. 3. MFL 42-006-2012: Oak clearcut with retention marked but not yet harvested. Small pocket of oak wilt was left inside of a buffer patch. Advanced oak regeneration prevalent in stand and should regenerate well to oak. Levels of green tree retention marked were consistent with DNR requirements. 4. MFL 42-008-2000: Landowner, forester, and logger all present on site. Red pine plantation origin 1961. Plantation damaged during 1998 windstorm and subsequently experienced widespread mortality. Due to mortality, forester changed the prescription from thinning to regeneration harvest. Good natural regeneration of oak and pine spp. 5. MFL 42-046-2001: Oak clearcut with retention. MFL property classified as "open" and has snowmobile trail through property. Stand will naturally regenerate to oak and pine. While it may take some time to get over deer browse, adjacent areas cut in 2005 eventually had good stocking of desirable species. Interview timber buyer and review of FSC scale tickets. Harvest timing adjusted to mitigate NHI species requirements. 6. MFL 42-35-2003: Planned clearcut in scrub oak of pole timber and sawtimber size. Harvest marked with minimal green tree retention (approximately 2 trees per acre). Timing of harvest adjusted to mitigate NHI species requirements. Despite low quality timber, forester did a good job at setting up the sale so that several bids were received. See Observation related to DNR green tree retention requirements of 5-15% of crown cover.
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FMU/Location/ sites visited*	Activities/ notes
Berg: Vernon	<p><u>Thomas Byrne 63-016-1999</u></p> <p>Other stands are marked by the logger and awaiting market conditions. Selection harvest of the remaining stand is recommended and initiated by the landowner in stands 1 and 2. Hiked down through the stand slated for single tree selection to reduce basal area and even out the stand.</p> <p>Inspected single tree selection above a stream where some tops ended up in the water. This was reported by neighbors and the DNR (Joel Jepsen) contacted the logger and had the tops pulled out of the stream before the equipment left the site.</p> <p>Inspected Cutting Notice and Report for Byrne tract. The notice is very brief and noticeably more sparse than most. Consistency between Cutting Notices is an issue and more uniform detail could be a consideration going forward. Some appear to be draft, other are unsigned and not dated.</p> <p>Throughout the audit, it was evident that when any BMP issues arise, the Cooperating Forester or the DNR observe and document the issue and it is quickly resolved. While a few minor BMP issues were observed, they had all been detected, documented, and corrective action was promptly taken. Thus, no ATFS or State BMP water quality violations had occurred.</p> <p><u>Thomas Boston 63-026-2007/63-029-2007</u></p> <p>Inspected multiple stands that are being thinned to promote stand conversion to central and northern hardwoods. Inspected one aspen stand that was clearcut at the top of the ridge. Inspected the marked timber and discussed hardwood silviculture with the three DNR Foresters.</p>

	<p>Road access was good and the road surface was well rocked. Generally, all road are in good condition and well maintained. No sediment delivery was detected on any of the roads and skid trails.</p> <p>As on other tracts, distance from markets for low valued material hampers good forestry and the removal of marginal trees of poor quality and species. Opportunities were discussed for expanding markets for cooperage and wood fuel. Landowner are limited to traditional sawmills in need of high quality hardwoods. Current stand conditions across Grant and Vernon Counties are due largely to the lack of good markets for the mid to low valued trees. Cutting Notice and Report very brief and incomplete in terms of signature and date.</p> <p><u>Chris Widstrand et al. 63-017-2013</u></p> <p>Inspected clearcut stand with prolific regeneration. This was the only hardwood clearcut observed, other than the Aspen harvests. Regeneration of 15 years more than adequately stocked the site.</p> <p>Crossed a stream in a pasture area with no fores cover. Agricultural lands generally do not retain any trees adjacent the stream. Agricultural lands above forests in the landscape appear to cause most of the stream damage and deposition of sediment. Streams routinely exhibited excess nutrients from inputs of manure. From a water quality standpoint, agriculture is the major detrimental influence.</p> <p>Inspected and upland harwood stand that is been designated for clearcutting and even-aged management going forward. This landowner was unique among the properties inspected in terms of having forest management as one of the top priorities without being overly concerned about the immediate aesthetics. The property is a good demonstration of how even-aged management can be used to regenerate shade intolerant trees and start fresh from decades of selection harvesting of the most valuable trees, and foresters left to deal with low quality stands.</p>
Meister: Adams	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. MFL 01-057-2014: Aspen and jack pine overstory removal with retention of midstory oak. Winter-harvested, harvest still incomplete. Will re-enter when soil conditions improve. Starting to achieve aspen, jack pine, and oak regeneration. Interview with group member. Review of cutting notice for natural heritage and archeological information. 2. MFL 01-043-1991: Oak regeneration harvest on open MFL lands. Variable retention. Oak regeneration established in several areas. No re-entry scheduled until next planning cycle. Good aesthetics for road. Observation of property boundaries. Review of cutting notice for natural heritage and archeological information. Review of cutting notice for natural heritage and archeological information. 3. MFL 01-223-1998: Red pine thinning on open MFL lands; marked, but not yet harvested. Removal of forked, scuffed, and other deformed trees. Most trees have good form. Interview with student trainee forester (verification of health & safety training and discussion of work conditions). Review of cutting notice for natural heritage and archeological information. 4. MFL 01-027-1993: Completed red pine thinning couple with first oak shelterwood step. Overstory removal to be scheduled for next planning cycle. Review of cutting notice for natural heritage and archeological information. 5. MFL 01-045-2004: Red pine overstory removal due to pocket decline; release white pine and oak regeneration. Discussion over how boundary dispute was settled. Observation of unsuitable areas (within 20% allowance). Review of cutting notice for natural heritage and

	<p>archeological information.</p> <p>6. Review of MFL policies and procedures with Adams County DNR staff.</p>
Wager: LaCrosse/Monroe	<p>1. MFL 42-023-1996: Two aged stand of oak that is naturally converting to maple. Marked with an improvement cut and some group openings. A high quality site for this County and prescription leaves good quality oak trees that will likely continue to grow well. Efforts were in place to protect NHI species that may occur on site.</p> <p>2. MFL 42-068-2002: Harvest originally prescribed as a 1st stage shelterwood, however, extensive oak wilt resulted in a heavier cut. Oak wilt harvest restrictions were followed. Site will likely regenerate adequately to central hardwoods with an oak component. Understory very heavy to <i>Rubus spp</i>, which may help protect oak seedlings from deer browse. Newly created road on property was well seeded. Water bars were installed but may need to be reshaped at some point. Extensive garlic mustard in some areas of sale. Removal of more of the mid-story poles that were left would help in regenerating stand, but pulp wood markets were not conducive at the time of sale.</p> <p>3. MFL 42-012-2010: Selective harvest in mature oak/central hardwoods stand that will maintain mature forest condition. Small amount of oak wilt removed. Harvest went well with no residual stand damage or BMP issues. Logging contract cleaned equipment of invasives prior to entering site. Interview logging contractor who marked the harvest. Logs sold to local Amish mill.</p> <p>4. MFL 42-053-2005: Clearcut with retention in oak/central hardwoods types. Management plan originally called for selection cutting to slowly convert the site to northern hardwoods, however, owners wanted a much heavier cut to improve wildlife habitat. No concerns about the site regenerating adequately, however, the plan should be re-written to reflect the change in management direction.</p> <p>5. Tomah Office: Review of training records, WisFIRS, WFLGP grants, inventory records, MFL property deeds, and tax payment records.</p>
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FMU/Location/ sites visited*	Activities/ notes
DNR offices, Madison, WI	<p>Closing Meeting Preparation: Auditor(s) take time to consolidate notes and confirm audit findings</p> <p>Closing Meeting and Review of Findings: Convene with all relevant staff to summarize audit findings, potential non-conformities and next steps</p>



Section E

Opening & Closing Meeting Attendees

Opening Meeting Attendees:

- Mark Heyde -- DNR Forest Certification Coordinator
- Nicole Potvin -- DNR Private Forestry Team Leader
- Kyle Meister --SCS Lead Auditor
- Dave Wager -- Team Auditor
- Scott Berg -- NSF Lead Auditor
- Jerry Crow -- DNR Host
- Chris Martin -- DNR Forester
- Allen King -- DNR Forester
- Aaron Young -- DNR S. District Area Leader
- Jim Warren -- DNR Public Private Sec.
- Kristin Lambert -- DNR Forester
- Christine Walroth -- DNR Forester
- Adam Zirbel -- DNR Forester
- Terri Wilson -- DNR Forester
- Kevin Schilling -- DNR Forester
- Chad Nichols -- DNR Forester
- Dylan Bell -- DNR Forester
- Jodi Stormoen -- DNR Team Leader
- Koby Antwi -- DNR Forester
- Mary Ann Buenzow -- DNR So. District Forestry Lead

Closing Meeting Attendees:

- Mark Heyde -- DNR Forest Certification Coordinator
- Kyle Meister --SCS Lead Auditor
- Dave Wager --Team Auditor
- Scott Berg -- NSF Lead Auditor
- Jerry Crow -- DNR Host
- Chris Martin -- DNR Forester
- Allen King -- DNR Forester
- Aaron Young -- DNR S. District Area Leader
- Jim Warren -- DNR Public Private Sec.
- Christine Walroth -- DNR Forester
- Adam Zirbel -- DNR Forester
- Kevin Schilling -- DNR Forester
- Chad Nichols -- DNR Forester
- Mary Ann Buenzow -- DNR So. District Forestry Lead

- Steve Courtney – WCD Forestry Leader
- Joel Jepsen – DNR Forester
- Paul DeLong – Chief State Forester
- Brad Hutnick – Silviculturist/Ecologist