

Maryland DNR Forest Service

Tawes Building, 580 Taylor Avenue
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

SFI 2015-2019 Standards and Rules®
Section 2 – Forest Management

3rd Surveillance Audit





NSF Forestry Program Audit Report

A. Certificate Holder Information

Certificate Holder	Maryland DNR Forest Service
Customer Number	0Y301
Contact Information (Name, title, phone & email)	Jack Perdue, Forest Resource Planning 410-260-8505 (office), jack.perdue@maryland.gov
Scope of Certification	The forest management program of the Maryland Department of Natural Resources on the following Maryland State Forests: Chesapeake Forest Lands, Pocomoke State Forest, Green Ridge State Forest, Garrett State Forest, Potomac State Forest and the Savage River State Forest. SFI Forest Management code: NSF-SFI-FM-0Y301.
Scope is accurate and appropriate, and matches on certificate, FRS and audit plan.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Locations Included in the Certification Note: may be listed as plain text or included in an appendix or a separate file.	Chesapeake Forest Lands Pocomoke State Forest Green Ridge State Forest Garrett State Forest Potomac State Forest Savage River State Forest
Significant Changes to Operations or to the Standard(s)	No significant changes

B. Audit Team

Lead Auditor	Tucker Watts
Audit Team Member(s)	Beth Jacquain

C. Site Visits

Date and Location of Each Visit	19-21 April 2022: Chesapeake Forest Lands and Pocomoke State Forest
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D. Audit Results

Auditor Recommendation	<input type="checkbox"/> Grant, maintain or renew certification <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grant, maintain or renew certification pending closure of CARs <input type="checkbox"/> Grant, maintain or renew certification pending follow-up assessment <input type="checkbox"/> Do not grant, maintain or renew certification (notify NSF office immediately)
Number and Summary of Findings of "Exceeds the Requirements"	0



Number and Summary of Findings of "Opportunity for Improvement"	0
Number and Summary of Findings of "Minor Nonconformity"	1 SFI FM Std, Section 14.1.1: MINOR CAR The 2021 Surveillance Audit Report is not present on the SFI website, no confirmation that it has been submitted to SFI, Inc. was witnessed by the auditor.
Number and Summary of Findings of "Major Nonconformity"	0
Summary of review of nonconformities from previous audit(s)	<p>SFI Multi-site Standard, Sec. 4.1.1: MAJOR CAR, repeated issue - Templates used for Harvests are maintained by the Central Office – multiple templates available for download contained errors or omissions. Closed: The timber sale contract documents identified in the audit report have been revised, removed, or explained. CAR Closed.</p> <p>SFI FM Std, Section 1.1.1: MINOR CAR – For the Pocomoke-Garrett SF (PGSF) and Savage River SF (SRSF) Forest Management Plans (FMP), the sections that describe forest modeling are not consistent with descriptions by field staff on how those are being implemented in operational planning. See SRSF – Section 5.12 - Forest Modeling, pg. 70, and PGSF – Section 5.12 - Forest Modeling, pg. 70. Closed: Principles for the Silvah-Oak protocol have been contacted to learn if that inventory and analysis can provide modeling capabilities and harvest unit prescriptions. Maryland State Forest Silvah-Oak data has been provided and communication has been maintained with that team. They are evaluating the data. If their opinion is that Silvah will not provide the results needed, alternatives will be considered such as rerunning the Woodstock analysis to that the State Forest manager are more trusting of the results or revising that section in the Sustainable Forest Management Plan that describes the forest modeling and our process for selecting harvest levels and units scheduled for prescriptive management. Determination of Annual Incremental Forest Growth and Sustainable Harvest Volume on Harvestable Acreage in Potomac-Garrett State Forest details how the allowable harvest has been calculated. Pocomoke-Garrett SF (PGSF) and Savage River SF (SRSF) Forest Management Plans (FMP) has been updated with the process for selecting harvest levels and units scheduled for prescriptive management. Workshops teaching SILV AH 8 have been scheduled for June 2022. CAR Closed.</p> <p>SFI FM Std, Section 11.1.3: MINOR CAR – Staff education and training sufficient to their roles and responsibilities. Staff have continued to use outdated templates for the harvest contracts and addendums. Closed: State Forest manager's meetings are held twice a year to discuss forest management, administration, and forest certification issues. Use of the proper documentation is continually emphasized. As timber sale contracts and other documents are revised, this will be communicated to the State Forest staff by email. A process has been established to prevent such occurrences. The policy is being emphasized. CAR Closed.</p>
Notes from Opening and Closing Meetings	All agenda items covered. Closing meeting was held outside the Parker Forest Service Office.
All logos and/or labels, including ANSI, ANAB, SFI, PEFC, ATFS, etc. are utilized correctly in accordance with NSF policies.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes – Website usage. <input type="checkbox"/> No (a finding of nonconformity should be issued) <input type="checkbox"/> N/A (not using any labels or logos on any marketing materials, website, finished products, etc.)



E. Surveillance Review

Explain how the management system is capable of meeting the applicable requirements and expected outcomes of the audit	
Answer	Maryland DNR has demonstrated effective implementation by having their annual internal audits and management reviews each fiscal year. Documented internal audits and management reviews demonstrate continued commitment by the organization. The organization addressed all internal/external findings including the recent external CAR & OFIs issued by NSF in FY 2021. Leadership commitment was demonstrated during the field portion of the audit. The Annapolis State Office has oversight and input into the management system and were actively engaged in communications during this year's NSF field audit. This interaction demonstrated leadership commitment and the willingness to contribute to meeting the MDNR objectives in forest certification.

F. Recertification Review

Consider the performance of the program over the cycle through a review of all audits in the previous certification cycle, internal audits, management reviews, corrective actions and continual improvement. Describe the evidence supporting: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• effective interaction between all parts of the program and its overall effectiveness,• overall effectiveness of the system in its entirety considering internal and external changes,• demonstrated commitment by top management to maintain the system and maintain continuous improvement,• program contribution to the achievement of the client's policy and objectives, and the intended results. If there were any repeat findings during the audit cycle that indicate systemic issues, explain how they were addressed.	
Answer	N/A, surveillance audit.

G. Appendices

Appendix 1	Audit Notification Letter and Audit Agenda
Appendix 2	SFI Forest Management Public Summary Report
Appendix 3	Audit Standard Checklist - SFI Forest Management Standard
Appendix 4	Multi-site Checklist
Appendix 5	Site Visit Notes
Appendix 6	Meeting Attendance
Appendix 7	Forestry Program COVID-19 Report Appendix



Appendix 1

Audit Notification Letter

March 21, 2022

Jack Perdue, Maryland DCR Forest Service
580 Taylor Avenue
Annapolis, MD 21401
410-310-6866

RE: SFI® Forest Management Surveillance Audit (S3 audit)

Dear Mr. Perdue,

As we discussed, I will be conducting your SFI® surveillance audit as described in the attached itinerary. Please confirm that these dates are still appropriate for the audit of your program's continued conformance to the below standard(s):

- SFI® 2015-2019 Standards and Rules: Section 2 – Forest Management
- SFI® 2015-2019 Standard and Rules: Section 5, Logo Use

Preparing for the Audit

A key part of the audit is a review of selected evidence related to your program, which may include the below items:

- Forest Management Plans for the lands certified
- Status of Inventory and growth and yield modeling
- Approval for logo usage (if used)
- Verification of Controversial Sources
- Internal Audit records
- Management Review records
- Training records, license, certifications (Internal and external)
- Documentation for operation of complaint procedure
- Herbicide and Pesticide listing of chemicals and acreage
- Policies regarding certification, health, and safety (Example Organizations HR Manual)
- Wildlife habitat plans and forestry prescriptions
- BMP monitoring documents
- Documentation for monitoring, non-conformances identified and corrective action
- Contracts for harvesting and silvicultural activities, loggers/operators/truck drivers, and road building operators
- Listing of State and Regulatory contacts including but not limited to State regulations, SIC / 1-800- SFI
- Educational Opportunities for Loggers/landowners/community outreach
- Average sizes of clear cuts
- Cultural Resources
- Recreational Leases documents/records and monitoring program
- Verification of Controversial Sources
- Documentation for subcontracting/outsourcing
- Documentation for multisite organization (if applicable).

Please have this information available for me during the audit.



Additionally, **prior to the audit**, please ensure you:

- Address any open Corrective Action Requests you may have (see your last report)
- Confirm the scope of your certification (*eg. Scope/number of sites*) / any changes to management system
- Prepare summary records of certified sales
- Prepare summary records of any chemical use.

SFI Objectives and Performance Measure (PM)/Indicators to be Assessed:

This year's assessment will include a review of the following SFI Objectives and Performance Measure (PM)/Indicators:

- Objective 1: Forest Management Planning
- Objective 5: Management of Visual Quality & Recreational Benefits
- Objective 6: Protection of Special Sites
- Objective 7: Efficient Use of Fiber Resources
- Objective 8: Recognize & Respect Indigenous Peoples' Rights
- Objective 10: Forestry Research, Science & Technology
- Objective 11: Training & Education
- Objective 12: Community Involvement & Landowner Outreach
- Objective 13: Public Land Management Responsibilities
- Objective 14: Communications and Public Reporting
- Objective 15: Management Review & Continual Improvement
- As well as findings from the 2021 audit: OFI – 13.1.2, Minor CAR – 1.1.1, 11.1.3, Major CAR 4.1.1.

A range of stakeholders may be consulted during the audit.

Scope of Certification: The forest management program of the Maryland Department of Natural Resources on the following Maryland State Forests: Chesapeake Forest Lands, Pocomoke State Forest, Green Ridge State Forest, Garrett State Forest, Potomac State Forest, and the Savage River State Forest. SFI Forest Management code: NSF-SFI-FM-0Y301.

Sampling

Your responsibilities for Public Lands Stewardship include the role of “central administration” for this multi-site program. We will review the SFI multi-site requirements during the office/document review time of the audit.

The following sites are included in the overall scope: **Chesapeake Forest Lands, Pocomoke State Forest**, Green Ridge State Forest, Garrett State Forest, Potomac State Forest, and the Savage River State Forest. The 2022 audit will include 2 of these 6, as follows and noted in bold above: Chesapeake Forest Lands, Pocomoke State Forest. These forests were selected to include a broad cross-section of activities and of the sites, and to facilitate travel. Random sampling was not employed in the selection of these two State Forests but is used in the selection of sites to be visited.

Field Site Selection

Preliminary site selections include preparing a candidate site list of forest stands or areas harvested in the past 2 years with associated forestry environmental risk categories including FECV, RT&E, road construction, riparian areas, and other unique/special sites. Please provide this to your auditor(s) a minimum of 1 week before the audit.

The NSF team will select an initial subset of sites for your certificate and will ask for supplemental information on these sites, including their accessibility and the likelihood of being actively harvested during the visit. Once we review this information, we will select a subsample of sites to visit. Final site selection will occur during the opening meeting of the audit. On the opening day of the audit, we would ask you to tell us about any sales that are being worked at that time, and we would add one or two of these if possible. Staff should be prepared to review audit routes each morning.



Role of SFI Inc. Office of Label Use and Licensing

As a reminder, your organization is responsible for contacting SFI, Inc. and complying with all requirements before using or changing any SFI label or logo. Your contact is:

Courtney P. Guillen
Coordinator, Statistics and Label Use
Sustainable Forestry Initiative
Phone: 202.719.1391 ext. 338
Email: Courtney.Guillen@sfiprogram.org

Health and Safety

Please advise the Audit Team of any health and safety requirements, especially PPE required. The audit team will not proceed in any situations which they deem to be unsafe.

Audit Logistics

Travel: Auditor flights arrive Monday, April 18 to BWI, Auditors drive to Hampton Inn Salisbury for lodging.

Rental Car: Auditors will drive separately in their rental car(s) to and from Salisbury, Maryland and ride with MD DNR staff to field sites.

Lodging: Auditors to book lodging in coordination with client.

Meals: Lunches as arranged in coordination with Maryland DNR staff. Auditors' breakfast and dinner on their own or as arranged with MD DNR staff.

Meetings & Conference Rooms: Meetings will be held outside where possible; if held indoors, social distancing and adequate air flow will be provided. Auditors have been notified of client's COVID-19 policy and we will adhere to your policy.

Document Exchange: We will be using MD DNR's Google Drive to share and access files, as discussed during the pre-audit planning call. Please be prepared to upload any requested documents in advance of the audit, to limit sharing of paper documents among each other during the audit.

Staff and Stakeholder Interviews: Meetings (Remote/In person) may be set for key staff interviews prior to the audit, as arranged in coordination with MD DNR staff.

Other COVID-19 Details: Both auditors are fully vaccinated. When in-person interviews are conducted, schedules will have to be well-coordinated, so that auditors can achieve the needed interviews while maintaining adequate social distancing. Per NSF COVID-19 protocol, NSF auditors will wear masks when indoors.

Audit Team Members and Contact information

Role	Name	Email	Phone Number
Lead Auditor:	Tucker Watts	jwatts@nsf.org	601-622-6487
Team Member(s):	Beth Jacqmain	BJacqmain@scsglobalservices.com	218.256.2959

Audit Report Topics and Follow-up Actions

A report will be provided to you following the audit, which includes background information, completed checklist, and any Corrective Action Requests (CARs) raised. It will be necessary to close out any CARs raised within the proposed timescale.



Agenda for Review

Attached for your review is the tentative agenda that will guide the conduct of the audit. Please contact me via email or phone if you would like to recommend changes or have any questions regarding what is needed for the audit.

Thank you for selecting NSF to provide your audit services.

Sincerely,

Tucker Watts

Lead Auditor, NSF

601-622-6487

Jtwatts1@gmail.com



Audit Agenda

Type of Audit

- | | | |
|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Readiness Review (Stage 1) | <input type="checkbox"/> Registration (Stage 2) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Surveillance |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Reassessment | <input type="checkbox"/> Transfer | <input type="checkbox"/> Verification |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ | | |

Audit Objectives

Determine if certification should be maintained to the SFI 2015:2019 Standards and Rules®: Section 2, Forest Management.

Schedule

Day/Date	Time *	Activity/Process and Location to be Audited	Auditor
		MD-DCR Snow Hill Office, 6572 Snow Hill Rd, Snow Hill, MD	
<p>The Audit Agenda will be agreed during the opening meeting at Central/Head Office. However, it may change during the audit, by the Audit Team Leader in response to issues identified during the assessment. A Site/Branch Audit will only require a summary opening meeting. Stakeholders will be consulted during field visits or by appointment.</p>			
Tuesday April 19, 2022	8:00 am	<p>Opening Meeting/Agenda Review MD-DCR Snow Hill Office, 6572 Snow Hill Rd, Snow Hill, MD</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Introductions, Confirmation of Roles, Audit Objectives, and resources/facilities required by the audit team Review Audit Procedures and Plan, including timetable, audit objectives, including standards used and selected requirements to be assessed, methods and procedures, including sampling process, determine Interviewees, confirmation of matters relating to confidentiality Formal communication channels between the audit team and auditee Review and discuss changes to the Facility Record Sheet (FRS) (contact information, billing information, review and confirm scope and Product Group List, changes in operations, etc.) Confirm relevant work safety, emergency and security procedures for the audit team Conditions under which audit may be terminated Discussion of corrective action requests / plans, including method of reporting audit findings / grading of CARs Review of findings (CARs-OFls) raised during previous audits Conducting staff interviews in the absence of (line) management Overview of Logo or Label use Records of any complaints received by Company and Complaints/Appeals system on the conduct or conclusions of an Audit Overview by your staff of program Discuss field site visit provisions and other logistical issues Final site selection and audit route review Client questions 	Tucker Watts, Beth Jacqmain
		<p>Review of SFI® 2015-2019 Standards and Rules: Section 2 – Forest Management:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Objective 1: Forest Management Planning Objective 5: Management of Visual Quality & Recreational Benefits Objective 6: Protection of Special Sites Objective 7: Efficient Use of Fiber Resources Objective 8: Recognize & Respect Indigenous Peoples’ Rights Objective 10: Forestry Research, Science & Technology Objective 11: Training & Education Objective 12: Community Involvement & Landowner Outreach 	



		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Objective 13: Public Land Management Responsibilities Objective 14: Communications and Public Reporting Objective 15: Management Review & Continual Improvement 	
	1:30 pm	Field site visits Chesapeake SF & Pocomoke SF	
	4:30 pm	Daily wrap-up and discuss next day	
Office of Parker Forestry Services, 1323 Mount Hermon Rd, Ste 8B, Salisbury, MD			
Wednesday April 20, 2022	8:00 am	Abbreviated open meeting, Audit route review Continue field site visits Chesapeake Forest Lands & Pocomoke State Forest	Tucker Watts, Beth Jacqmain
	4:30 pm	Daily wrap-up and discuss next day	



Office of Parker Forestry Services, 1323 Mount Hermon Rd, Ste 8B, Salisbury, MD
Closing Meeting at MD-DCR Snow Hill Office, 6572 Snow Hill Rd, Snow Hill, MD

Thursday April 21, 2022	8:00 am	Audit route review Continue field site visits Chesapeake Forest Lands & Pocomoke State Forest	Tucker Watts, Beth Jacqmain
	11:00 am	Review of Documentation and Evidence, including (but not limited to) the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SFI Program - Selected Objectives/PM • Written procedures, training records, trademark approvals, and outsourcing agreements • Management Plans • Overview of SFI Survey forms • Review Logo or Label use and claims on sales documents • Inventory Process and Updates • Annual Work Plans • Heritage Mapping: Biodiversity database • Historic/Cultural Sites • Forest Insect and Disease Program • Invasive Control Program • Management Review • Tax payments • Deed and lease information • OG • Monitoring records • Recent salvage activity/acreage • Multi-site requirements (if multi-site) • Other Issues <p>Staff Interviews to confirm key personnel understanding of relevant responsibilities and effectiveness of training received. Auditor shall interview a sufficient variety and number of employees and contractors at each operational site selected for evaluation. If multi-site, employees interviewed at each of the selected sites.</p>	
	12:30 PM	Closing Meeting Preparation: Auditor(s) take time to consolidate notes and confirm audit findings	
	2:00 PM	Closing Meeting <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Audit review and advising that audit evidence is based on sampling process. • Discussion of preliminary audit findings; CAR grading, normative reference, timeframe for closure and consequences of not meeting closure deadlines. • Audit follow up: - NSF Report Review and final audit/certification decision. • Recording of any divergent opinions where they could not be resolved. • NSF Certification Complaints/Appeals system on the conduct or conclusions of an Audit (available on website). 	
		End	

* Audit conducted jointly with both the SFI FM and the FSC FM audit; times approximate and may vary.



Appendix 2

Maryland DNR Forest Service 2022 SFI® Forest Management Summary Report

Introduction

The SFI Program of the Maryland DNR Forest Service of Annapolis, Maryland has achieved continuing conformance with the SFI® 2015-2019 Forest Management Standard, including the sustainable harvest level requirement (Performance Measure 1.1), according to the NSF SFI-FS Certification Audit Process.

The Maryland DNR Forest Service initially obtained SFI Certification from NSF on July 24, 2003, and the program was re-certified in July 2006. Initially only the Chesapeake Forest Lands were certified, with the Pocomoke State Forest added in 2009 as part of an expansion of scope that included other recently acquired lands. In 2011 the organization sought and was granted recertification to the current scope based on an audit of the six largest state forests against the SFI 2010-2014 Standard. The state forests included in the current scope were re-certified to the SFI 2015-2019 Standards in April of 2014 and again in April 2019. The most recent audit was a partial surveillance audit conducted April 2022.

The multi-site certificate covers 6 different State Forests (Chesapeake Forest, Pocomoke State Forest, Green Ridge State Forest, Garrett State Forest, Potomac State Forest, and Savage River State Forests) also including the central office located in Annapolis MD. The 2022 audit included office reviews in the following Chesapeake Forest, Pocomoke State Forest, and the central office located in Annapolis, MD. Field visits were conducted in 2 out of a total of 6 State Forests. This sample size was determined using the guidelines set forth in IAF-MD1. The State Foresters were selected based on a date rotation of total 6 different Forests. Within the 2 selected forests, NSF's lead auditor selected field sites for inspection based upon the risk of environmental impact, likelihood of occurrence, special features, and other criteria outlined in NSF's protocols and procedures. 1 field office, 1 central office and 12 field sites were visited.

The 14 field sites consisting of 7 thinning), 4 harvests, 2 herbicide applications, 5 special sites, 3 planting sites, 2 recreation sites, and 3 prescribed burn sites. Both thinnings and final harvests were viewed for multiple sites. There were also several roads, several smaller road-trail/stream crossings with cross drains and BMPs being applied. Harvest levels are documented in Annual Work Plans and have been at or below levels identified in plans for MD DNR associated inventory and growth data as well as harvest-related planning documents are used to ensure that plans include long term harvest level and consistent with the growth and yield model generated by the PGSF and SRSF. Data from the 5-year stand-level inventory project was used to develop a volume-control target based allowable harvest levels for western forests.

Maryland DNR Forest Service has an extensive program for harvest planning and approval. A Sustainable Forest Management Plan has been developed for each forest, and these plans are regularly updated. Harvests levels have been modeled by forest type for sustainability by area control for a 10-year planning horizon. Based on the Sustainable Forest Management Plan an Annual Work Plan is developed for each forest including planned harvests and other management activities. The Annual Work Plan is reviewed by various agencies in the Maryland DNR, and a Citizen's Advisory Team. It is also posted on the Maryland DNR Forest Service website for public comment for a period of 30 days. Following review of comments, the finalized plan is approved and posted on the Maryland DNR Forest Service website.

This report describes the results of the 2022 Surveillance Audit which considered changes in operations, the management review system, and efforts at continuous improvement. A sample of the SFI requirements were selected for detailed review.

Maryland's State Forests

Maryland DNR Forest Service is responsible for the management of the 209,207 acres of Maryland State Forests through a variety of designations. The Forest Service is supported by other agencies within the Department of Natural Resources including Wildlife, Fisheries, Heritage, and the Natural Resources Police. Management plans provide a useful summary of the importance of these forestlands and the broad policy goals. The Department recognizes the many benefits provided by state forests and has established a corresponding management policy in regulations.

Audit Process

The 2022 Surveillance Audit was performed by NSF on April 19-21, 2022, by an audit team headed by Tucker Watts, Lead Auditor. Beth Jacquain was the FSC Lead Auditor and supported the NSF lead auditor for SFI. Audit team members fulfill the qualification criteria for conducting audits contained in SFI 2015-2019 Standards and Rules, Section 9 - Procedures and Auditor Qualifications and Accreditation.



The objective of the audit was to assess conformance of the firm's SFI Program to the requirements of the SFI 2015-2019 Standard and Rules, Section 2 – Forest Management.

The scope of the audit included forest management operations. Forest practices that were the focus of field inspections included those that have been under active management over the planning period of the past 2 years. In addition, practices conducted earlier were also reviewed as appropriate (regeneration and BMP issues, for example); SFI obligations to promote sustainable forestry practices, to seek legal compliance, and to incorporate continual improvement systems were also within the scope of the audit.

The SFI Standard was used without modifying any requirements. SFI requirements that are outside of the scope of Maryland's SFI program were excluded from the scope of the SFI Certification Audit as follows:

- Indicator 10.1.2. Research on genetically engineered trees via forest tree biotechnology shall adhere to all applicable federal, state, and provincial regulations and international protocols ratified by the United States and/or Canada depending on jurisdiction of management. Maryland DNR Forest Service does not participate in research on genetically engineered trees.

Audit Process

NSF initiated the SFI audit process with a series of planning phone calls and emails to reconfirm the scope of the audit, review the SFI Indicators and evidence to be used to assess conformance, verify that Maryland DNR Forest Service was prepared to proceed to the SFI Audit, and to prepare a detailed audit plan.

The audit was governed by a detailed audit plan designed to enable the audit team to efficiently determine conformance with the applicable requirements. The plan provided for the assembly and review of audit evidence consisting of documents, interviews, and on-site inspections of ongoing or completed forest practices.

During the audit NSF reviewed a sample of the written documentation assembled to provide objective evidence of 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 NSF protocols. NSF selected and interviewed stakeholders such as contract loggers, landowners and other interested parties, and interviewed employees within the organization to confirm that the SFI Standard was understood and actively implemented. The activities of the central office were reviewed against the multi-site requirements as well.

The possible findings of the audit included conformance, major non-conformance, minor non-conformance, opportunities for improvement, and practices that exceeded the requirements of the standard.

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 by the Sustainable Forestry Initiative Standard[®]. The next Surveillance Audit is scheduled for the week of April 10, 2023.

Overview of Audit Findings

Maryland's SFI Program demonstrated conformance against the SFI 2015-2019 Standard. There was one non-conformance in 2022, and no "Opportunities for Improvement". As such, the program has earned continuing certification with the minor non-conformance. The minor non-conformance was closed during the audit.

One Major CAR and two Minor CARs were identified in the 2021 audit have been resolved:

- **SFI Multi-site Standard, Sec. 4.1.1: MAJOR CAR, repeated issue**
Templates used for Harvests are maintained by the Central Office – multiple templates available for download contained errors or omissions.
Closed: The timber sale contract documents identified in the audit report have been revised, removed, or explained. **CAR Closed.**
- **SFI FM Std, Section 1.1.1: MINOR CAR**
For the Pocomoke-Garrett SF (PGSF) and Savage River SF (SRSF) Forest Management Plans (FMP), the sections that describe forest modeling are not consistent with descriptions by field staff on how those are being implemented in operational planning. See SRSF – Section 5.12 - Forest Modeling, pg. 70, and PGSF – Section 5.12 - Forest Modeling, pg. 70.
Closed: Principles for the Silvah-Oak protocol have been contacted to learn if that inventory and analysis can provide modeling capabilities and harvest unit prescriptions. Maryland State Forest Silvah-Oak data has been provided and communication has been maintained with that team. They are evaluating the data. If their opinion is that Silvah will not provide the results needed, alternatives will be considered such as rerunning the Woodstock analysis to that the State Forest manager are more trusting of the results or revising that section in the Sustainable Forest Management Plan that describes the forest modeling and our process for selecting harvest levels and units scheduled for prescriptive management. Determination of Annual Incremental Forest Growth and Sustainable Harvest Volume on Harvestable



Acreage in Potomac-Garrett State Forest details how the allowable harvest has been calculated. Pocomoke-Garrett SF (PGSF) and Savage River SF (SRSF) Forest Management Plans (FMP) has been updated with the process for selecting harvest levels and units scheduled for prescriptive management. Workshops teaching SILV AH 8 have been scheduled for June, 2022. **CAR Closed.**

- **SFI FM Std, Section 11.1.3: MINOR CAR**

Staff education and training sufficient to their roles and responsibilities. Staff have continued to use outdated templates for the harvest contracts and addendums.

Closed: State Forest manager's meetings are held twice a year to discuss forest management, administration, and forest certification issues. Use of the proper documentation is continually emphasized. As timber sale contracts and other documents are revised, this will be communicated to the State Forest staff by email. A process has been established to prevent such occurrences. The policy is being emphasized. **CAR Closed.**

One Minor CAR was identified in the 2022 audit.

- **SFI FM Std, Section 14.1.1: MINOR CAR**

The 2021 Surveillance Audit Report is not present on the SFI website, no confirmation that it has been submitted to SFI, Inc. was witnessed by the auditor.

General Description of Evidence of Conformity

NSF's audit team used a variety of evidence to determine conformance. The 2020 audit included State Forest reviews in the following by the NSF audit team, Chesapeake Forest, Pocomoke State Forest, and the central office located in Annapolis, MD. Field visits were conducted in 2 out of a total of 6 State Forests. 1 field office, 1 central office and 14 field sites were visited. The 14 field sites consisted of the 8 thinning harvests, 4 final harvests, 3 chemical applications, 2 plantings, 3 prescribed burns, 3 special sites, and 1 recreation site. There were also several roads, several smaller road-trail/stream crossings with cross drains and BMPs being applied. A further description of the audit evidence is provided below, organized by SFI Objective. NSF's audit team used a variety of evidence to determine conformance.

Objective 1 Forest Management Planning

To ensure forest management plans include long-term sustainable harvest levels and measures to avoid forest conversion.

Summary of Evidence: *The forest management plans for both the Chesapeake and Pocomoke State Forests and supporting documentation and the associated inventory data and growth analyses were the key evidence of conformance for eastern forests.*

Objective 2 Forest Health and Productivity

To ensure long-term forest productivity, carbon storage and conservation of forest resources through prompt reforestation, afforestation, minimized chemical use, soil conservation, and protecting forests from damaging agents.

Summary of Evidence: Not evaluated this audit year.

Objective 3 Protection and Maintenance of Water Resources

To protect the water quality of rivers, streams, lakes, wetlands and other water bodies through meeting or exceeding best management practices.

Summary of Evidence: *Not evaluated this audit year.*

Objective 4 Conservation of Biological Diversity

To manage the quality and distribution of wildlife habitats and contribute to the conservation of biological diversity by developing and implementing stand- and landscape-level measures that promote a diversity of types of habitat and successional stages, and the conservation of forest plants and animals, including aquatic species, as well as threatened and endangered species, Forests with Exceptional Conservation Value, old-growth forests and ecologically important sites.

Summary of Evidence: *Not evaluated this audit year.*

Objective 5 Management of Visual Quality and Recreational Benefits

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

Summary of Evidence: *While this Objective was not audited in 2020, in the past evidence included field observations of active and completed harvesting operations and policies/procedures for visual quality. Visits to recreation sites and contacting various stakeholder seeking input and obtaining feedback on how the DNR balances public interests while providing various recreational opportunities.*



Objective 6 Protection of Special Sites

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

Summary of Evidence: While this Objective was not audited in 2020, in the past evidence included field observations of completed operations, assessments of GIS maps and other records of special sites, training records, and written protection plans. Partners within the DNR and outside stakeholders participate in identification of special sites and participate during audits.

Objective 7 Efficient Use of Fiber Resources

To minimize waste and ensure the efficient use of fiber resources.

Summary of Evidence: While this Objective was not audited in 2020, in the past evidence included field observations of recently completed operations, contract clauses, and discussions with supervising field foresters and interviews with loggers.

Objective 8 Recognize and Respect Indigenous Peoples' Rights

To recognize and respect Indigenous Peoples' rights and traditional knowledge.

Summary of Evidence: Not evaluated this audit year.

Objective 9 Legal and Regulatory Compliance

To comply with applicable federal, provincial, state and local laws and regulations.

Summary of Evidence: Not evaluated this audit year.

Objective 10 Forestry Research, Science and Technology

To invest in forestry research, science and technology, upon which sustainable forest management decisions are based and broaden the awareness of climate change impacts on forests, wildlife and biological diversity.

Summary of Evidence: While this Objective was not audited in 2020, in the past evidence included discussions with stakeholders and support for research on state forest lands. Forests are used for several ongoing research projects such as research projects involving, pollinators and prescribed burning, which are visited.

Objective 11 Training and Education

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

Summary of Evidence: Review of training records, and the records of support for the Maryland Master Logger Program. Further all harvests are conducted by logging crews with one or more Maryland Master Loggers. Training was check for licensed foresters and also for applicators applying chemicals on the forests.

Objective 12 Community Involvement and Landowner Outreach

To broaden the practice of sustainable forestry through public outreach, education, and involvement, and to support the efforts of SFI Implementation Committees.

Summary of Evidence: Records provided by the audited organization and interviews were used to confirm the requirements.

Objective 13 Public Land Management Responsibilities

To participate and implement sustainable forest management on public lands.

Summary of Evidence: The Citizen Advisory Committee confirms the involvement with the public inputs does occur.

Objective 14 Communications and Public Reporting

To increase transparency and to annually report progress on conformance with the SFI Forest Management Standard.

Summary of Evidence: Reports filed with SFI Inc. and the SFI Inc. website provided the key evidence. The state forests web site includes the complete certification reports from the past years.

Objective 15 Management Review and Continual Improvement

To promote continual improvement in the practice of sustainable forestry by conducting a management review and monitoring performance.

Summary of Evidence: The state forests web site includes the organization's Sustainable Forestry Initiative Management Reviews for the past 10 years. The most recent of these program reviews, agendas and notes from field reviews, and interviews with personnel from all involved levels in the organization were assessed.



Relevance of Forestry Certification

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

1. Sustainable Forestry

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

2. Forest Productivity and Health

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

3. Protection of Water Resources

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

4. Protection of Biological Diversity

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

5. Aesthetics and Recreation

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

6. Protection of Special Sites

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

7. Responsible Fiber Sourcing Practices in North America

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

8. Legal Compliance

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

9. Research

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

10. Training and Education

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

11. Community Involvement and Social Responsibility

To broaden the practice of sustainable forestry on all lands through community involvement, socially responsible practices, and through recognition and respect of Indigenous Peoples' rights and traditional forest-related knowledge.

12. Transparency

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

13. Continual Improvement

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

14. Avoidance of Controversial Sources including Illegal Logging in Offshore Fiber Sourcing

(Applies only to the SFI 2015-2019 Fiber Sourcing Standard)

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

Source: Sustainable Forestry Initiative® (SFI) Standard, 2015–2019 Edition



For Additional Information Contact

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Appendix 3

SFI 2015-2019, Section 2: Forest Management Standard Audit Checklist

OY301 – Maryland DNR Forest Service

Date of audit(s): April 19-21, 2022

1.2 Additional Requirements

SFI Program Participants with fiber sourcing programs (acquisition of roundwood and field-manufactured or primary-mill residual chips, pulp and veneer to support a forest products facility), must also conform to the *SFI 2015-2019 Fiber Sourcing Standard*.

Use of the *SFI* on-product labels and claims shall follow Section 5 - Rules for Use of *SFI* On-Product Labels and Off-Product Marks as well as ISO 14020:2000.

N/A Conforms Exceeds O.F.I. Minor NC Major NC

Notes: MD DNR made changes in the 2018 to ensure the use of the trademark symbol (TM) is used in documents when first using the initials SFI. Confirmed through document review.

Objective 1 Forest Management Planning

To ensure forest management plans include *long-term* sustainable harvest levels and measures to avoid forest conversion.

Performance Measure 1.1

Program Participants shall ensure that forest management plans include *long-term* harvest levels that are sustainable and consistent with appropriate *growth-and-yield models*.

N/A Conforms Exceeds O.F.I. Minor NC Major NC

Notes: Plans include maximum harvest levels based on inventory data and growth models. Viewed growth and yield models for the SF system with Staff and confirmed that harvest is well-below growth. Forest Inventory completed in 2016 had approx. 1,000 plots over the area, CFI used 10th ac plots, with notes for insect and disease, mortality, and in-growth.

1.1.1 Forest management planning at a level appropriate to the size and scale of the operation, including:

- a. a *long-term* resources analysis;
- b. a periodic or ongoing *forest inventory*;
- c. a land classification system;
- d. biodiversity at *landscape* scales;
- e. soils inventory and maps, where available;
- f. access to *growth-and-yield modeling* capabilities;
- g. up-to-date maps or a geographic information system (GIS);
- h. recommended sustainable harvest levels for areas available for harvest; and
- i. a review of non-timber issues (e.g., recreation, tourism, pilot projects and economic incentive *programs* to promote water *protection*, carbon storage, *bioenergy feedstock* production, or *biological diversity conservation*, or to address climate-induced ecosystem change).

N/A Conforms Exceeds O.F.I. Minor NC Major NC

Notes: The Chesapeake Forest Lands and Pocomoke State Forests plans were last updated in 2018, with a planned update in 2019 to reflect recent DNR policies and will involve review and comments from the Interdisciplinary Team (IDT). This revision will also include acreage and zoning updates. The final update is not yet complete.

The Sustainable Forest Management Plans are reviewed and updated nearly every year, often as a result of audit findings.

Inventory is based on 10 years. The analysis is calculated based on 100 years.

Forest inventory is based on CFI plots taken on a 10-year cycle.

Land classification, biodiversity, and soils are included in the inventory and GIS database. NRCS data is used for the soils information.

Remsoft is used for growth-and-yield modeling. Modeling is run annually to optimize revenue.

GIS is updated quarterly. Maps witnessed during site visits were up-to-date with site.



Remsoft is run annually to establish the annual cut. Annual cut is established in the Annual Work Plan. The Annual Work Plan is reviewed by management and stakeholders.

Non-timber issues witnessed in GIS and inventory database include trails layer, cemeteries, crossings, old homes, leased/open to public, and special sites.

1.1.2 Documented current harvest trends fall within long-term sustainable levels identified in the forest management plan.

N/A Conforms Exceeds O.F.I. Minor NC Major NC

Notes: Harvest plans from recent years more accurately depict the extent of operable forestland and reserves in each harvest unit. Harvest plans incorporate the allowable harvest calculations.

Current harvest levels appear to be consistent with plans and with forest health maintenance.

1.1.3 A *forest inventory* system and a method to calculate growth and yield.

N/A Conforms Exceeds O.F.I. Minor NC Major NC

Notes: CFI plots are used for ongoing forest inventory. Plots are visited on a 10-year cycle. Remsoft is used for the calculation of growth and yield. Remsoft is run annually.

1.1.4 Periodic updates of *forest inventory* and recalculation of planned harvests to account for changes in growth due to *productivity* increases or decreases, including but not limited to: improved data, *long-term* drought, fertilization, *climate change*, changes in forest land ownership and tenure, or *forest health*.

N/A Conforms Exceeds O.F.I. Minor NC Major NC

Notes: CFI plots are used for ongoing forest inventory. Plots are visited on a 10-year cycle. Remsoft is used for the calculation of growth and yield. Remsoft is run annually. Reductions have been made for loss of markets in recent years.

1.1.5 Documentation of forest practices (e.g., *planting*, fertilization and thinning) consistent with assumptions in harvest plans.

N/A Conforms Exceeds O.F.I. Minor NC Major NC

Notes: Annual works plans are the primary tool for tracking, reporting, and making information available regarding implementation of forest practices. Witnessed 2022 Annual Work Plan.

Performance Measure 1.2

Program Participants shall not convert one *forest cover type* to another *forest cover type*, unless in justified circumstances.

1.2.1 Program Participants shall not convert one *forest cover type* to another *forest cover type*, unless the conversion:

- a. Is in compliance with relevant national and regional *policy* and legislation related to land use and forest management;
- b. Would not convert *native* forest types that are rare and ecologically significant at the *landscape* level or put any *native* forest types at risk of becoming rare; and
- c. Does not create significant long-term adverse impacts on Forests with Exceptional Conservation Value, old-growth forests, forests critical to threatened and endangered species, and special sites.

N/A Conforms Exceeds O.F.I. Minor NC Major NC

Notes: The AWP and the ID Team ensure that the requirements are met. Conversions are driven by ecological considerations including restoring rare or under-represented cover types. Observed in the field that majority of harvests goals include maintaining composition within broadly similar stand types, consistent with natural stand dynamics such as pine. Goal is to move to natural forest management on a 50-to-70-year rotation.



- 1.2.2 Where a *Program Participant* intends to convert another *forest cover type*, an assessment considers:
- a. *Productivity* and *stand* quality conditions and impacts which may include social and economic values;
 - b. Specific ecosystem issues related to the site such as invasive species, insect or disease issues, riparian *protection* needs and others as appropriate to site including regeneration challenges; and
 - c. Ecological impacts of the conversion including a review at the site and *landscape* scale as well as consideration for any appropriate mitigation measures.

N/A Conforms Exceeds O.F.I. Minor NC Major NC

Notes: The AWP and the ID Team ensure that the requirements are met. Conversions are driven by ecological considerations including restoring rare or under-represented cover types. Witnessed during site visits with the restoration of lupine.

Performance Measure 1.3

Program Participants shall not have within the scope of their certification to this *SFI Standard*, forest lands that have been converted to non-forest land use. Indicator:

- 1.3.1 Forest lands converted to other land uses shall not be certified to this *SFI Standard*. This does not apply to forest lands used for forest and *wildlife* management such as *wildlife* food plots or infrastructure such as forest roads, log processing areas, trails etc.

N/A Conforms Exceeds O.F.I. Minor NC Major NC

Notes: Confirmed through interviews and site visits that site are not being converted to non-forest land use. The only conversion is for wildlife habitat and consultation occurs prior to the management being implemented in the field. Acreage has been removed from the certified land base when it is not managed as forestland.



Objective 2 Forest Health and Productivity

To ensure *long-term* forest *productivity*, carbon storage and *conservation* of forest resources through prompt *reforestation*, *afforestation*, *minimized* chemical use, *soil conservation*, and protecting forests from damaging agents.

Performance Measure 2.1

Program Participants shall promptly reforest after final harvest. Indicators:

2.1.1 Documented *reforestation* plans, including designation of all harvest areas for either natural, planted or direct seeded regeneration and prompt *reforestation*, unless delayed for site-specific environmental or *forest health* considerations or legal requirements, through *planting* within two years or two *planting* seasons, or by planned *natural regeneration* methods within five years.

N/A Conforms Exceeds O.F.I. Minor NC Major NC

Notes: Not evaluated this audit year.

2.1.2 Clear criteria to judge adequate regeneration and appropriate actions to correct understocked areas and achieve acceptable species composition and stocking rates for *planting*, *direct seeding* and *natural regeneration*.

N/A Conforms Exceeds O.F.I. Minor NC Major NC

Notes: Not evaluated this audit year.

2.1.3 Plantings of exotic tree species should minimize risk to native ecosystems.

N/A Conforms Exceeds O.F.I. Minor NC Major NC

Notes: Not evaluated this audit year.

2.1.4 *Protection* of desirable or planned advanced *natural regeneration* during harvest.

N/A Conforms Exceeds O.F.I. Minor NC Major NC

Notes: Not evaluated this audit year.

2.1.5 *Afforestation programs* that consider potential ecological impacts of the selection and *planting* of tree species in non-forested *landscapes*.

N/A Conforms Exceeds O.F.I. Minor NC Major NC

Notes: Not evaluated this audit year.

Performance Measure 2.2

Program Participants shall *minimize* chemical use required to achieve management *objectives* while protecting employees, neighbors, the public and the environment, including *wildlife* and *aquatic habitats*. Indicators:

2.2.1 *Minimized* chemical use required to achieve management *objectives*.

N/A Conforms Exceeds O.F.I. Minor NC Major NC

Notes: Not evaluated this audit year.

2.2.2 Use of least-toxic and narrowest-spectrum pesticides necessary to achieve management objectives.

N/A Conforms Exceeds O.F.I. Minor NC Major NC

Notes: Not evaluated this audit year.

2.2.3 Use of pesticides registered for the intended use and applied in accordance with label requirements.

N/A Conforms Exceeds O.F.I. Minor NC Major NC

Notes: Not evaluated this audit year.



2.2.4 The World Health Organization (WHO) type 1A and 1B pesticides shall be prohibited, except where no other viable alternative is available.

N/A Conforms Exceeds O.F.I. Minor NC Major NC

Notes: Not evaluated this audit year.

2.2.5 Use of pesticides banned under the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (2001) shall be prohibited.

N/A Conforms Exceeds O.F.I. Minor NC Major NC

Notes: Not evaluated this audit year.

2.2.6 Use of *integrated pest management* where feasible.

N/A Conforms Exceeds O.F.I. Minor NC Major NC

Notes: Not evaluated this audit year.

2.2.7 Supervision of forest chemical applications by state- or provincial-trained or certified applicators.

N/A Conforms Exceeds O.F.I. Minor NC Major NC

Notes: Not evaluated this audit year.

2.2.8 Use of management practices appropriate to the situation, for example:

- a. notification of adjoining landowners or nearby residents concerning applications and chemicals used;
- b. appropriate multilingual signs or oral warnings;
- c. control of public road access during and immediately after applications;
- d. designation of streamside and other needed buffer strips;
- e. use of positive shutoff and minimal-drift spray valves;
- f. aerial application of forest chemicals parallel to buffer zones to *minimize* drift;
- g. monitoring of water quality or safeguards to ensure proper equipment use and *protection* of streams, lakes and other water bodies;
- h. appropriate transportation and storage of chemicals;
- i. filing of required state or provincial reports; and/or
- j. use of methods to ensure *protection of threatened and endangered species*.

N/A Conforms Exceeds O.F.I. Minor NC Major NC

Notes: Not evaluated this audit year.

Performance Measure 2.3

Program Participants shall implement forest management practices to protect and maintain forest and soil *productivity*. Indicators:

2.3.1 Process to identify soils vulnerable to compaction, and use of appropriate methods, including the use of soil maps where available, to avoid excessive soil disturbance.

N/A Conforms Exceeds O.F.I. Minor NC Major NC

Notes: Not evaluated this audit year.

2.3.2 Use of erosion control measures to *minimize* the loss of soil and site *productivity*.

N/A Conforms Exceeds O.F.I. Minor NC Major NC

Notes: Not evaluated this audit year.

2.3.3 Post-harvest conditions conducive to maintaining site *productivity* (e.g., limited rutting, retained down woody debris, *minimized skid trails*).

N/A Conforms Exceeds O.F.I. Minor NC Major NC

Notes: Not evaluated this audit year.



2.3.4 Retention of vigorous trees during partial harvesting, consistent with scientific silvicultural standards for the area.

N/A Conforms Exceeds O.F.I. Minor NC Major NC

Notes: Not evaluated this audit year.

2.3.5 Criteria that address harvesting and site preparation to protect soil *productivity*.

N/A Conforms Exceeds O.F.I. Minor NC Major NC

Notes: Not evaluated this audit year.

2.3.6 Road construction and skidding layout to *minimize* impacts to soil *productivity*.

N/A Conforms Exceeds O.F.I. Minor NC Major NC

Notes: Not evaluated this audit year.

Performance Measure 2.4

Program Participants shall manage so as to protect forests from damaging agents, such as environmentally or economically undesirable wildfire, pests, diseases and *invasive exotic plants and animals*, to maintain and improve *long-term forest health, productivity and economic viability*. Indicators:

2.4.1 *Program* to protect forests from damaging agents.

N/A Conforms Exceeds O.F.I. Minor NC Major NC

Notes: Not evaluated this audit year.

2.4.2 Management to promote healthy and productive forest conditions to *minimize* susceptibility to damaging agents.

N/A Conforms Exceeds O.F.I. Minor NC Major NC

Notes: Not evaluated this audit year.

2.4.3 Participation in, and support of, fire and pest prevention and control *programs*.

N/A Conforms Exceeds O.F.I. Minor NC Major NC

Notes: Not evaluated this audit year.

Performance Measure 2.5

Program Participants that deploy improved planting stock, including varietal seedlings, shall use best scientific methods. Indicator:

2.5.1 *Program* for appropriate research, testing, evaluation and deployment of *improved planting stock, including varietal seedlings*.

N/A Conforms Exceeds O.F.I. Minor NC Major NC

Notes: Not evaluated this audit year.



Objective 3 **Protection and Maintenance of Water Resources**

To protect the water quality of rivers, streams, lakes, *wetlands* and other water bodies through meeting or exceeding *best management practices*.

Performance Measure 3.1

Program Participants shall meet or exceed all applicable federal, provincial, state and local water quality laws, and meet or exceed *best management practices* developed under Canadian or U.S. Environmental Protection Agency–approved water quality *programs*.

Indicators:

3.1.1 *Program* to implement federal, state or provincial water quality *best management practices* during all phases of management activities.

N/A Conforms Exceeds O.F.I. Minor NC Major NC

Notes: Not evaluated this audit year.

3.1.2 Contract provisions that specify conformance to *best management practices*.

N/A Conforms Exceeds O.F.I. Minor NC Major NC

Notes: Not evaluated this audit year.

3.1.3 Monitoring of overall *best management practices* implementation.

N/A Conforms Exceeds O.F.I. Minor NC Major NC

Notes: Not evaluated this audit year.

Performance Measure 3.2

Program Participants shall implement water, *wetland* and *riparian protection* measures based on soil type, terrain, vegetation, ecological function, harvesting system, state *best management practices (BMPs)*, provincial guidelines and other applicable factors.

Indicators:

3.2.1 *Program* addressing management and *protection* of rivers, streams, lakes, *wetlands*, other water bodies and *riparian areas* during all phases of management, including the layout and construction of roads and *skid trails* to maintain water reach, flow and quality.

N/A Conforms Exceeds O.F.I. Minor NC Major NC

Notes: Not evaluated this audit year.

3.2.2 Mapping of rivers, streams, lakes, *wetlands* and other water bodies as specified in state or provincial *best management practices* and, where appropriate, identification on the ground.

N/A Conforms Exceeds O.F.I. Minor NC Major NC

Notes: Not evaluated this audit year.

3.2.3 Document and implement plans to manage and protect rivers, streams, lakes, *wetlands*, other water bodies and *riparian areas*.

N/A Conforms Exceeds O.F.I. Minor NC Major NC

Notes: Not evaluated this audit year.

3.2.4 Plans that address wet-weather events in order to maintain water quality (e.g., *forest inventory* systems, wet-weather tracts, definitions of acceptable operating conditions).

N/A Conforms Exceeds O.F.I. Minor NC Major NC

Notes: Not evaluated this audit year.



Objective 4 Conservation of Biological Diversity

To manage the quality and distribution of *wildlife habitats* and contribute to the *conservation of biological diversity* by developing and implementing *stand-* and *landscape-*level measures that promote a diversity of types of *habitat* and successional stages, and the *conservation* of forest plants and animals, including *aquatic species*, *as well as threatened and endangered species*, *Forests with Exceptional Conservation Value*, *old-growth forests* and ecologically important sites.

Performance Measure 4.1

Program Participants shall conserve biological diversity. Indicators:

4.1.1 Program to incorporate the *conservation of native biological diversity*, including species, *wildlife habitats* and ecological community types at *stand* and *landscape* levels.

N/A Conforms Exceeds O.F.I. Minor NC Major NC

Notes: Not evaluated this audit year.

4.1.2 Development of criteria and implementation of practices, as guided by regionally based *best scientific information*, to retain *stand-level wildlife habitat* elements such as snags, stumps, mast trees, down woody debris, den trees and nest trees.

N/A Conforms Exceeds O.F.I. Minor NC Major NC

Notes: Not evaluated this audit year.

4.1.3 Document diversity of *forest cover types* and age or size classes at the individual ownership or forest tenure level, and where credible data are available, at the *landscape* scale. Working individually or collaboratively to support diversity of *native forest cover types* and age or size classes that enhance *biological diversity* at the *landscape* scale.

N/A Conforms Exceeds O.F.I. Minor NC Major NC

Notes: Not evaluated this audit year.

4.1.4 Program Participants shall participate in or incorporate the results of state, provincial, or regional *conservation* planning and priority-setting efforts to conserve biological diversity and consider these efforts in forest management planning. Examples of credible priority-setting efforts include state *wildlife* action plans, state forest action plans, relevant *habitat conservation* plans or provincial *wildlife* recovery plans.

N/A Conforms Exceeds O.F.I. Minor NC Major NC

Notes: Not evaluated this audit year.

4.1.5 Program to address *conservation* of known sites with viable occurrences of significant species of concern.

N/A Conforms Exceeds O.F.I. Minor NC Major NC

Notes: Not evaluated this audit year.

4.1.6 Identification and *protection of non-forested wetlands*, including bogs, fens and marshes, and *vernal pools* of ecological significance.

N/A Conforms Exceeds O.F.I. Minor NC Major NC

Notes: Not evaluated this audit year.

4.1.7 Participation in *programs* and demonstration of activities as appropriate to limit the introduction, spread and impact of *invasive exotic plants and animals* that directly threaten or are likely to threaten *native* plant and animal communities.

N/A Conforms Exceeds O.F.I. Minor NC Major NC

Notes: Not evaluated this audit year.

4.1.8 Consider the role of natural disturbances, including the use of prescribed or natural fire where appropriate, and *forest health* threats in relation to *biological diversity* when developing forest management plans.

N/A Conforms Exceeds O.F.I. Minor NC Major NC

Notes: Not evaluated this audit year.



Performance Measure 4.2

Program Participants shall protect threatened and endangered species, Forests with Exceptional Conservation Values (FECV) and old-growth forests. Indicators:

4.2.1 Program to protect threatened and endangered species.

N/A Conforms Exceeds O.F.I. Minor NC Major NC

Notes: Not evaluated this audit year.

4.2.2 Program to locate and protect known sites flora and fauna associated with viable occurrences of *critically imperiled* and *imperiled* species and communities also known as *Forests with Exceptional Conservation Value*. Plans for *protection* may be developed independently or collaboratively, and may include *Program Participant* management, cooperation with other stakeholders, or use of easements, *conservation* land sales, exchanges, or other *conservation* strategies.

N/A Conforms Exceeds O.F.I. Minor NC Major NC

Notes: Not evaluated this audit year.

4.2.3 Support of and participation in plans or *programs* for the *conservation* of *old-growth forests* in the region of ownership or forest tenure.

N/A Conforms Exceeds O.F.I. Minor NC Major NC

Notes: Not evaluated this audit year.

Performance Measure 4.3

Program Participants shall manage ecologically important sites in a manner that takes into account their unique qualities. Indicators:

4.3.1 Use of information such as existing natural heritage data or expert advice in identifying or selecting ecologically important sites for *protection*.

N/A Conforms Exceeds O.F.I. Minor NC Major NC

Notes: Not evaluated this audit year.

4.3.2 Appropriate mapping, cataloging and management of identified ecologically important sites.

N/A Conforms Exceeds O.F.I. Minor NC Major NC

Notes: Not evaluated this audit year.

Performance Measure 4.4

Program Participants shall apply knowledge gained through research, science, technology and field experience to manage *wildlife habitat* and contribute to the *conservation* of *biological diversity*. Indicators:

4.4.1 Collection of information on *Forests with Exceptional Conservation Value* and other *biodiversity*-related data through *forest inventory* processes, mapping or participation in external *programs*, such as NatureServe, state or provincial heritage *programs*, or other credible systems. Such participation may include providing non-proprietary scientific information, time and assistance by staff, or in-kind or direct financial support.

N/A Conforms Exceeds O.F.I. Minor NC Major NC

Notes: Not evaluated this audit year.

4.4.2 A methodology to incorporate research results and field applications of *biodiversity* and ecosystem research into forest management decisions.

N/A Conforms Exceeds O.F.I. Minor NC Major NC

Notes: Not evaluated this audit year.



Objective 5 *Management of Visual Quality and Recreational Benefits*

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

Performance Measure 5.1

Program Participants shall manage the impact of harvesting on *visual quality*. Indicators:

5.1.1 Program to address visual quality management.

N/A Conforms Exceeds O.F.I. Minor NC Major NC

Notes: Policy & Procedures Handbook for the Chesapeake Forest Lands & Pocomoke State Forest: Visual Quality state the program for visual quality. "Forestry Aesthetics Guide: Image and Opportunity" is the basic reference publication used.

5.1.2 Incorporation of aesthetic considerations in harvesting, road, landing design and management, and other management activities where visual impacts are a concern.

N/A Conforms Exceeds O.F.I. Minor NC Major NC

Notes: Policy & Procedures Handbook for the Chesapeake Forest Lands & Pocomoke State Forest: Visual Quality states the program for visual quality. "Forestry Aesthetics Guide: Image and Opportunity" is the basic reference publication used. Witnessed and discussed buffers of 50 feet for thinnings and 100 feet for harvest cuts along roads. Landings are located away from roads. Harvests are irregularly shaped. Forest Harvest Operations-Harvest Site Review on State Lands includes monitoring of aesthetic guidelines.

Performance Measure 5.2

Program Participants shall manage the size, shape and placement of clearcut harvests. Indicators:

5.2.1 Average size of clearcut harvest areas does not exceed 120 acres (50 hectares), except when necessary to meet regulatory requirements, achieve ecological *objectives* or to respond to *forest health* emergencies or other natural catastrophes.

N/A Conforms Exceeds O.F.I. Minor NC Major NC

Notes: Policy & Procedures Handbook for the Chesapeake Forest Lands & Pocomoke State Forest: Visual Quality is to keep all clearcuts 40 acres or less unless approved habitat restoration, extenuating circumstances, or emergencies require larger areas. Clearcut harvests witnessed and reviewed in Annual Work Plan did not exceed an average of 40 acres. Average Clearcut for 2021 – West – 30 Acres (10 sites); East – 40 Acres (4 sites)

5.2.2 Documentation through internal records of clearcut size and the process for calculating average size.

N/A Conforms Exceeds O.F.I. Minor NC Major NC

Notes: Policy & Procedures Handbook for the Chesapeake Forest Lands & Pocomoke State Forest: Visual Quality states the following:

Average clearcut size for SFI reporting is determined on an annual basis by calculating the arithmetic average of the clearcut operations for the year. The size of individual clearcuts will be determined by aerial and map inspection, and/or unit designation in the GIS data system. Segments of a clearcut stand that are divided by an internal forest road will be considered a contiguous clearcut.

Discussed calculation from the Annual Work Plan of Chesapeake Forest Lands & Pocomoke State Forest.



Performance Measure 5.3

Program Participants shall adopt a *green-up requirement* or alternative methods that provide for *visual quality*. Indicators:

5.3.1 *Program* implementing the *green-up requirement* or alternative methods.

N/A Conforms Exceeds O.F.I. Minor NC Major NC

Notes: Policy & Procedures Handbook for the Chesapeake Forest Lands & Pocomoke State Forest: Visual Quality states the following:

Adjacent or consecutive clearcuts will not be conducted until adjacent areas have achieved the SFI green-up requirement (4 years). Where feasible, we will also observe this adjacency limit with the forest units of adjoining landowners.

Reviewed and discussed during site visits.

5.3.2 Harvest area tracking system to demonstrate conformance with the *green-up requirement* or alternative methods.

N/A Conforms Exceeds O.F.I. Minor NC Major NC

Notes: Harvest area tracking is reported and reviewed quarterly with Parker Forestry Service.

5.3.3 Trees in clearcut harvest areas are at least 3 years old or 5 feet (1.5 meters) high at the desired level of stocking before adjacent areas are clearcut, or as appropriate to address operational and economic considerations, alternative methods to reach the *performance measure* are utilized by the *Program Participant*.

N/A Conforms Exceeds O.F.I. Minor NC Major NC

Notes: Policy & Procedures Handbook for the Chesapeake Forest Lands & Pocomoke State Forest: Visual Quality states the following:

Adjacent or consecutive clearcuts will not be conducted until adjacent areas have achieved the SFI green-up requirement (4 years). Where feasible, we will also observe this adjacency limit with the forest units of adjoining landowners.

Reviewed and discussed during site visits. No issues identified.

The following findings are noted in Field Notes - WR25 - Creek/Tankard Farm - 56.3-acre harvest with oak retention. Discussed green up policy. No issue identified. Adjacent sale completed in 2014. This sale sold in 2017. Cutting began in 2021. No issue.

Performance Measure 5.4

Program Participants shall support and promote recreational opportunities for the public. Indicator:

5.4.1 Provide recreational opportunities for the public, where consistent with forest management *objectives*.

N/A Conforms Exceeds O.F.I. Minor NC Major NC

Notes: Chesapeake Forest Lands & Pocomoke State Forest provide a variety of recreational opportunities. Witnessed kiosk for hiking, biking, and horseback travel at several locations. All of the Pocomoke State Forest is open to the public for recreation. Approximately 50% of Chesapeake Forest Lands are leased for recreational hunting. The remaining 50% are open to the public. Witnessed recreational use during site visits.



Objective 6 Protection of Special Sites

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

Performance Measure 6.1

Program Participants shall identify *special sites* and manage them in a manner appropriate for their unique features. Indicators:

6.1.1 Use of information such as existing natural heritage data, expert advice or stakeholder consultation in identifying or selecting *special sites* for *protection*.

N/A Conforms Exceeds O.F.I. Minor NC Major NC

Notes: Natural Heritage data and stakeholder consultation is used in identifying or selecting special sites for protection. Witnessed and observed areas and their protection during site visits. Annual Works Plans have the following review process prior to implementation:

The Timber Operations Order directs the timber sale process which includes the 3-step review process:

1. Interdisciplinary Team (IDT) (III-D-2-a-4)
2. Citizens Advisory Committee (III-D-2-a-9 through 11), and
3. 30-day public review process (III-D-2-a-11)

6.1.2 Appropriate mapping, cataloging and management of identified *special sites*.

N/A Conforms Exceeds O.F.I. Minor NC Major NC

Notes: Witnessed identification and documentation during GIS review. Observed and discussed management and protection during site visits. Pink flagging of the border designated no entrance and cutting.



Objective 7 Efficient Use of Fiber Resources

To *minimize* waste and ensure the efficient use of fiber resources.

Performance Measure 7.1

Program Participants shall employ appropriate forest harvesting technology and in-woods manufacturing processes and practices to *minimize* waste and ensure efficient utilization of harvested trees, where consistent with other *SFI Standard objectives*. Indicator:

7.1.1 *Program* or monitoring system to ensure efficient utilization, which may include provisions to ensure:

- a. management of harvest residue (e.g., slash, limbs, tops) considers economic, social and environmental factors (e.g., organic and nutrient value to future forests and the potential of increased fuels build-up) and other utilization needs;
- b. training or incentives to encourage loggers to enhance utilization;
- c. exploration of markets for underutilized species and low-grade wood and alternative markets (e.g., bioenergy markets); or
- d. periodic inspections and reports noting utilization and product separation.

N/A Conforms Exceeds O.F.I. Minor NC Major NC

Notes: Policy & Procedures Handbook for the Chesapeake Forest Lands & Pocomoke State Forest: Forest Utilization & Merchandising state Maryland DNR policy. Witnessed and discussed merchandising and marketing of forest products during site visits. Monitoring of efficient use of fiber resources is documented in the Forest Harvest Operations-Harvest Site Review on State Lands. Observed good utilization of raw material during site visits. Maryland DNR and Parker Forestry Services is aware of changing and new markets.



Objective 8 Recognize and Respect *Indigenous Peoples'* Rights

To recognize and respect *Indigenous Peoples'* rights and traditional knowledge.

Performance Measure 8.1

Program Participants shall recognize and respect Indigenous Peoples' rights. Indicator:

8.1.1 *Program Participants* will provide a written *policy* acknowledging a commitment to recognize and respect the rights of *Indigenous Peoples*.

N/A Conforms Exceeds O.F.I. Minor NC Major NC

Notes: Witnessed commitment in Sustainable Forest Management Plan for Savage River State Forest and Potomac-Garrett State Forest in Section 5.4 Cultural Heritage and Indigenous Peoples.

Performance Measure 8.2

Program Participants with forest management responsibilities on public lands shall confer with affected *Indigenous Peoples* with respect to sustainable forest management practices. Indicator:

8.2.1 *Program* that includes communicating with affected *Indigenous Peoples* to enable *Program Participants* to:

- a. understand and respect traditional forest-related knowledge;
- b. identify and protect spiritually, historically, or culturally important sites;
- c. address the use of non-timber forest products of value to Indigenous Peoples in areas where Program Participants have management responsibilities on public lands; and
- d. respond to Indigenous Peoples' inquiries and concerns received.

N/A Conforms Exceeds O.F.I. Minor NC Major NC

Notes: The Nanticoke are based in Delaware. The Accohannock are based on the Maryland Eastern Shore. The Chesapeake/Pocomoke Forest Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) includes an Indigenous Peoples member. Email communication from the Chesapeake Forest Lands office (dated April 8, 2022) confirmed that MD-DNR did reach out to the Maryland Commission on Indian Affairs (MCIA) with a personal invitation to MCIA to review the state forests Annual Work Plans and to follow up regarding CAC representation. Currently, Mike Hinman is the CAC representative. Keith Colston was contacted for review of Annual Work Plans.

Performance Measure 8.3

Program Participants are encouraged to communicate with and shall respond to local *Indigenous Peoples* with respect to sustainable forest management practices on their private lands. Indicators:

8.3.1 *Program Participants* are aware of *traditional forest-related knowledge*, such as known cultural heritage sites, the use of wood in traditional buildings and crafts, and flora that may be used in cultural practices for food, ceremonies or medicine.

N/A Conforms Exceeds O.F.I. Minor NC Major NC

Notes: This program does not manage private lands.

8.3.2 Respond to *Indigenous Peoples'* inquiries and concerns received.

N/A Conforms Exceeds O.F.I. Minor NC Major NC

Notes: This program does not manage private lands.



Objective 9 Legal and Regulatory Compliance

To comply with applicable federal, provincial, state and local laws and regulations.

Performance Measure 9.1

Program Participants shall comply with applicable federal, provincial, state and local *forestry* and related social and environmental laws and regulations. Indicators:

9.1.1 Access to relevant laws and regulations in appropriate locations.

N/A Conforms Exceeds O.F.I. Minor NC Major NC

Notes: Not evaluated this audit year.

9.1.2 System to achieve compliance with applicable federal, provincial, state, or local laws and regulations.

N/A Conforms Exceeds O.F.I. Minor NC Major NC

Notes: Not evaluated this audit year.

9.1.3 Demonstration of commitment to legal compliance through *available regulatory action information*.

N/A Conforms Exceeds O.F.I. Minor NC Major NC

Notes: Not evaluated this audit year.

Performance Measure 9.2

Program Participants shall take appropriate steps to comply with all applicable social laws at the federal, provincial, state and local levels in the country in which the *Program Participant* operates. Indicators:

9.2.1 Written *policy* demonstrating commitment to comply with social laws, such as those covering civil rights, equal employment opportunities, anti-discrimination and anti-harassment measures, workers' compensation, *Indigenous Peoples'* rights, workers' and communities' right to know, prevailing wages, workers' right to organize, and occupational health and safety.

N/A Conforms Exceeds O.F.I. Minor NC Major NC

Notes: Not evaluated this audit year.

9.2.2 *Forestry enterprises* will respect the rights of workers and labor representatives in a manner that encompasses the intent of the International Labor Organization (ILO) core conventions.

N/A Conforms Exceeds O.F.I. Minor NC Major NC

Notes: Not evaluated this audit year.



Objective 10 Forestry Research, Science and Technology

To invest in *forestry* research, science and technology, upon which sustainable forest management decisions are based and broaden the awareness of *climate change* impacts on forests, *wildlife* and *biological diversity*.

Performance Measure 10.1

Program Participants shall individually and/or through cooperative efforts involving *SFI Implementation Committees*, associations or other partners provide in-kind support or funding for forest research to improve *forest health*, *productivity* and sustainable management of forest resources, and the environmental benefits and performance of forest products. Indicators:

10.1.1 Financial or in-kind support of research to address questions of relevance in the region of operations. Examples could include, but are not limited to, areas of forest *productivity*, water quality, biodiversity, community issues, or similar areas which build broader understanding of the benefits and impacts of forest management.

N/A Conforms Exceeds O.F.I. Minor NC Major NC

Notes: Monitoring, Inventory, Habitat Management by Natural Heritage Program Staff on State Forest in 2021 defines the survey, monitoring, and treatment of various techniques for forest management, and for various species of vegetation and wildlife for each State Forest.

10.1.2 Research on genetically engineered trees via *forest tree biotechnology* shall adhere to all applicable federal, state, and provincial regulations and international protocols ratified by the United States and/or Canada depending on jurisdiction of management.

N/A Conforms Exceeds O.F.I. Minor NC Major NC

Notes: Maryland DNR does not participate in research on genetically engineered trees. Confirmed during interview with Jack Perdue.

Performance Measure 10.2

Program Participants shall individually and/or through cooperative efforts involving *SFI Implementation Committees*, associations or other partners develop or use state, provincial or regional analyses in support of their *sustainable forestry programs*. Indicator:

10.2.1 Participation, individually and/or through cooperative efforts involving *SFI Implementation Committees* and/or associations at the national, state, provincial or regional level, in the development or use of some of the following:

- a. regeneration assessments;
- b. growth and drain assessments;
- c. *best management practices* implementation and conformance;
- d. *biodiversity conservation* information for family forest owners; and
- e. social, cultural or economic benefit assessments.

N/A Conforms Exceeds O.F.I. Minor NC Major NC

Notes: Dan Rider, Stewardship and Utilization Program Manager has been investing in relationships with the Rural Maryland Council, regional economic development groups, and many other partners and building understanding of the broad values of forestry and wood products. There is growing recognition of the value of wood and forestry in the local economy. Examples follow.

Forestry Hub on the Eastern Shore Regional GIS Collaborative website

<https://maryland-forestry-resources-salisburyu.hub.arcgis.com/>

has:

- 1) The **Maryland Forestry Economic Adjustment Strategy** (EAS) document (growth/drain, industry types by region, potential market opportunities by timber shed, more)
- 2) **Forest Industry Story Map** (telling the story of sustainable forestry and wood with Maryland stats)
- 3) **Forest Resource Industry Viewer** (Interactive mapping application for prospective businesses to estimate location and suitability of potential harvest areas.)



Performance Measure 10.3

Program Participants shall individually and/or through cooperative efforts involving *SFI Implementation Committees*, associations or other partners broaden the awareness of *climate change* impacts on forests, *wildlife* and *biological diversity*. Indicators:

10.3.1 Where available, monitor information generated from regional climate models on *long-term forest health, productivity and economic viability*.

N/A Conforms Exceeds O.F.I. Minor NC Major NC

Notes: Various sources have been used for the development of climate change material. Climate change information is available in the Maryland State Wildlife Action Plan and the Maryland State Forest Action Plan.

10.3.2 *Program Participants* are knowledgeable about *climate change* impacts on *wildlife, wildlife habitats and conservation of biological diversity* through international, national, regional or local *programs*.

N/A Conforms Exceeds O.F.I. Minor NC Major NC

Notes: Draft Pocomoke State Forest Climate Change Adaptation and Resilience Planning has been developed for identifying climate change impacts on state forests. Interviewed Kate Vogel.



Objective 11 Training and Education

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

Performance Measure 11.1

Program Participants shall require appropriate training of personnel and contractors so that they are competent to fulfill their responsibilities under the *SFI 2015-2019 Forest Management Standard*. Indicators:

11.1.1 Written statement of commitment to the *SFI 2015-2019 Forest Management Standard* communicated throughout the organization, particularly to facility and woodland managers, and field foresters.

N/A Conforms Exceeds O.F.I. Minor NC Major NC

Notes: Commitment of the Governor's Executive Order is found on the State website:

<https://dnr.maryland.gov/forests/Pages/forestcert.aspx>

11.1.2 Assignment and understanding of roles and responsibilities for achieving *SFI 2015-2019 Forest Management Standard objectives*.

N/A Conforms Exceeds O.F.I. Minor NC Major NC

Notes: Field interviews confirmed that foresters understand roles and responsibilities.

Excellent communication exists between the Maryland DNR Forest Service and Parker Forestry Service. This relationship allows a seamless working relationship between the two entities.

11.1.3 Staff education and training sufficient to their roles and responsibilities.

N/A Conforms Exceeds O.F.I. Minor NC Major NC

Notes: Witnessed training record and certificates for Alex Clark.

11.1.4 Contractor education and training sufficient to their roles and responsibilities.

N/A Conforms Exceeds O.F.I. Minor NC Major NC

Notes: Verified logging contractors are certified Maryland Master Logger. Chemical applicators are licensed applicators.

Witnessed Parker Forestry Services, Inc. Continuing Education and Memberships. All foresters are involved in continuing education. Interviews confirm they are knowledgeable of roles and responsibilities as defined by Maryland DNR policies and procedures.

11.1.5 *Program Participants* shall have written agreements for the use of *qualified logging professionals* and/or *certified logging professionals* (where available) and/or *wood producers* that have completed training *programs* and are recognized as *qualified logging professionals*.

N/A Conforms Exceeds O.F.I. Minor NC Major NC

Notes: Witnessed forms for various types of timber sales by Maryland DNR. All stated requirement for Maryland Master Logger. Witnessed specific contracts for sites visited. Requirement is included in contracts used for specific sites.



Performance Measure 11.2

Program Participants shall work individually and/or with *SFI Implementation Committees*, logging or forestry associations, or appropriate agencies or others in the *forestry* community to foster improvement in the professionalism of *wood producers*.
Indicators:

- 11.2.1 Participation in or support of *SFI Implementation Committees* to establish criteria and identify delivery mechanisms for *wood producer* training courses and periodic continuing education that address:
- awareness of sustainable forestry principles and the SFI program;
 - best management practices, including streamside management and road construction, maintenance and retirement;
 - reforestation, invasive exotic plants and animals, forest resource conservation, aesthetics and special sites;
 - awareness of responsibilities under the U.S. Endangered Species Act, the Canadian Species at Risk Act, and other measures to protect wildlife habitat (e.g., Forests with Exceptional Conservation Value);
 - awareness of rare forested natural communities as identified by provincial or state agencies, or by credible organizations such as NatureServe, The Nature Conservancy, etc.
 - logging safety;
 - U.S. Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) and Canadian Centre for Occupational Health and Safety (CCOHS) regulations, wage and hour rules, and other provincial, state and local employment laws;
 - transportation issues;
 - business management;
 - public policy and outreach; and
 - awareness of emerging technologies.

N/A Conforms Exceeds O.F.I. Minor NC Major NC

Notes: Witnessed participation in SIC Meetings by Kenneth Jolly by meeting minutes. Interview confirms participation.
Witnessed SIC Dues Invoice for 2021 and 2021 Draft SIC Budget and Assessment Worksheet.

- 11.2.2 The *SIC-approved wood producer training programs* shall have a continuing education component with coursework that supports the current training *programs*, safety and the *principles of sustainable forestry*.

N/A Conforms Exceeds O.F.I. Minor NC Major NC

Notes: Active MD-DE Master Loggers are required to acquire 8 continuing education (CE) credits every 2 years. The MD-DE Master Logger Program strives to provide continuing education opportunities, but there are many other programs and activities that are eligible for CECs.

- Events, courses, or training videos relevant to logging, safety, business management, forestry, activism, or other related topics (generally one credit per contact hour; a quiz or brief report may be required).
- Service on the Master Logger steering committee or as the chair of a significant natural resources committee (four credits per year).
- Hosting a program that promotes forestry and logging industry (four credits)
- Service on a county forestry board or similar organization (two credits per year).
- Membership in a relevant organization (one credit per year, maximum two organizations).

- 11.2.3 Participation in or support of *SFI Implementation Committees* to establish criteria for recognition of logger certification *programs*, where they exist, that include:

- completion of *SFI Implementation Committee* recognized logger training *programs* and meeting continuing education requirements of the training *program*;
- independent in-the-forest verification of conformance with the logger certification *program* standards;
- compliance with all applicable laws and regulations including responsibilities under the U.S. Endangered Species Act, the Canadian Species at Risk Act and other measures to protect *wildlife habitat*;
- use of *best management practices* to protect water quality;
- logging safety;
- compliance with acceptable *silviculture* and utilization standards;
- aesthetic management techniques employed where applicable; and
- adherence to a management or harvest plan that is site specific and agreed to by the forest landowner.

N/A Conforms Exceeds O.F.I. Minor NC Major NC

Notes: There is no logger certification program in Maryland.



Objective 12 Community Involvement and Landowner Outreach

To broaden the practice of *sustainable forestry* through public outreach, education, and involvement, and to support the efforts of *SFI Implementation Committees*.

Performance Measure 12.1

Program Participants shall support and promote efforts by consulting foresters, state, provincial and federal agencies, state or local groups, professional societies, *conservation* organizations, *Indigenous Peoples* and governments, community groups, sporting organizations, labor, universities, extension agencies, the *American Tree Farm System*® and/or other landowner cooperative *programs* to apply *principles* of sustainable forest management. Indicators:

12.1.1 Support, including financial, for efforts of *SFI Implementation Committees*.

N/A Conforms Exceeds O.F.I. Minor NC Major NC

Notes: Kenneth Jolly is the representative on the SIC. Witnessed Invoice from SIC Committee for 2021 and SIC Dref Budget and Assessment System for 2021.

12.1.2 Support, individually or collaboratively, education and outreach to forest landowners describing the importance and providing implementation guidance on:

- a. best management practices;
- b. reforestation and afforestation;
- c. visual quality management;
- d. conservation objectives, such as critical wildlife habitat elements, biodiversity, threatened and endangered species, and Forests with Exceptional Conservation Value;
- e. management of harvest residue (e.g., slash, limbs, tops) considers economic, social, environmental factors (e.g., organic and nutrient value to future forests) and other utilization needs;
- f. control of invasive exotic plants and animals;
- g. characteristics of *special sites*; and
- h. reduction of wildfire risk.

N/A Conforms Exceeds O.F.I. Minor NC Major NC

Notes: Provides cost share programs at land trust events.

Co-sponsor events with Maryland/Delaware SAF and Maryland Forests Association annually to better reach other networks and landowners.

Work with Maryland Forestry Board Foundation and Boards to facilitate volunteer programs in schools and promote the Natural Resource Career Camp.

Provided interviews on the ghost forests and the effects of sea level rise on coastal forests.

Work to reach landowners through new partnerships with Audubon Mid-Atlantic and work on Landscape Scale Restoration Grants focused on the shore with Delaware and Virginia Department of Forestry.

Maryland DNR website provides various types of information for landowners.



12.1.3 Participation in efforts to support or promote *conservation* of managed forests through voluntary market-based incentive programs such as current-use taxation programs, *Forest Legacy Program* or *conservation* easements.

N/A Conforms Exceeds O.F.I. Minor NC Major NC

Notes: **Program Open Space** – provides financial and technical assistance to local subdivisions for the planning, acquisition, and/or development of recreation land or open space areas. Established under the Department of Natural Resources in 1969, Program Open Space symbolizes Maryland's long-term commitment to conserving our natural resources while providing exceptional outdoor recreation opportunities for our citizens. Today, park and conservation area projects have been assisted through Program Open Space Local grant.

MD DNR Forest Legacy Program - The program is designed to identify and protect environmentally important forests through the use of perpetual conservation easements purchased at market value between willing sellers and willing buyers. A conservation easement is a legal agreement between a landowner and an eligible organization that restricts future activities on the land to protect its conservation values.

Forest Conservation and Management Program – FCMPs purpose is to “Encourage landowners to manage their forest land in return for a reduced and/or frozen property tax assessment.

Any owner of five or more contiguous acres of forest land may enter the program. The program is a legal agreement between the landowner and the Department of Natural Resources and is recorded in the land records of the county in which the property is located. The landowner agrees to manage their forest land according to a management plan that is prepared for the property. The minimum acreage is five acres, and the minimum length of the agreement is fifteen years. The property tax assessment on the forest land in the agreement is generally reduced and frozen at a low agricultural rate. If the agreement is broken through failure to follow the plan, sale of the property to someone unwilling to assume the responsibility or if the landowner just wants to be out of the program, back taxes will be levied and will be computed back to the beginning of the agreement. The agreement can be amended to increase or decrease acreage and it can be transferred to a buyer if the buyer is willing to assume the responsibilities of the agreement.

Conservation Easements - Conservation easements are administered through the Maryland Environmental Trust (MET). MET was created as a quasi-public entity, both a unit of the Maryland Department of Natural Resources and governed by a private Board of Trustees.

There are significant financial benefits available to landowners who agree to protect their land with a conservation easement including a deduction for federal income taxes and a credit for state income taxes. In addition, there is property tax credit and possible federal estate tax exemptions. Agreeing to protect your land in the form of a Deed of Conservation Easement can be considered a non-cash charitable gift by the Internal Revenue Service (IRS).



Performance Measure 12.2

Program Participants shall support and promote, at the state, provincial or other appropriate levels, mechanisms for public outreach, education and involvement related to sustainable forest management. Indicator:

12.2.1 Periodic educational opportunities promoting *sustainable forestry*, such as

- a. field tours, seminars, websites, webinars or workshops;
- b. educational trips;
- c. self-guided forest management trails;
- d. publication of articles, educational pamphlets or newsletters; or
- e. support for state, provincial, and local *forestry* organizations and soil and water *conservation* districts.

N/A Conforms Exceeds O.F.I. Minor NC Major NC

Notes: Annual field visits from the Allegany College of Maryland Forest Technology Program.
Classes from Salisbury University Environmental Studies Program visit State Forest.
Large recreation events like the Algonquin 50k and large groups of equestrian riders.
Work with plant science and agriculture classes at Dorchester Tech and Worcester Tech High Schools.
Free seedling giveaways at Washington College.
National Reading Day at Pittsville Elementary School.
Many plantings annually at schools across the State.
Fire Prevention Week/Smokey Bear talks across the State
Maryland DNR website has various type of information available.

Performance Measure 12.3

Program Participants shall establish, at the state, provincial, or other appropriate levels, procedures to address concerns raised by loggers, consulting foresters, employees, unions, the public or other *Program Participants* regarding practices that appear inconsistent with the *SFI Standard principles* and *objectives*. Indicators:

12.3.1 Support for *SFI Implementation Committees* (e.g., toll-free numbers and other efforts) to address concerns about apparent nonconforming practices.

N/A Conforms Exceeds O.F.I. Minor NC Major NC

Notes: Maryland SIC is a small group and currently there is no toll-free number. The committee would address concerns if there was an issue. Maryland DNR website has a link for reporting complaints. Complaints are received by Jack Perdue and distributed to the appropriate manager for resolution. Interview with Jack and Alex confirms no complaints have been received. Verified documentation.

12.3.2 Process to receive and respond to public inquiries. *SFI Implementation Committees* shall submit data annually to *SFI Inc.* regarding concerns received and responses.

N/A Conforms Exceeds O.F.I. Minor NC Major NC

Notes: Maryland DNR website has a link for reporting complaints. Complaints are received by Jack Perdue and distributed to the appropriate manager for resolution. State Forest Grievance Policy is posted on the website. Interview with Jack and Alex confirm no complaints have been received. Verified documentation.



Objective 13 *Public Land Management Responsibilities*

To participate and implement sustainable forest management on *public lands*.

Performance Measure 13.1

Program Participants with forest management responsibilities on *public lands* shall participate in the development of *public land* planning and management processes. Indicators:

13.1.1 Involvement in *public land* planning and management activities with appropriate governmental entities and the public.

N/A Conforms Exceeds O.F.I. Minor NC Major NC

Notes: The MD-DNR works within the State of MD framework, as noted below:

Board of Public Works - DNR timber sales directive. The sale of forest products is ultimately approved by the Maryland Board of Public Works (incl. Governor, Comptroller, Treasurer). Sale valued at less than \$50,000 has been delegated to the DNR.

The Timber Operations Order directs the timber sale process which includes the 3-step review process:

1. Interdisciplinary Team (IDT) (III-D-2-a-4)
2. Citizens Advisory Committee (III-D-2-a-9 through 11), and
3. 30-day public review process (III-D-2-a-11)

Environmental Review Policy - This process guides internal/external activities (e.g., research, special events, construction, state forests activities outside of the annual work plan development, including easements, emergency timber sales) on DNR lands.

- Purpose: To establish a consistent, coordinated procedure for internal review of proposed projects and actions that affect the responsibilities of various units of the Department of Natural Resources in protecting, enhancing and providing for balanced use of the Natural Resources of the State.
- State Forest management plans include some documented information about other governmental entities.

13.1.2 Appropriate contact with local stakeholders over forest management issues through state, provincial, federal or independent collaboration.

N/A Conforms Exceeds O.F.I. Minor NC Major NC

Notes: Ensured through the Pocomoke State Forest and Chesapeake Forest Lands Citizens Advisory Committee members and public input on lands management.



Objective 14 Communications and Public Reporting

To increase transparency and to annually report progress on conformance with the *SFI Forest Management Standard*.

Performance Measure 14.1

A *Program Participant* shall provide a summary audit report, prepared by the *certification body*, to *SFI Inc.* after the successful completion of a certification, recertification or surveillance audit to the *SFI 2015-2019 Forest Management Standard*. Indicator:

- 14.1.1 The summary audit report submitted by the *Program Participant* (one copy must be in English), shall include, at a minimum,
- a description of the audit process, *objectives* and scope;
 - a description of substitute *indicators*, if any, used in the audit and a rationale for each;
 - the name of *Program Participant* that was audited, including its *SFI* representative;
 - a general description of the *Program Participant's* forestland included in the audit;
 - the name of the *certification body* and *lead auditor* (names of the *audit team* members, including *technical experts* may be included at the discretion of the *audit team* and *Program Participant*);
 - the dates the audit was conducted and completed;
 - a summary of the findings, including general descriptions of evidence of conformity and any nonconformities and corrective action plans to address them, opportunities for improvement, and exceptional practices; and
 - the certification decision.

The summary audit report will be posted on the *SFI Inc.* website (www.sfiprogram.org) for public review.

N/A Conforms Exceeds O.F.I. Minor NC Major NC

Notes: These reports contain the required information and are posted on the SFI Inc. website (www.sfiprogram.org):

- April 2019 Re-certification Audit
- April 2020 Surveillance Audit

The 2021 Surveillance Audit Report is not present on the SFI website, no confirmation that it has been submitted to SFI, Inc. was witnessed by the auditor.

During the audit the 2021 Surveillance Audit Report was submitted to SFI, Inc. and posted to their website. Witnessed email and verified on SFI, Inc. website.

Performance Measure 14.2

Program Participants shall report annually to SFI Inc. on their conformance with the *SFI 2015-2019 Forest Management Standard*. Indicators:

- 14.2.1 Prompt response to the *SFI* annual progress report survey.

N/A Conforms Exceeds O.F.I. Minor NC Major NC

Notes: Confirmed that the Maryland DNR annually responds and files the SFI Inc. annual progress report survey. Report for 2021 has been delayed by SFI, Inc.

- 14.2.2 Record keeping for all the categories of information needed for *SFI* annual progress report surveys.

N/A Conforms Exceeds O.F.I. Minor NC Major NC

Notes: Record keeping is kept in hard copy and electronic format in order to provide documented evidence to the SFI annual progress report surveys.

- 14.2.3 Maintenance of copies of past survey reports to document progress and improvements to demonstrate conformance to the *SFI 2015-2019 Forest Management Standard*.

N/A Conforms Exceeds O.F.I. Minor NC Major NC

Notes: Reports are kept in files, and those back through 2009 are kept on-line. Witnessed past report FY 2018.



Objective 15 Management Review and Continual Improvement

To promote continual improvement in the practice of *sustainable forestry* by conducting a management review and monitoring performance.

Performance Measure 15.1

Program Participants shall establish a management review system to examine findings and progress in implementing the *SFI 2015-2019 Forest Management Standard*, to make appropriate improvements in *programs*, and to inform their employees of changes.

Indicators:

15.1.1 System to review commitments, *programs* and procedures to evaluate effectiveness.

N/A Conforms Exceeds O.F.I. Minor NC Major NC

Notes: All forests conduct and document regular logging inspections & seedling survival/regeneration counts.
Monitoring of ESA restoration projects by Natural Heritage Commission. Interdisciplinary Teams conduct Annual Work Plan reviews for all projects.

15.1.2 System for collecting, reviewing, and reporting information to management regarding progress in achieving *SFI 2015-2019 Forest Management Standard objectives and performance measures*.

N/A Conforms Exceeds O.F.I. Minor NC Major NC

Notes: Interviews confirmed that each area participated in the internal audits and Annapolis Director/State Forester and Associate Director have oversight and input into management system along with the state forester conducting the internal audits. Internal audits completed on: Green Ridge State Forest — March 29, Potomac Garrett State Forest — March 30, Savage River State Forest — March 31, Chesapeake & Pocomoke Forests — April 5.
Management Review conducted on March 9, 2022.

15.1.3 Annual review of progress by management and determination of changes and improvements necessary to continually improve conformance to the *SFI 2015-2019 Forest Management Standard*.

N/A Conforms Exceeds O.F.I. Minor NC Major NC

Notes: Interviews confirmed that each area participated in the internal audits and Annapolis Director/State Forester and Associate Director have oversight and input into management system along with the state forester conducting the internal audits. Viewed the minutes from the Management Review Meeting on March 9, 2022, attended by the leadership team, central office staff, regional foresters, and state forester managers.



Appendix 4

Checklist for SFI® Section 9, Appendix 1: Audits of Multi-Site Organizations

OY301 – Maryland DNR Forest Service

Date of audit(s): April 19-21, 2022

3 Terms and Definitions

- 3.1 Organization: The term organization is used to designate any company or other organization owning a management system subject to audit and certification.
3.2 Site: A site is a permanent location where an organization carries out work or a service.
3.3 Multi-Site Organization: An organization having an identified central function (hereafter referred to as a central office – but not necessarily the headquarters of the organization) at which certain activities are planned, controlled or managed and a network of local offices or branches (sites) at which such activities are fully or partially carried out.
3.4 Group Certification Organization: A specific type of multi-site organization where forest owners, forest owners' organizations, forest managers, forest products manufacturers or forest products distributors without a pre-existing legal or contractual link can form a group for the purposes of achieving certification and gaining eligibility for a sampling approach to certification audits.

For audits of conformance with SFI Section 4 in the SFI 2015-2019 Standards and Rules document, multi-site organizations using either IAF-MD1 or alternate approaches to sampling shall ensure that all the relevant sites (including the central function) are subject to the organization's internal audit program and shall have been audited in accordance with that program prior to the certification body starting its assessment. (Section 9, Requirement 4.1.5 Audit Procedures)

Note: Communicate with NSF Project Manager to confirm.

- Input boxes for N/A, Conforms, Exceeds, O.F.I., Minor NC, Major NC

Notes: Internal audit checklist and Management Review witnessed for Maryland DNR for 2021-2022.

4.1 Eligibility Criteria / Method of Sampling (choose 1)

- Eligibility criteria established in IAF-MD1: Use Sub-Checklist 9-1-A below.
Alternative Approaches to sampling provided for in Section 9, Subsection 5.2 of the Audit Procedures and Auditor Qualifications and Accreditation document: Use Sub-Checklist 9-1-B below.



Sub-Checklist 9-1-A: Eligibility Criteria Established in IAF-MD1

Applicable **Not Applicable**

4.1.1 Multi-site organizations using IAF-MD1 as the basis for sampling shall meet the eligibility criteria established in IAF-MD1, including, but not limited to, the following:

a. The processes at all sites have to be substantially of the same kind and have to be operated to similar methods and procedures.

N/A Conforms Exceeds O.F.I. Minor NC Major NC

Notes: Maryland DNR performs similar methods and procedures for forest management, wildlife management, and recreation. Verified during site visits.

b. The organization's management system shall be under a centrally controlled and administered plan and be subject to central management review and all relative sites (including the central administration function) shall be subject to the organization's internal audit program.

N/A Conforms Exceeds O.F.I. Minor NC Major NC

Notes: Forest management system is overseen by the state forester located at Maryland DNR Forest Service office. Interviews confirmed that each area participated in the internal audits and Annapolis Director/State Forester and Associate Director have oversight and input into management system.

c. It shall be demonstrated that the central office of the organization has established a management system in accordance with the SFI 2015-2019 Standards and that the whole organization meets the requirements of the standard.

N/A Conforms Exceeds O.F.I. Minor NC Major NC

Notes: Interviews confirmed that each area participated in the internal audits and Annapolis Director/State Forester and Associate Director have oversight and input into management system along with the completion of the internal audits on Green Ridge State Forest — March 29, Potomac Garrett State Forest — March 30, Savage River State Forest — March 31, Chesapeake & Pocomoke Forests — April 5.

Management Review conducted on March 9, 2022.

d. The organization should demonstrate its ability to collect and analyze data (including, but not limited to, the items listed below) from all sites including the central office and its authority and also demonstrate its authority and ability to initiate organizational change if required:

- i. System documentation and system changes;
- ii. Management review;
- iii. Complaints;
- iv. Evaluation of corrective actions;
- v. Internal audit planning and evaluation of the results;
- vi. Changes to aspects and associated impacts for environmental management systems and
- vii. Different legal requirements.

N/A Conforms Exceeds O.F.I. Minor NC Major NC

Notes: Internal audits completed on Green Ridge State Forest — March 29, Potomac Garrett State Forest — March 30, Savage River State Forest — March 31, Chesapeake & Pocomoke Forests — April 5 and no outcomes noted for corrective actions. Confirmed through interviews that if different legal requirements are changed Annapolis Director/State Forester and Associate Director have oversight and input in communicating to the foresters. Complaints are dealt with internally and confirmed there haven't been any reported externally to the State.

(END Sub-Checklist 9-1-A: Eligibility Criteria Established in IAF-MD1)

Sub-Checklist 9-1-B: Alternative Approaches to Sampling from Section 9, 5.2

Applicable **Not Applicable**



Appendix 5

Maryland DNR 2022 Site Visit Field Notes

Documents in all timber sale file folders unless otherwise specified:

- Parker customized Audit - Sale Summary Sheet
- Timber Sale Contract (completed sales).
- SESCP - Permit - Timber Sale Contract Attachment "C", Compliance Agreement for the Standard Erosion and Sediment Control Plan for Forest Harvest Operations. (FP Sales <\$50M)
- Pre-sale Timber Sale/Thinning Checklist for environmental requirements.
- Pre-harvest Conference Checklist - with signatures fully executed unless otherwise stated.
- Aerial, topographic, legal maps
- Reference in Annual Work Plans (AWP)
- Tract Timber sale administration log
- Forest Harvest Operations – Harvest Site Review on State Lands (BMP)
- Close out plot notes and maps

Terms:

- Core FIDS –
- ESA Zones 1, 2, 3 -

W10 – Corddry Tract (Active)

216.3 acres. Purchased by Eastern Shore Forest Products. Combination of ESA 1, HCVF, and ESA 3 in Nassawango Bay Complex. Combination of 1st thinning (108 acres), 2nd thinning 55 acres), Seed tree harvest (32 acres). Access is matted with chips spread for stabilization. Using herring bone pattern for thinning. Discussed advantage in protecting residual stand in using technique. BA 70-80. Beginning sale - 2 days harvesting. No issues identified.

W50 - Piney Grove

94.6-acre thinning. Purchased by Eastern Shore Forest Products. Access road has been daylighted for drying. Leased for recreation. Agriculture ditches buffered. Minor skinning. Debris spread for stabilization. Drain protected at choice of Parker Forestry. Flagged in blue. Old house excluded from sale.

W48 - Peterson Farm

61-acre harvest. Harvest required by FAA near airport. Trees were too tall for area. Purchased by Eastern Shore Forest Products. Old home site buffered. No issues. ESA Zones 1, 3. Bridge mats used to cross agriculture ditch. Crossing clean. Banks are stable. Site has been planted.

W46 - Wicomico Demonstration Forest

230 acres. Original purchase for state Forest for demonstration of forest management and research. Contains forest trails for non-motorized travel. There have been some issues with ATVs. Harvested from 2013 to 2017. Sprayed in 2020 to control Greenbriar and spot planted, good seed crop in 2020 resulted in 2,400 TPA. Wildfire in 2021. Spot planted in 2022. Reviewed planting contract for Champion Forest Service. Hardwood green tree retention planned and mapped.

Prescribed burn (40-50 acres) turned into wildfire. Witness Fire Plan and After Burn Assessment. Fire was limited to State Forest.

W34 - Herman Hodgson

40.1-acre 1st thinning. Purchased by Timber Harvest Inc. Erosion control. Work Plan for 2010 and 2011. 50 feet no cut buffer along stream. BA 60. Additional buffer along ditch. Debris spread to stabilize skid trails.

WR45 - Foster Estate

Herbicide spray with prescribed burn for pollinator habitat. Chemicals used to control invasive Phragmites. Verified and discussed training. Matt conducts DNR training. Witness documentation in invasive layer of GIS. Application data recorded. Will monitor site and treat as necessary.

Adjacent 1,300-acre RSA for old growth ecosystem area. In 2012 DNR started identifying contiguous forest as potential old growth. Stand is mature, but not yet old growth. It has qualities of old growth and could be managed as such. Upland pine flat wood.

Natural Heritage will setup a 3-year burn rotation. TSI (Hack & Squirt) used to lower density. Native plants planted for bees. Goal is to convert to savannah.



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

PO2/WR45 – Furnace

Prescribed burn. Witnessed burn plan and after burn assessment. Chipped pine and retained oak. Reduced pine and retained scattered oaks to restore more savanna-like conditions. Retained trees to provide litter as host for various species. Oak leaves are host for Elphin. Purchased in 2013 from Forest Land Group for Frosted Elphin to host Lupins. Targeted land purchase for Frosted Elfin Butterfly habitat. Objective for the stand is to produce habitat for Lupins host species of the butterfly. Initial area was 5 acres. MD Natural Heritage (MDNH) was allowed to manage for Lupine/Butterfly by private company. MDNH then identified whole area as high-quality potential habitat for the Frosted Elfin Butterfly as well as its Lupine host which is also threatened. Implementing 3-year burn rotation. Goal is fuel dependent.

PO2 - Nazareth Church/Warren

177.7-acre 1st thinning. BA 70. Retain hard mast trees, Pond Pine, Pitch Pine, and Shortleaf Pine. Purchased by Eastern Shore Forest Products Company, Inc. Includes Gatewood sale to Paul M Jones Lumber Company, Inc. Minor skinning. ESA Zones 1, Stream buffer. Pink flag for buffer. No issues.

PO - Nazareth Church

Tract 3 - 34.5-acre 1st thinning (Active). Gatewood to Animal Control Group, LLC. BA of 70. Retain hard mast trees. Thinning allowed in SMZ. No issues. Limited access to Stand 5. New access developed. Debris used to stabilize access. Agriculture ditches to cross. Will fill ditches with stems and remove. Trail well matted with debris. Small deck.

PO2 - Nazareth Church

Tract 33 - 164-acre 1st thinning. Gatewood to by Paul Jones Lumber Company and Animal Control Group. Sold as FSC Certified. Retained hard mast trees, Pond Pine, and Shortleaf Pine. Erosion control plan. Landings clean. No issues identified.

WR25 - Creek/Tankard Farm

56.3-acre harvest with oak retention. Erosion control plan & custom buffer. Lump sum sale to Millville Lumber Company, Inc. Natural regeneration. Discussed green up policy. No issue identified. Adjacent sale completed in 2014. This sale sold in 2017. Cutting began in 2021. No issue. Wide buffers observed. No issues.

WR40 - Dunn Swamp

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

W19 - King's Misfortune

88.6-acre 1st thinning. Thinning to 25-30 BA for quail habitat. Purchased by Eastern Shore Forest Products. Area marked to demonstrate 29 BA. Road reworked with fiber matting and rock. Critical Area Tiber Harvest Permit required for Chesapeake Bay Area (1,000 feet). Approved by county. Quantico Creek salt marsh buffered with 300-foot buffer. 50 feet is no harvest with thinning allowed in other part. Cemetery protected with buffer. Pink flagging used to designate area. Vernal pool protected with 100-foot buffer. Buffer flagged in pink. Good utilization. Decks clean. Debris used to stabilize skid trail. No issues identified.

W25 - Taylor #2

30.7-acre release spray prior to spot replanting. Afforestation of agriculture field. Planted 8X10 (520 TPA). Goal to exceed 300 TPA. Survival check identified adequate stocking with spots with no regeneration. Decision was made to replant spots. Site was treated for release with Sweetgum as the target species. Buffer included in shape file. Aerial application. Areas were mowed and replanted. Loblolly replanted. Site was originally machine planted. Replant was by hand.



Appendix 6



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

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

Name	Organization/Location
1 <u>Beth Jacobson</u>	<u>SOS/FSC/ST-1</u>
2 <u>John Anselcalt</u>	<u>MD DNR FS / Annapolis</u>
3 <u>Matthew Hurd</u>	<u>MD DNR FS/Salisbury</u>
4 <u>Anne Hairston-Stang</u>	<u>MD DNR FS/Annapolis</u>
5 <u>John F. Connors</u>	<u>PFS</u>
6 <u>Kenneth Tolly</u>	<u>MFS</u>
7 <u>Jack Fendley</u>	<u>MFS / Annapolis</u>
8 <u>William</u>	<u>PFS</u>
9 <u>Thomas Kes</u>	<u>FSC-US</u>
10 <u>Stacy Eber</u>	<u>PFS</u>
11 <u>James Taylor Pratt</u>	<u>NSF</u>
12 <u>Amberley White</u>	<u>MFS</u>
13 _____	_____

Chesapeake Forest and Pocomoke State Forest • 6572 Snow Hill Road • Snow Hill, Maryland 21863
410-632-3732 • www.dnr.maryland.gov • TTY users call via Maryland Relay



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

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

Name	Organization/Location
1 Alexander Clark	MFS
2 Matthew Hard	MFS
3 Justin Arseneault	MFS
W. H. H.	PFS
5 Shay Eshen	PFS
6 Jack Perkins	MFS - Annapolis
7 Beck Jones	SCS/FSC/SFI
8 Luke Ratto	NSF
9 Thomas Klein	FBC-USA
10 Kenneth Jolly	MFS
11	
12	
13	

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 Allan Fisher, Deputy Secretary

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

Name	Organization/Location
1 Alexander Clark	MFS
2 Joel Perkins	MFS Annapolis
3 Zachary Beaumont	MFS Annapolis
4 Thomas Kern	FSC 215
5 Matthew Hurd	MFS
6 John F. Coons	PFS
7 Walter	PFS
8 Betha	SCS/FSC/SFI
9 Linda Watts	NSF
10 Diana Lurp	DNR WIS NHP
11 Alex	TFS
12 Kenneth Tolb	MFS
13	

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Allan Fisher, Deputy Secretary

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

Name	Organization/Location
1 <u>Alexander Clark</u>	<u>MFS</u>
2 <u>John Perkins</u>	<u>MFS Annapolis</u>
3 <u>John Hancock</u>	<u>MFS Annapolis</u>



Appendix 7

Forestry Program COVID-19 Report Appendix

Client Name: Maryland DNR Forest Service

FRS: 0Y301

Is this a fully remote special audit? YES NO Justification: Audit was completed on-site.

Is a remote special audit for certificate extension needed? YES NO Justification: Audit was completed on-site.

Approximate date of the future on-site special surveillance or re-evaluation audit to be completed within the allowed extension period. N/A

Was this remote audit able to be effectively completed using remote audit methods? YES NO If no, why? State reason if "no" is selected: Audit was completed on-site.

Are there specific portions of the audit that could not be effectively evaluated? YES NO Portion of the audit that could not be audited: Audit was completed on-site.

Are there follow-up items needed from the remote event? YES NO Does additional time need be added to the next audit based on these follow-up items? State follow-up items needed if "yes" is selected: State reason for and amount of additional time: Audit was completed on-site.

Table with 3 columns: Remote audit methods used, Remote method/tool, Used for. Row 1: SharePoint, File transfer technology



Additional questions

When is it expected that the organization will be able to function normally?	Organization is back to normal operations, with the exception that the offices are not open to the public.
Is the organization able to ship products or perform the service defined within the current scope of certification? If not, when is it expected to be able to do so?	N/A
Does the organization need to use alternative manufacturing and/or distribution sites? If so, are these currently covered under the current certification or will they need to be evaluated?	N/A
Will some of the processes and/or services performed or products shipped be subcontracted to other organizations? If so, how will the other organizations' activities be controlled by the certified organization?	N/A
To what extent has operation of the management system been affected?	Operations of the management system have not been affected.
Has the certified organization conducted an impact assessment regarding COVID-19?	Impact assessment has been conducted. Staff employees are working from both home and office.