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

State of Maryland DNR – Forest Service

Maryland, USA

SCS-FM/COC-00069P

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CERTIFIED	EXPIRATION
29 April 2019	28 April 2024

DATE OF FIELD EVALUATION
21-23 July 2020
DATE OF REPORT FINALIZATION
Day Month Year

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Foreword

Cycle in annual surveillance evaluations				
☒ 1st annual evaluation	☐ 2nd annual evaluation	☐ 3rd annual evaluation	☐ 4th annual evaluation	☐ Other (*expansion of scope, Major CAR audit, special audit, etc.*):
Name of Forest Management Enterprise (FME) and abbreviation used in this report:				
MD DNR, DNR				

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

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

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

Organization of the Report

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

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SECTION A – PUBLIC SUMMARY

1. General Information

1.1 Evaluation Team

Auditor Name:	Beth Jacqmain	**Auditor role**:	FSC Audit Team Leader
Qualifications:	Senior Certification Forester at SCS Global Services, Forest Ecologist and Forester. Beth has 20+ years' experience in forestry including public land management, private consulting, and private corporate forest management working with landowners and harvest crews. Qualified ANSI RAB accredited ISO 14001 EMS Lead Auditor and FSC®, SFI®, and RW® Lead Auditor for Forest Management/Chain of Custody. Audited and led FSC evaluations, harvest and logging operations certification audits; and joint/combined PEFC® FM (AFS®, RW, SFI, ATFS®). An 11-year member of the Forest Guild, 21-year adjunct-Faculty with Itasca Community College, NR Department. Member 20+ years Society of American Foresters, Certified Forester #1467. Served SAF MN State Chair 2010 and multiple committees, state and national, throughout. Currently on committee revising the SAF CF certification exam. Original lead instructor of UMN "Ecosystem Silviculture" certificate course for professional foresters. BS Forest Management from Michigan State University and MS Forest Biology/Ecology from Auburn University, AL. Beth's experience is in forest management and ecology; ecosystem silviculture; the use of silviculture towards meeting strategic and tactical goals; nursery/tree regeneration; forest timber quality improvement (sawmill/veneer), CSA/FIA Phase II forest inventory; conifer thinning operations, pine restoration, wildfire fighting, and fire ecology in conifer dominated systems. Beth has conducted evaluations of forest management, procurement, and supply chains throughout the forested regions of the US, WA/Victoria/Tasmania Australia, New Zealand, Republic of Fiji, and Slovakia.		
Auditor name:	Michelle Matteo	**Auditor role:**	FSC Team, SFI Lead Auditor
Qualifications:	Michelle Matteo, FSC/SFI/PEFC/ATFS Lead Auditor, Arborist, Wildlife Biologist, and Forester. Matteo is qualified as a COC Senior Lead Auditor to conduct, Procurement, and Chain of Custody audits under the Forest Stewardship Council, PEFC, ATFS, and the Sustainable Forestry Initiative Standards. Michelle is a forester and arborist, based in Southern New England, and maintains a (state) Massachusetts Forester License as well as an International Society of Arboriculture (ISA) Certification. She has over 13 years of experience as an auditor. She has conducted hundreds of Forest Management, Fiber Sourcing, and Chain of Custody audits for companies at all levels of the supply chain and different manufacturing processes, and completed a 3-day ISO 19011 training designed & presented in relation to the FSC Standards. She has a background in urban and traditional forestry, wildlife biology, and watershed science, and has experience with both state and federal environmental regulations. Michelle earned her MS in Forestry and BS in Wildlife & Fisheries Biology, both from the University of Massachusetts.		

1.2 Total Time Spent on Evaluation

A. Number of days spent on-site for evaluation:	3
B. Number of auditors participating in on-site evaluation:	2
C. Number of days spent by any technical experts (in addition to amount in line A):	0
D. Additional days spent on preparation, stakeholder consultation, and follow-up:	2
E. Total number of person days used in evaluation:	**8**

1.3 Standards Used

All standards used are available on the websites of FSC International (www.fsc.org) or SCS Global Services (www.SCSglobalServices.com). All standards are available on request from SCS Global Services via the comment form on our website. When no national standard exists for the country/region, SCS Interim Standards are developed by modifying SCS's Generic Interim Standard to reflect forest management in the region and by incorporating relevant components of any Draft Regional/National Standard and comments from stakeholders. More than one month prior to the start of the field evaluation, SCS Draft Interim Standards are provided to stakeholders identified by FSC International, SCS, forest managers under evaluation, and the FSC National or Regional Office for comment. SCS's COC indicators for FMEs are based on the most current versions of the FSC Chain of Custody Standard, FSC Standard for Group Entities in Forest Management Groups (FSC-STD-30-005), and FSC Accreditation Requirements.

Standards applicable *NOTE: Please include the full standard name and Version number and check all that apply.*	☒ Forest Stewardship Standard(s), including version: Click here to enter text. FSC-US Forest Management Standard, v1.0, 2010.
	☒ FSC Trademark Standard (FSC-STD-50-001 V2-0)
	☒ SCS COC indicators for FMEs, V8-0
	☐ FSC standard for group entities in forest management groups (FSC-STD-30-005), V1-1
	☐ Other:

2. Certification Evaluation Process

2.1 Evaluation Itinerary, Activities, and Site Notes

21 April 2020, Tuesday – Salisbury and Pocomoke SF	
FMU/ location/ sites visited	**Activities/ Site notes**
8:00 AM MD-DCR Snow Hill Office, 6572 Snow Hill Rd, Snow Hill, MD	Opening Meeting: Introductions, client update, review scope of Audit, audit plan, intro/update to FSC and SCS standards, confidentiality and public summary, conformance Audit methods and tools review of open CARs/OBS, emergency and security procedures for Audit team, final site selection.
Stop#, Complex, Tract/Stand(s), Acres, Notes	
1. P02, Furnace T126 S11/29-19, 69.1 acres. Restoration of lupine with retained oak. All oak left residually from pine plantation. Determined that residual was still too high so contractor was brought in to additionally reduced to 2 oak stems/acre. It will be prescribed burned every 2-4 years by Md Fire and USFS.	

2. Nazareth Church Tract 7, Stand 18, acres. Logger interview. Wetland protection retention area confirmed with soft maple and red sweet gum. Inspected equipment on-site and no spills or leaks, skidder and loader. Inspected log deck with loader on-site, no leaking noted. Discussion: Rutting and debris on skid trails. Works regularly with PFS and MD-DNR. Map and Rx provided to the logger, crew has a morning safety meeting every morning. Logger keeps MD-Master Logger booklet in service truck on-site, as well as a copy of the SFI Forest Management Standard. MD-Master Logger course completed in Nov 2019.
3. WR25, Creek Tract, Stands 1,3,4&5, 251.1 acres. Historic house site buffered. 1st thinning, various ages 25 years and older, not finished. In area with 4 Resource Areas including 2 types of DELMARVA (Delaware, Maryland, Virginia) Fox Squirrel-DFS habitat, Zone 1, & Zone 3 . DFS Core and Future core areas (habitat). Zone 1 is emergent wetland, Zone 3 is an ESA, SMZ and Zone 1 are also designated as HCVFs. Core and Future core areas (habitat). Stream with buffer inspected. 300' buffer for the stream with 50' no cut in thinning area. Flagged boundary. Retention of blue-line trees. Inadvertent cemetery discovery during harvest. Operator notes after harvesting completed, stopped work, and reported the feature. Per Md DNR procedures, the cemetery was entered into DNR GIS systems for future protection. Stilt grass present, discussion of management, including potentially using mechanical means if area is small, chemical use if large areas present, if treated, likely post-harvest.
3a. HCV, HCV is ESA Zone 1 & 3, not yet cut. Zone 1 emergent wetland, Zone 3 expansion area. Shorter harvest cycle to maintain the HCVF. Many sand dependent species.
4. S28, Lynnwood Duncan Tract, Stand 5, 75.9 acres. 1st thinning loblolly stand introduced in the FY 16 AWP. Entire area is DSF Core area. Log deck Thinning w/ house. All hardwood mast producing trees retained. DNR brought stone for road development. DNR brought stone for road development. Harvest not complete, as site became too wet after 9 days of work. Preharvest check completed Oct 2019.
5. S55, Marumsco 11, 27.7 acres. Green tree retention and CWD present. Part of the area was a Final harvest, 40 yr-old with house site that was buffered. Part of site was thinning. A few portions of the site were not cut due to wet conditions, thinning was complete. Sold as 'shavers' and sawlogs. About 20 loads of stone applied to firm up road. Site was also visited in 2019 audit, but was not complete, due to the wet conditions at the time. Regeneration is different from the harvest in 2019 vs. the harvest in 2018. Regeneration plots to be completed winter 2020-2021. Discussion: Monitoring. Assess at stocking of 300 TPA.
6. S03, Covington Tract, Stand 5 , 40.2 acres. PCT, thinning using contractor crew. Flagged to mark desirable species as part of training with immediate plot and species check. Used 11.7' radius plots for checks. Thinning crew was 14 men wide, 2 swaths completed in order to cover the site, completed in 2 days. Walk through of site observed extremely effective PCT.
7. D19, Revena Tract, Stands 1&3, 73.4 acres. Loblolly plantation established over a 6 year period from 1992-1998 in 3 stands. Harvested in 2019 in first thin with retention of hard mast species. Well signed and gated. Inspected stream and ditch buffers were well flagged and followed (respected). Overall area had considerations for DFS, FIDS (forest interior dwelling species), and ESA Zone 1 (stream with buffer). Landings clean. Discussions: residual tree damage specifications in contracts.
22 April 2020, Wednesday- Chesapeake Forest
8:00 AM Office of Parker Forestry Services, 1323 Mount Hermon Rd, Ste 8B, Salisbury, MD Abbreviated opening; brief State Forest overview
8. W46, Wicomico Demonstration Forest, Stands 31,52,55,58,62&79, 189 acres. First thinning, retain all hard mast species. Overstocked loblolly pine plantations established in 6 cohorts from 1985-1995. Has ESA Zone 1, ESA Zone 3 pulpwood, Stream Buffer, and DFS Future Translocation (DFS FT). Water resources in demo forest is the Campbell Ditch. Soils identified. Inspected stream buffer, well flagged

and followed. Examined stream crossing where bridge was removed. Natural regeneration abundant throughout stand, considered an exceptional regen year. No issues. Has ESA Zone 1, ESA Zone 3 pulpwood, Stream Buffer, and DFS Future Translocation (DFS FT) - DFS FT is to maintain the trees to 40 years of age or growing trees towards that age, used for potential trap and release program by USF&W. Water resources in demo forest is the Campbell Ditch. Soils identified. Inspected stream buffer, well flagged and followed. Examined stream crossing where bridge was removed, no issues. Natural regeneration abundant throughout stand, considered an exceptional regen year. Discussions: logger training and communications, and natural regeneration, DFS FT prescription versus core habitat. Rx and core habitat are similar but distinctions. Both manage for 40 years and older, and designation when active with USFW, but have not done if for many years but is active for future considerations. Linked to USFWS WAP. Discussion USF&W staff about the process and MD-DNR cooperative work. DFS was removed from the federally endangered species list in 2015, and is currently listed as a State of Maryland "Species in Need of Conservation". Habitat loss is thought to be the major issue for DFS, and the categories for conservation used by MD-DNR (for example: Core Habitat, Future Core Habitat, Future Translocation), work to grow and promote suitable habitat for the existing DFS populations. The CSF and PSF continue to have informal DFS Sightings tracked by the MD-DRN Forest Service staff and hunt clubs, then reported to USF&W to help in tracking the species range.	
9. W46, Wicomico Demonstration Forest, Stand 108, 10 acres. 23 acres harvested in spring 2017 with objectives to retain pond pine and shortleaf pine and mast producer retention as specified by Wildlife and Heritage. Pond pine areas were selected and marked for retention with blue paint. In DFS Future Core and ESA Zone 3 Pulpwood Management. Sprayed for site prep in 2018 (Imaszapyr and Escort). Spot planting done in 2019. Herbicide site prep and release maps were provided. Greenbrier was a significant issue and factored into decision to spray. Plans were to doze lines prior to planting, however discovery of an active eagle's nest led to decision to not use equipment. Verified water protection and eagle's nest protection buffers.	
10. W46, Campbell Tract field, Mt. Hermon Rd., 31.6 acres. Machine planted to loblolly in old-field. Planted 8.x10 April 2020. Seed source MD DNR Nursery, 1st gen loblolly. Verified seed source records. Machine planted to loblolly in old-field. Planted 8x10 April 2020. Seed source MD DNR Nursery, 1st gen loblolly. Verified seed source records.	
11. W53, Twigg-Fooks field, Spearin Road, 2.9 acres. Loblolly pine planting on 3 acres, 8x10 spacing, 2500 planted. MD Nursery 1st gen seedlings.	
12. W46 (sub), Wicomico DF, stand 6, 8, 16, 107&110, acres. First thinning with drainage buffer and stream crossing. 50' buffer is on a ditch, not a true intermittent stream. Log deck examined. Foresters excluded a small area from the sale after visual inspection confirmed trees were too small for commercial use. Retained legacy trees near the buffer (retention may not be long term). Examined access road shared by easement with farmer. Discussion: Forest Management Planning process, key stakeholders and public stakeholder consultation process, neighbor notifications.	
End of Day: Daily debriefing	
23 April 2020, Thursday	
9:00 AM Office Annapolis office, 580 Taylor Ave, Annapolis, MD	Document review, staff interviews, records
Closed deliberations	Closing Meeting Preparation: Auditor(s) take time to consolidate notes and confirm Audit findings
Closing meeting	Review preliminary findings (potential non-conformities and observations), discuss next steps, Questions

2.2 Evaluation of Management Systems

SCS deploys interdisciplinary teams with expertise in forestry, social sciences, natural resource economics, and other relevant fields to assess an FME's conformance to FSC standards and policies. Evaluation methods include reviewing documents and records, interviewing FME personnel and contractors, implementing sampling strategies to visit a broad number of forest cover and harvest prescription types, observing implementation of management plans and policies in the field, and collecting and analyzing stakeholder input. When there is more than one team member, each member may review parts of the standards based on their background and expertise. On the final day of an evaluation, team members convene to deliberate the findings of the assessment jointly. This involves an analysis of all relevant field observations, interviews, stakeholder comments, and reviewed documents and records. Where consensus among team members cannot be achieved due to lack of evidence, conflicting evidence or differences of interpretation of the standards, the team is instructed to report these in the certification decision section and/or in observations.

3. Changes in Management Practices

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

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

> Since January 2020 Md DNR has been under Covid-19 restrictions. These restrictions have varied as medical information and guidance varied. Restrictions for DNR employees is directed by the State of Maryland Human Resources Department.

4. Results of Evaluation

4.1 Definitions of Major CARs, Minor CARs and Observations

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

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

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

4.2 History of Findings for Certificate Period

FM Principle	Cert/Re-cert Evaluation (2019)	1st Annual Evaluation (2020)	2nd Annual Evaluation (year)	3rd Annual Evaluation (year)	4th Annual Evaluation (year)
No findings	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
P1					
P2					
P3	Obs 3.3.a				
P4	Obs 4.4.b				
P5					
P6	Obs 6.3.e Minor 6.6.e Minor 6.7.c	Obs 6.3.e			
P7					
P8	Obs 8.1.a				
P9					
P10					
COC for FM					
Trademark					
Group					
Other					

4.3 Existing Corrective Action Requests and Observations

	Finding Number: 2019.1
Select one: ☐ **Major CAR** ☐ **Minor CAR** ☒ **Observation**	
FMU CAR/OBS issued to (when more than one FMU):	
Deadline	☐ Pre-condition to certification/recertification ☐ 3 months from Issuance of Final Report ☐ 12 months or next regularly scheduled audit (surveillance or re-evaluation) ☒ Observation – response is optional ☐ Other deadline (specify):
FSC Indicator:	FSC FM US 3.3.a
Non-Conformity *(or Background/ Justification in the case of Observations)*: Although the Chesapeake/Pocomoke Forest Citizens Advisory Committee member has been recently established, there is an opportunity to continue efforts and seek input from indigenous people, including all MD State Forest regions, as the last formal outreach efforts were completed 5-6 years ago.	
Corrective Action Request *(or Observation)*:	

This indicator requires the forest owner or manager invites consultation with tribal representatives in identifying sites of current or traditional cultural, archeological, ecological, economic or religious significance. There is an opportunity to continue efforts and seek input from indigenous people, including all MD State Forest regions.	
FME response *(including any evidence submitted)*	*Evidence:* PDF of email dated 4 Feb 2020 - *2019_Audit_Indigenous_MD DNR State Forest Annual Work Plans* Md DNR shared an email communication from the Chesapeake Forest Lands office (dated April 3, 2019) to reach out to the Maryland Commission on Indian Affairs (MCIA) with a notice regarding an opportunity to have a native American member on the Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC). In Feb 2020, Md DNR sent a personal invitation to MCIA to review our state forests for annual work plans and to follow up regarding CAC representation.
SCS review	Audit team reviewed the emails referenced and confirmed that state-wide invitations were extended to participate on the Citizens Advisory Committee. Additionally, the team confirmed that CF/PSF CAC now has an indigenous representative position filled.
Status of CAR:	[X] Closed [ ] Upgraded to Major [ ] *Other decision (refer to description above)*

	Finding Number: 2019.2
Select one: [ ] **Major CAR** [ ] **Minor CAR** [X] **Observation**	
FMU CAR/OBS issued to (when more than one FMU):	
Deadline	[ ] Pre-condition to certification/recertification [ ] 3 months from Issuance of Final Report [ ] 12 months or next regularly scheduled audit (surveillance or re-evaluation) [X] Observation – response is optional [ ] Other deadline (specify):
FSC Indicator:	FSC FM US 4.4.b
Non-Conformity *(or Background/ Justification in the case of Observations)*: The ecologist representative position on the Forest Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) recently became vacant. At the time of the audit the ecologist position remained open. This position represents conservation science representation. The management objectives found in regional and/or site-specific plans for conservation, protection, and restoration, proposed by agencies, scientists, and/or stakeholders, are addressed in the forest management plan or supporting documents.	
Corrective Action Request *(or Observation)*: This indicator requires the forest owner or manager to seek and consider input in management planning from people *who would likely be affected by management activities.* In this case, this includes the general public as represented by the CAC. The MdDNR should consider refilling this vacancy and releasing public information as to the decision making process. Should MdDNR leave this position vacant, the justification for doing so should be presented at the next annual audit.	

FME response *(including any evidence submitted)*	The conservation science position on the Citizens Advisory Committee was filled by a representative of The Nature Conservancy. MdDNR announces decision-making process when seeking public input for proposed annual work plans. Although now closed, the following was posted at this location on the web, https://dnr.maryland.gov/forests/Pages/workplans.aspx (expired). There is a public announcement via the state Public Communications Office that echoes this process. https://news.maryland.gov/dnr/2020/02/04/state-forest-work-plans-open-for-public-comment/ *The Maryland Department of Natural Resources sought public comment on the proposed 2021 fiscal year work plan for Potomac Garrett, Green Ridge, Savage River, Chesapeake and Pocomoke State Forests.* *Annual work plans help identify priorities within the scope of the forest's long-range management plan. They address establishment, growth, composition, health and quality management operations, along with maintenance and construction projects, and other actions.* *The comment period is the final step in the three-step process. The first was an internal review by a team of natural resource professionals and the second step was a review by an appointed advisory committee.* *Following the conclusion of the comment period on February 28, 2020 each forest manager will review, revise and finalize their plan.*
SCS review	Review of the materials above and verification with The Nature Conservancy warrant closure of this Observation.
Status of CAR:	[X] Closed [ ] Upgraded to Major [ ] *Other decision (refer to description above)*

	Finding Number: 2019.3
Select one: [ ] **Major CAR** [ ] **Minor CAR** [X] **Observation**	
FMU CAR/OBS issued to (when more than one FMU):	
Deadline	[ ] Pre-condition to certification/recertification [ ] 3 months from Issuance of Final Report [ ] 12 months or next regularly scheduled audit (surveillance or re-evaluation) [X] Observation – response is optional [ ] Other deadline (specify):
FSC Indicator:	FSC FM US 6.3.e
Non-Conformity *(or Background/ Justification in the case of Observations)*: The current seed mix used for landings and roads has been previously chosen for it's ability to quickly germinate and establish, however the mix used has been previously approved by State Wildlife staff for food plots and elsewhere at the State level for the Erosion and Sediment Control plan process.	
Corrective Action Request *(or Observation)*:	

While the seed mix used on landings and roads has been previously approved by State Wildlife staff for food plots and elsewhere at the State level for the Erosion and Sediment Control plan, there is an opportunity to improve the seed mixture species and ratios to include other native species, as the current mix being applied on landings and roads, is comprised of only non-native, naturalized species.	
FME response *(including any evidence submitted)*	Explanation: The primary purpose for these seed mix is to provide a quick, reliable covering for disturbed soils and it provides that. It has been used for many years without an incident of being invasive. This seed mix was suggested by our Wildlife & Heritage Service as a good mix for wildlife benefits. It is preferred by our State Forest managers since it is readily available for purchase by logging contractors from local sources and based on its quality, price and productivity. It has been our experience that this planting falls out (diminishes) after about 5-years and must be disked and replanted to maintain these open areas that also serve as wildlife food plots. One of these re-establishment sites was visited during the 2019 audit at Green Ridge State Forest. 2017 — Compliant. Seed mixes are determined by MD Department of Wildlife and addressed in timber harvest contracts (Attachment E; medium red clover, ladino clover, orchard grass, perennial rye grass, and timothy grass). 2018 – Compliant. Seed mixes are determined by MD Department of Wildlife and addressed in timber harvest contracts (Attachment E; medium red clover, ladino clover, orchard grass, perennial rye grass, and timothy grass). *Evidence:* • MdDNR provided Attachment E from current timber sale contract listing species for Standard Erosion Sedimentation Control Plan Requirements <u>SEED</u> 1. Medium Red Clover (Trifolium pratense) 2. Ladino Clover (Trifolium Repens) 3. Orchard Grass (Dactylis glomerata) 4. Perennial Rye (Lolium perenne) 5. Timothy (Phleum pratense) None of these are listed as invasive plants by Maryland Department of Agriculture. *Evidence:*https://mda.maryland.gov/plants-pests/Pages/maryland_invasive_plants_prevention_and_control.aspx
SCS review	Although the MdDNR has provided evidence of adherence to state requirements, and consultation with Wildlife program, they have not yet consulted Heritage program staff. The audit team identified and communicated with Heritage staff who were able to provide information about native seed sourcing that is available. The MdDNR should include Heritage staff in discussion regarding non-native, naturalized species.
Status of CAR:	☐ Closed ☐ Upgraded to Major ☒ *Other decision (refer to description above): carried over as Obs 2020.1*

	Finding Number: 2019.4
Select one: ☐ **Major CAR** ☒ **Minor CAR** ☐ **Observation**	
FMU CAR/OBS issued to (when more than one FMU):	
Deadline	☐ Pre-condition to certification/recertification ☐ 3 months from Issuance of Final Report ☒ 12 months or next regularly scheduled audit (surveillance or re-evaluation) ☐ Observation – response is optional ☐ Other deadline (specify):
FSC Indicator:	FSC FM US 6.6.e
Non-Conformity *(or Background/ Justification in the case of Observations)*: Powerline ROWs over the SF system are typically maintained by the Power Companies, who do apply pesticides as a regular management activity. These areas have not been excised from the FMU and so management activities such as pesticide use must be reported. The quantity of pesticides used is not currently being reported to the MD DNR SF for the powerline ROW areas.	
Corrective Action Request *(or Observation)*: Reporting of the volumes of pesticide use on powerlines by the power co must be completed.	
FME response *(including any evidence submitted)*	To address the issue of all pesticides used within our certification scope we the State Forest managers communicated with the utility companies working across our management units. They learned that some utilities have used pesticides on their Right-of-Way management that may be on the banned pesticide list. Pesticide use reporting on has been cryptic at best and in some incidences considered proprietary. We came to the conclusion it is best to remove these areas from our scope. Those acres excised from our forest certification scope are below. • Green Ridge State Forest - 206 acres • Savage River State Forest - 442 acres • Potomac Garrett State Forest - 75 acres • Pocomoke State Forest - 46 acres • Chesapeake Forest Lands - 329 acres ○ Grand Total = 1,098 acres MdDNR revised certified acres are 209,207.
SCS review	SCS confirmed excision of these areas warranting closure of this CAR.
Status of CAR:	☒ Closed ☐ Upgraded to Major ☐ *Other decision (refer to description above)*

	Finding Number: 2019.5
Select one: ☐ **Major CAR** ☒ **Minor CAR** ☐ **Observation**	
FMU CAR/OBS issued to (when more than one FMU):	
Deadline	☐ Pre-condition to certification/recertification ☐ 3 months from Issuance of Final Report ☒ 12 months or next regularly scheduled audit (surveillance or re-evaluation) ☐ Observation – response is optional ☐ Other deadline (specify):
FSC Indicator:	6.7.c
Non-Conformity *(or Background/ Justification in the case of Observations)*: Dozer was leaking on site onto the soil below the equipment, some oil was observed on the soil below the Skidder. Logger was not on site. No apparent safety equipment (no fire extinguishers & spill kits observed on all 3 machines on an active site), however, later forester-logger interview stated that the fire extinguishers were behind the seats of the skidder and harvester out of view. Recent BMP inspection conducted by forester noted no issues.	
Corrective Action Request *(or Observation)*: There is evidence of fluid leaks from equipment; while this did not contaminate groundwater or surface water, these leaks from equipment on unattended machinery need to be corrected in order to not cause future problems.	
FME response *(including any evidence submitted)*	To better ensure fluid leaks are prevented, contained and cleaned up appropriately we have taken the following steps: • Drafted the Standard Operating Procedures For Woodland Spill Management - Attachment F which will be part of all timber sale contracts. *(see Spill_Management_SOP in shared audit folder)* • This guidance document was based on a review of relevant Maryland regulations and conversations with the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE), the department enforcing fuel spill regulations. MDE contacts included: • Geoffrey Donahue, Chief of Emergency Response Division — (410) 537-4460 • Thomas Walter, Chief of Compliance for Oil Control Program — (410) 537-3473 • Review of the Maryland Master Logger Program (MLP), required training for all logging contractors harvesting on Maryland state forests as per the Maryland Board of Public Works directive *(see BPW in shared audit folder).* The MLP has a component on handling logging fuel spills which is based on prevention, containment, and clean up. • Revised the Internal Silvicultural Audit inspection form to include for reviews of active logging jobs for personal protection equipment, spill kits, fire extinguishers, and first aid kits. *(see ISA-checklist in shared audit folder)* • Revised Best Management Practices (BMP) Checklist includes a review of fuel or oil leaks and safety equipment. *(see SF_bmp_checklist in shared audit folder)*

SCS review	Evidence submitted by MdDNR were reviewed and implementation confirmed. Interview with logger and inspection of an active harvest site confirmed implementation of the corrective actions.
Status of CAR:	[X] Closed [ ] Upgraded to Major [ ] *Other decision (refer to description above)*

	Finding Number: 2019.6
Select one: ☐ **Major CAR** ☐ **Minor CAR** ☒ **Observation**	
FMU CAR/OBS issued to (when more than one FMU):	
Deadline	☐ Pre-condition to certification/recertification ☐ 3 months from Issuance of Final Report ☐ 12 months or next regularly scheduled audit (surveillance or re-evaluation) ☒ Observation – response is optional ☐ Other deadline (specify):
FSC Indicator:	8.1.a
Non-Conformity *(or Background/ Justification in the case of Observations)*: The organization currently conducts BMP monitoring with checklists. Different BMP monitoring checklists are used in the Eastern Shore and the Western SFs, one form uses an evaluation system with a ranking of 1-5 (1 = poor conformance, 5 = excellent conformance), the other form uses a "Yes/No/NA" to evaluate the Forest Harvest Operation. However, per interview and document review, the ranking criteria is not clearly defined.	
Corrective Action Request *(or Observation)*: FME should review the difference in criteria used in the West vs the Eastern Shore in efforts to help improve consistency for monitoring of BMP effectiveness.	
FME response *(including any evidence submitted)*	A revised FOREST HARVEST OPERATIONS – HARVEST SITE REVIEW ON STATE LANDS was created and has been in use. The responses available to the state forest staff are simplified with NA, Yes, and No. At the top of the document is listed the Evaluation System for these responses. *(Evidence: SF_bmp_checklist in shared audit folder)*
SCS review	
Status of CAR:	☒ Closed ☐ Upgraded to Major ☐ *Other decision (refer to description above)*

4.4 New Corrective Action Requests and Observations

	Finding Number: 2020.1
Select one: ☐ **Major CAR** ☐ **Minor CAR** ☒ **Observation**	
FMU CAR/OBS issued to (when more than one FMU):	
Deadline	☐ Pre-condition to certification/recertification ☐ 3 months from Issuance of Final Report ☐ 12 months or next regularly scheduled audit (surveillance or re-evaluation) ☒ Observation – response is optional ☐ Other deadline (specify):
FSC Indicator:	FSC FM US 6.3.e

Background/ Justification in the case of Observations):
2019:
While the seed mix used on landings and roads has been previously approved by State Wildlife staff for food plots and elsewhere at the State level for the Erosion and Sediment Control plan, there is an opportunity to improve the seed mixture species and ratios to include other native species, as the current mix being applied on landings and roads, is comprised of only non-native, naturalized species.
2020:
Explanation: The primary purpose for these seed mix is to provide a quick, reliable covering for disturbed soils and it provides that. It has been used for many years without an incident of being invasive. This seed mix was suggested by our Wildlife & Heritage Service as a good mix for wildlife benefits. It is preferred by our State Forest managers since it is readily available for purchase by logging contractors from local sources and based on its quality, price and productivity. It has been our experience that this planting falls out (diminishes) after about 5-years and must be disked and replanted to maintain these open areas that also serve as wildlife food plots. One of these re-establishment sites was visited during the 2019 audit at Green Ridge State Forest.

Seed mixes are determined by MD Department of Wildlife and addressed in timber harvest contracts (Attachment E; medium red clover, ladino clover, orchard grass, perennial rye grass, and timothy grass) and were compliant in 2017 and 2018.

> Evidence: MdDNR provided Attachment E from current timber sale contract listing species for Standard Erosion Sedimentation Control Plan Requirements with the following species: 1. Medium Red Clover (Trifolium pratense), 2. Ladino Clover (Trifolium Repens), 3. Orchard Grass (Dactylis glomerata)m, 4. Perennial Rye (Lolium perenne), 5. Timothy (Phleum pratense)
>
> None of these are listed as invasive plants by Maryland Department of Agriculture. Evidence: https://mda.maryland.gov/plants-pests/Pages/maryland_invasive_plants_prevention_and_control.aspx.

Although the MdDNR has provided evidence of adherence to state requirements, and consultation with Wildlife program (primarily game management staff), they have not yet consulted Heritage program staff. The audit team identified and communicated with Heritage staff who were able to provide information about native seed sourcing that is available for order online. The MdDNR should include Heritage staff in discussion regarding non-native, naturalized species.

Corrective Action Request *(or Observation)*:
The current seed mix used for landings and roads has been previously chosen for its ability to quickly germinate and establish and the mix used has been previously approved by State Wildlife staff for food plots and elsewhere at the State level for the Erosion and Sediment Control plan process. However, the Forestry staff should demonstrate consideration of native seed sources which may meet these objectives or meet additional objectives.

FME response *(including any evidence submitted)*	
SCS review	
Status of CAR:	☐ Closed ☐ Upgraded to Major ☐ *Other decision (refer to description above)*

5. Stakeholder Comments

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

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

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

5.1 Stakeholder Groups Consulted

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

SCS reached out via email and phone to 52 stakeholders identified as interested or affected parties relative to the specific Principles being evaluated in 2020. These are considered "external" stakeholders as in they are not considered part of the "FME staff" (Forest Management entity which in this case is the Md DNR Forest Services staff and forestry contractors). These external stakeholders included other employees of the state of Maryland, private citizens, academic, and industry representatives. Other employees of the state of Maryland included employees such as Wildlife, Fisheries, Heritage and other environmental disciplines. Those granting written permission for identification in this report are listed in Appendix 2 of this report.

5.2 Summary of Stakeholder Comments and Evaluation Team Responses

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

☐ *FME has not received any stakeholder comments from interested parties as a result of stakeholder outreach activities during this annual evaluation.*	
Stakeholder Comment	**SCS Response**
Md DNR forestry staff are easy to work with, they communicate well and handle questions quickly.	The contractor who submitted this comment was referring to Parker Forestry Services personnel who administer timber sales. This is noted as evidence of conformity to 4.5.b which requires the forest owner or manager provides a known and accessible means for interested stakeholders to voice grievances and have them resolved. Stakeholders consulted during this audit consistently conveyed the collaborative, responsive and cooperative approach used by Pocomoke and Chesapeake SF staff and forestry contractors. Collaborative and responsive was a consistent theme. This included Maryland State staff who work in other disciplines (not forestry) that support integrated forests management and environmental protections.
I have participated in a number of annual work plan reviews as a member of the citizens advisory committee. Comments that I and others have made regarding these work plans were always taken seriously either adopted by DNR or we were provided an adequate explanation that the comments could not be incorporated. My personal comments have centered on Delmarva Fox Squirrel Mgmt [Management] and Fire mgmt activities I have participated in the field tours of the plan certification reviews in the past several years … and found they were interesting and informative. I found the certification team and DNR staff interested in comments that arose during the tours.	This comment is similar to the general one above regarding the collaborative culture within Md DNR Forest Service and represents a Citizens Advisory Committee point of view.

6. Certification Decision

The certificate holder has demonstrated continued overall conformance to the applicable Forest Stewardship Council standards. The SCS annual evaluation team recommends that the certificate be sustained, subject to subsequent annual evaluations and the FME's response to any open CARs.	**Yes** ☒ **No** ☐
Comments: None	

7. Annual Data Update

☐ No changes since previous evaluation.	
☐ Information in the following sections has changed since previous evaluation.	
☐ Name and Contact Information ☐ FSC Sales Information ☒ Scope of Certificate ☐ Non-SLIMF FMUs ☒ Social Information	☒ Pesticide and Other Chemical Use ☒ Production Forests ☐ FSC Product Classification ☒ Conservation & High Conservation Value Areas ☒ Areas Outside of the Scope of Certification

Name and Contact Information

Organization name	State of Maryland DNR – Forest Service		
Contact person	Jack Perdue		
Address	580 Taylor Ave, E1 Annapolis, MD 21401	**Telephone**	410.260.8505
		Fax	410.260.8595
		e-mail	jack.perdue@maryland.gov
		Website	dnr.maryland.gov/forests

FSC Sales Information

☒ *FSC Sales contact information same as above.*			
FSC salesperson			
Address		**Telephone**	
		Fax	
		e-mail	
		Website	

Scope of Certificate

Certificate Type	☒ Single FMU	☐ Multiple FMU
	☐ Group	
SLIMF (*if applicable*)	☐ Small SLIMF certificate	☐ Low intensity SLIMF certificate
	☐ Group SLIMF certificate	
# Group Members (*if applicable*)	N/A, not a group certificate	
Number of FMUs in scope of certificate	N/A, not a group certificate	
Geographic location of non-SLIMF FMU(s)	*Latitude & Longitude:* Savage River State Forest- 39.576, -79.129 Green Ridge State Forest- 39.631, -78.475 Potomac State Forest- 39.472, -79.439 Garrett State Forest- 39.341, -79.28 Pocomoke State Forest- 38.15, -75.487	

	Chesapeake Forest Lands - 38.329, -75.799		
Forest zone	☐ Boreal	☒ Temperate	
	☐ Subtropical	☐ Tropical	
Total forest area in scope of certificate:			
Total forest area in scope of certificate which is:		**Units: ☐ ha or ☒ ac**	
privately managed			
state managed	all		
community managed			
Number of FMUs in scope that are:			
less than 100 ha in area		100 - 1000 ha in area	
1000 - 10 000 ha in area		more than 10 000 ha in area	1
Total forest area in scope of certificate which is included in FMUs that:		**Units: ☐ ha or ☒ ac**	
are less than 100 ha in area	-		
are between 100 ha and 1000 ha in area	-		
meet the eligibility criteria as *low intensity* SLIMF FMUs	-		
Division of FMUs into manageable units:			

Social Information

Number of forest workers (including contractors) working in forest within scope of certificate (differentiated by gender):		
Male workers: 30	Female workers: 8	
Number of accidents in forest work since previous evaluation:	Serious: 0	Fatal: 0

Pesticide and Other Chemical Use

Commercial name	Active ingredient	Quantity applied annually	Reason for use	Acres
Round Up Qwik Pro	Glyphosate	3 lbs.	Invasive Species Control	Vary (<5)
Garlon 3A	Triclopyr	3.1 L @ 50% conc.	Hardwood/pine control in a restoration area	12.3 ac.
Esplanade EZ	Glyphosate	80 gal @ 0.36% conc. (7 oz./acre)	Weed and brush control (trails)	8.4 ac.
Makaze	Glyphosate	6 gal @ 5% conc.	Invasive species (phragmites and bamboo) control	0.5 ac.
Makaze	Glyphosate	100 gal @ 2% conc.	Weed and brush control	7.5 ac.
Razor Pro	Glyphosate	3 lbs	Control of interfering woody understory vegetation	2

Oust	Sulfometuron-methyl	3 lbs	Control of problematic grasses	2
Rodeo	Glyphosate	2.6 Ounces	Control of grasses and weeds around parking lots	<1
Arsenal AC	Imazapyr	1 ounce	Control of non-native invasive species	<1
Vanquish	Dicamba	2.5 gallon	Ailanthus	1600 stems

Production Forests

Timber Forest Products	**Units: ☐ ha or ☒ ac**
Total area of production forest (i.e. forest from which timber may be harvested)	158,344
Area of production forest classified as 'plantation': From the FME: *"We do not actively manage a plantation system, but previous management systems are still on the landscape and are still considered a plantation based on the system used at the time of the rotation."*	0
Area of production forest regenerated primarily by replanting or by a combination of replanting and coppicing of the planted stems	0
Area of production forest regenerated primarily by natural regeneration, or by a combination of natural regeneration and coppicing of the naturally regenerated stems	135,101
Silvicultural system(s)	**Area under type of management**
Even-aged management	135,101
Clearcut (clearcut size range 1-50)	134,829
Shelterwood	272
Other: Thinning	0
Uneven-aged management	0
Individual tree selection	0
Group selection	0
Other:	0
☐ Other (e.g. nursery, recreation area, windbreak, bamboo, silvo-pastoral system, agro-forestry system, etc.)	0
Non-timber Forest Products (NTFPs)	
Area of forest protected from commercial harvesting of timber and managed primarily for the production of NTFPs or services	0
Other areas managed for NTFPs or services	0
Approximate annual commercial production of non-timber forest products included in the scope of the certificate, by product type	0
Species in scope of joint FM/COC certificate: *(Scientific / Latin Name* and Common / Trade Name)	
Acer rubrum; Acer spp.; Carya spp.; Celtis occidentalis; Fagus grandifolia; Fraxinus spp.; Juglans nigra L.; Liquidambar styraciflua L.; Liriodendron tulipifera L.; Nyssa sylvatica Marsh; Pinus echinata; Pinus serotina; Pinus taeda; Quercus alba; Quercus falcata; Quercus rubra; Tilia americana L; Tsuga canadensis (L.) Carr.; Ulmus spp.	

FSC Product Classification

Timber products		
Product Level 1	**Product Level 2**	**Species**
W1 Rough Wood	W1.1 Roundwood (logs)	All
	W1.2 Fuel Wood	
	W1.3 Twigs	
W3 Wood in chips or particles	W3.1 Wood chips	All
Non-Timber Forest Products		
Product Level 1	**Product Level 2**	**Product Level 3 and Species**

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

Conservation and High Conservation Value Areas

Conservation Area	Units: ☐ ha or ☒ ac
Total amount of land in certified area protected from commercial harvesting of timber and managed primarily for conservation objectives (includes both forested and non-forested lands).*	71,390

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

High Conservation Value Forest / Areas			Units: ☐ ha or ☒ ac
Code	**HCV Type**	**Description & Location**	**Area**
HCV1	Forests or areas containing globally, regionally or nationally significant concentrations of biodiversity values (e.g. endemism, endangered species, refugia).	Ecologically Significant Areas; Wildlands	63,089
HCV2	Forests or areas containing globally, regionally or nationally significant large landscape level forests, contained within, or containing the management unit, where viable populations of most if not all naturally		0

	occurring species exist in natural patterns of distribution and abundance.		
HCV3	Forests or areas that are in or contain rare, threatened or endangered ecosystems.	Core FIDs habitat; DFS Core areas; Old Growth (OG); Old Growth Ecosystem Management Areas (OGEMA)	48,060
HCV4	Forests or areas that provide basic services of nature in critical situations (e.g. watershed protection, erosion control).	Riparian Buffer Areas	7,620
HCV5	Forests or areas fundamental to meeting basic needs of local communities (e.g. subsistence, health).		0
HCV6	Forests or areas critical to local communities' traditional cultural identity (areas of cultural, ecological, economic or religious significance identified in cooperation with such local communities).		0
Total area of forest classified as 'High Conservation Value Forest / Area'			118,769

Areas Outside of the Scope of Certification (Partial Certification and Excision)
0 N/A – All forestland owned or managed by the applicant is included in the scope.

1 Applicant owns and/or manages other FMUs not under evaluation.

0 Applicant wishes to excise portions of the FMU(s) under evaluation from the scope of certification.
Explanation for exclusion of FMUs and/or excision: These other state forests see very little silvicultural activity and are relatively small in acreage. We have no interest in pursuing certification at this time on these lands.
Control measures to prevent mixing of certified and non-certified product (C8.3): These additional properties are not located near the areas included in the current or expanded certification scope. Harvesting is very limited and usually for the purpose of salvage or demonstration. These properties are not allowed to use the FSC certificate or license codes.
Description of FMUs excluded from or forested area excised from the scope of certification:
Name of FMU or Stand Location (city, state, country) Size (0 ha or 0 ac)

Elk Neck State Forest Northeast, MD, Cecil 3,380
Cedarville State Forest Brandywine, MD, Prince Georges 3,625
Doncaster Demonstration Forest Ironsides, MD, Charles 1,953
Stoney Demonstration Forest Aberdeen, MD, Harford 318
Salem State Forest Leonardtown, MD, St Mary's 837

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

☐ *N/A – All forestland owned or managed by the certificate holder is included in the scope.*

☐ *Certificate holder owns and/or manages other FMUs not under evaluation.*	
☒ C*ertificate holder wishes to excise portions of the FMU(s) under evaluation from the scope of certification.* ***Note**: Excision cannot be applied to CW/FM certificates.*	
Explanation for exclusion of FMUs and/or excision:	These other state forests see very little silvicultural activity and are relatively small in acreage. We have no interest in pursuing certification at this time on these lands.
Control measures to prevent mixing of certified and non-certified product (C8.3):	These additional properties are not located near the areas included in the current or expanded certification scope. Harvesting is very limited and usually for the purpose of salvage or demonstration. These properties are not allowed to use the FSC certificate or license codes.

Description of FMUs excluded from, or forested area excised from, the scope of certification:

Name of FMU or Stand	Location (city, state, country)	Size (☐ ha or ☐ ac)
Elk Neck State Forest	Northeast, MD, Cecil	3,380
Cedarville State Forest	Brandywine, MD, Prince Georges	3,625
Doncaster Demonstration Forest	Ironsides, MD, Charles	1,953
Stoney Demonstration Forest	Aberdeen, MD, Harford	318
Salem State Forest	Leonardtown, MD, St Mary's	837

SECTION B – APPENDICES (CONFIDENTIAL)

Appendix 1 – List of FMUs Selected for Evaluation

☒ FME consists of a single FMU

☐ FME consists of multiple FMUs or is a Group

Appendix 2 – Staff and Stakeholders Consulted

List of FME Staff Consulted

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

Name	Title	Contact Information	Consultation method
Jack Perdue	MD DNR FS Planning	jack.perdue@maryland.gov	Meeting, field
Alexander Clark	MD DNR-C/PSF	Alexander.clark@maryland.gov	Meeting, field
Mark Beals	MD DNR FS- GRSF Forest Manager	Mark.beals@maryland.gov	Meeting, field
Kathy McCarthy	MD DNR Wildlife & Heritage	Katharine.McCarthy@maryland.gov	Email, phone
Shenika Dyson	MD DNR FS, Dir. of Administrative & Fiscal Services	Shenika.Dyson@maryland.gov	Phone
Skip Jones	Parker Forestry Services	skipjones@parkerforestservices.com	Field, meeting
Stacey Esham	Parker Forestry Services	sesham@parkerforestservices.com	Field, meeting
John Connors	Parker Forestry Services	skipjones@parkerforestservices.com	Field, meeting
Matt Hurd	MD DNR Regional Forester	matthew.hurd@maryland.gov	Field, meeting
Alexander Clark	MD DNR Assistant Forest Manager	alexander.clark@maryland.gov	Field, meeting
Kenneth Jolly	MD DNR Acting Director/State Forester	kenneth.jolly@maryland.gov	Field, meeting

List of other Stakeholders Consulted*

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

Over 47 emails were sent for targeted consultation relative the PC&I being evaluated in accordance with Appendix 1, FSC-STD-20-006. The list below includes those who responded or were reached with additional follow-up by email or phone and gave written permission to be included in the report. This entire list is maintained in SCS records.

Name	Organization	Contact Information	Consultation method	Requests Cert. Notf.
Brett Coakley	Eastern Regional Manager Freshwater Fisheries Program, Fishing and Boating Services Department of Natural Resources Unicorn Fish Hatchery	brett.coakley@maryland.gov	Email, phone	N
Donnelle Keech	Resilient Forests Program Director, Maryland The Nature Conservancy	dkeech@tnc.org	Email	N
Logger	Contract logger		In-person interview	N

Appendix 3 – Additional Evaluation Techniques Employed

☒ None.

☐ Additional techniques employed (*describe*):

Appendix 4 – Required Tracking

Pesticide Derogations

☒ There are no active pesticide derogations for this FME.

Name of pesticide / herbicide (active ingredient)		Date derogation approved
Condition	**Conformance (C / NC)**	**Evidence of progress**

Progressive HCVF Assessments

☒ FME does not use partial or progressive HCVF assessments.

Note: In the case the FME is not operating in the entire management unit, it is permissible to only complete an HCVF assessment for the portion of the unit in which they are operating under special conditions. In such cases, the HCVF assessment must be extended if new areas are entered without an existing, appropriate HCVF assessment having been completed. An example includes a large forest concession where harvesting is initially limited to a smaller geographic scope.

Partial or progressive HCV must be noted in SCS tracking system for monitoring. Describe below the FME monitoring plan to ensure additional HCVF assessments are completed as necessary:
HCV Monitor Plan

Special Instructions or Scoping Notes for Next Regularly Scheduled Annual Audit

☒	Not applicable; no significant issues identified that may impact the next audit that are not already addressed by audit findings.
Some issues were identified during this audit that the next audit team could consider in the next audit, such as:	
☐	Scope of certificate:
☐	Audit sampling:
☐	Audit time:
☐	Audit season:
☐	Travel time between sites or FMUs:
☐	Audit frequency:
☐	Suggested audit team competency for next audit:
☐	Suggested requirements to include during the next audit:
☐	Suggested issues investigate during the next audit:
☐	Suggested sites for inspection:
☐	Stakeholders to be consulted:
☐	Other(s) – please describe:

Appendix 5 – Forest Management Standard Conformance Table

Criteria required by FSC at every surveillance evaluation (*check all situations that apply*)	☐ NA – all FMUs are exempt from these requirements. ☐ Plantations > 10,000 ha (24,710 ac): 2.3, 4.2, 4.4, 6.7, 6.9, 10.6, 10.7, and 10.8 ☒ Natural forests > 50,000 ha (123,553 ac) ('low intensity' SLIMFs exempt): 1.5, 2.3, 3.2, 4.2, 4.4, 5.6, 6.2, 6.3, 8.2, and 9.4 ☒ FMUs containing High Conservation Values ('small forest' SLIMFs exempt): 6.2, 6.3, 6.9 and 9.4
Documents and records reviewed for FMUs/ sites sampled	☒ All applicable documents and records as required in section 7 of audit plan were reviewed; or ☐ The following documents and records as required in section 7 of the audit plan were NOT reviewed (*provide explanation*):

Requirements Reviewed in Annual Evaluation

Evaluation Year	**Requirements Reviewed** (FSC P&C Reviewed, FM/COC Indicators, Trademark Indicators, Group Standard Indicators, etc.)
2019	All – (Re)certification Evaluation
2020	P2, P4, P7 and mandatory criteria in table above
20XX	
20XX	
20XX	

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

REQUIREMENT	**C/ NC**	**COMMENT/CAR**
P1 Forest management shall respect all applicable laws of the country in which they occur, and international treaties and agreements to which the country is a signatory, and comply with all FSC Principles and Criteria.		
C1.1 Forest management shall respect all national and local laws and administrative requirements.	NE	
C1.2. All applicable and legally prescribed fees, royalties, taxes and other charges shall be paid.	NE	
C1.3. In signatory countries, the provisions of all binding international agreements such as CITES, ILO Conventions, ITTA, and Convention on Biological Diversity, shall be respected.	C	
1.3.a. Forest management plans and operations comply with relevant provisions of all applicable binding international agreements.	NE	
C1.4. Conflicts between laws, regulations and the FSC Principles and Criteria shall be evaluated for the purposes of certification, on a case by case basis, by the certifiers and the involved or affected parties.	NE	
C1.5. Forest management areas should be protected from illegal harvesting, settlement and other unauthorized activities.	C	
1.5.a. The forest owner or manager supports or implements measures intended to prevent illegal and unauthorized activities on the ***Forest Management Unit*** (FMU).	C	FME has a department of Natural Resources Police (NRP) that regularly patrol state lands to prevent and detect unauthorized activities. In addition, FME gates roads and posts signage that cites applicable laws and regulations. Roads and signs were observed at several sites during the 2020 audit. See Site Notes.
1.5.b. If illegal or unauthorized activities occur, the forest owner or manager implements actions designed to curtail such activities and correct the situation to the extent possible for meeting all	C	FME did not report any significant illegal or unauthorized activities since the last audit. Per interviews with staff, FME's NRP prosecutes or fines violators. NRP also works with local law enforcement

land management objectives with consideration of available resources.		to deal with more complex situations involving illegal activities, such as marijuana operations. FME staff regularly clean up dump sites to avoid attraction. Interviews with staff indicate that outside of this occasional dumping, there have been no major illegal or unauthorized activities.
C1.6. Forest managers shall demonstrate a long-term commitment to adhere to the FSC Principles and Criteria.	NE	
P2 Long-term tenure and use rights to the land and forest resources shall be clearly defined, documented and legally established.		
C2.1. Clear evidence of long-term forest use rights to the land (e.g., land title, customary rights, or lease agreements) shall be demonstrated.	NE	
C2.2. Local communities with legal or customary tenure or use rights shall maintain control, to the extent necessary to protect their rights or resources, over forest operations unless they delegate control with free and informed consent to other agencies. *Applicability Note: For the planning and management of publicly owned forests, the local community is defined as all residents and property owners of the relevant jurisdiction.*	NE	
C2.3. Appropriate mechanisms shall be employed to resolve disputes over tenure claims and use rights. The circumstances and status of any outstanding disputes will be explicitly considered in the certification evaluation. Disputes of substantial magnitude involving a significant number of interests will normally disqualify an operation from being certified.	C	
2.3.a. If ***disputes*** arise regarding tenure claims or use rights then the forest owner or manager initially attempts to resolve them through open communication, negotiation, and/or mediation. If these good-faith efforts fail, then federal, state, and/or local laws are employed to resolve such disputes.	C	FME staff reported no new disputes over tenure claims or use rights. No reported encroachment issues. Each state forest maintains its own records, but the land planning office may become involved in reviewing records and survey information. FME's lawyers at headquarters review boundary disputes and encroachment and take the final actions to resolve these issues. One historical tenure claim was made and the SF swapped one parcel of land for an adjacent parcel in order to resolve the issue in 2018.
2.3.b. The forest owner or manager documents any significant disputes over tenure and use rights.	C	
P3 The legal and customary rights of indigenous peoples to own, use and manage their lands, territories, and resources shall be recognized and respected.		

C3.1. Indigenous peoples shall control forest management on their lands and territories unless they delegate control with free and informed consent to other agencies.	NE	
C3.2. Forest management shall not threaten or diminish, either directly or indirectly, the resources or tenure rights of indigenous peoples.	NA	
3.2.a. During management planning, the forest owner or manager consults with American Indian groups that have legal rights or other binding agreements to the FMU to avoid harming their resources or rights.	NA	There are no tribal forest management or ownership/ use rights on FME lands. There are no sites of special tribal significance on the certified FMU. There are no tribes with legal rights or binding agreements to the FMU. Routine communication with Chiefs regarding management activities and public posting of AWP's on the forest web site. FME staff reported that activities in 2019-2020 did not affect any tribal issues.
C3.3. Sites of special cultural, ecological, economic or religious significance to indigenous peoples shall be clearly identified in cooperation with such peoples, and recognized and protected by forest managers.	NE	
C3.4. Indigenous peoples shall be compensated for the application of their traditional knowledge regarding the use of forest species or management systems in forest operations. This compensation shall be formally agreed upon with their free and informed consent before forest operations commence.	NE	
P4 Forest management operations shall maintain or enhance the long-term social and economic well-being of forest workers and local communities.		
C4.1. The communities within, or adjacent to, the forest management area should be given opportunities for employment, training, and other services.	C	
4.1.a. Employee compensation and hiring practices meet or exceed the prevailing ***local*** norms within the forestry industry.	C	Short-term and long-term DNR forest management contractors are not employees of MD DNR. MD DNR employees typically are salaried with benefits such as healthcare and retirement (pension or similar programs). Employees have not reviewed compensation practices for several years in the past, however in 2019 the SF employees have had a raise approved and should get one every year. See also 4.1.c.
4.1.b. Forest work is offered in ways that create	C	MD DNR leadership has been attempting to develop a

high quality job opportunities for employees.		career ladder for employees to avoid losing employees to private industry or other public agencies; there is no progress to date with this 3-4 year attempt. Short-term and long-term DNR contractors are not employees of MD DNR.
4.1.c. Forest workers are provided with fair wages.	C	For the Eastern Region, Parker Forestry prepares three types of harvest contracts (Lump-sum, Stumpage, and Gatewood) that each contain line items on the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 (which covers minimum wage, overtime pay, recordkeeping, child labor provisions, and other topics). http://www.law.cornell.edu/uscode/text/29/chapter-8 According to interviews with staff, DNR jobs are regionally higher paying than other jobs in the natural resource field, including those available in the private sector. The State of Maryland Human Resources (HR) department determines compensation scales for all State employees. HR maintains adherence to federal and state laws governing compensation, including salary determination (e.g., LSA of 1938). New employee wages for a particular Grade-Series can be increased (or matched), upon request, review, and approval by DBM, if the new employees previous position's wage was higher than the current proposed DNR wage, with appropriate documentation.
4.1.d. Hiring practices and conditions of employment are non-discriminatory and follow applicable federal, state and local regulations.	C	For the Eastern Region, PFS prepares three types of harvest contracts (Lump-sum, Stumpage, and Gatewood) that each contain a line item on non-discrimination/ equal opportunity polices that contractors must adhere to as a contractual requirement. For all Maryland: State of Maryland is an equal opportunity employer. The legal department reviews and recommends content for all contract templates to ensure compliance to legal requirements on non-discrimination/ EO (Item 11 in large sale contracts). Viewed SR-02-11 and SR-09-13 for contract contents. FME has OSHA postings in all state forest offices. FME also participates in the state's non-discriminatory and affirmative action programs according to interviews with SF staff and HR.
4.1.e. The forest owner or manager provides work opportunities to qualified local applicants and seeks opportunities for purchasing local goods and	C	Qualified forest harvest contractors are petitioned to bid on local timber harvest operations. Operators must have a Forest Products Operators license and maintain

services of equal price and quality.		Maryland Master Logger status. The State of Maryland maintains contracts for general services, such as office supplies, some of which are local. State Forests have the right to procure needed items locally if the state does not have a contract. Certain items are also procured through federal surplus, which is considered local to Maryland. According to interviews with FME staff, almost all are from Maryland, West Virginia or Pennsylvania. Thus, all can be considered local. FME must use the state's procurement system for contracting services and purchasing of goods, which gives preferential consideration to businesses located in Maryland.
4.1.f. Commensurate with the size and scale of operation, the forest owner or manager provides and/or supports learning opportunities to improve public understanding of forests and forest management.	C	Forest Service employees are active in outreach programs regarding forestry. MD DNR website includes reference to several educational programs on wildlife, forestry, and the outdoors. http://dnr.maryland.gov/forests/Pages/kidzone.aspx (last accessed 28 July 2020). Signage was observed in the field at GRSF for recreational opportunities. Educational signs are also present in the field or at field offices for public viewing. Potomac-Garret State Forest has a demonstration forest (Cradle of Forestry). According to interviews with staff, FME participates in forestry and trail tours with local heritage, woodland, and naturalist groups. At some of the trail areas, educational signage was observed. The Green Ridge forest manager is an adjunct professor at a local college and teaches several forest management courses.
4.1.g. The forest owner or manager participates in local economic development and/or civic activities, based on scale of operation and where such opportunities are available.	C	See 4.1.f for education, which is a civic activity. There is a camp for high school students interested in natural resource careers. There are two juvenile detention centers that abut state forests in Western Maryland that are occasionally provided work on state forests. Forest managers work with local economic development offices, many of which were interested in marketing certified forest products. This is an ongoing relationship in Western Maryland. Eastern Maryland maintains communication with sawmills on the Delmarva peninsula regarding supply and quality. Maryland state forests operated during the entire downturn, which allowed several mills and operators to stay in business.
C4.2. Forest management should meet or exceed all applicable laws and/or regulations covering	C	

health and safety of employees and their families.		
4.2.a. The forest owner or manager meets or exceeds all applicable laws and/or regulations covering health and safety of employees and their families (also see Criterion 1.1).	C	FME reported no accidents or safety incidents since the last audit, and that there have been no changes to health & safety regulations or contract templates with the exception of Covid-19 responses which are documented online and in internal communications. OSHA postings are posted in all state forest offices. Per interviews with FME staff, all are aware of health and safety laws and receive regular training on the subject. Training records were provided for FME staff. Auditors examined personnel files maintained at CF/PSF, which contain training records such as EMS, pest, fire certification, FEMA, state forestry licenses, first aid and CPR, FEMA, wildland fire, trail design & construction, Erosion control training. Tracked for CFEs for SAF and to maintain state license issued by Department Labor License and Regulation. Auditors confirmed pesticide applicators' licenses for two qualified staff at SF offices. MD DNR post signs for spray areas depending on chemical, target, and amount of residential. GPS sites and Rx with maps for spray sites includes: date, herbicide, target, applicator, date.
4.2.b. The forest owner or manager and their employees and contractors demonstrate a safe work environment. Contracts or other written agreements include safety requirements.	C	Contracts contained required safety language. Although a logger was interviewed on-site, and equipment inspected at several sites during the 2020 audit, Covid-19 accommodations limited both activities and opportunities to observe activities during the audit.
4.2.c. The forest owner or manager hires well-qualified service providers to safely implement the management plan.	C	Attachment D of timber sale contract stipulates the Logger must be a Master Logger. This clause is added to this attachment as sales are proposed. See 4.2.b for contract clauses. All loggers interviewed were licensed and had active First AID/CPR certifications. https://extension.umd.edu/masterlogger (last accessed 27 Mar 2019 Through use of a competitive bidding system and use of strict contracts that include logger licensing and safety requirements, FME ensures that it uses qualified service providers. Evidence: contracts for all timber sales visited were provided and reviewed and included: Wico Demo Stands 6,8,16,108 _ 110; Wico Demo Stands 31,52,55,58,62_79; Helicopter Applicators 2018

		D19 Revena Tract, Stands 1,2_3; P02 Furnace T126S11 - ESFP 8-352; P02 Furnace T126 - ESFP 8-352
C4.3 The rights of workers to organize and voluntarily negotiate with their employers shall be guaranteed as outlined in Conventions 87 and 98 of the International Labor Organization (ILO).	C	
4.3.a. Forest workers are free to associate with other workers for the purpose of advocating for their own employment interests.	C	ILO Convention 87 applies to both public and private organizations, while Convention 98 is inapplicable to government organizations. MD DNR employees that fall under a certain classification can be unionized per state legislation. In Maryland, there are approximately 28,000 unionized state workers (Source: Maryland Department of Budget & Management – Annual Personnel Report FY 2018, Page 3.).
4.3.b. The forest owner or manager has effective and culturally sensitive mechanisms to resolve disputes between workers and management.	C	MD DNR staff maintain an open-door policy. Otherwise, complaints may be filed with Human Resources that follow a standard procedure for resolution.
C4.4. Management planning and operations shall incorporate the results of evaluations of social impact. Consultations shall be maintained with people and groups (both men and women) directly affected by management operations.	C	
4.4.a. The forest owner or manager understands the likely social impacts of management activities, and incorporates this understanding into management planning and operations. Social impacts include effects on: • Archeological sites and sites of cultural, historical and community significance (on and off the FMU; • Public resources, including air, water and food (hunting, fishing, collecting); • Aesthetics; • Community goals for forest and natural resource use and protection such as employment, subsistence, recreation and health; • Community economic opportunities; • Other people who may be affected by management operations. A summary is available to the CB.	C	The Annual Work Plan and ID Team processes are robust examples of planning efforts that allow for consideration of social impacts. Evidence of conformance includes: • Sustainable Forest Management Plans include descriptions of archeological sites and sites of cultural, historical and community significance. • Forest Management Plans include descriptions of public resources, including air, water and food (hunting, fishing and collecting); the potential social impacts of hunting, fishing and collecting were specifically considered and described during interviews. • Forest Management Plans include a description of aesthetics. Planning for harvests includes consideration of aesthetics; field foresters are responsible and are supported by Interdisciplinary Team (IDT). The use of the roadside buffers and variable retention harvest prescriptions are examples of aesthetic considerations during the process of locating retention. Aesthetic considerations were incorporated for example into

		S49 Saltz Powell Track, CSF Complex S19 Freetown, CF-15-19, and GRSF GR-06-17 Oldtown Orleans Road. Confirmed through document review that the Policy & Procedure Manual includes for example the following section on visual quality: "In laying out forest harvest and thinning operations, particular care will be given to the need for visual quality protection. This will include location and operations of landings, decks, roads, and other areas of concentrated activity. Visual buffers will be maintained along areas where required." The field forester applies visual buffers as needed and the buffer is illustrated on the harvest plan maps. The '*Forestry Aesthetics Guide: Image and Opportunity'* is the reference publication used by staff. Multiple 50' to 100' buffers were viewed during the field visits along roadsides for visual aesthetics. • MD DNR's PR Procedures MFS and CAC Purpose Statement include community goals for forest and natural resource use and protection such as employment, subsistence, recreation and health. In addition, a 2019 multi-stakeholder partnership including MD DNR representatives, engaged the public through the use of six listening sessions located across the state and culminating with an updating of the State Forest Action Plan in late 2020. Key issues, strategies and recommendations for addressing these issues were developed. A key issue (Maintaining Viable Forests and a Viable Forest Industry in Maryland) of the 2010 SFAP included a strategy to inventory and manage State-owned forests as sustainable working forests and will be also updated in the 2020 plan. https://dnr.maryland.gov/forests/Documents/sfla_report.pdf • Community economic opportunities are addressed in a variety of ways including the use of timber harvest contracts that vary in size and scale, in order to attract a variety of logging operators/buyers. The use of NTFP collection

		permits are most often issued to local residents. Harvests can be segmented into separate units so that operators/buyers can access smaller units and are able to financially able to access the sale.
		• Others who may be affected by management are activities are incorporated into the process in the following ways:
		  ○ Maryland Historical Trust is a member of the Interdisciplinary Team that reviews each Annual Work Plans and projects. Records of Annual Work Plan comments for each State Forest are solicited and considered.
		  ○ The first draft of each management plan or Annual Work Plan is reviewed including field visits by DNR's internal interdisciplinary team members and each revision is reviewed by the Citizens Advisory Committee. The revised plan is posted on the web for a 30-day review period and a public announcement is distributed to each major news outlet in the state, and relevant blog sites.
		  ○ Reviewed edits made to the 2016 Eastern Region SF AWP; per the Wildlife and Heritage review notes that P02 Nazareth Church Tract 9 prescribed burn should not occur "before more other significant EAS sites have been burned."
		• Other proposed activities including for example ROW issues with neighboring landowners, ad hoc salvage harvests, road realignments, acid mine mitigation, easement requests, adventure sporting events, insect studies and building razing are submitted to MD DNR for review and approval by DNR staff and the Maryland Historical Trust (if the proposal includes historic or archaeological topics).
		
		MD DNR's protocol for monitoring and incorporating social impact assessment into management decisions is effective and is based on review by the ID Team and Forest Advisory Committee as confirmed through

		review of the 2018-19 C/PSF complaint log resolution sections. The Annual Work Plan and ID Team processes are examples of planning efforts that allow for consideration of social impacts as described in this indicator. FME most recently updated its social impacts summary in 2015. Confirmed that nothing new has been identified since that date.
4.4.b. The forest owner or manager seeks and considers input in management planning from people who would likely be affected by management activities.	C (OBS)	The following procedure is similar for both annual work plan and management plan; however, the most frequently used means of seeking and considering input on an annual basis is the Public consultation process for AWP. The first draft is made by management staff, this is reviewed along with necessary field visits by DNR's internal interdisciplinary team, the revision is reviewed by the Citizen's Advisory Committee, and then it is put on the web for 30-day review period. A public announcement is distributed to every major news outlet in the State, plus Patch.com and several relevant blog sites. Viewed samples of the internal ID feedback (from Heritage & Wildlife) and changes in the AWP that were made after internal Heritage Biologist comments were received, as well as external comments from stakeholders. MD DNR provided multiple years of operational work plans for review: FY 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, and draft 2020. For example, comments regarding the FY-19 Annual Work Plan were received via e-mail, phone calls and letters, with samples reviewed by the auditors. FME reported that few comments have been received from stakeholders since the last audit on other State Forests. Most comments are received during the Annual Work Plan (AWP) review process from the Citizens Advisory Committees. SCS reviewed complaints log at C/PSF and GRSF. No reports or discovery of unresolved complaints during the 2019 audit. See also closure of OBS 2019.2.
4.4.c. People who are subject to direct adverse effects of management operations are apprised of relevant activities in advance of the action so that they may express concern.	C	See 4.4.b and 4.4.d. The following procedure is similar for both annual work plan and management plan; however, the most frequently used means of seeking and considering input

		on an annual basis is the Public consultation process for AWP. The first draft is made by management staff, this is reviewed along with necessary field visits by DNR's internal interdisciplinary team, the revision is reviewed by the Citizen's Advisory Committee, and then it is put on the web for 30-day review period. A public announcement is distributed to every major news outlet in the State, plus Patch.com (a local online newpaper/social media source) and several relevant blog sites.
4.4.d. For ***public forests,*** consultation shall include the following components: 1. Clearly defined and accessible methods for public participation are provided in both long and short-term planning processes, including harvest plans and operational plans; 2. Public notification is sufficient to allow interested stakeholders the chance to learn of upcoming opportunities for public review and/or comment on the proposed management; 3. An accessible and affordable appeals process to planning decisions is available. Planning decisions incorporate the results of public consultation. All draft and final planning documents, and their supporting data, are made readily available to the public.	C	See 4.4.b for a description of the AWP and SFMP process. Overall, MD DNR's Timber Operations Order (Tbr_Ops_Procedures_2018-601_v1.pdf) directs how this process is to be followed. All SFMPs state that a 30-day public review process is required. CSF SFMP pg 2 & 106-107, PSF SFMP pg 3 & 107, GRSF SFMP pg 9-10 & 159-160.
C4.5. Appropriate mechanisms shall be employed for resolving grievances and for providing fair compensation in the case of loss or damage affecting the legal or customary rights, property, resources, or livelihoods of local peoples. Measures shall be taken to avoid such loss or damage.	C	
4.5.a. The forest owner or manager does not engage in negligent activities that cause damage to other people.	C	MD DNR has not reported any incidences of negligence that has led to damage to life or limb or property rights of other people. No stakeholder comments were received regarding this topic.
4.5.b. The forest owner or manager provides a known and accessible means for interested stakeholders to voice grievances and have them resolved. If significant disputes arise related to resolving grievances and/or providing fair compensation, the forest owner or manager follows appropriate dispute resolution procedures. At a minimum, the forest owner or manager maintains open communications, responds to	C	Each SF office maintains a grievance log. Records were viewed for CFL/PSF during the 2020 audit. Through an examination of complaints records and interviews with FME staff, it was confirmed that the FME provides a known and accessible means for stakeholders to levy complaints. FME maintains continuous access through online links to generic forms, email address and phone number at

grievances in a timely manner, demonstrates ongoing good faith efforts to resolve the grievances, and maintains records of legal suites and claims.		their primary landing page, http://dnr.maryland.gov/forests/Pages/default.aspx (last accessed 27 Mar 2019). **Contact the Forest Service** • 410-260-8531 • Contact Us • Email Us A direct email address link is also provided at: https://dnr.maryland.gov/forests/Pages/mdforests.aspx Additionally, FME maintains a State Forest Grievance Policy readily accessible from the State Forest's main page, http://dnr.maryland.gov/forests/Pages/mdforests.aspx (last accessed 27 Mar 2019), noted and imbedded below: **Have a complaint?** The Maryland Department of Natural Resources Forest Service has a State Forest Grie If you would like to file a grievance or complaint regarding the management of a State Fore contact the State Forest office with which you wish to file the grievance or complaint or ema message here. SFMGrievancePolicy.pdf The pdf Grievance policy is located here, http://dnr.maryland.gov/forests/Documents/SFMGrievancePolicy.pdf (last accessed 27 Mar 2019). The content of this Grievance Policy is copied below: Updated: 04/16/2012 *Each State Forest office shall keep a Grievance/Complaint Log which will be used to document any issues brought forth by the public regarding the management of that State Forest. These records must be maintained and made available upon request by the Unit Director or their representative. The log will record, at a minimum, the following information: •Date of the grievance/complaint •DNR representative taking the information •Name of the person making the com plaint (if given) •Contact information for the person making the complaint (if given) •Specifics of the complaint •Resolution/Action taken to address the complaint and any deficiencies found in forest management*
4.5.c. Fair compensation or reasonable mitigation	C	No cause for compensation or mitigation has been

is provided to local people, communities or adjacent landowners for substantiated damage or loss of income caused by the landowner or manager.		reported on the part of MD DNR or stakeholders. Any compensation or mitigation would be managed by the legal department.
P5 Forest management operations shall encourage the efficient use of the forest's multiple products and services to ensure economic viability and a wide range of environmental and social benefits.		
C5.1. Forest management should strive toward economic viability, while taking into account the full environmental, social, and operational costs of production, and ensuring the investments necessary to maintain the ecological productivity of the forest.	NE	
C5.2. Forest management and marketing operations should encourage the optimal use and local processing of the forest's diversity of products.	NE	
C5.3. Forest management should minimize waste associated with harvesting and on-site processing operations and avoid damage to other forest resources.	NE	
C5.4. Forest management should strive to strengthen and diversify the local economy, avoiding dependence on a single forest product.	NE	
C5.5. Forest management operations shall recognize, maintain, and, where appropriate, enhance the value of forest services and resources such as watersheds and fisheries.	NE	
C5.6. The rate of harvest of forest products shall not exceed levels which can be permanently sustained.	C	
5.6.a. In FMUs where products are being harvested, the landowner or manager calculates the sustained yield harvest level for each sustained yield planning unit, and provides clear rationale for determining the size and layout of the planning unit. The sustained yield harvest level calculation is documented in the Management Plan. The sustained yield harvest level calculation for each planning unit is based on: • documented growth rates for particular sites, and/or acreage of forest types, age-classes and species distributions; • mortality and decay and other factors that affect net growth;	C	FME calculates the AAH for each State Forest in the scope. See SFMP Chapter 5, Appendix H and CFI Summary for each State Forest. MD DNR uses Remsoft's Woodstock program to analyze forest inventory data to project sustainable harvest levels based on allowed silvicultural systems. Harvest rates are based on volume regulation except for Green Ridge State Forest which is on a area regulation schedule. For example, the Green Ridge SFMP includes a description of the maximum number of acres that may be treated with variable retention harvests. Appendix H includes a description of the assumptions behind the growth and yield modeling, including the

• areas reserved from harvest or subject to harvest restrictions to meet other management goals; • silvicultural practices that will be employed on the FMU; • management objectives and desired future conditions. The calculation is made by considering the effects of repeated prescribed harvests on the product/species and its ecosystem, as well as planned management treatments and projections of subsequent regrowth beyond single rotation and multiple re-entries.		elements of the indicator. Summaries of projected growth and allowable harvests based on growth rates, mortality, disease, etc. are included in Appendix H. In 2017, FME recently completed updated modelling for the Eastern Region using forest inventory data and site indexes modeled using REMSOFT's software. The model considers growth rates, site quality, current age/ size class, species composition, management zone, operability, management constraints such as FIDS, ESAs and DFS, silvicultural practices, and objectives. https://dnr.maryland.gov/forests/Pages/frp.aspx Small changes were made to the SFMP with the revisions to the forest inventory data.
5.6.b. Average annual harvest levels, over rolling periods of no more than 10 years, do not exceed the calculated sustained yield harvest level.	C	Each State Forest maintains an annual work plan summary to compare actual acres harvested versus projected (e.g., http://dnr.maryland.gov/forests/Pages/workplans.aspx). Harvest levels on an area control basis remain well below what is allowed per the Woodstock model. Each State Forest also prepares quarterly harvest reports, which were reviewed during the audit. Timber Harvest Summaries (PDF) for CF-PSF, GRSF, PGSF, and SRSF were inspected and included data *by Fiscal Year* for *Harvest Bd. Ft Vol.* and *Harvested Gross Value of sale*. Attached are 2 of the quarterly reports reviewed from 2018-2019 as examples: SRSF Quarterly Timber Reports Marc SF Quarterly Report GRSF FY18-19 2019-(
5.6.c. Rates and methods of timber harvest lead to achieving desired conditions, and improve or maintain health and quality across the FMU. Overstocked stands and stands that have been depleted or rendered to be below productive potential due to natural events, past management, or lack of management, are returned to desired stocking levels and composition at the earliest practicable time as justified in management objectives.	C	AWP planning is done by the Forest Manager and staff. Notes on future management activities, such as silvicultural treatments or TSI, are incorporated into the forest GIS.
5.6.d. For NTFPs, calculation of quantitative sustained yield harvest levels is required only in cases where products are harvested in significant commercial operations or where traditional or	NA	There are no significant harvests of NTFPs on the FMU, as confirmed in field visits and interviews with FME staff.

customary use rights may be impacted by such harvests. In other situations, the forest owner or manager utilizes available information, and new information that can be reasonably gathered, to set harvesting levels that will not result in a depletion of the non-timber growing stocks or other adverse effects to the forest ecosystem.		Hunt leases are used only on the Chesapeake State Forest. The meat acquired is not commercially sold and is not commercially substantial.
P6 Forest management shall conserve biological diversity and its associated values, water resources, soils, and unique and fragile ecosystems and landscapes, and, by so doing, maintain the ecological functions and the integrity of the forest.		
C6.1. Assessments of environmental impacts shall be completed -- appropriate to the scale, intensity of forest management and the uniqueness of the affected resources -- and adequately integrated into management systems. Assessments shall include landscape level considerations as well as the impacts of on-site processing facilities. Environmental impacts shall be assessed prior to commencement of site-disturbing operations.	NE	
C 6.2. Safeguards shall exist which protect rare, threatened and endangered species and their habitats (e.g., nesting and feeding areas). Conservation zones and protection areas shall be established, appropriate to the scale and intensity of forest management and the uniqueness of the affected resources. Inappropriate hunting, fishing, trapping, and collecting shall be controlled.	C	
6.2.a. If there is a likely presence of RTE species as identified in Indicator 6.1.a then either a field survey to verify the species' presence or absence is conducted prior to site-disturbing management activities, or management occurs with the assumption that potential RTE species are present. Surveys are conducted by biologists with the appropriate expertise in the species of interest and with appropriate qualifications to conduct the surveys. If a species is determined to be present, its location should be reported to the manager of the appropriate database.	C	Wildlife and Heritage biologists are important members of the Interdisciplinary Team (IDT) review process for each of the state forests. They provide critical information important to the ultimate management decisions made by the State Forest managers and their annual work plans. Rare, threatened and endangered species are recorded in the Heritage database. Heritage biologists are involved in planning, review and approval for each management prescription and sometimes working directly with the manager in the final boundaries established for a forest harvest to ensure the species of concern and their habitat are properly protected. RTE species protection and management are included in the Forest Management Plan, AWP Forest Harvest Proposal, and GIS. Each AWP silvicultural proposal has a defined "Description/Resource Impact Assessment" which includes information for: Location, Forest Community Type and Condition, Interfering Elements, Historic Conditions,

		Rare/Threatened/Endangered Species and Habitats, Species of Management Concern, Water Resources, Recreation Resources and Soil Resources. Monitoring efforts follow each management activity that could affect RTE species or their habitats including monitoring of the effects of restoration treatments. Several examples where IDT worked with PFS to manage for wildlife values, Delmarva Fox Squirrel habitat, were observed, see Site Notes. Interviews with USFWS staff confirmed close collaboration with MD DNR and PFS staff.
6.2.b. When RTE species are present or assumed to be present, modifications in management are made in order to maintain, restore or enhance the extent, quality and viability of the species and their habitats. ***Conservation zones*** and/or ***protected areas*** are established for RTE species, including those S3 species that are considered rare, where they are necessary to maintain or improve the short and long-term viability of the species. Conservation measures are based on relevant science, guidelines and/or consultation with relevant, independent experts as necessary to achieve the conservation goal of the Indicator.	C	Statewide Maryland DNR have listed species of concern. For example, in SRSF the following have been listed: 9 Mammals – 6 in need of conservation (I), 3 endangered (E) 5 Birds – 1 (E), 2 (I), and 2 threatened (T) 2 Amphibians – 1 (I), 1(E) 9 Insects – 4 (E), 1 (T) and 3 (I) 1 Mollusk – In need of conservation 1 Crustacean – In need of conservation. RTE species are protected through a network of Ecologically Significant Areas (ESAs) located within each of the State Forests. ESAs are described in Chapter 4.3 and Chapter 7.2.1 of each property's management plan. Sites containing rare plant and/or animal communities have been identified and are managed for their unique attributes. The number and extent of ESAs is evidence of a well-established RTE protection program. Individual Annual Work Plans (AWPs) and the management recommendations for each state forest; all conservation zones and/or protected areas are shown on each project map. - Forest harvests have occurred in areas that are potential habitats for RTE species. All harvests must go through the annual work plan process. Heritage assists the FME during planning and implementation to ensure that the goals that they have for target species are met. Each year FME includes a location reporting form and information fact sheet along with its standard hunting harvest

		report forms to each of the local hunt clubs regarding Delmarva Fox Squirrel on the Maryland short. Any forms that FME receives back are sent to US Fish & Wildlife, DNR Wildlife & Heritage, and kept on file at FME offices.
6.2.c. For medium and large public forests (e.g. state forests), forest management plans and operations are designed to meet species' recovery goals, as well as landscape level biodiversity conservation goals.	C	The requirements of this section of the standard are primarily accomplished through the ID team process described in detail elsewhere in this report. Harvest operations and restoration projects are reviewed by Heritage members of the ID team. Restoration projects for specific sites are listed within each Annual Work Plan. Evidence of conformance: Restoration site for the lupine, see Site Notes.
6.2.d. Within the capacity of the forest owner or manager, hunting, fishing, trapping, collecting and other activities are controlled to avoid the risk of impacts to vulnerable species and communities (See Criterion 1.5).	C	MD DNR relies primarily on the Natural Resource Police for control of hunting, fishing, trapping, collecting and other impacts to RT&E species. Interviews with MD DNR staff. FME staff reported that there have been no cases of harvest or take of RTE species or significant damage to vulnerable species and communities on the FMU. Refer to AWPs and the management recommendations as all ESAs are shown per project maps. See also information presented in 6.2.b on hunting of game species (e.g., deer) within Delmarva Fox Squirrel habitat.
C6.3. Ecological functions and values shall be maintained intact, enhanced, or restored, including: a) Forest regeneration and succession. b) Genetic, species, and ecosystem diversity. c) Natural cycles that affect the productivity of the forest ecosystem.		
6.3.a.1. The forest owner or manager maintains, enhances, and/or restores under-represented ***successional*** stages in the FMU that would naturally occur on the types of sites found on the FMU. Where old growth of different community types that would naturally occur on the forest are under-represented in the landscape relative to natural conditions, a portion of the forest is managed to enhance and/or restore old growth characteristics.	C	In 2019, the FME reported the following: • GRSF — Early succession stages are most under-represented on this state forest, so regeneration harvests do the most to maintain young forests. • SRSF — The seedling/sapling succession stage of our hardwood forests could be considered underrepresented. As such, management work planned within the Annual Work Plans is generally focused on regeneration of hardwood forests and enhancing this stage of forest growth. Early successional habitat including grass and shrub dominated acreage is also underrepresented across

		the forest landscape. Cooperative efforts with the Wildlife Division of DNR will maintain over 150 acres of recent land acquisitions in this habitat. Further acquisitions composed of this habitat type are in review and may potentially broaden the occurrence of this habitat niche on the forest. • PGSF — See PGSF FY-17 AWP for VII. Watershed Protection Comp 19 Lostland Run HWA Mitigation /Red Spruce Planting small (1acre. annual) Native Red Spruce planting. Long standing Hemlock Protection Program with MDA; involving IPA approach to hemlock protection/preservation in important stands. • CF/PSF - Prescribed fire has been used to maintain open and early successional areas on the FMU (i.e. Brookview ponds, Powell Rd ESA, Furnace lupine site, etc.) • GRSF - Prescribed fire has been used to maintain open and early successional areas on the FMU (i.e. Foster tract ESA)
6.3.a.2. When a ***rare ecological community*** is present, modifications are made in both the management plan and its implementation in order to maintain, restore or enhance the viability of the community. Based on the vulnerability of the existing community, ***conservation zones*** and/or ***protected areas*** are established where warranted.	C	FME demonstrates efforts to identify rare ecological communities for protection, management and/or restoration. During harvests visited in 2019, ESAs and other protected areas were noted on maps when adjacent or within timber sale boundaries. Critical habitats have been mapped for state listed or uncommon species, shale barrens communities, old growth and potential old growth, vernal pools and unique open habitats in state forest management plans. In most cases, these areas are not entered with equipment. Per interviews with staff, for early successional habitat that is not well-represented on the landscape, FME is attempting to coordinate more opportunities to combine timber sale and prescribed fire layout to reduce costs.
6.3.a.3. When they are present, management maintains the area, structure, composition, and processes of all ***Type 1*** and ***Type 2 old growth***. Type 1 and 2 old growth are also protected and buffered as necessary with conservation zones, unless an alternative plan is developed that provides greater overall protection of old growth values.	C	FME staff reported that there have been no harvests or other activities that have significantly affected old growth stands.

Type 1 Old Growth is protected from harvesting and road construction. Type 1 old growth is also protected from other timber management activities, except as needed to maintain the ecological values associated with the stand, including old growth attributes (e.g., remove exotic species, conduct controlled burning, and thinning from below in dry forest types when and where restoration is appropriate). Type 2 Old Growth is protected from harvesting to the extent necessary to maintain the area, structures, and functions of the stand. Timber harvest in Type 2 old growth must maintain old growth structures, functions, and components including individual trees that function as refugia (see Indicator 6.3.g). On public lands, old growth is protected from harvesting, as well as from other timber management activities, except if needed to maintain the values associated with the stand (e.g., remove exotic species, conduct controlled burning, and thinning from below in forest types when and where restoration is appropriate). On American Indian lands, timber harvest may be permitted in Type 1 and Type 2 old growth in recognition of their sovereignty and unique ownership. Timber harvest is permitted in situations where: 1. Old growth forests comprise a significant portion of the tribal ownership. 2. A history of forest stewardship by the tribe exists. 3. High Conservation Value Forest attributes are maintained. 4. Old-growth structures are maintained. 5. Conservation zones representative of old growth stands are established. 6. Landscape level considerations are addressed. 7. Rare species are protected.		
6.3.b. To the extent feasible within the size of the ownership, particularly on larger ownerships (generally tens of thousands or more acres), management maintains, enhances, or restores habitat conditions suitable for well-distributed populations of animal species that are characteristic of forest ecosystems within the	C	The AWPs for each state forests contains as one its primary objectives toward Wildlife Habitat: management activities with a purpose to maintain and enhance the ecological needs of the diversity of wildlife species and habitat types. Both the PGSF and SRSF detail the Wildlife Habitat Protection and Management within Chapter 8.

landscape.		• SRSF — State endangered Tiger beetles were documented near the recently completed St Johns Rock ORV trail. Part of this trail was re-routed to limit any effects on the population. • PGSF — Installation of bat boxes for the Indiana Bat.
6.3.c. Management maintains, enhances and/or restores the plant and wildlife habitat of ***Riparian Management Zones (RMZs)*** to provide: a) habitat for aquatic species that breed in surrounding uplands; b) habitat for predominantly terrestrial species that breed in adjacent ***aquatic habitats***; c) habitat for species that use riparian areas for feeding, cover, and travel; d) habitat for plant species associated with riparian areas; and, e) stream shading and inputs of wood and leaf litter into the adjacent aquatic ecosystem.	C	Watershed protection/improvement is addressed throughout each of the state forests AWPs through forest harvest planning and review to implementation and including specific projects to improve and protect water resources.
Stand-scale Indicators 6.3.d Management practices maintain or enhance plant species composition, distribution and frequency of occurrence similar to those that would naturally occur on the site.	C	Within the eastern region, an abundance of loblolly pine exists and management practices (e.g., retain and release oaks) are designed to decrease the relative abundance of loblolly over time and increase the presence of other native species as confirmed through observations at Pocomoke State Forest P-20-S-01/02. As reported in 2019, all harvests in the Western Region include retention of oak and larger diameter legacy pine trees. Some harvests include pine seed trees of species that occur naturally on the site, especially in the case of pond, pitch, and short-leaf pines. Other hardwoods, such as maples, poplars, and gums, are mostly retained in no-harvest zones and SMZs, as well as within production areas during thinnings. Bald cypress was observed in SMZs, which are typical sites for this species. Recent landscape analyses have provided support for continued efforts to retaining conifers for tree and wildlife habitat diversity.
6.3.e. When planting is required, a local source of known provenance is used when available and when the local source is equivalent in terms of quality, price and productivity. The use of non-local sources shall be justified, such as in situations where other management objectives (e.g. disease resistance or adapting to climate change) are best	C (OBS)	Seed mixes are determined by MD Department of Wildlife and addressed in timber harvest contracts (Attachment E; medium red clover, ladino clover, orchard grass, perennial rye grass, and timothy grass). Observation 2019.3/2020.1 - While the seed mix used on landings and roads has been previously approved by

served by non-local sources. ***Native species*** suited to the site are normally selected for regeneration.		State Wildlife staff for food plots and elsewhere at the State level for the Erosion and Sediment Control plan, there is an opportunity to improve the seed mixture species and ratios to include other native species, as the current mix being applied on landings and roads, is comprised of only non-native, naturalized species. Auditors interview with Heritage staff found availability of native seed online and confirmed that Heritage staff was not consulted. This Obs remains open, see Obs 2020.1.
6.3.f. Management maintains, enhances, or restores habitat components and associated stand structures, in abundance and distribution that could be expected from naturally occurring processes. These components include: a) large live trees, live trees with decay or declining health, ***snags***, and well-distributed coarse down and dead woody material. ***Legacy trees*** where present are not harvested; and b) vertical and horizontal complexity. Trees selected for ***retention*** are generally representative of the dominant species found on the site.	C	MD DNR implemented its Conformance to this policy is monitored by DNR management staff during the Internal Silvicultural Audits These audits are completed by the ID Team during each annual work plan review. The ISA team routinely includes the Regional Forester, Forest Manager & staff, Forest Resource Planning Program Manager and contractors. The audit team observed consistent implementation of MD DNR's retention policy including, see Site Notes. As reported in 2019, harvests in the Western Region include retention of oak and larger diameter legacy pine trees. Some harvests include pine seed trees of species that occur natural on the site, especially in the case of pond, pitch, and short-leaf pines. Other hardwoods, such as maples and gums, are mostly retained in no-harvest zones and SMZs. Snags were observed on several harvests with harvest areas and in no-harvest zones. Woody material is retained for use on skid trails to control erosion and compaction and distributed over harvest sites. All tree species selected for retention are of dominant species of the site.
6.3.g.1 In the Southeast, Appalachia, Ozark-Ouachita, Mississippi Alluvial Valley, and Pacific Coast Regions, when ***even-aged systems*** are employed, and during salvage harvests, live trees and other native vegetation are retained within the harvest unit as described in Appendix C for the applicable region. In the Lake States Northeast, Rocky Mountain and Southwest Regions, when even-aged silvicultural systems are employed, and during salvage harvests, live trees and other native vegetation are retained within the harvest unit in a proportion and configuration that is consistent with the characteristic natural disturbance regime unless	C	The FME adheres to their internal policy regarding variable retention whereby any harvest for areas greater than 20 acres shall have 5% green tree retention component. FME reported the following even-aged harvests: • CSF - All even-aged regeneration harvests carried out this year were completed under principles of variable retention (Green Tree Retention). 51 acres retention over 436 acres harvest area in 2019. • PSF – 18 acres retention over 162 acres harvested.

retention at a lower level is necessary for the purposes of restoration or rehabilitation. See Appendix C for additional regional requirements and guidance.		
6.3.g.2 Under very limited situations, the landowner or manager has the option to develop a qualified plan to allow minor departure from the opening size limits described in Indicator 6.3.g.1. A qualified plan: 1. Is developed by qualified experts in ecological and/or related fields (wildlife biology, hydrology, landscape ecology, forestry/silviculture). 2. Is based on the totality of the ***best available information*** including peer-reviewed science regarding natural disturbance regimes for the FMU. 3. Is spatially and temporally explicit and includes maps of proposed openings or areas. 4. Demonstrates that the variations will result in equal or greater benefit to wildlife, water quality, and other values compared to the normal opening size limits, including for sensitive and rare species. 5. Is reviewed by independent experts in wildlife biology, hydrology, and landscape ecology, to confirm the preceding findings.	C	No exemptions to even-aged management restrictions associated with indicator 6.3.g.1 and its applicable regional sub-indicators were detected during field visits or review of management planning documentation.
6.3.h. The forest owner or manager assesses the risk of, prioritizes, and, as warranted, develops and implements a strategy to prevent or control ***invasive species***, including: 1. a method to determine the extent of invasive species and the degree of threat to native species and ecosystems; 2. implementation of management practices that minimize the risk of invasive establishment, growth, and spread; 3. eradication or control of established invasive populations when feasible: and, 4. monitoring of control measures and management practices to assess their effectiveness in preventing or controlling invasive species.	C	FME reported the following: The 2020 Pesticide Use Report noted several projects that were directed at controlling invasive plant species, see Section 7, Pesticide and Other Chemical Use in this report for 2020. • CF/PSF — Mapping updates of known and new invasive locations, herbicide applications on high recreation use areas to slow the spread of invasive vegetation. Applications are recorded both electronically and hard copy using forms filled out by applicators.
6.3.i. In applicable situations, the forest owner or	C	FME reported the following:

manager identifies and applies site-specific fuels management practices, based on: (1) natural fire regimes, (2) risk of wildfire, (3) potential economic losses, (4) public safety, and (5) applicable laws and regulations.		• GRSF — No prescribed fire in past year. • SRSF — No prescribed fire in past year. • PGSF — No prescribed fire in past year. • CF/PSF — Multiple prescribed burns have been completed on various sites. Prescribed burn at research site Furnace Tract, and Foster Tract.
C6.4. Representative samples of existing ecosystems within the landscape shall be protected in their natural state and recorded on maps, appropriate to the scale and intensity of operations and the uniqueness of the affected resources.	NE	
C6.5. Written guidelines shall be prepared and implemented to control erosion; minimize forest damage during harvesting, road construction, and all other mechanical disturbances; and to protect water resources.	C	**Note – Although 6.5 was not specifically evaluated as as part of the 2020 audit reporting, a request by MdDNR to review allowance to use new state BMPs (2014) was addressed under 6.5.b and repeated under 6.5.e.1.a, Appendix E.*
6.5.a The forest owner or manager has written guidelines outlining conformance with the Indicators of this Criterion.	NE	
6.5.b Forest operations meet or exceed Best Management Practices (BMPs) that address components of the Criterion where the operation takes place.	C	SMZ guidelines are provided in SFMPs for each state forest and actual SMZs are mapped in the GIS. FME prepared the Western Maryland Erosion and Sediment Control Standards and Specifications for Forest Operations in 2011 that contains SMZ widths based on the "50' + (4' * x%)" principle. For smaller slope %, such as those between the APP 1-10% and 11-20% category, minimum widths depart from the minimum widths required by FSC. For larger slope %, FME's SMZ widths exceed APP requirements. These SMZs are based on watershed studies and have been reviewed by the FME's hydrologist. In 2020, SCS reviewed the "new" state BMPs for consideration as a variance to BMPs as outlined in the FSC standard upon request by the MdDNR. After consultation with disciplinary experts this variance was accepted. Literature, expert interpretation, and expert submissions were analyzed and evaluated for conformance to this indicator regarding provision of adequate riparian habitat protection and prevention of siltation. In this case, the state level BMP requirements are considered an improvement and refinement of BMP protections in a continuous improvement process. The following literature were included as reference: 1. Aust. W. Michael, and Blinn, Charles R. 2004. Forestry best management practices for timber harvesting and site preparation in the eastern

		United States: An overview of water quality and productivity research during the past 20 years (1982-2002). Water, Air, & Soil Pollution: Focus. 4:5-36. 2. Bowker, Daniel; Stringer, Jeffrey W.; and Barton, Christopher D. 2020. Influence of Timber Harvesting Operations and Streamside Management Zone Effectiveness on Sediment Delivery to Headwater Streams in Appalachia. Forests, v. 11, no. 6, 623, p. 1-12. 3. Cristan, R., W.M. Aust, M.C. Bolding, S.M. Barrett, J.F. Munsell, E. Schilling. 2018. National status of state developed and implemented forestry best management practices in the United States. Forest Ecology and Management 418:73-84. 4. Hairston-Strang, Anne. 2017. Harvesting BMPs for Working Forests in Maryland and Delaware, FFY 13, Final Report. 5. Lakel, W.A. III, W.M. Aust, M.C. Bolding, C.A. Dolloff, P. Keyser, R. Feldt, Jr. 2010. Sediment trapping by streamside management zones of various widths following harvest and site preparation. Forest Science 56(6):541-551. 6. Secoges, J.M., W.M. Aust, J.R. Seiler, C. A. Dolloff, W.A. Lakel, III. 2013. Streamside management zones affect movement of silvicultural nitrogen and phosphorus fertilizers to Piedmont streams. Southern Journal of Applied Forestry 37(1):26-35. 7. Trimble, George R., Jr. and Sartz, Richard S. 1957. How far from a stream should a logging road be located? Journal of Forestry 55(5): 33 Copies of articles, statements of support by relevant experts, the submission for review by MdDNR, and other related files are retained in SCS records subject to FSC examination.
6.5.c Management activities including site preparation, harvest prescriptions, techniques, timing, and equipment are selected and used to protect soil and water resources and to avoid erosion, landslides, and significant soil disturbance. Logging and other activities that significantly increase the risk of landslides are excluded in areas where risk of landslides is high. The following actions are addressed: • Slash is concentrated only as much as necessary to achieve the goals of site preparation and the reduction of fuels to moderate or low levels of fire hazard. • Disturbance of topsoil is limited to the	NE	

minimum necessary to achieve successful regeneration of species native to the site. • Rutting and compaction is minimized. • Soil erosion is not accelerated. • Burning is only done when consistent with natural disturbance regimes. • Natural ground cover disturbance is minimized to the extent necessary to achieve regeneration objectives. • Whole tree harvesting on any site over multiple rotations is only done when research indicates soil productivity will not be harmed. • Low impact equipment and technologies is used where appropriate.		
6.5.d The transportation system, including design and placement of permanent and temporary haul roads, skid trails, recreational trails, water crossings and landings, is designed, constructed, maintained, and/or reconstructed to reduce short and long-term environmental impacts, habitat fragmentation, soil and water disturbance and cumulative adverse effects, while allowing for customary uses and use rights. This includes: • access to all roads and trails (temporary and permanent), including recreational trails, and off-road travel, is controlled, as possible, to minimize ecological impacts; • road density is minimized; • erosion is minimized; • sediment discharge to streams is minimized; • there is free upstream and downstream passage for aquatic organisms; • impacts of transportation systems on wildlife habitat and migration corridors are minimized; • area converted to roads, landings and skid trails is minimized; • habitat fragmentation is minimized; • unneeded roads are closed and rehabilitated.	NE	
6.5.e.1 In consultation with appropriate expertise, the forest owner or manager implements written Streamside Management Zone (SMZ) buffer	NE	

management guidelines that are adequate for preventing environmental impact, and include protecting and restoring water quality, hydrologic conditions in rivers and stream corridors, wetlands, vernal pools, seeps and springs, lake and pond shorelines, and other hydrologically sensitive areas. The guidelines include vegetative buffer widths and protection measures that are acceptable within those buffers. In the Appalachia, Ozark-Ouachita, Southeast, Mississippi Alluvial Valley, Southwest, Rocky Mountain, and Pacific Coast regions, there are requirements for minimum SMZ widths and explicit limitations on the activities that can occur within those SMZs. These are outlined as requirements in Appendix E.		
6.5.e.2 Minor variations from the stated minimum SMZ widths and layout for specific stream segments, wetlands and other water bodies are permitted in limited circumstances, provided the forest owner or manager demonstrates that the alternative configuration maintains the overall extent of the buffers and provides equivalent or greater environmental protection than FSC-US regional requirements for those stream segments, water quality, and aquatic species, based on site-specific conditions and the best available information. The forest owner or manager develops a written set of supporting information including a description of the riparian habitats and species addressed in the alternative configuration. The CB must verify that the variations meet these requirements, based on the input of an independent expert in aquatic ecology or closely related field.	NE	
6.5.f Stream and wetland crossings are avoided when possible. Unavoidable crossings are located and constructed to minimize impacts on water quality, hydrology, and fragmentation of aquatic habitat. Crossings do not impede the movement of aquatic species. Temporary crossings are restored to original hydrological conditions when operations are finished.	NE	
6.5.g Recreation use on the FMU is managed to avoid negative impacts to soils, water, plants, wildlife and wildlife habitats.	NE	
6.5.h Grazing by domesticated animals is	NE	

controlled to protect in-stream habitats and water quality, the species composition and viability of the riparian vegetation, and the banks of the stream channel from erosion.		
	C	SMZ guidelines are provided in SFMPs for each state forest and actual SMZs are mapped in the GIS. FME prepared the Western Maryland Erosion and Sediment Control Standards and Specifications for Forest Operations in 2011 that contains SMZ widths based on the "50' + (4' * x%)" principle. For smaller slope %, such as those between the APP 1-10% and 11-20% category, minimum widths depart from the minimum widths required by FSC. For larger slope %, FME's SMZ widths exceed APP requirements. These SMZs are based on watershed studies and have been reviewed by the FME's hydrologist. In 2020, SCS reviewed the "new" state BMPs for consideration as a variance to BMPs as outlined in the FSC standard upon request by the MdDNR. After consultation with disciplinary experts this variance was accepted. Literature, expert interpretation, and expert submissions were analyzed and evaluated for conformance to this indicator regarding provision of adequate riparian habitat protection and prevention of siltation. In this case, the state level BMP requirements are considered an improvement and refinement of BMP protections in a continuous improvement process. The following literature were included as reference: 1. Cristan, R., W.M. Aust, M.C. Bolding, S.M. Barrett, J.F. Munsell, E. Schilling. 2018. National status of state developed and implemented forestry best management practices in the United States. Forest Ecology and Management 418:73-84. http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.foreco.2017.07.002 2. Lakel, W.A. III, W.M. Aust, M.C. Bolding, C.A. Dolloff, P. Keyser, R. Feldt, Jr.* 2010. Sediment trapping by streamside management zones of various widths following harvest and site preparation. Forest Science 56(6):541-551. 3. Secoges, J.M., W.M. Aust, J.R. Seiler, C. A. Dolloff, W.A. Lakel, III. 2013. Streamside management zones affect movement of silvicultural nitrogen and phosphorus fertilizers to Piedmont streams. Southern Journal of Applied Forestry 37(1):26-35. 4. Hairston-Strang, Anne. 2017. Harvesting BMPs for Working Forests in Maryland and Delaware, FFY 13, Final Report. Copies of articles, statements of support by relevant

		experts, request by MdDNR, and other related files are retained in SCS records subject to FSC examination.
C6.6. Management systems shall promote the development and adoption of environmentally friendly non-chemical methods of pest management and strive to avoid the use of chemical pesticides. World Health Organization Type 1A and 1B and chlorinated hydrocarbon pesticides; pesticides that are persistent, toxic or whose derivatives remain biologically active and accumulate in the food chain beyond their intended use; as well as any pesticides banned by international agreement, shall be prohibited. If chemicals are used, proper equipment and training shall be provided to minimize health and environmental risks.	NE	
C6.7. Chemicals, containers, liquid and solid non-organic wastes including fuel and oil shall be disposed of in an environmentally appropriate manner at off-site locations.	NE	
C6.8. Use of biological control agents shall be documented, minimized, monitored, and strictly controlled in accordance with national laws and internationally accepted scientific protocols. Use of genetically modified organisms shall be prohibited.	NE	
C6.9. The use of exotic species shall be carefully controlled and actively monitored to avoid adverse ecological impacts.	NE	
6.9.a. The use of ***exotic species*** is contingent on the availability of credible scientific data indicating that any such species is non-invasive and its application does not pose a risk to native biodiversity.	C	FME reported that no exotic species have been used for commercial or management purposes since the last audit, which the auditor confirmed in field observation.
6.9.b. If exotic species are used, their provenance and the location of their use are documented, and their ecological effects are actively monitored.	C	The Norway Spruce, Red Pine and Scotch Pine plantations were established several decades ago. Norway Spruce and Scotch Pine are from Europe and Red Pine is from colder regions Eastern North America. No offsite regeneration is occurring and plans have been developed to restore these areas to semi-natural management. In most instances, this means that these exotic species will be maintained, but within a matrix of native flora and fauna.
6.9.cThe forest owner or manager shall take timely action to curtail or significantly reduce any adverse impacts resulting from their use of exotic species	C	See 6.9.a.

C6.10. Forest conversion to plantations or non-forest land uses shall not occur, except in circumstances where conversion: **a) Entails a very limited portion of the forest management unit; and b) Does not occur on High Conservation Value Forest areas; and c) Will enable clear, substantial, additional, secure, long-term conservation benefits across the forest management unit.**	NE	
P7 A management plan -- appropriate to the scale and intensity of the operations -- shall be written, implemented, and kept up to date. The long-term objectives of management, and the means of achieving them, shall be clearly stated.		
C7.1. The management plan and supporting documents shall provide: **a) Management objectives. b) description of the forest resources to be managed, environmental limitations, land use and ownership status, socio-economic conditions, and a profile of adjacent lands.** **c) Description of silvicultural and/or other management system, based on the ecology of the forest in question and information gathered through resource inventories. d) Rationale for rate of annual harvest and species selection. e) Provisions for monitoring of forest growth and dynamics. f) Environmental safeguards based on environmental assessments. g) Plans for the identification and protection of rare, threatened and endangered species.** **h) Maps describing the forest resource base including protected areas, planned management activities and land ownership.** **i) Description and justification of harvesting techniques and equipment to be used.**	C	The general structure of the FMP is based on each state forest with the structure and content of the documents based on the same templates. Each state forest within the scope of the FSC certificate has an overarching Sustainable Forest Management Plan (SFMP) and Annual Work Plans (AWP) prepared for management activities to occur in the upcoming fiscal year. Summaries of the AWPs are also prepared. Chesapeake and Pocomoke State Forests additionally have individual summaries for their SFMPs and other supporting documentation available online as they have been certified for longer periods of time. MD DNR also maintains a Policy Handbook and procedures for implementing certain components of the FMP.
7.1.a. The management plan identifies the ownership and legal status of the FMU and its resources, including rights held by the owner and rights held by others.	C	Each SFMP includes a section on the history of the state forest, along with an ownership history. Allowable public uses are described in the Chapter 9 of each SFMP. Each FMP contains tables and figures on land use within and surrounding state forests.
7.1.b. The management plan describes the history of land use and past management, current forest types and associated development, size class and/or successional stages, and natural disturbance regimes that affect the FMU (see Indicator 6.1.a).	C	Each SFMP includes a section on the history of the state forestlands. Chapters 2, 3 and 4 of each SFMP include a description of the current forest resource and guidelines on management based on natural disturbance regimes. Certain appendices may also cover special disturbance regimes, such as fire. The AWP includes a brief description of past land uses and management as an introduction for the basis of the

		planned management activities for the fiscal year. The SFMPs for the State Forests under scope of this certificate may be found here, • https://dnr.maryland.gov/forests/Pages/publiclands/western_potomacgarrettforest.aspx • https://dnr.maryland.gov/forests/Pages/publiclands/western_greenridgeforest.aspx • https://dnr.maryland.gov/forests/Pages/publiclands/western_savageriverforest.aspx • https://dnr.maryland.gov/forests/Pages/publiclands/eastern_pocomokeforest.aspx • https://dnr.maryland.gov/forests/Pages/chesapeakeforestlands.aspx A historical strategic plan from 2006 may be found here, https://dnr.maryland.gov/forests/Documents/publications/06mdsfrplan.pdf. This plan was fundamental for the strategic planning process that is currently used by MD DNR Forest Service today.
7.1.c.The management plan describes: a) current conditions of the timber and non-timber forest resources being managed; b) desired future conditions; c) historical ecological conditions; and d) applicable management objectives and activities to move the FMU toward desired future conditions.	C	Chapters 2-8 of each SFMP (Resource Assessment, Resource Characterization, Land Management Area Guidelines, Forest Management, Water Quality, Ecologically Significant Areas, and Wildlife Habitat). Objectives are stated in various chapters; however, Chapter 5 includes management objectives of forest management/ silviculture. The AWP includes a description of the current conditions of resources and what will be done in the fiscal year to accomplish desired future conditions based on a given state forest's ecology or past management.
7.1.d. The management plan includes a description of the landscape within which the FMU is located and describes how landscape-scale habitat elements described in Criterion 6.3 will be addressed.	C	See Chapters 2-8 of each SFMP (Resource Assessment, Resource Characterization, Land Management Area Guidelines, Forest Management, Water Quality, Ecologically Significant Areas, and Wildlife Habitat). The AWP provides a description in the summary. The required information is found in each SFMP and AWP including a description of retention.
7.1.e. The management plan includes a description of the following resources and outlines activities to conserve and/or protect:	C	Chapters 2-8 of each SFMP (Resource Assessment, Resource Characterization, Land Management Area Guidelines, Forest Management, Water Quality,

• rare, threatened, or endangered species and natural communities (see Criterion 6.2); • plant species and community diversity and wildlife habitats (see Criterion 6.3); • water resources (see Criterion 6.5); • soil resources (see Criterion 6.3); • Representative Sample Areas (see Criterion 6.4); • High Conservation Value Forests (see Principle 9); • Other special management areas.		Ecologically Significant Areas, and Wildlife Habitat). The AWP includes descriptions of activities planned to protect or enhance RTE species, plant communities (e.g.,, Atlantic white-cedar swamps), wildlife, water and soil resources (e.g., soil series appendix), RSAs, and HCVs. Other management areas are described depending on each state forest's resources (e.g., ORV trails).
7.1.f. If invasive species are present, the management plan describes invasive species conditions, applicable management objectives, and how they will be controlled (see Indicator 6.3.j).	C	Chapters 3 and 5 of each SFMP include a section on invasive species based on FSC-US guidelines.
7.1.g. The management plan describes insects and diseases, current or anticipated outbreaks on forest conditions and management goals, and how insects and diseases will be managed (see Criteria 6.6 and 6.8).	C	Each SFMP treats insects and diseases in its Resource Assessment and Characterizations (Chapters 2 and 3), but mostly throughout the SFMPs and especially when dealing with fire. Information confirmed with GIS data as well.
7.1.h. If chemicals are used, the plan describes what is being used, applications, and how the management system conforms with Criterion 6.6.	C	Herbicide use is described in Chapters 5, 6, 7 and 10 of the SFMP. Each of these Chapters describes basic use and restrictions near sensitive sites. Some SFMPs and AWPs describes chemicals to be used, applications, and how the FME is conforming with C6.6. (GRSF MP Section 5.9 Chemical Use, page 86-87 . Limited chemical use was observed on the SFs, and tracking documentation was reviewed for two site visits.
7.1.i. If biological controls are used, the management plan describes what is being used, applications, and how the management system conforms with Criterion 6.8.	C	Biological control is maintained as an option in Chapter 10 of each SFMP. Other State and Federal agencies are in charge of biological control on MD DNR-managed lands. See C6.8 for more details.
7.1.j. The management plan incorporates the results of the evaluation of social impacts, including: • traditional cultural resources and rights of use (see Criterion 2.1); • potential conflicts with customary uses and use rights (see Criteria 2.2, 2.3, 3.2); • management of ceremonial, archeological, and historic sites (see Criteria 3.3 and 4.5); • management of aesthetic values (see Indicator 4.4.a);	C	• Sections of Chapter 2 of western MD SFMPs and Chapter 9 of CFL SFMP include descriptions of traditional cultural resources and rights of use. • Sections of Chapter 11 of each western MD SFMP and Chapters 1, 9 and 10 of CFL SFMP describe potential conflicts. • Each of the 5 management plans include text from state code that requires protection of these special sites. Chapter 2 of each SFMP describes sites and GIS data points have been established. Sections of

• public access to and use of the forest, and other recreation issues; • local and regional socioeconomic conditions and economic opportunities, including creation and/or maintenance of quality jobs (see Indicators 4.1.b and 4.4.a), local purchasing opportunities (see Indicator 4.1.e), and participation in local development opportunities (see Indicator 4.1.g).		Chapter 11 include a description of the process and timetable for consultation and review by representatives of tribal groups. Individual AWPs also include details associated with aesthetics. During the 2020 audit, the protection of special sites. See Site Notes for examples. • Aesthetic values are introduced in Chapter 1 and described in Chapter 5 within some of descriptions of forest management activities (e.g. forest buffer thinning, regeneration harvest) and in the some of the AWPs. • Chapter 9 and sections of Chapter 10 of each SFMP includes public access, use and education Local and regional economic condition and opportunity are introduced in Chapter 1 and described in sections of chapters 2, 3, 4, 5, 8 and 9 of each SFMP. Chapter 1 of each SFMP includes the following text: "*The primary goal of the Green Ridge State Forest Sustainable Management Plan is to demonstrate that an environmentally sound, sustainably managed forest can contribute to local and regional economies*..." A recent study cited in each SFMP also addresses some of this indicator: see Comprehensive Strategy for Reducing Maryland's Vulnerability to Climate Change, Phase II: Building societal, economic, and ecological resilience (Jan 2011) http://www.dnr.state.md.us/climatechange/climatechange_phase2_adaptation_strategy.pdf The AWP's summary includes a description of maintenance and protections needs for archeological and historic sites. The AWP includes descriptions of special projects, their costs, and intended benefits. Many special projects are for ecological restoration, public education, road/ trail upgrades for management and recreation.
7.1.k. The management plan describes the general purpose, condition and maintenance needs of the transportation network (see Indicator 6.5.e).	C	Chapters 5, 6, and 9 of the SFMP cover this topic. The AWP's summary includes a description of road conditions and planned maintenance activities based on said conditions.
7.1.l. The management plan describes the silvicultural and other management systems used and how they will sustain, over the long term, forest ecosystems present on the FMU.	C	Chapter 5 of the SFMP discusses silvicultural systems based on the resource assessment. Other management systems, such as those used to control access or maintain protected areas, are dealt with in other chapters.
7.1.m. The management plan describes how	C	Chapter 5 of the SFMP discusses forest inventory and

species selection and harvest rate calculations were developed to meet the requirements of Criterion 5.6.		how harvest rates are determined. Tables and figures of inventory and projected harvests are included SFMP.
7.1.n. The management plan includes a description of monitoring procedures necessary to address the requirements of Criterion 8.2.	C	Certain monitoring is covered throughout the SFMP, but Chapters 5 and 10 specifically deal with the subject of monitoring.
7.1.o. The management plan includes maps describing the resource base, the characteristics of general management zones, special management areas, and protected areas at a level of detail to achieve management objectives and protect sensitive sites.	C	MD DNR maintains maps on GIS and many maps are available online to the public that address this indicator. Detailed maps are available in the SFMP and AWP for each state forest, confirmed these maps are also present in the GIS.
7.1.p. The management plan describes and justifies the types and sizes of harvesting machinery and techniques employed on the FMU to minimize or limit impacts to the resource.	C	The SFMPs for the Eastern and Western Regions discuss equipment in the general sense; low-impact equipment is desired in certain situations over conventional logging. Details are noted in the 'Forest Harvesting Equipment' section of each SFMP.
7.1.q. Plans for harvesting and other significant site-disturbing management activities required to carry out the management plan are prepared prior to implementation. Plans clearly describe the activity, the relationship to objectives, outcomes, any necessary environmental safeguards, health and safety measures, and include maps of adequate detail.	C	AWP's summary includes goals for the upcoming fiscal year's management activities. AWP includes a description of proposed management activities, such as silvicultural prescriptions. The prescriptions include an analysis of resources that could be impacted and how to reduce/mitigate those risks, as well as objectives and desired outcomes. Pre-sale conferences are held in which a checklist is filled out by loggers and MD DNR staff to review the sale prior to operations. Sediment and erosion control permits may also be required prior to plan implementation and are considered a part of the site-plan.
7.1.r. The management plan describes the stakeholder consultation process.	C	The SFMP describes the role of the Citizens Advisory Committee for each state forest in the development of the plan (Appendix A). The SFMP also includes a flow chart on how AWPs are developed, including when stakeholder consultation and review occurs. The AWP's summary includes a description of how MD DNR Forestry Division works with other agencies and local colleges/universities. Citizen Advisory Committee and public comments are included at the end of each AWP.
C7.2. The management plan shall be periodically revised to incorporate the results of monitoring or new scientific and technical information, as well as to respond to changing environmental, social and economic circumstances.	C	
7.2.a The management plan is kept up to date. It is reviewed on an ongoing basis and is updated	C	SFMPs are currently on a 10 year cycle for updating that coincides with forest inventory and resources

whenever necessary to incorporate the results of monitoring or new scientific and technical information, as well as to respond to changing environmental, social and economic circumstances. At a minimum, a full revision occurs every 10 years.		assessment reviews but can be revised as needed. All SFMPs are up to date. AWPs are developed annually and can more readily incorporate experience from prior years into the planning process. Updates in 2018 or 2019 were reviewed for the CF-SFMP, PSF-SPMP, SRSF-SFMP, and GRSF-SFMP.
C7.3. Forest workers shall receive adequate training and supervision to ensure proper implementation of the management plans.	C	
7.3.a. Workers are qualified to properly implement the management plan; All forest workers are provided with sufficient guidance and supervision to adequately implement their respective components of the plan.	C	MD DNR staff receive certificates for all training completed. Foresters are required to be licensed in Maryland and licensing has a continuing education requirement. Confirmed all Foresters, both contracted PFS staff and MD DNR SF employees, maintain their Forester License.
C7.4. While respecting the confidentiality of information, forest managers shall make publicly available a summary of the primary elements of the management plan, including those listed in Criterion 7.1.	C	
7.4.a. While respecting landowner confidentiality, the management plan or a management plan summary that outlines the elements of the plan described in Criterion 7.1 is available to the public either at no charge or a nominal fee.	C	The entire management plan is available freely to the public at http://www.dnr.state.md.us/forests/mdforests.asp.
7.4.b. Managers of public forests make draft management plans, revisions and supporting documentation easily accessible for public review and comment prior to their implementation. Managers address public comments and modify the plans to ensure compliance with this Standard.	C	All draft AWPs are available for comment at http://www.dnr.state.md.us/forests/workplans/index.asp. When SFMPs are up for revision, these also are made available publicly through the website and submitted to the Citizen Advisory Committee for review. Once draft plans undergo complete public review, the revised plan becomes the final plan presented on the website.
P8 Monitoring shall be conducted -- appropriate to the scale and intensity of forest management -- to assess the condition of the forest, yields of forest products, chain of custody, management activities and their social and environmental impacts. *Applicability Note: On small and medium-sized forests (see Glossary), an informal, qualitative assessment may be appropriate. Formal, quantitative monitoring is required on large forests and/or intensively managed forests.*		
C8.1. The frequency and intensity of monitoring should be determined by the scale and intensity of forest management operations, as well as, the relative complexity and fragility of the affected environment. Monitoring procedures should be consistent and replicable over time to allow comparison of results and assessment of change.	NE	
8.2. Forest management should include the	C	

research and data collection needed to monitor, at **a minimum, the following indicators: a) yield of all forest products harvested, b) growth rates, regeneration, and condition of the forest, c) composition and observed changes in the flora and fauna, d) environmental and social impacts of harvesting and other operations, and e) cost, productivity, and efficiency of forest management.**		
8.2.a.1. For all commercially harvested products, an inventory system is maintained. The inventory system includes at a minimum: a) species, b) volumes, c) stocking, d) regeneration, and e) stand and forest composition and structure; and f) timber quality.	C	2019: FME reported the following: • GRSF — All areas that received a final harvest in the last 2-5 years were inventoried in the last year to monitor and evaluate regeneration. Furthermore, all stands proposed for regeneration harvests were inventoried to evaluate potential for regeneration and guide prescription for regeneration harvest methods. CF/PSF — The CFI and forest inventory procedure were completed in 2016. Yield tables were created from the inventory data, and the forest model was updated. Regeneration surveys have been conducted on recent harvest sites.
8.2.a.2. Significant, unanticipated removal or loss or increased vulnerability of forest resources is monitored and recorded. Recorded information shall include date and location of occurrence, description of disturbance, extent and severity of loss, and may be both quantitative and qualitative.	C	FME reported no recent timber theft during interviews with forest managers. No new major storm or disease events were reported in 2020.
8.2.b The forest owner or manager maintains records of harvested timber and NTFPs (volume and product and/or grade). Records must adequately ensure that the requirements under Criterion 5.6 are met.	C	Ledgers, annual timber summaries and compartment files that relate to harvested timber are maintained in the state office. MD DNR maintains records of harvested timber on GIS and a timber sale contract database (area, acres, volumes, income tracking). These records are used to compare projected harvest to actual harvest. 2019: FME reported the following for FY 2019: • CF/PSF — 1,833,217 bf pine & hardwood sawtimber and 21,289 cords pine & hardwood pulpwood • GRSF — 340,186 bf hardwood • SRSF — 1,264,629 bf hardwood • PGSF — 472 bf hardwood MD DNR provides an annual Timber Sale Summary. Harvest records for lump-sum, stumpage, and gatewood sales were provided.
8.2.c. The forest owner or manager periodically	C	1) RTE data and monitoring is accomplished through

obtains data needed to monitor presence on the FMU of: 1) Rare, threatened and endangered species and/or their ***habitats***; 2) Common and rare plant communities and/or habitat; 3) Location, presence and abundance of invasive species; 4) Condition of protected areas, set-asides and buffer zones; 5) High Conservation Value Forests (see Criterion 9.4).		the ID team process and an established relationship with the MD Natural Heritage Program as confirmed through interviews with Natural Heritage Program staff. 2) Common and rare plant communities and habitats are monitored through the use of SILVAH OAK inventory system. In addition, the Wildlife and Heritage Service, and Fresh Water Fisheries gather information on plant and animal populations. 3) The *Early Detection and Rapid Response Plan* associated monitoring protocol led by DNR's Heritage program to monitor invasive species. SILVAH OAK inventory system also includes documentation of the presence of invasive plants. In addition, it is clear from site observations and staff interviews that the DNR staff is well-trained and knowledgeable about this issue. 4) Zones including protected HCVF, buffer zones, Wildlands, RSAs and Old Growth are monitored through stand level inventory (SILVAH OAK protocol). FME reported the following in 2019-2020: • GRSF — Woodcock singing ground survey, wood turtle and herpetology surveys, wild turkey poultry production, bear den reproduction surveys, bear bait surveys, nightjar survey, golden-winged warbler survey, camera trapping surveys for spotted skunk and Frostburg University study of black cohosh. • SRSF — A study in cooperation with The Nature Conservancy to promote old growth forest development by creating OG characteristics within younger stands. Plus, various research projects have been ongoing throughout the forest focusing on a plethora of plant and animal communities including northern long-eared bats, American chestnut, eastern red-backed salamanders, millipedes, golden-winged warblers, Allegheny wood rats and Monarda didyma. Projects to control the non-native invasive species garlic mustard and Japanese spirea were conducted in the Bear Pen Wildlands. Wildlife and Heritage Division of DNR have ongoing monitoring for black bears, golden eagles, striped skunks and Appalachian cottontails, Pennsylvania Natural Heritage Program at the Western Pennsylvania Conservancy observance of lichens and Frostburg State University study of black cohosh. • PGSF — Hemlock thinning effects on HWA in cooperation with NC State, bobcat population estimates in cooperation with Delaware Dept of Wildlife Ecology, native orchid conservation with

		Smithsonian Institute, study of genetic and morphological variability of crayfish in cooperation with Carnegie Museum of Natural History, and DNR Wildlife and Heritage Program's annual Goshawk Nesting monitoring, surveys for both New England Cottontail and Spotted Skunks, as well as. • CF/PSF — Impact of Prescribed Burns on Bat Populations in Coastal Plain Forests of the Eastern United States in coopeation with Salisbury University , TNC and DNR Wildlife & Heritage Service, Delmarva Fox Squirrel monitoring by the USF&WS, bat monitoring by Salisbury University & plant community monitoring by our Wildlife & Heritage Unit.
8.2.d.1. Monitoring is conducted to ensure that site specific plans and operations are properly implemented, environmental impacts of site disturbing operations are minimized, and that harvest prescriptions and guidelines are effective.	C	In the eastern region, Parker Forestry and MD DNR foresters completes inspection forms on Chesapeake Forest Projects and Pocomoke, and MD DNR foresters also inspect tracts and fill out reports. In the western region, MD DNR field foresters conduct post-harvest monitoring and complete Timber Sale Inspection Reports that were presented and reviewed for each of the sites visited during this audit program. This FME also instituted an internal silvicultural audit system to examine the environmental and management impacts of silvicultural activities. This monitoring system was recently been expanded to include a post-harvest review by the ID team. Logging contractors reported that MD DNR staff conduct site visits at least once per week during active harvests. Timber Sale Inspection forms are maintained for these visits. This form is used for the final inspections. Timber Sale Inspection forms are maintained for harvest monitoring visits and finalized at the end of harvest. Parker Forestry Services demonstrated inspection forms for the sites visited in 2020. Parker Forestry Services also demonstrated chemical application maps that show application trails and that protected areas were avoided, see Site Notes
8.2.d.2. A monitoring program is in place to assess the condition and environmental impacts of the forest-road system.	C	A *Forest Roads Management For Forest Operations on Maryland State Forests* has been implemented. This policy creates a systematic inventory of the State Forest roads including ORV trails. This plan documents each road segment and drainage feature in a GIS-based identification system and allows the development of a priority plan for road maintenance and feature replacement that is incorporated into annual work

		plans for each state forest.
8.2.d.3. The landowner or manager monitors relevant socio-economic issues (see Indicator 4.4.a), including the social impacts of harvesting, participation in local economic opportunities (see Indicator 4.1.g), the creation and/or maintenance of quality job opportunities (see Indicator 4.1.b), and local purchasing opportunities (see Indicator 4.1.e).	C	Through the ID Team, Forest Advisory Committee and other cooperative processes, this FME conducts many socioeconomic analyses and monitoring activities through partnership with other departments within the DNR and other state or federal agencies. CF/PSF — Monitoring of social media sites related to recreational trail use, and trail monitors for several recreation trails.
8.2.d.4. Stakeholder responses to management activities are monitored and recorded as necessary.	C	MD DNR maintains a complaint log in each SF office. Each forest manager responds to inquiries and complaints with direct communications. When these cannot be resolved locally the issue is occasionally referred to the Annapolis office. The main mechanism for soliciting comments is response to each posted State Forest Management Plans and Annual Work Plan that details the proposed activities for the upcoming year.
8.2.d.5. Where sites of cultural significance exist, the opportunity to jointly monitor sites of cultural significance is offered to tribal representatives (see Principle 3).	C	There are no such sites on MD DNR lands. However, MD DNR offered this opportunity to Tribes participating in the CAC. In addition, MD DNR is cooperating with the MD Commission of Indian Affairs. The most significant change since 2017 is that managers in the Eastern Region have initiated contact with a new recognized tribal representative and have added tribal participation on the CAC.
8.2.e. The forest owner or manager monitors the costs and revenues of management in order to assess productivity and efficiency.	C	FME reported that CF/PSF holds quarterly & biweekly meetings with the Contract Manager. All state forests have weekly BMP inspections of harvesting operations. Cost and revenue is monitored as part of the AWP process. AMPs contain a summary of cost and revenue information. Each SF has its own operational budget. Each SF maintains a spreadsheet and reports these to state offices in Annapolis. Accounting reviews all expenditures.
C8.3. Documentation shall be provided by the forest manager to enable monitoring and certifying organizations to trace each forest product from its origin, a process known as the "chain of custody."	NE	
C8.4. The results of monitoring shall be	NE	

incorporated into the implementation and revision of the management plan.		
C8.5. While respecting the confidentiality of information, forest managers shall make publicly available a summary of the results of monitoring indicators, including those listed in Criterion 8.2.	NE	
P9 Management activities in high conservation value forests shall maintain or enhance the attributes which define such forests. Decisions regarding high conservation value forests shall always be considered in the context of a precautionary approach. **High Conservation Value Forests are those that possess one or more of the following attributes:** **a) Forest areas containing globally, regionally or nationally significant: concentrations of biodiversity values (e.g., endemism, endangered species, refugia); and/or large landscape level forests, contained within, or containing the management unit, where viable populations of most if not all naturally occurring species exist in natural patterns of distribution and abundance** **b) Forest areas that are in or contain rare, threatened or endangered ecosystems** **c) Forest areas that provide basic services of nature in critical situations (e.g., watershed protection, erosion control)** **d) Forest areas fundamental to meeting basic needs of local communities (e.g., subsistence, health) and/or critical to local communities' traditional cultural identity (areas of cultural, ecological, economic or religious significance identified in cooperation with such local communities).**		
C9.1. Assessment to determine the presence of the attributes consistent with High Conservation Value Forests will be completed, appropriate to scale and intensity of forest management.	NE	
C9.2. The consultative portion of the certification process must place emphasis on the identified conservation attributes, and options for the maintenance thereof.	NE	
C9.3. The management plan shall include and implement specific measures that ensure the maintenance and/or enhancement of the applicable conservation attributes consistent with the precautionary approach. These measures shall be specifically included in the publicly available management plan summary.	NE	
C9.4. Annual monitoring shall be conducted to assess the effectiveness of the measures employed to maintain or enhance the applicable conservation attributes.	C	
9.4.a. The forest owner or manager monitors, or participates in a program to annually monitor, the status of the specific HCV attributes, including the effectiveness of the measures employed for their maintenance or enhancement. The monitoring program is designed and implemented consistent with the requirements of Principle 8.	C	Nearly all of the State's HCVF is designated as "no management". Thus, the need for regular monitoring is greatly reduced due to the lack of potential impacts from management although monitoring does occur in HCVF areas. Monitoring of HCV attributes occurs through: • Stand level inventory of the forest using SILVAH

		OAK methodology. • Heritage Ecologist's formal and informal surveys and research of ESA's and other designated areas. FME reported that its Wildlife & Heritage Unit continues to monitor ESAs post restoration treatment on high priority sites. DNR Fisheries do regular Brook trout monitoring in SF streams, Maryland Biological Stream Survey has data collection points on several streams (all in HCVF stream buffers), MD Maryland Department of Agriculture Hemlock Wooly Adelgid protection efforts are monitored by MDA for effectiveness, most of these stands are within HCVF areas, including the 50ft. stream buffers. FME has only reported on activities related to the management of significant concentrations of RTE species, such as the Delmarva Fox Squirrel. While many HCVs rely on passive management approaches, Natural Heritage staff conduct annual reviews of these areas based on a sampling protocol.
9.4.b. When monitoring results indicate increasing risk to a specific HCV attribute, the forest owner/manager re-evaluates the measures taken to maintain or enhance that attribute, and adjusts the management measures in an effort to reverse the trend.	C	Each SFMP Chapter 10 and the current Annual Work Plans include a description of this process. Implementation of this requirement is noted in the 2019 GRSF-SFMP, regarding monitoring and potential future action, depending on how the pockets of garlic mustard (*Alliaria petiolata*) found on the forest change over time. While the treatments are considered to be reasonably effective, follow-up monitoring and treatment is necessary due to potential impacts to the nearby weed-free ESA and HCVF communities if this non-native invasive plant is not controlled.

P10 Plantations shall be planned and managed in accordance with Principles and Criteria 1-9, and Principle 10 and its Criteria. While plantations can provide an array of social and economic benefits, and can contribute to satisfying the world's needs for forest products, they should complement the management of, reduce pressures on, and promote the restoration and conservation of natural forests.

Given current management practices and desired future conditions described in SFMPs, as well as observation of implementation of management practices in the Eastern and Western Regions, all state forestland is being managed under a semi-natural management regime. Retention and site-preparation practices in the Eastern Region are at higher levels than in comparable semi-natural-managed stands of the US Southeast. Moreover, rotations of the Southern Yellow Pine species are in most cases more than double (60-80 years) those of typical southern plantation management. Areas where exotic species (e.g., *Picea abies*) and native species have been planted offsite (e.g., *Pinus resinosa*) are being managed to restore natural species composition or mixed conifer-hardwood semi-natural forests.

As confirmed in field observation of species composition and management practices and review of the management

plan, the management system consists of natural/semi-natural forest management. Thus, P10 does not apply.

APPENDICES		
APPENDIX C: REGIONAL LIMITS AND OTHER GUIDELINES ON OPENING SIZES **This Appendix contains regional Indicators and guidance pertinent to maximum opening sizes and other guidelines for determining size openings and retention. These Indicators are requirements based on FSC-US regional delineations** **Indicator 6.3.g.1**		
APPALACHIA REGION		
Indicator 6.3.g.1.a When even-aged silviculture (e.g., seed tree, regular or irregular shelterwood), or deferment cutting is employed, live trees and native vegetation are retained and opening sizes are created within the harvest unit in a proportion and configuration that is consistent with the characteristic natural disturbance regime in each community type, unless retention at a lower level is necessary for restoration or rehabilitation purposes. Harvest openings with no retention are limited to 10 acres. ***Guidance:*** *Even-age silviculture is used only where naturally occurring species are maintained or enhanced. Retention within harvest units can include riparian and streamside buffers and other special zones. In addition, desirable overstory and understory species may be retained outside of buffers or special zones while allowing for regeneration of shade-intolerant and intermediate species consistent with overall management principals. Where stands have been degraded, less retention can be used to improve both merchantable and non-merchantable attributes.*	C	Examples were observed during the 2020 audit of live tree and native vegetation retention. Other examples observed during the 2020 audit included retention around an eagle's nest and buffers along ditches and streams, see Site Notes. MD DNR consistently and routinely used both dispersed and clumped retention of representative dominant and co-dominant species. Examples were confirmed of preferentially leaving high quality snag species and those of other wildlife quality value (such as mast bearing oak species). Silviculture methods used were consistent with land history characteristics and silvical requirements of native tree species occurring and being maintained on sites.
Indicator 6.3.g.1.b When uneven age silvicultural techniques are used (e.g., individual tree selection or group selection), canopy openings are less than 2.5 acres. ***Applicability note:*** *Uneven age silvicultural techniques are used when they maintain or enhance the overall species richness and biologic diversity, regenerate-shade tolerant or intermediate-tolerant species, and/or provide small canopy openings to regenerate shade-intolerant and intermediate species. Uneven-age techniques are generally used to develop forests with at least three age classes. Uneven age silviculture is employed to prevent high-grading and/or diameter limit cutting.*	C	For uneven-aged stands there were no gaps observed that were greater than 2.5 acres. Gaps were designed for releasing existing regeneration, promoting regeneration, salvage purposes, or operational efficiencies. See site notes.
SOUTHEAST REGION		
Indicator 6.3.g.1.a Primary and natural forests: clear-cutting is not	C	Within the eastern shore State Forests (Southeast Region) even-aged silviculture including final stage

allowed. Harvesting is not allowed at all in ***primary forests***. Semi-natural forests: stands with trees greater than 100 years old: clear-cutting is not allowed; even-aged stands of hardwood and cypress: clear-cutting is allowed; the size of openings should be conservative. Even-aged stands of pine and pine/hardwood: clear-cutting is allowed; the size of openings should not be higher than the limit for plantations and should be justified by natural regeneration requirements. Clear-cuts up to 80 acres are allowed in cases where a 40-acre stand would not provide enough timber volume to secure an economically operable timber sale, meaning that the sale would not attract a buyer and/or the landowner would not make a profit from the sale. Examples of such cases include stands that have been high graded and the most valuable species of trees have already been removed, or where a site has been planted with inappropriate, poorly growing species and the landowner/manager wants to clear and restore the site. This exception cannot be used when a 40-acre clearcut would be economically operable and a landowner wants to cut 80 acres simply to make a greater profit. Clearcuts up to 80 acres are allowed in cases where harvesting a stand in 40 acre blocks would cause unnecessary environmental disturbance to the area surrounding the stand. An exception to all of the limits on the use and size of clearcuts can be made in cases of ecologic necessity. Clearcutting may be used in natural forest stands--where appropriate and necessary--as a tool for maintaining ecosystems that are dependent on large, contiguous openings. An example is the sand pine scrub ecosystem, which supports the ecologically significant Florida scrub jay and is currently being managed with large, contiguous clear-cuts. Ecologists urge the use of large clearcuts in the sand pine scrub ecosystem to mimic the stand-replacing, catastrophic fires that historically maintained the ecosystem. This exception may only be used when supported by scientific literature.		of shelterwood (overstory removal) are restricted to previously established pine plantations that are being managed as natural stands and openings that are less than 40 acres in size (except in the case of restoration plans developed by in cooperation with the MD DNR Natural Heritage and which is based on best available science). There are no limitations on opening size limits in the Southeastern regional indicators; however, there are suggested opening size limits (80 acres). In these cases, wetland hydrology is often restored, and pines are removed with the intent of restoring natural plant communities.

APPENDIX E: STREAMSIDE MANAGEMENT ZONE (SMZ) REGIONAL REQUIREMENTS

Indicator 6.5.e

This Appendix addresses regionally explicit requirements for Indicator 6.5.e and includes SMZ widths and activity limits within those SMZs for the Appalachia, Ozark-Ouachita, Southeast, Mississippi Alluvial Valley, Southwest, Rocky Mountain, and Pacific Coast regions. The forest owner or manager will be evaluated based on the sub-indicators within

their specific region, below.		
APPALACHIA REGION *The SMZ is designed to allow harvesting and provide flexibility for silvicultural management.*		
6.5.e.1.a All ***perennial streams*** have buffers (streamside management zones, SMZs) that include an inner SMZ and an outer SMZ. SMZ sizes are minimum widths that are likely to provide adequate riparian habitat and prevent siltation. If functional riparian habitat and minimal siltation are not achieved by SMZs of these dimensions, wider SMZs are needed.	C	SMZ guidelines are provided in SFMPs for each state forest and actual SMZs are mapped in the GIS. FME prepared the Western Maryland Erosion and Sediment Control Standards and Specifications for Forest Operations in 2011 that contains SMZ widths based on the "50' + (4' * x%)" principle. For smaller slope %, such as those between the APP 1-10% and 11-20% category, minimum widths depart from the minimum widths required by FSC. For larger slope %, FME's SMZ widths exceed APP requirements. These SMZs are based on watershed studies and have been reviewed by the FME's hydrologist. In 2020, SCS reviewed the "new" state BMPs for consideration as a variance to BMPs as outlined in the FSC standard upon request by the MdDNR. After consultation with disciplinary experts this variance was accepted. Literature, expert interpretation, and expert submissions were analyzed and evaluated for conformance to this indicator regarding provision of adequate riparian habitat protection and prevention of siltation. In this case, the state level BMP requirements are considered an improvement and refinement of BMP protections in a continuous improvement process. The following literature were included as reference: 1. Aust. W. Michael, and Blinn, Charles R. 2004. Forestry best management practices for timber harvesting and site preparation in the eastern United States: An overview of water quality and productivity research during the past 20 years (1982-2002). Water, Air, & Soil Pollution: Focus. 4:5-36. 2. Bowker, Daniel; Stringer, Jeffrey W.; and Barton, Christopher D. 2020. Influence of Timber Harvesting Operations and Streamside Management Zone Effectiveness on Sediment Delivery to Headwater Streams in Appalachia. Forests, v. 11, no. 6, 623, p. 1-12. 3. Cristan, R., W.M. Aust, M.C. Bolding, S.M. Barrett, J.F. Munsell, E. Schilling. 2018. National status of state developed and implemented	

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Table 6.5.f (APP only) Widths of inner and outer Streamside Management Zones. Widths of outer SMZs are applicable where data do not support narrower widths*

Stream Zone Type	**SLOPE CATAGORY**				
	1-10%	**11-20%**	**21-30%**	**31-40%**	**41%+**
Inner Zone (Perennial)	25’	25’	25’	25’	25’
Outer Zone (Perennial)	55’	75’	105’	110’	140’
Total For Perennial	80’	100’	130’	135’	165’
Zone For Intermittent	40’	50’	60’	70’	80’

*All distances are in feet -slope distance and are measured from the high water mark.

6.5.e.1.b (APP only) The inner SMZ for *non-high-quality waters* (see state or local listings describing the highest quality waters in the state or region) extends 25 feet from the high water mark. Single-tree selection or small group selection (2-5 trees) is allowed in the inner SMZ, provided that the integrity of the stream bank is maintained and canopy reduction does not exceed 10 percent (90 percent canopy maintenance). Trees are directionally felled away from streams. Note: The inner SMZ is designed as a virtual no-harvest zone, while allowing the removal of selected high-value trees.	C	According to State BMPs, http://dnr.maryland.gov/forests/Pages/landplanning/bmp.aspx *Buffer Management Plans* *The Standard Plan requires that uncut buffer zones, called Streamside Management Zones (SMZ), be maintained on all sides of perennial or intermittent streams, rivers, lakes, ponds, bogs or marshes. The width of the buffer is dependent upon the slope of the land adjacent to the watercourse. Because of the high potential for soil compaction, erosion and stream damage, roads, trails and harvesting equipment are not allowed in the buffer except as*

		approved in a 'Modification of the Standard Plan' or to provide access to approved stream crossings. *The Standard Plan does, however, allow limited harvesting within the buffer provided that a "Buffer Management Plan" is prepared by a licensed forester. "Buffer Management Plans" need to be very specific in describing which trees are to be cut, what precautions for sediment control will be taken, and where the sediment controls will be located. The location of any harvesting within a buffer must be identified on a sketch of the buffer. The sediment controls to be used for waterway protection and topography within the buffer must also be located on this sketch.*
6.5.e.1.c (APP only) Along perennial streams that are designated as *high-quality waters* (see state or local listings describing the highest quality waters in the state or region), no harvesting is allowed in the inner SMZ (25 feet from the high water mark), except for the removal of wind-thrown trees. Stream restoration is allowed if a written restoration plan provides a rational justification and if the plan follows local and regional restoration plans.	C	See 6.5.e.1.b.
6.5.e.1.d (APP only) Outer SMZs, outside and in addition to inner SMZs, are established for all intermittent, and perennial streams, as well as other waters. When the necessary information is available, the width of a stream management zone is based on the landform, erodibility of the soil, stability of the slope, and stability of the stream channel as necessary to protect water quality and repair habitat. When such specific information is not available, the width of streamside management zone is calculated according to Table 6.5.f	C	See 6.5.e.1.b.
6.5.e.1.e (APP only) Harvesting in outer SMZs is limited to single-tree and group selection, while maintaining at least 50 percent of the overstory. Roads, skid trails, landings, and other similar silviculturally disturbed areas are constructed outside of the outer SMZ, except for designated stream crossings or when placement of disturbance-prone activities outside of the SMZ would result in more environmental disturbance than placing such activities within the SMZ. Exceptions may be made for stream restoration.	C	See 6.5.e.1.b.
6.5.e.1.f (APP only) The entire SMZ of intermittent streams is managed as an outer buffer zone.	C	See 6.5.e.1.b.

6.5.e.1.g (APP only) The activities of forest management do not result in observable siltation of intermittent streams. The activities of forest management do not result in observable siltation of intermittent streams.	C	See 6.5.e.1.b.
SOUTHEAST REGION		
6.5.e.1 (SE only) Streamside or special management zones (SMZs) are specifically described and/or referenced in the management plan, included in a map of the forest management area, and designed to protect and/or restore water quality and aquatic and riparian populations and their habitats (including river and stream corridors, steep slopes, fragile soils, wetlands, vernal pools, seeps and springs, lake and pond shorelines, and other hydrologically sensitive areas). At a minimum, management of SMZs has the following characteristics: Management meets or exceeds state BMPs. SMZ width reflects changes in forest condition, stream width, slope, erodibility of soil, and potential hazard from windthrow along the length of the watercourse. SMZs provide sufficient vegetation and canopy cover to filter sediment, limit nutrient inputs and chemical pollution, moderate fluctuations in water temperature, stabilize stream banks, and provide habitat for riparian and aquatic flora and fauna. Characteristic diameter-class distributions, species composition, and structures are adequately maintained within the SMZs.	C	MD DNR follows its BMP guidelines for water courses in the Eastern Region. Buffer widths and management practices are the same as for the Western Region, so retention is typically at a level that meets or exceeds the suggestions of this indicator. See http://dnr.maryland.gov/forests/Pages/landplanning/bmp.aspx for further details.

Appendix 6 – Chain of Custody Indicators for FMEs Conformance Table

☐ Chain of Custody indicators were not evaluated during this evaluation.

SCS FSC Chain of Custody Indicators for Forest Management Enterprises, V8-0

REQUIREMENT	C/NC/NA
1. Quality Management	
1.1 The FME shall appoint a management representative as having overall responsibility and authority for the organization's compliance with all applicable requirements of this standard.	☒ C ☐ NC
Evidence 1.1: As confirmed through review of COC procedures, interviews with Jack Perdue and field staff, Jack Perdue has been appointed as the Chain of Custody Administrator with responsibility and authority for this FME's conformance with the requirements of this standard.	

1.2 A system shall be implemented to track and trace all products that are sold with an FSC Claim from the *forest of origin* to the *forest gate(s)*. When legally required, and for group and multiple FMU certificates, this system shall also be documented. *The forest of origin should be the smallest reportable manageable unit, such as a tax parcel. It shall never be larger than a Forest Management Unit (FMU).* *The forest gate is defined as the point where the change in ownership of the certified-forest product occurs.*	☒ C ☐ NC ☐ NA, FME does not sell any products with an FSC claim
Evidence 1.2:	
1.3 The FME shall maintain complete records of all FSC-related COC activities, including sales and training, for at least 5 years.	☒ C ☐ NC
Evidence 1.3: This FME's sale records were presented and reviewed and appear to be complete for at least the past 5 years. COC procedures and training records have been created, maintained and presented.	
1.4 The FME shall define its *forest gate(s)* (check all that apply):	☒ C ☐ NC
☒ **Stump** *Stumpage sale or sales of standing timber; transfer of ownership of certified-forest product occurs upon harvest.*	
☐ **On-site concentration yard** *Transfer of ownership of certified-product occurs at concentration yard under control of FME.*	
☐ **Off-site Mill/ Log Yard/ Port** *Transfer of ownership occurs when certified-product is unloaded or paid for at purchaser's facility or a facility under the purchaser's control.*	
☐ **Auction house/ Brokerage** *Transfer of ownership occurs at a government-run or private auction house/ brokerage.*	
☒ **Lump-sum sale/ Per Unit/ Pre-Paid Agreement** *A timber sale in which the buyer and seller agree on a total price for marked standing trees or for trees within a defined area before the wood is removed — the timber is usually paid for before harvesting begins. Similar to a per-unit sale.*	
☐ **Log landing** *Transfer of ownership of certified-product occurs at landing/yarding areas.*	
☐ **Other** *(Please describe)*:	
1.5 The FME shall have sufficient control over its *forest gate(s)* to ensure that there is no risk of mixing of FSC-certified forest products covered by the scope of the FM/COC certificate with forest products from outside of the scope prior to the transfer of ownership.	☒ C ☐ NC ☐ NA, FME does not sell any products with an FSC claim
Evidence 1.4/1.5: This FME sells certified materials as stumpage and lump sum, pre-paid agreements from western MD State Forests In western MD volume is paid for before the trees are harvested with no risk of mixing certified products with non-certified products. This FME sells certified materials as gate wood (in essence stumpage sales; the contract for gatewood specifies that the sale is at the stump) and stumpage and lump sum, pre-paid agreements from eastern shore State Forests. There is no risk of mixing of FSC-certified forest products with non-certified forest products (gate wood sales) because deliveries include specific trip ticket delivery documents that are associated with each product sale area.	

Other lands owned and managed by this FME are not certified; however, those lands are geographically distinct from certified land as confirmed through interviews and review of the maps of the other properties and rarely include timber harvest activities.	
1.6 The FME and its contractors shall not process FSC-certified material prior to transfer of ownership at the *forest gate(s)* without conforming to applicable chain of custody requirements. *NOTE: This does not apply to log cutting or de-barking units, small portable sawmills, on-site processing of chips/biomass or primary processing of Non-Timber Forest Products (NTFPs) under the FME's control (e.g., latex, rattan, maple syrup, etc.) originating from the FMU under evaluation.*	☐ C ☐ NC ☐ NA
Evidence 1.6: No processing occurs prior to transfer of ownership. This FME sells certified materials as stumpage and lump sum, pre-paid agreements and gate wood (in essence stumpage sales). The gate wood sales include tree cutting and log hauling and are in conformance to the COC requirements.	
1.7 The FME has supported transaction verification conducted by SCS and Assurance Services International (ASI) by providing samples of FSC transaction data as requested by SCS. *NOTE: Pricing information is not within the scope of transaction verification data disclosure.*	☒ C ☐ NC ☐ NA, no verification requested
1.8 The FME shall support fiber testing by surrendering samples and specimens of materials and information about species composition and the location where the sample originated for verification, as requested by its certification body, ASI or FSC.	☒ C ☐ NC ☐ NA, no verification requested
Evidence 1.7/1.8: This has not been requested but MD DNR would comply with such requirements as confirmed with CoC administrator.	
2. Product Control, Sales and Delivery	
2.1. Products from the certified forest area shall be identifiable as certified at the *forest gate(s)*.	☒ C ☐ NC ☐ NA, FME does not sell any products with an FSC claim
Evidence 2.1: A variety of contracts were presented and reviewed. These documents include the identification of these products as certified (FSC 100%). Timber sale Contracts reviewed: Wico Demo Stands 6,8,16,108 _ 110; Wico Demo Stands 31,52,55,58,62_79; Helicopter Applicators 2018 D19 Revena Tract, Stands 1,2_3; P02 Furnace T126S11 - ESFP 8-352; P02 Furnace T126 - ESFP 8-352. Also reviewed Helicopter spray contract dated 18 August 2018 for completion in 2019.	
2.2 Information about all products sold shall be compiled and documented for all FMUs in the scope of certification, including: 1) Common and scientific species name; 2) Product name or description; 3) Volume (or quantity) of product; 4) Information to trace the material to the source of origin harvest block; 5) Harvest date; 6) If basic processing activities take place in the forest, the date and volume/quantity produced; and	☒ C ☐ NC

7) Whether or not the material was sold with an FSC Claim.	
Evidence 2.2:	
2.3. The FME shall ensure that all sales documents issued for outputs sold with FSC claims include the following information: a) name and contact details of the FME; b) information to identify the customer, such as their name and address; c) date when the document was issued; d) product name or description, including common and scientific species name(s); e) quantity of products sold; f) the FME's FSC Forest Management (FM/COC) or FSC Controlled Wood (CW/FM) code; g) clear indication of the FSC claim for each product item or the total products as follows: i. the claim "FSC 100%" for products from FSC 100% product groups; or ii. the claim "FSC Controlled Wood" for products from FSC Controlled Wood product groups.	☐ C ☐ NC ☐ NA, FME does not sell any products with an FSC claim
2.4 If the sales documentation issued by the FME is not included with the shipment of the product and this information is relevant for the customer to identify the product as being FSC certified, the related delivery documentation has included the same information as required in indicator 2.3 and a reference linking it to the sales documentation. **Note: 2.3 and 2.4 are based on FSC-STD-40-004 V3-0 Clauses 5.1 and 5.3**	☐ C ☐ NC ☐ NA, delivery documentation not required or FME is not responsible for issuing delivery documentation ☐ NA, FME does not sell any products with an FSC claim
Evidence 2.3/2.4: A variety of timber sale contracts, trip tickets, wood settlement sheets and a timber harvest summary spreadsheet (2017 and 2018) were presented and reviewed and include the volume of products sold. A variety of timber sale contracts, trip tickets and wood settlement sheets were presented and reviewed for each site described in section 2.1 (field tour). Contracts are created on the basis of an existing template that includes each of the required items a-g. Specifically, this FME's FSC Forest Management (FM/COC) code and a clear indication of the FSC claim (FSC 100%) are included in this template and recent contracts. Separate transport documents (item h) are used in eastern shore State Forest contracts only and include sale name to link the trip ticket to the sale document (timber sale contract). Gate wood documents and wood settlement sheets associated with contract # CF-13-19 Saltz Powell Tract 6 and 7 were reviewed as evidence.	
2.5 If the FME is unable to include the FSC claim and/or certificate code in sales or delivery documents, the required information has been provided to the customer through supplementary documentation (e.g. supplementary letters). In this case, the FME has obtained permission from SCS to implement supplementary documentation in accordance with the following criteria: a. there shall exist clear information linking the supplementary documentation to the sales or delivery documents; b. there is no risk that the customer will misinterpret which products are or are not FSC certified in the supplementary documentation; and	☐ C ☐ NC ☒ NA, all information included per 2.3 and/or 2.4

c. where the sales documents contain multiple products with different FSC claims, each product shall be cross-referenced to the associated FSC claim provided in the supplementary documentation.	
Evidence 2.5: When this FME sells certified materials as stumpage and lump sum, pre-paid agreements, the trees are paid for before the trees are harvested and the purchaser is responsible for shipping documents. When this FME sells certified materials as gate wood, the sales document (contract) is not included with the shipment of this product (eastern shore State Forest contracts only). In these cases, the shipping documents include each of the requirements (a-h) of section 2.3. Gate wood trip tickets contract # CF-13-19 Saltz Powell Tract 6 and 7 were reviewed as evidence.	
2.6 The FME may identify products exclusively made of input materials from small or community producers by adding the following claim to sales documents: "From small or community forest producers." This claim can be passed on along the supply chain by certificate holders. *A forest management unit (FMU) or group of FMUs that meet(s) the small and low-intensity managed forest eligibility criteria (FSC-STD-1-003a) and addenda. A community FMU must comply with the tenure and management criteria defined in FSC-STD-40-004.*	☐ C ☐ NC ☒ NA, not a small or community producer; or does not wish to pass along this claim
Evidence 2.6: See evidence cited above.	
3. Labeling and Promotion	
☐ NA – FME does not use/ intend to use trademarks and no trademark uses were detected during the audit.	
☐ NA – **CW/FM certificates are not allowed to use FSC trademarks and no trademark uses were detected during the audit** (*Note: it is a Major nonconformity to 3.1 if CW/FM certificates are found to be using trademarks).*	
3.1 The FME shall adhere to relevant trademark use requirements of FSC-STD-50-001 described in the *SCS Trademark Annex for FMEs*.	☒ C ☐ NC
Evidence 3.1: Refer to evidence and findings cited in applicable trademark checklist(s) cited below. ☐ *FSC trademark use was detected for a CW/FM certificate as described in Major CAR for 3.1, FSC-STD-30-010, Annex 3, 1.2, and FSC-STD-50-001, 2.1e and 11.2*: See Trademark Checklist in this Audit report.	
4. Outsourcing	
☒ NA – FME does not outsource any COC-related activities, as confirmed via interviews, sales documentation, and field observation.	
☐ NA – FME outsources low-risk activities such as transport and harvesting, as confirmed via interviews, sales documentation, and field observation.	
4.1 The FME shall provide the names and contact details of all outsourced service providers.	☐ C ☐ NC ☒ NA
4.2 The FME shall have a control system for the outsourced process and agreement which ensures that: a) The material used for the production of FSC-certified material is traceable and not mixed with any other material prior to the point of transfer of legal ownership;	☐ C ☐ NC ☒ NA

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

Appendix 7 – Trademark Standard Conformance Table

SCS Trademark Annex for FMEs: FSC Trademarks, FSC-STD-50-001 V2-0

☐ NA, does not use/intend to use FSC trademarks for any purposes; or
☐ NA, is fully integrated and all trademark uses are treated under the COC Annex to this report that includes a full review of FSC-STD-40-004 and FSC-STD-50-001.
(*finished with this section; all TM checklists may be deleted*)
Note: in case of requests for interpretation, the English version of these indicators shall be preferred.

Forest Management Trademark CARs Chart/ Certificate Type	Audit Type – Grade
Since trademark use is a minor aspect of FM audits, most nonconformances result in Minor CARs outside of the exceptions noted in this table. In the cases of integrated operations (i.e., operations with both FM/COC and COC certificates), timelines assigned for Minor CARs may be aligned with nonconformities of the COC certificate (e.g., Minor CAR with deadline of 3 or 6 months). SCS national offices/affiliates may take local considerations (e.g., legal framework) into account to assign CAR grades.	
FM/COC or FM (Single/Multiple FMU)	Main Evaluation – Major if detected prior to certificate issuance
	Re-Evaluation/ Surveillance – Major if certificate is not valid (e.g., suspended)
CW/FM (Single/Multiple/Group)	All – Major per 3.1 of SCS COC Indicators for FMEs

Annex A – TM Management System (TMMS)	All – Major if TMMS not approved by SCS or SCS affiliate
Annex B – Group	Main Evaluation – Major
	Re-Evaluation/ Surveillance – Major or Minor depending on the scale/scope

1. General Requirements for Use of the FSC Trademarks (FSC "checkmark-and-tree" logo, initials "FSC," and/or name "Forest Stewardship Council")	
Trademark uses reviewed:	

Trademark Application (on-product/promotional)	Case Approval #, or Email (include approver name & date), or other appropriate documentation	Are all elements correct? (e.g., trademark symbol, color scheme, size, etc.) If not, describe in Nonconformities below.
		Y ☐ N ☐
		Y ☐ N ☐
		Y ☐ N ☐
		Y ☐ N ☐

☐ All known uses reviewed.
☒ Sample reviewed. Rationale that sample choice is sufficient to confirm requirements are met: *Website and sales documents are the primary uses. There are occasional other historic uses. Website and full review of sales documents was done.*
☐ Trademark uses detected include those grandfathered in under prior FSC trademark rules (e.g., FSC-TMK-50-201). Place the initials "GF" by the specific Trademark Applications above. *Note: This only applies to printed items or physical promotional materials (e.g., hats, load tickets) in stock. New printings, items, and websites must be updated per FSC-STD-50-001 requirements. If the organization only has GF uses and no new uses, the rest of this checklist is NA.*

1.2 Trademark License Agreement and valid certificate In order to use these FSC trademarks, the FME shall have a valid FSC trademark license agreement and hold a valid certificate. *Note: Consultations for certification Organizations applying for forest management certification or conducting activities related to the implementation of controlled wood requirements, may refer to FSC by name and initials for stakeholder consultation.*	Maintained on file by SCS Main Office
Evidence 1.2: Maintained on file by SCS Main Office.	
1.6 Product Group List The products intended to be labeled or promoted as FSC certified have been included in the organization's certified product group list.	☒ C ☐ NC ☐ C w/ OBS
Evidence 1.6: ☒ Refer to Product Groups List in Public Summary Report; ☐ The following nonconformance(s) were detected in Product Groups: ; or ☐ Refer to OBS related to Product Groups: EVIDENCE: Search of Maryland Department of Natural Resources website, https://dnr.maryland.gov/forests/Pages/landplanning/bmp.aspx for the terms "FSC" and "Forest Stewardship Council". Trademark information properly references with correct symbology. Confirmed via review of product group list, website, annual work plans, and brochure. Trademark License Agreement was viewed, and certificate via FSC database.	

1.3 Trademark License Code The FSC trademark license code assigned by FSC to the organization accompanies any use of the FSC trademarks. It is sufficient to show the code once per product or promotional material.	☒ C ☐ NC ☐ C w/ OBS
1.4 Trademark Symbol The FSC logo and the 'Forests For All Forever' marks shall include the trademark symbol ® in the upper right corner when used on products or materials to be distributed in a country where the relevant trademark is registered. For use in a country where the trademark is not yet registered, use of the symbol ™ is recommended. The Trademark Registration List document is available in the FSC trade-mark portal and marketing toolkit. The symbol ® shall also be added to 'FSC' and 'Forest Steward-ship Council' at the first or most prominent use in any text; one use per material is sufficient (e.g. website or brochure). *NOTE: The use of the trademark symbol is not required for FSC claims in sales and delivery documents, or for the disclaimer statement specified in requirement 6.2.*	☒ C ☐ NC ☐ C w/ OBS ☐ NA, one or more of noted exceptions applies/ una o más de las exenciones anotadas aplica
2.1 Restrictions on using FSC trademarks The organization **has not used** the FSC trademarks in the following ways: a) in a way that could cause confusion, misinterpretation, or loss of credibility to the FSC certification scheme; b) in a way that implies that FSC endorses, participates in, or is responsible for activities performed by the organization, outside the scope of certification; c) to promote product quality aspects not covered by FSC certification; d) in product brand or company names, such as 'FSC Golden Timber' or website domain names; e) in connection with FSC controlled wood or controlled material – they shall not be used for labelling products or in any promotion of sales or sourcing of controlled material or FSC controlled wood; the initials FSC shall only be used to pass on FSC controlled wood claims in sales and de-livery documentation, in conformity with FSC chain of custody requirements.	☒ C ☐ NC ☐ C w/ OBS
2.2 Translations The name 'Forest Stewardship Council' has not been replaced with a translation. A translation may be included in brackets after the name, for example: Forest Stewardship Council® (translation)	☐ C ☐ NC ☐ C w/ OBS ☒ NA, no translations/ no hay traducciones
Evidence 1.3, 1.4, 2.1, and 2.2: ☒ Refer to Trademark uses reviewed above; ☐ The following nonconformance(s) were detected ; or ☐ Refer to OBS: *Additional evidence: Review of timber sale documents including contracts, log-load tickets, FMPs, and other program documents as encountered during the audit. Confirmed via review of annual work plans, contracts, brochure, and website.*	
Sections 8 and 9 Graphic Rules The organization has only used FSC logos that conform to the standard requirements governing: • color and font (8.1-8.3); • format and size (8.4-8.9); • label placement (8.10); and • 'Forests For All Forever' marks (9.1-9.7).	☒ C ☐ NC ☐ C w/ OBS
1.5 Trademark Use Approval The organization has submitted all intended uses of the FSC trademarks to SCS for approval. OR	☒ C ☐ NC ☐ C w/ OBS

The organization has **an approved trademark use management system** in place. (If the organization has a trademark use management system, complete Annex A.)	
4.6 FSC trademarks may be used to identify FSC-certified materials in the chain of custody before the products are finished. It is not necessary to submit such segregation marks for approval. All segregation marks shall be removed before the products go to the final point of sale or are delivered to uncertified organizations.	☒ C ☐ NC ☐ C w/ OBS ☐ NA, trademarks no used for segregation marks/ no se usan las marcas registradas en marcas de separación
Evidence Graphic Rules, 1.5, and 4.6: ☒ Refer to Trademark uses reviewed above; ☐ The following nonconformance(s) were detected ; or ☐ Refer to OBS:	

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

3.4 FSC Trademark Portal The organization has only used artwork provided by the trademark portal, or other-wise issued and approved by the certification body or FSC.	☒ C ☐ NC ☐ C w/ OBS
3.7 Product types Specific product names have not been used as product types. A list of product types (e.g. 'paper', 'wood') is provided in the trademark portal. These are intended as broad categories. The list is not exhaustive and organizations shall contact FSC via the certification body with any request for a new product type (e.g. a non-timber forest product) to be added.	☒ C ☐ NC ☐ C w/ OBS
4.1 Partial Claims The label shall be used only where all forest-based parts of the product are covered by FSC certification, as specified in FSC-STD-40-004. Packaging made of forest-based materials is considered a separate element. Therefore, the label may refer to the packaging, the product inside, or both, depending on which elements are certified.	☒ C ☐ NC ☐ C w/ OBS ☐ NA, all permanent forest-based product parts certified/ se certifican todas las partes permanentes del producto de origen forestal
4.2 Visibility of Label The FSC label should be made clearly visible on the product, its packaging, or both.	☒ C ☐ NC ☐ C w/ OBS
4.3 Other Forestry Certification Scheme Logos When a product is FSC labelled, **marks of other forest certification schemes shall not be used on the same product**.	☒ C ☐ NC ☐ C w/ OBS

In catalogues, books, and similar FSC-labelled publications, other forest certification scheme marks may be used for promoting other products or for educational purposes.	
4.4 Different Label Types When the FSC logo with the license code is applied as a heat brand or stencil directly to the product without all required label elements, a standard label has also been used, either on the packaging or attached as a sticker or hang-tag.	☐ C ☐ NC ☐ C w/ OBS ☐ NA, not using brand/stencil ☒ NA, brand/stencil includes all elements\
4.5 If the FSC label **is visible** to the consumer then additional FSC logos or reference to FSC may be used. For example, if the on-product label is inside the sales packaging, no additional logos, marks, or references to FSC shall be applied on the outer surface of the packaging. If the FSC label **is NOT visible** to the consumer, then NO additional FSC logos or reference to FSC may be used.	☒ C ☐ NC ☐ C w/ OBS
4.7 Labeling semi-finished products If an organization labels semi-finished products, the FSC label has only been applied in such a way that it can be removed before or during further processing.	☐ C ☐ NC ☐ C w/ OBS ☒ NA, not labeling semi-finished products
4.8 Labeling arrangements between organizations When two certified organizations enter into an agreement whereby the supplier labels products with the buyer's FSC trademark license code, the following conditions have been met: a) Products to be labelled are included in the certificate scope of both organizations. b) Both parties have informed their certification bodies in writing about the agreement. It has been defined who is responsible for approval of on-product labels – either the certification body or the certificate holder with an approved trademark use management system. c) The supplier is responsible for ensuring that the buyer's code is used only on eligible products that are supplied to that buyer. d) If contractors are being used by the supplier, the supplier is responsible for ensuring that contractors only use it for eligible products supplied to the buyer. e) Both organizations shall keep the agreement easily available for auditing by certification bodies.	☐ C ☐ NC ☐ C w/ OBS ☒ NA, no labeling arrangement
Evidence 3.4, 3.7, 4.1-4.5, 4.7, and 4.8: ☒ Refer to Trademark uses reviewed above; ☐ The following nonconformance(s) were detected ; or ☐ Refer to OBS:	

3. Promotional Use of FSC Trademarks

☐ NA, no use of promotional trademarks (*promotional checklist may be deleted*)

6.1 Catalogues, Brochures, and Websites When the FSC trademarks have been used in catalogues, brochures, or websites, the following requirements apply: • It is sufficient to present the promotional elements only once in catalogues, brochures, websites, etc.	☒ C ☐ NC ☐ C w/ OBS ☐ NA, not using trademarks in

• If both FSC-certified and uncertified products are listed then a text such as "Look for our FSC®-certified products" shall be used next to the promotional elements and the FSC-certified products shall be clearly identified. • If some or all of the products are available as FSC certified on request only, this is be clearly stated.	catalogues/ brochures/websites
6.2 Sales and Delivery Documents When the FSC trademarks are included on sales or delivery document templates that may be used for both FSC and non-FSC products, the following or a similar statement is included: "Only the products that are identified as such on this document are FSC certified". *NOTE: Use of the FSC claim and certificate code on the invoices does not qualify as FSC trademark use.*	☒ C ☐ NC ☐ C w/ OBS ☐ NA, not using trademarks on templates for FSC & non-FSC products
6.3 Promotional Items All promotional items (e.g., mugs, pens, T-shirts, caps, banners, vehicles, etc.) have displayed, at minimum, the FSC logo and FSC trademark license code.	☐ C ☐ NC ☐ C w/ OBS ☒ NA, not labeling promotional items
6.5 Trade Fairs When the FSC trademarks are used for promotion at trade fairs, the organization has: a) clearly marked which products are FSC certified, or b) add a visible disclaimer stating "Ask for our FSC®-certified products" or similar if no FSC-certified products are displayed. *NOTE: Use of text to describe the FSC certification of the organization does not require a disclaimer.*	☐ C ☐ NC ☐ C w/ OBS ☒ NA, not using trademarks at trade fairs
Section 6.6 and 6.7 Investment/Financial Claims 6.6 When investment companies or others are making financial claims based on the organization's FSC certified operations, the organization has taken full responsibility for the use of the FSC trademarks. 6.7 Any such claims have been accompanied by the disclaimer, "FSC is not responsible for and does not endorse any financial claims on returns on investments."	☐ C ☐ NC ☐ C w/ OBS ☒ NA, not making financial claims about FSC status
7.1 and 7.2 Other Forestry Certification Scheme Logos The FSC trademarks have not been used together with the marks of other forest certification schemes in a way which implies equivalence, or in a way which is disadvantageous to the FSC trademarks in terms of size or placement.	☒ C ☐ NC ☐ C w/ OBS ☐ NA, not using other scheme logos
7.3 Business Cards The FSC trademarks have not used on business cards to promote the organization's certification. The FSC logo or 'Forests For All Forever' marks are not used on business cards for promotion. A text reference to the organization's FSC certification, with license code, is allowed, for example "We are FSC® certified (FSC® C######)" or "We sell FSC®-certified products (FSC® C######)".	☒ C ☐ NC ☐ C w/ OBS ☒ NA, approval granted prior to July 1, 2011
7.4 Promotion with CB Logo FSC certified products have not been promoted using only the SCS Kingfisher and/or SCS Global Services logo.	☒ C ☐ NC ☐ C w/ OBS
Evidence 6.1-6.3, 6.5-6.7, 7.1-7.4: ☒ Refer to Trademark uses reviewed above; ☐ The following nonconformance(s) were detected ; or ☐ Refer to OBS:	

Annex A: Trademark use management system

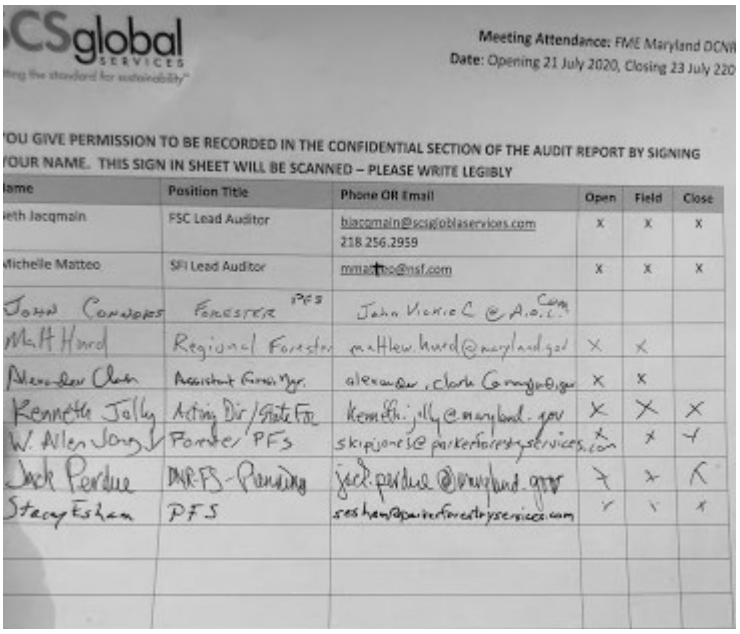
☒ NA, not using a trademark management system (*Annex A checklist may be deleted*)

Annex B, Additional trademark rules for group FM certificate holders

☒ NA, not a group FM certificate or group does not use FSC trademarks (*Annex B checklist may be deleted*)

Appendix 8 – Opening and Closing Meeting Attendance

OPENING MEETING ATTENDANCE



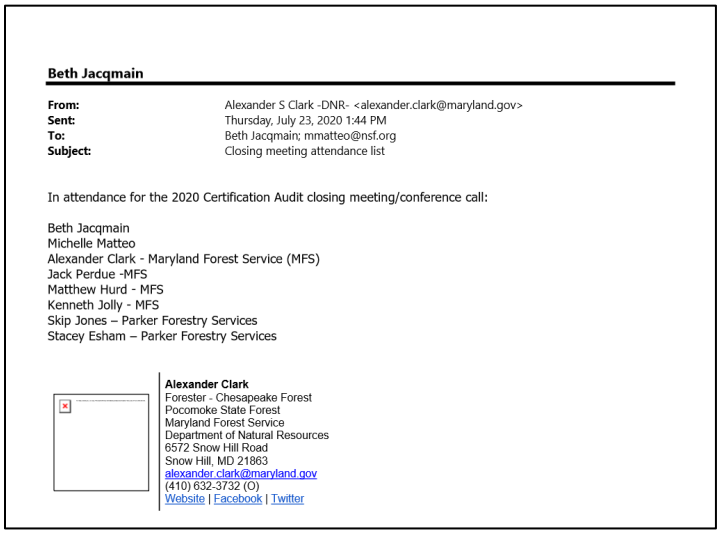
SCSglobal SERVICES

Meeting Attendance: FME Maryland DCNR
Date: Opening 21 July 2020, Closing 23 July 220

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

ame	Position Title	Phone OR Email	Open	Field	Close
eth Jacqmain	FSC Lead Auditor	bjacqmain@scsglobalservices.com 218.256.2959	X	X	X
Michelle Matteo	SFI Lead Auditor	mmatteo@nsf.com	X	X	X
John Conopes	Forester PFS	John Victor C @ A.o.l.com			
Matt Hurd	Regional Forester	matthew.hurd@maryland.gov	X	X	
Alexander Clark	Assistant Forest Mgr.	alexander.clark@maryland.gov	X	X	
Kenneth Jolly	Acting Dir/State For	kenneth.jolly@maryland.gov	X	X	X
W. Allen Jones	Forester PFS	skipjones@parkerforestryservices.com	X	X	X
Jack Perdue	DNR-FS-Planning	jack.perdue@maryland.gov	X	X	X
Stacey Esham	PFS	sesham@parkerforestryservices.com	X	X	X

CLOSING MEETING ATTENDANCE:



Beth Jacqmain

From: Alexander S Clark -DNR- <alexander.clark@maryland.gov>
Sent: Thursday, July 23, 2020 1:44 PM
To: Beth Jacqmain; mmatteo@nsf.org
Subject: Closing meeting attendance list

In attendance for the 2020 Certification Audit closing meeting/conference call:

Beth Jacqmain
Michelle Matteo
Alexander Clark - Maryland Forest Service (MFS)
Jack Perdue -MFS
Matthew Hurd - MFS
Kenneth Jolly - MFS
Skip Jones – Parker Forestry Services
Stacey Esham – Parker Forestry Services

Alexander Clark
Forester - Chesapeake Forest
Pocomoke State Forest
Maryland Forest Service
Department of Natural Resources
6572 Snow Hill Road
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1Closing Meeting Attendance