

FSC® - Forest Management Digital Audit Report Supplement

*Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry
Bureau of Parks and Lands (Maine BPL)*

SCS-FM/COC-008672

Certificate Holder Address	22 State House Station, Augusta, ME 04333 USA
Certificate Holder Contact	Michael Pouch, Chief of Silviculture
Certificate Holder Website	https://www.maine.gov/dacf/parks/

CERTIFIED	EXPIRATION
12 April 2022	11 April 2027

DATE OF FIELD EVALUATION
19-21 September 2023
DATE OF REPORT FINALIZATION
11 December 2023

TYPE OF EVALUATION	
<input type="checkbox"/> Main Evaluation	<input type="checkbox"/> 1st Surveillance
<input type="checkbox"/> Re-Evaluation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 2nd Surveillance
<input type="checkbox"/> Transfer	<input type="checkbox"/> 3rd Surveillance
<input type="checkbox"/> Expansion of Scope	<input type="checkbox"/> 4th Surveillance
	<input type="checkbox"/> Other Surveillance: #

This document contains the conformity tables and certificate tracking information that together with the Digital Audit Report constitute a complete FSC Forest Management Audit Report.

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Appendix 1 – 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
Mike Pouch	Chief of Silviculture	Michael.a.pouch@maine.gov	field, office
Bill Patterson	Deputy Director	William.a.patterson@maine.gov	field, office
Tim Post	W. Region Mgr.	Tim.post@maine.gov	field, office
Stephen Richardson	Sr. Road Engineer	Stephen.richarson@maine.gov	field, office
Nick McDougal	Forester	Nicholas.c.mcdougal@maine.gov	field, office
Eben Webb	Forester	Eben.webb@maine.gov	field, office
Harrison Drislane	Forest Technician	Harrison.j.drislane@maine.gov	field, office
Crystal Wilson	Office Mgr.	Crystal.Wilson@maine.gov	office

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.**

Name	Title	Contact Information	Consultation method	Requests Stakeholder Notification? (Y/N)
Kyle Burdick	Outcome Based Forestry Cmte	kyle@baskahegan.com	Field	n
Abi Morrison	-	acmorrison108@gmail.com	Email, telephone	n
Joe Roach	Town Manager	townmanager@rangeleyme.org	Email	n
Tony Madden	-	awmadden@aol.com	email	n
Matthew Cannon	State Conservation & Energy Director	matthew.cannon@sierraclub.org	telephone	n
Phillip Mathiew	-	Philip.eng.mathiew@gmail.com	telephone	n
Minot Weld	-	minotweld@mac.com	telephone	n

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

Appendix 2 – Additional Evaluation Techniques Employed

None.

Additional techniques employed (*describe*):

Appendix 3 – Required Tracking

History of Findings for Certificate Period

FM Principle	Cert/Re-cert Evaluation (2021)	1 st Annual Evaluation (2022)	2 nd Annual Evaluation (2023)
No findings	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
P1	OBS 1.6.a		
P2			
P3			
P4	Minor 4.2.b, Minor 4.4.d		
P5			
P6	Minor 6.6.e, Minor 6.7.a		Minor 6.5.b
P7	OBS 7.2.a OBS 7.3.a	OBS 7.2.a OBS 7.3.a	
P8	OBS 8.2.d.2		
P9	Minor 9.1.a Minor 9.1.c		
P10			
COC for FM	Minor 2.3		
Trademark			
Group			
Other			

Progressive HCVF Assessments

FME does not use partial or progressive HCVF assessments.*

Special Instructions or Scoping Notes for Next Regularly Scheduled Annual Audit

<input type="checkbox"/>	Not applicable; no significant issues identified that may impact the next audit.
Some issues were identified during this audit that the next audit team could consider in the next audit, such as:	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Scope of certificate:
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Audit sampling: The client has agreed to a focus on the East Region in 2024.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Audit time:
<input type="checkbox"/>	Audit season:
<input type="checkbox"/>	Travel time between sites or FMUs:
<input type="checkbox"/>	Audit frequency:
<input type="checkbox"/>	Suggested audit team competency for next audit:

<input type="checkbox"/>	Suggested requirements to include during the next audit:
<input type="checkbox"/>	Suggested issues investigate during the next audit:
<input type="checkbox"/>	Suggested sites for inspection:
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Stakeholders to be consulted: Contact should be made annually with the Maine Forest Service “Outcome Based Forestry” Panel. Staff contact: Morten Moesswilde (morten.moesswilde@maine.gov); Abi Morrison (contact noted above) requests to be included in SH consultation for 2024.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Other(s) – please describe:

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

Requirements Reviewed in Annual Evaluation

Evaluation Year	Requirements Reviewed (FSC P&C Reviewed, FM/COC Indicators, Trademark Indicators, Group Standard Indicators, etc.)
2021	All – (Re)certification Evaluation
2022	P1, P6 and mandatory criteria
2023	P5, P7, C8.4 and mandatory criteria

Appendix 4 – Forest Management Conformance Table

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

REQUIREMENT	C/NC	COMMENT/CAR
Principle #1: Compliance with Laws and FSC Principles Forest management shall respect all applicable laws of the country in which they occur, and international treaties and agreements to which the country is a signatory, and comply with all FSC Principles and Criteria.		
1.1 Forest management shall respect all national and local laws and administrative requirements.	NE	
1.1.a Forest management plans and operations demonstrate compliance with all applicable federal, state, county, municipal, and tribal laws, and administrative requirements (e.g., regulations). Violations, outstanding complaints or investigations are provided to the Certifying Body (CB) during the annual audit.	NE	
1.1.b To facilitate legal compliance, the forest owner or manager ensures that employees and contractors, commensurate with their responsibilities, are duly informed about applicable laws and regulations.	NE	

<p>1.2. All applicable and legally prescribed fees, royalties, taxes and other charges shall be paid.</p>	<p>NE</p>	
<p>1.2.a The forest owner or manager provides written evidence that all applicable and legally prescribed fees, royalties, taxes and other charges are being paid in a timely manner. If payment is beyond the control of the landowner or manager, then there is evidence that every attempt at payment was made.</p>	<p>NE</p>	
<p>1.3. In signatory countries, the provisions of all binding international agreements such as CITES, ILO Conventions, ITTA, and Convention on Biological Diversity, shall be respected.</p>	<p>NE</p>	
<p>1.3.a. Forest management plans and operations comply with relevant provisions of all applicable binding international agreements.</p>	<p>NE</p>	
<p>1.4. Conflicts between laws, regulations and the FSC Principles and Criteria shall be evaluated for the purposes of certification, on a case by case basis, by the certifiers and the involved or affected parties.</p>		
<p>1.4.a. Situations in which compliance with laws or regulations conflicts with compliance with FSC Principles, Criteria or Indicators are documented and referred to the CB.</p>	<p>NE</p>	
<p>1.5. Forest management areas should be protected from illegal harvesting, settlement and other unauthorized activities.</p>		
<p>1.5.a. The forest owner or manager supports or implements measures intended to prevent illegal and unauthorized activities on the <i>Forest Management Unit</i> (FMU).</p>	<p>C</p>	<p>It is evident that BPL staff are regularly and frequently on the FMU. When unauthorized activities are reported, enforcement authority rests with Maine Forest Service rangers or IFW game wardens.</p>
<p>1.5.b. If illegal or unauthorized activities occur, the forest owner or manager implements actions designed to curtail such activities and correct the situation to the extent possible for meeting all land management objectives with consideration of available resources.</p>	<p>C</p>	<p>2023 – updated status provided as noted: Augusta: NA WEST: One trespassing issue at Jewett Cove campsite on Moosehead Lake. Person with U-Haul rental truck exceeded limit of 14 days in 45 day period. Forest Rangers asked the person multiple time to leave. Person left eventually on threat of summons for trespass. NORTH: No occurrences for time frame</p>

		EAST: Great Heath Illegal Cutting: Restitution was sought and paid in the form of surveying and boundary line maintenance done by Apex Wind (violator)
1.6. Forest managers shall demonstrate a long-term commitment to adhere to the FSC Principles and Criteria.		
1.6.a. The forest owner or manager demonstrates a long-term commitment to adhere to the FSC Principles and Criteria and FSC and FSC-US policies, including the FSC-US Land Sales Policy, and has a publicly available statement of commitment to manage the FMU in conformance with FSC standards and policies.	NE	
1.6.b. If the certificate holder does not certify their entire holdings, then they document, in brief, the reasons for seeking partial certification referencing FSC-POL-20-002 (or subsequent policy revisions), the location of other managed forest units, the natural resources found on the holdings being excluded from certification, and the management activities planned for the holdings being excluded from certification.	C	Minor updates to property excision are recorded in the DAR and reviewed with the BPL certification manager. All conform to relevant policy and guidance.
1.6.c. The forest owner or manager notifies the Certifying Body of significant changes in ownership and/or significant changes in management planning within 90 days of such change.	NE	
Principle #2: Long-term tenure and use rights to the land and forest resources shall be clearly defined, documented and legally established.		
2.1. Clear evidence of long-term forest use rights to the land (e.g., land title, customary rights, or lease agreements) shall be demonstrated.	NE	
2.1.a The forest owner or manager provides clear evidence of <i>long-term</i> rights to use and manage the FMU for the purposes described in the management plan.	NE	
2.1.b The forest owner or manager identifies and documents legally established use and access rights associated with the FMU that are held by other parties.	NE	

<p>2.1.c Boundaries of land ownership and use rights are clearly identified on the ground and on maps prior to commencing management activities in the vicinity of the boundaries.</p>	<p>NE</p>	
<p>2.2. Local communities with legal or customary tenure or use rights shall maintain control, to the extent necessary to protect their rights or resources, over forest operations unless they delegate control with free and informed consent to other agencies. <i>Applicability Note: For the planning and management of publicly owned forests, the local community is defined as all residents and property owners of the relevant jurisdiction.</i></p>	<p>NE</p>	
<p>2.2.a The forest owner or manager allows the exercise of tenure and use rights allowable by law or regulation.</p>	<p>NE</p>	
<p>2.2.b In FMUs where tenure or use rights held by others exist, the forest owner or manager consults with groups that hold such rights so that management activities do not significantly impact the uses or benefits of such rights.</p>	<p>NE</p>	
<p>2.3. Appropriate mechanisms shall be employed to resolve disputes over tenure claims and use rights. The circumstances and status of any outstanding disputes will be explicitly considered in the certification evaluation. Disputes of substantial magnitude involving a significant number of interests will normally disqualify an operation from being certified.</p>	<p>C</p>	
<p>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.</p>	<p>C</p>	<p>An updated summary of disputes is provided. All are in the process of being resolved, either through direct mediation or the court system. 2023 Augusta: Damarriscotta Lake incident (noted in 2022) ongoing. WEST: None NORTH: Allagash Dispute resolved through thorough explanation, site visit, and communication; No new occurrences for 2023 EAST: None</p>

<p>2.3.b The forest owner or manager documents any significant disputes over tenure and use rights.</p>	<p>C</p>	<p>Confirmed & updated for 2023: Tenure and ownership disputes go through a standardized process; any landswaps require legislative review and authorization. WEST: 1. Roxy Rand and Attean still unresolved. No movement on Roxy Rand Due to unsettled estate. 2. Attean Landing- We have resumed discussions with Family Members and both parties open to discussions. NOTE: This is a dispute with a long history and Extensive documentation is confirmed (not reviewed). NORTH: Allagash Dispute resolved through thorough explanation, site visit, and communication. NORTH: Chesuncook dispute resolved through mutual agreement to swap ¼ acre to accommodate the encroachment. Agreement was approved by the legislature.</p>
<p>Principle #3: The legal and customary rights of indigenous peoples to own, use and manage their lands, territories, and resources shall be recognized and respected.</p>		
<p>3.1. Indigenous peoples shall control forest management on their lands and territories unless they delegate control with free and informed consent to other agencies.</p>	<p>NE</p>	
<p>3.1.a Tribal forest management planning and implementation are carried out by authorized tribal representatives in accordance with tribal laws and customs and relevant federal laws.</p>	<p>NE</p>	
<p>3.1.b The manager of a tribal forest secures, in writing, informed consent regarding forest management activities from the tribe or individual forest owner prior to commencement of those activities.</p>	<p>NE</p>	
<p>3.2. Forest management shall not threaten or diminish, either directly or indirectly, the resources or tenure rights of indigenous peoples.</p>		
<p>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.</p>	<p>C</p>	<p>Notes concerning consultation (updated for 2023) are provided: Currently, Maine tribes do not claim specific, customary rights to Maine BPL Lands. Some formal rights have been granted (free State park admission and collection and ceremony holding as an allowable use in Eco-Reserves.Regardless, outreach and increased engagement is a long-term objective for BPL. As this is an ongoing initiative, see response from</p>

		<p>2022 audit still relevant to long term nature of gaining trust.</p> <p>STATEWIDE: - <u>BPL IRP Policy</u>: B2. The Bureau will identify and assess historical and cultural resources on Bureau lands; B3 Confidentiality. Pursuant to 27 MRSA Section 377, certain research data may be withheld from public disclosure to protect sensitive archaeological, historic, or ethnographic (re: Tribal) resources.</p> <p><u>HCV</u>: 6 units that have documented points of interest (burial area, historic artifacts etc.). State historic preservation office has site information.</p> <p>- Mgmt planning examples: invitations were extended to Tribal officers to participate in the Advisory Committee (AC) for a management plan and accepted participation in two plans in the Eastern Region: <i>Central Penobscot Region Plan</i> (Seboeis/Wassataquoik subcommittee. Reps from the Passamaquoddy Tribe and Penobscot Indian Nation); and <i>Eastern Interior Region Plan</i> (rep from Penobscot Indian Nation). A notable example of other (non-AC) consultation on a management plan is the Moosehead Region Plan (Western Region). Through the scoping process, a member of the Houlton Band of Maliseet (and former member of the Maine House of Representatives), became aware of the plan effort and attended the public Scoping meeting. He provided input and recommendations related to Native American cultural resources at Kineo and Sugar Island, some of which were incorporated into the plan and which triggered additional consultation with SHPO.</p> <p>- A Tribal Member is a member of BPL's Forest Legacy Committee that (among other things) provides input on all Forest Legacy Projects, some of which will become fee ownership (within scope of certification).</p>
<p>3.2.b Demonstrable actions are taken so that forest management does not adversely affect tribal resources. When applicable, evidence of, and measures for, protecting tribal resources are incorporated in the management plan.</p>	<p>C</p>	<p>Updated for 2023:</p> <p>STATEWIDE:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Chief of Silv and Interp Specialist attended Maine Woods Forever Roundtable presentation "Incorporating the Indigenous Voice into Forest Use Planning." in March 2023. 2022 - Ecological Reserve statute (LD 736) update included provisions that granted tribal rights for collection and ceremonies. <p>EAST: 2023 Permit for ash tree and seed collection issued to two tribal members (for the Seboies Unit)</p>

		<p>NORTH: North Regional Mgr and BPL Interpretive Specialist met with historic preservation officers and tribal members at Dug Brook Hatchery in March 2023</p> <p>- historic sites are buffered out, with consultation with state office of historic preservation</p>
3.3. Sites of special cultural, ecological, economic or religious significance to indigenous peoples shall be clearly identified in cooperation with such peoples, and recognized and protected by forest managers.	NE	
3.3.a. The forest owner or manager invites consultation with tribal representatives in identifying sites of current or traditional cultural, archeological, ecological, economic or religious significance.	NE	
3.3.b In consultation with tribal representatives, the forest owner or manager develops measures to protect or enhance areas of special significance (see also Criterion 9.1).	NE	
3.4. Indigenous peoples shall be compensated for the application of their traditional knowledge regarding the use of forest species or management systems in forest operations. This compensation shall be formally agreed upon with their free and informed consent before forest operations commence.	NE	
3.4.a The forest owner or manager identifies whether <i>traditional knowledge</i> in forest management is being used.	NE	
3.4.b When traditional knowledge is used, written protocols are jointly developed prior to such use and signed by local tribes or tribal members to protect and fairly compensate them for such use.	NE	
3.4.c The forest owner or manager respects the confidentiality of tribal traditional knowledge and assists in the protection of such knowledge.	NE	
Principle #4: Forest management operations shall maintain or enhance the long-term social and economic well-being of forest workers and local communities.		
4.1. The communities within, or adjacent to, the forest management area should be given	NE	

opportunities for employment, training, and other services.		
4.1.a Employee compensation and hiring practices meet or exceed the prevailing <i>local</i> norms within the forestry industry.	NE	
4.1.b Forest work is offered in ways that create high quality job opportunities for employees.	NE	
4.1.c Forest workers are provided with fair wages.	NE	
4.1.d Hiring practices and conditions of employment are non-discriminatory and follow applicable federal, state and local regulations.	NE	
4.1.e The forest owner or manager provides work opportunities to qualified local applicants and seeks opportunities for purchasing local goods and services of equal price and quality.	NE	
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.	NE	
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.	NE	
4.2. Forest management should meet or exceed all applicable laws and/or regulations covering health and safety of employees and their families.	C	
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	Field and forestry observations demonstrated safe working conditions. 2023 update: Augusta: Bat colonization of BPL offices required office closure. Bats relocated given decline of bats in general. WEST: No injuries this past year for employees or contractors. Latest Workers comp report (2022) available upon request. NORTH: 1 reported back injury, not a site specific report, but a cumulative injury claim from walking through the woods over several years. Workman comp notified no further details or follow-up was provided. EAST: Black mold infestation in Bangor office required office closure. Office back open. No illnesses reported.

		<p>Black substance on walls and ceiling vents was noticed and reported to Building Control by staff. Staff were immediately told to not enter the office and testing was performed which concluded that mold was present. Remediation was performed and staff are now back in the office. No illnesses reported.</p>
<p>4.2.b The forest owner or manager and their employees and contractors demonstrate a safe work environment. Contracts or other written agreements include safety requirements.</p>	<p>C</p>	<p>Verified contracts with specific requirements for safety practices and programs. Interviews with BPL staff and logging contractors confirm appropriate emphasis on workplace safety standards and culture.</p>
<p>4.2.c The forest owner or manager hires well-qualified service providers to safely implement the management plan.</p>	<p>C</p>	<p>BPL requires loggers participate in regional Certified Logging Professional (CLP) program, which features curriculum emphasizing workplace safety practices and culture.</p>
<p>4.4. Management planning and operations shall incorporate the results of evaluations of social impact. Consultations shall be maintained with people and groups (both men and women) directly affected by management operations.</p>		
<p>4.4.a The forest owner or manager understands the likely social impacts of management activities, and incorporates this understanding into management planning and operations. Social impacts include effects on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Archeological sites and sites of cultural, historical and community significance (on and off the FMU); • Public resources, including air, water and food (hunting, fishing, collecting); • Aesthetics; • Community goals for forest and natural resource use and protection such as employment, subsistence, recreation and health; • Community economic opportunities; • Other people who may be affected by management operations. <p>A summary is available to the CB.</p>	<p>C</p>	<p>BPL incorporates social impact throughout their management planning, as appropriate for a state entity. Most directly, all units have stakeholder committees that are directly consulted during the management planning process. Management plans include descriptions of all social impacts required in this indicator.</p> <p>Additional details & examples of social impact incorporation to management planning is noted below in P7. Specific attention is noted to each of 6 bullet points in this indicator. Direct interaction with one community stakeholder with interest in ongoing harvest operations is noted in the DAR.</p> <p>Detailed public access is provided online: https://www.maine.gov/dacf/parks/get_involved/planning_and_acquisition/management_plans/index.html</p>

<p>4.4.b The forest owner or manager seeks and considers input in management planning from people who would likely be affected by management activities.</p>	<p>C</p>	<p>Stakeholder committees for management plans provide this input. Notification of neighboring landowners. Availability of contact information on BPL website. They have a monthly newsletter going out. Text alert system for trail conditions, logging notices, safety considerations.</p> <p>Online access to Advisory Councils & Committees is found here: https://www.maine.gov/dacf/parks/get_involved/advisory_councils/index.shtml</p>
<p>4.4.c People who are subject to direct adverse effects of management operations are apprised of relevant activities in advance of the action so that they may express concern.</p>	<p>C</p>	<p>There is a notification process with neighboring landowners prior to timber harvesting. Most comments are related to forestry issues, and some recreation issues. Additional details are noted above (4.4.b) and in P7.</p>
<p>4.4.d For public forests, consultation shall include the following components:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Clearly defined and accessible methods for public participation are provided in both long and short-term planning processes, including harvest plans and operational plans; 2. Public notification is sufficient to allow interested stakeholders the chance to learn of upcoming opportunities for public review and/or comment on the proposed management; 3. An accessible and affordable appeals process to planning decisions is available. 4. Planning decisions incorporate the results of public consultation. All draft and final planning documents, and their supporting data, are made readily available to the public. 	<p>C</p>	<p>As noted above and in P7, the BPL planning process is designed for transparency appropriate for a manager of public forests.</p> <p>https://www.maine.gov/dacf/parks/get_involved/planning_and_acquisition/index.html https://www.maine.gov/dacf/parks/get_involved/planning_and_acquisition/management_plans/index.html https://www.maine.gov/dacf/parks/get_involved/planning_and_acquisition/management_plans/flagstaff_region/index.html</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Methods are clearly defined and accessible. 2) Public notification appears effective. 3) Access is affordable and accessible. 4) Drafts and process documents are available.

Principle #5: Forest management operations shall encourage the efficient use of the forest’s multiple products and services to ensure economic viability and a wide range of environmental and social benefits.		
Principle #5: Forest management operations shall encourage the efficient use of the forest’s multiple products and services to ensure economic viability and a wide range of environmental and social benefits.		
5.1. Forest management should strive toward economic viability, while taking into account the full environmental, social, and operational costs of production, and ensuring the investments necessary to maintain the ecological productivity of the forest.		
5.1.a The forest owner or manager is financially able to implement core management activities, including all those environmental, social and operating costs, required to meet this Standard, and investment and reinvestment in forest management.	C	BPL is self-funded through revenue from timber harvests and property leases, and does not receive funding from the state.
5.1.b Responses to short-term financial factors are limited to levels that are consistent with fulfillment of this Standard.	C	There was no evidence reviewed during the audit that indicated financial factors were preventing fulfillment of the standard. Interviews with staff confirm a budgetary process, and discretionary or emergency funds to ensure sustained conformance.
5.2. Forest management and marketing operations should encourage the optimal use and local processing of the forest’s diversity of products.		
5.2.a Where forest products are harvested or sold, opportunities for forest product sales and services are given to local harvesters, value-added processing and manufacturing facilities, guiding services, and other operations that are able to offer services at competitive rates and levels of service.	C	All logging contractors interviewed were from Maine.
5.2.b The forest owner or manager takes measures to optimize the use of harvested forest products and explores product diversification where appropriate and consistent with management objectives.	C	BPL foresters interviewed were very aware of local market opportunities, tailored logging jobs in order to address them, and take advantage of local wood markets.
5.2.c On public lands where forest products are harvested and sold, some sales of forest products or contracts are scaled or structured to allow small business to bid competitively.	C	BPL has moved largely to contract logging services over the past few years. But jobs will be bundled for a variety of processors. BPL manages this by putting out a range of different bidding options, some multiple year sales, some smaller stumpage sales.
5.3. Forest management should minimize waste associated with harvesting and on-site processing		

<p>operations and avoid damage to other forest resources.</p>		
<p>5.3.a Management practices are employed to minimize the loss and/or waste of harvested forest products.</p>	C	Field site reviews generally showed high levels of utilization of harvested materials. BPL maintains a firewood program to allow collection of wood off of landings.
<p>5.3.b Harvest practices are managed to protect residual trees and other forest resources, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • soil compaction, <i>rutting</i> and erosion are minimized; • residual trees are not significantly damaged to the extent that health, growth, or values are noticeably affected; • damage to NTFPs is minimized during management activities; and • techniques and equipment that minimize impacts to vegetation, soil, and water are used whenever feasible. 	C	Field reviews demonstrated acceptable amounts of residual damage on harvest sites per state policies and determined to not present threats of insect or diseases. Contracts regularly specify techniques to minimize damage, like requiring frozen ground harvesting.
<p>5.4. Forest management should strive to strengthen and diversify the local economy, avoiding dependence on a single forest product.</p>	C	
<p>5.4.a The forest owner or manager demonstrates knowledge of their operation’s effect on the local economy as it relates to existing and potential markets for a wide variety of timber and non-timber forest products and services.</p>	C	BPL tracks the status of timber markets as part of their annual report to the legislature. Non-timber forest products developed on the forest include sugar bush licenses. BPL also has an active role in managing habitat for game species, and other forms of recreation on the forest.
<p>5.4.b The forest owner or manager strives to diversify the economic use of the forest according to Indicator 5.4.a.</p>	C	See above.
<p>5.5. Forest management operations shall recognize, maintain, and, where appropriate, enhance the value of forest services and resources such as watersheds and fisheries.</p>		
<p>5.5.a In developing and implementing activities on the FMU, the forest owner or manager identifies, defines and implements appropriate measures for maintaining and/or enhancing forest services and resources that serve public values, including municipal watersheds, fisheries, carbon storage and sequestration, recreation and tourism.</p>	C	As the state agency managing parks, multiple use considerations are a core value of BPL. Tourism related recreation is extensively managed, all lands are open for public use. Some limited domestic water supplies are present on the forest.

		BPL is beginning to analyze its carbon storage impact as well, relying on a University of Maine report showing that the BPL’s Ecological Reserves store 30% more carbon per acre than typical Maine forests.
5.6. The rate of harvest of forest products shall not exceed levels which can be permanently sustained.		
<p>5.6.a In FMUs where products are being harvested, the landowner or manager calculates the sustained yield harvest level for each sustained yield planning unit, and provides clear rationale for determining the size and layout of the planning unit. The sustained yield harvest level calculation is documented in the Management Plan.</p> <p>The sustained yield harvest level calculation for each planning unit is based on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • documented growth rates for particular sites, and/or acreage of forest types, age-classes and species distributions; • mortality and decay and other factors that affect net growth; • areas reserved from harvest or subject to harvest restrictions to meet other management goals; • silvicultural practices that will be employed on the FMU; • management objectives and desired future conditions. <p>The calculation is made by considering the effects of repeated prescribed harvests on the product/species and its ecosystem, as well as planned management treatments and projections of subsequent regrowth beyond single rotation and multiple re-entries.</p>	C	<p>A formal inventory is conducted periodically, most recently in 1999, 2011, 2016. Due to reinventory again and finished by 2026. Also, BPL flew the entire land base in 2015 and used the imagery to do timber typing. Yield curves were developed based on this inventory, which is used to project net growth and a sustained yield calculation for different species. Harvest level targets are set at 90% of net growth. Planning done on a sustainable harvest unit basis, with areas removed from harvesting.</p> <p>Legislative annual allowable cut is set at 160k cds on a 3 year rolling basis. LD 586, 2017 enactment. During fiscal year 2022 (2023 report), 116, 033 cords were harvested, well below the AAC. GIS records harvest history layer, trip ticket data is used as basis for yield calculations.</p> <p>BPL uses categories of “regulated” and “non-regulated” to remove non-production designated zones, reserve areas, or preserve areas from calculations.</p>
5.6.b Average annual harvest levels, over rolling periods of no more than 10 years, do not exceed the calculated sustained yield harvest level.	C	Actual annual harvests have been well below the calculated harvest level. During fiscal year 2022, 116, 033 cords were harvested, well below the AAC. There was 84,919 cds in 2021, 101,675 cds in 2020 (out of 160k cords possible).
5.6.c Rates and methods of timber harvest lead to achieving desired conditions, and improve or	C	Timber harvests focus primarily on improving stand conditions or regeneration where advance

<p>maintain health and quality across the FMU. Overstocked stands and stands that have been depleted or rendered to be below productive potential due to natural events, past management, or lack of management, are returned to desired stocking levels and composition at the earliest practicable time as justified in management objectives.</p>		<p>regeneration is well established. Individual site prescription are created, in line with silvicultural guidelines, in order to move towards condition or regeneration goals. Review of field sites demonstrated that harvests were generally in line with management objectives.</p>
<p>5.6.d For NTFPs, calculation of quantitative sustained yield harvest levels is required only in cases where products are harvested in significant commercial operations or where traditional or customary use rights may be impacted by such harvests. In other situations, the forest owner or manager utilizes available information, and new information that can be reasonably gathered, to set harvesting levels that will not result in a depletion of the non-timber growing stocks or other adverse effects to the forest ecosystem.</p>	<p>C</p>	<p>The most significant NTFP gathering is sugar bush licenses (for the production of maple syrup). These are managed under 5 year lease agreements, and reviewed in order to ensure that the gathering does not affect the overall forest base.</p>
<p>Principle #6: Forest management shall conserve biological diversity and its associated values, water resources, soils, and unique and fragile ecosystems and landscapes, and, by so doing, maintain the ecological functions and the integrity of the forest.</p>		
<p>6.1. Assessments of environmental impacts shall be completed -- appropriate to the scale, intensity of forest management and the uniqueness of the affected resources -- and adequately integrated into management systems. Assessments shall include landscape level considerations as well as the impacts of on-site processing facilities. Environmental impacts shall be assessed prior to commencement of site-disturbing operations.</p>	<p>NE</p>	
<p>6.1.a Using the results of <i>credible scientific analysis, best available information</i> (including relevant databases), and local knowledge and experience, an assessment of conditions on the FMU is completed and includes: 1) Forest community types and development, size class and/or successional stages, and associated <i>natural disturbance regimes</i>; 2) <i>Rare, Threatened and Endangered (RTE) species</i> and <i>rare ecological communities</i> (including plant communities);</p>	<p>NE</p>	

<p>3) Other habitats and species of management concern;</p> <p>4) Water resources and associated riparian habitats and hydrologic functions;</p> <p>5) Soil resources; and</p> <p>6) Historic conditions on the FMU related to forest community types and development, size class and/or successional stages, and a broad comparison of historic and current conditions.</p>		
<p>6.1.b Prior to commencing site-disturbing activities, the forest owner or manager assesses and documents the potential short and long-term impacts of planned management activities on elements 1-5 listed in Criterion 6.1.a.</p> <p>The assessment must incorporate the best available information, drawing from scientific literature and experts. The impact assessment will at minimum include identifying resources that may be impacted by management (e.g., streams, habitats of management concern, soil nutrients). Additional detail (i.e., detailed description or quantification of impacts) will vary depending on the uniqueness of the resource, potential risks, and steps that will be taken to avoid and minimize risks.</p>	NE	
<p>6.1.c Using the findings of the impact assessment (Indicator 6.1.b), management approaches and field prescriptions are developed and implemented that: 1) avoid or minimize negative short-term and long-term impacts; and, 2) maintain and/or enhance the long-term ecological viability of the forest.</p>	NE	
<p>6.1.d On public lands, assessments developed in Indicator 6.1.a and management approaches developed in Indicator 6.1.c are made available to the public in draft form for review and comment prior to finalization. Final assessments are also made available.</p>	NE	
<p>6.2 Safeguards shall exist which protect rare, threatened and endangered species and their habitats (e.g., nesting and feeding areas).</p>		

<p>Conservation zones and protection areas shall be established, appropriate to the scale and intensity of forest management and the uniqueness of the affected resources. Inappropriate hunting, fishing, trapping, and collecting shall be controlled.</p>		
<p>6.2.a If there is a likely presence of RTE species as identified in Indicator 6.1.a then either a field survey to verify the species' presence or absence is conducted prior to site-disturbing management activities, or management occurs with the assumption that potential RTE species are present.</p> <p>Surveys are conducted by biologists with the appropriate expertise in the species of interest and with appropriate qualifications to conduct the surveys. If a species is determined to be present, its location should be reported to the manager of the appropriate database.</p>	<p>C</p>	<p>2021: Viewed mapped TE habitat (Bradford-Lagrange unit), and buffer zones. Biologist is on staff and shared with MEIF&W to ensure that TE habitat is mapped and addressed in operations.</p> <p>2022: MNAP: Surveys have been conducted to identify areas of late successional forest and for rare plant occurrences, conducted in preparation for harvest operations. Small areas meeting Bureau definitions of 'Old-growth' were identified and excluded from harvest operations. Several additional areas are under review for special protection and designation as HCV/ Ecological Reserve, and decisions on these designations are ongoing.</p> <p>IFW: Surveys: Maine Bird Atlas (inclusive of all breeding birds, statewide); 2 Peregrine falcon eyries (Tumbledown, Nahmahanta); grassland birds (includes notes on monarch abundance); Maine Amphibian and Reptile Atlas (inclusive of all species, statewide); Maine Bumble Bee Atlas; stationary acoustic detectors for bats (inclusive of all species, statewide); snowshoe hare pellet plots in support of Canada lynx management at Seboomook; wood turtle; northern bog lemming. New zones: New Tumbledown Management Plan (Feb 2022) includes wildlife allocation for peregrine falcon, Bicknell's thrush, northern spring salamander, IWWH, streams, wetlands; new St. John Uplands Plan (Aug 2021) includes wildlife allocation for deer wintering area, IWWH, wetlands, Quebec emerald, Heritage Brook Trout Water, eagle nest, wetlands, lake frontage. Updated wildlife allocation on Dallas Plantation based on updated stream & wetland data.</p> <p>2023: An update summary of ME Natural Areas Program (MNAP) for FY 2023: 81 monitoring plots in ecological reserves across the state. Additional site-</p>

		<p>specific evaluation of RTE habitat is noted in operational Rx plans in the Western Region.</p>
<p>6.2.b When RTE species are present or assumed to be present, modifications in management are made in order to maintain, restore or enhance the extent, quality and viability of the species and their habitats. Conservation zones and/or protected areas are established for RTE species, including those S3 species that are considered rare, where they are necessary to maintain or improve the short and long-term viability of the species. Conservation measures are based on relevant science, guidelines and/or consultation with relevant, independent experts as necessary to achieve the conservation goal of the Indicator.</p>	<p>C</p>	<p>2021: Direction within IRP and unit compartment management plans indicated appropriate operational considerations. Viewed site of Vernal Pool habitat on 10/25 site VI where operation had refrained from harvesting within 100 of the pool and had adjusted the intensity of the harvest to accommodate the life zone of the organisms using the habitat. Also see the Management Plan for Canada Lynx Habitat in the Seboomook Unit where concerns for habitat integrity are addressed through a policy document.</p> <p>2022:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MNAP: The Bureau works closely with resource specialists to prevent these impacts. • IFW: Hiking trail work at Tumbledown Mountain was delayed until late Summer (2021) to avoid Peregrine falcon and Bicknell’s thrush nesting season. • Cutler Ecological Reserve: A hiking trail was rerouted to avoid wetland areas was reviewed and approved by the Eco-Reserve committee. Trail work done Summer 2021. • Seboomook Lynx agreement between IFW and BPL is in place to satisfy requirements of an incidental take permit issued by U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service to IFW. The Habitat Management Agreement in Seboomook is intended to mitigate take of up to three Canada lynx if caused by Maine’s regulated furbearing trapping season. • Little Moose mountain biking trail was re-routed from original proposal to avoid wood turtle and inland waterfowl & wading bird habitats. • Research and special activity permits go through multiple reviews and several were issued since July 2021. Examples available on request. • Recreation: BPL provided the Maine Conservation Corps with guidance concerning trail rehab activities at Tumbledown as related to nesting peregrine falcons. Additionally, BPL worked with the Carrabassett Region Chapter of the New

		<p>England Mountain Bike Association to plan trails and trail structures to avoid/minimize any impacts on Roaring Brook mayfly.</p> <p>2022:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • East: Bowdoin East Lot - Heritage Trout Stream. As a part of the Rx process wildlife biologist was consulted and decision was made to not cross the stream and instead construct road from both sides. Roads not yet constructed. • MNAP: MNAP has been consulted on harvest operations near significant habitat and rare plant occurrences at several Public Reserve Lands and forest managers have implemented MNAP guidance for best management of these features. • IFW: Little Moose Unit: Mountain bike trail establishment consultation-complete avoidance of protected areas (wood turtle, IWWH). <p>Tumbledown: Trail work consultation: avoided sensitive times and activities for peregrine falcons and Bicknell's thrush, determined no impact of activity on northern spring salamander or bat species. Cold Stream Forest: replaced two culverts with bridges in brook trout habitat- streams were cleared of fish prior to work, BMPs in place with stream bypass pumps to retain flow, bridge design provided by USFWS and IFW. Road-stream crossing installation: requires an approved BMP plan on file prior to installation. Harvesting in major/minor riparian follows wildlife guidelines. Lynx HMA harvest consultation- enhance high quality hare habitat wherever softwood stands occur. Dallas Plantation: Zoned P-FW operations had a Plan Agreement in place prior to harvesting. Round Pond: harvest in wood turtle protection area- timing restriction and prescription designed to retain canopy. Harvesting in Inland Waterfowl and Wading Bird Habitat is compatible by following riparian management guidelines. Rocky Lake: harvest near bald eagle nest consultation- timing restriction for area adjacent to nest. Duck Lake Unit: harvest in cooperative deer wintering area</p>
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		<p>consultation- developed guidance in prescription to encourage enhancement of shelter/closed canopy conditions for wintering deer and retention/development of travel corridors where shelter is limited.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hamlin unit harvest: Deer habitat assessment and track surveys found no evidence of wintering deer population. <p>2023: See notes above (2022) and in 6.2.a</p>
<p>6.2.c For medium and large public forests (e.g. state forests), forest management plans and operations are designed to meet species’ recovery goals, as well as landscape level biodiversity conservation goals.</p>	<p>C</p>	<p>Example is as above in the Management Plan for Canada Lynx. During the 10/25 meeting at the Bangor office the process for working with “habitat issues” was described as follows: BPL works with other state agencies (MNAP & MIF&W) to survey and map TE and SSC, this info is place on GIS which is shared by all three of these entities. Eco reserves are mapped at the same time and BPL foresters are directed to seek out special places. The plant list Is updated by MNAP and the fauna list is updated by MIF&W. During the planning phase of operations the forester requests info from MIF&W which goes to the GIS data, if no data this goes back to the forester and the process continues. If there is a hit on the map then the info goes to the forester and is placed in the prescription and onto a shared drive. BPL has a harvest checklist which dictates the route which must be followed from this point. BPL will then work with MIF&W on their habitat area agreements. The field sites in the “Cold Stream Forest” that were visited on that afternoon (10/25) where under a fisheries HMA and the Canada Lynx HMA. In addition this site and others are under an agreement with MNAP to protect small areas of old growth forest.</p> <p>2023: See notes above (2022) and in 6.2.a</p>
<p>6.2.d Within the capacity of the forest owner or manager, hunting, fishing, trapping, collecting and other activities are controlled to avoid the risk of impacts to vulnerable species and communities (See Criterion 1.5).</p>	<p>C</p>	<p>The regulation of hunting, trapping and fishing is conducted by MIF&W with the cooperation of BPL forestry staff. This is required by state law.</p> <p>2023: Verified as above</p>

<p>6.3. Ecological functions and values shall be maintained intact, enhanced, or restored, including: a) Forest regeneration and succession. b) Genetic, species, and ecosystem diversity. c) Natural cycles that affect the productivity of the forest ecosystem.</p>		
<p>6.3.a. Landscape-scale indicators</p>		
<p>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.</p>	<p>C</p>	<p>BPL’s management responsibilities are spread over the entire state but primarily over the western, northern and eastern portions of Maine. Parcel sizes are variable with some of the consolidated parcel being large (township sized). Inventory work has been contracted to a management firm and the growth and yield data has not been stratified at this point. It is estimated that stratification will take place by 2025. In the meantime, individual prescriptions are considered at the parcel level. Harvest and yield must be reported to the state legislature on a yearly basis with targeted limits. Harvest cycle age classes of 50 years for Balsam Fir, 125 years for Spruce, 150 years for White Pine and 150 years for Hardwood mimic natural mortality cycles (non-catastrophic). 2023: Verified as above. Additional detailed review of FMP process recorded in P7.</p>
<p>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.</p>	<p>C</p>	<p>Rare ecological communities are classified as Ecological Reserves which are designated as no cut and no new roads. BPL has 107,000 acres in this “no cut no roads” classification at present. Prior to harvest activity at Site #3 (Telos Unit, T8 R11 WELS) on 9/20/22 the boundary was clearly marked as a no cut zone at the buffer for a protected wetland area demonstrating a typical activity for protected areas. 2023: Verified as above. Additional detailed review of FMP process recorded in P7.</p>
<p>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</p>	<p>C</p>	<p>Type 1 and Type 2 are protected. MNAP has mapped larger OG sites and is in an agreement with BPL to manage small OG sites. At present there some small areas of OG and a few OG sites on BPL. Many of the parcels managed by BPL were acquired from large organizations which had timber harvesting as their</p>

<p>provides greater overall protection of old growth values.</p> <p>Type 1 Old Growth is protected from harvesting and road construction. Type 1 old growth is also protected from other timber management activities, except as needed to maintain the ecological values associated with the stand, including old growth attributes (e.g., remove exotic species, conduct controlled burning, and thinning from below in dry forest types when and where restoration is appropriate).</p> <p>Type 2 Old Growth is protected from harvesting to the extent necessary to maintain the area, structures, and functions of the stand. Timber harvest in Type 2 old growth must maintain old growth structures, functions, and components including individual trees that function as refugia (see Indicator 6.3.g).</p> <p>On public lands, old growth is protected from harvesting, as well as from other timber management activities, except if needed to maintain the values associated with the stand (e.g., remove exotic species, conduct controlled burning, and thinning from below in forest types when and where restoration is appropriate).</p> <p>On American Indian lands, timber harvest may be permitted in Type 1 and Type 2 old growth in recognition of their sovereignty and unique ownership. Timber harvest is permitted in situations where:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Old growth forests comprise a significant portion of the tribal ownership. 2. A history of forest stewardship by the tribe exists. 3. High Conservation Value Forest attributes are maintained. 4. Old-growth structures are maintained. 	<p>primary concern. As a result much of BPL’s land-base has seen management activity in the past.</p> <p>2022: Largely unchanged. MNAP: Old growth stands are identified and reserved from timber management. Legacy trees are retained. Additionally, buffering areas to these stands is managed to reduce windthrow or other disturbances.</p> <p>2023: Verified as above. Additional detailed review of FMP process recorded in P7.</p>
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<p>5. Conservation zones representative of old growth stands are established.</p> <p>6. Landscape level considerations are addressed.</p> <p>7. Rare species are protected.</p>		
<p>6.3.b To the extent feasible within the size of the ownership, particularly on larger ownerships (generally tens of thousands or more acres), management maintains, enhances, or restores habitat conditions suitable for well-distributed populations of animal species that are characteristic of forest ecosystems within the landscape.</p>	<p>C</p>	<p>2022: East: Continued to maintain old fields on the Reed Central Lot. One field received some brushing back with a feller buncher.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • West: Past Lynx habitat in Seboomook, Deer Yard Harvest in Dallas Plantation North aimed to accelerate conditions conducive to adequate winter cover (currently stagnant and not in cover) • MNAP: Large diameter coarse woody debris is an important forest structural characteristic missing from most of Maine's managed forest. Standing and downed CWD provides important habitat for amphibians, small mammals, cavity nesting species, fungi and invertebrates. At the Scopan PRL, a project to enhance CWD within the stand by creation of snags and retention of large downed logs through felling, high topping and girdling. • IFW: Cold Stream Forest: replaced two culverts with bridges to restore natural stream processes with a focus on brook trout. Field Opening Management (Hebron, Pineland, Augusta, Days Academy, Kennebec Highlands, Eagle Lake, Salmon Brook Lake, Codyville): mowing and herbicide use to maintain and enhance habitat for species dependent on early successional habitats. Seboomook Unit: Installed water leveler devices at beaver flowages to maintain wetland habitats while ensuring road infrastructure is maintained. Deer Wintering Area harvests (Dallas Plt, Duck Unit) to promote future cover and travel corridors. Waterfowl nest boxes are maintained annually for cavity-nesting species, with new boxes added when and where appropriate. <p>2023: Verified as above. Additional detailed review of FMP process recorded in P7. See also notes on HCV monitoring below in 9.4.</p>

<p>6.3.c Management maintains, enhances and/or restores the plant and wildlife habitat of <i>Riparian Management Zones (RMZs)</i> to provide:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) habitat for aquatic species that breed in surrounding uplands; b) habitat for predominantly terrestrial species that breed in adjacent <i>aquatic habitats</i>; c) habitat for species that use riparian areas for feeding, cover, and travel; d) habitat for plant species associated with riparian areas; and, e) stream shading and inputs of wood and leaf litter into the adjacent aquatic ecosystem. 	<p>C</p>	<p>2022: Timber harvests, road construction and maintenance all take place in or adjacent to riparian areas. See riparian management policies (IRP and wildlife guidelines). RMZ mgt demonstrated at recent harvest site 9/20/22, T7 R11 WELS.</p> <p>2023: Field visits in the Mahoosic and Richardson Units include a considerable variety of watercourses and lakeshores requiring RMZ adaptation. In every case, mapping and site identification was appropriate to the local conditions. Auditors inspected examples of harvests conducted in challenging conditions in close proximity to sensitive streams, wetlands, and lakeshores. Appropriate provision for items a – e were observed and noted.</p>
<p>Stand-scale Indicators</p> <p>6.3.d Management practices maintain or enhance plant species composition, distribution and frequency of occurrence similar to those that would naturally occur on the site.</p>	<p>C</p>	<p>The majority of sites viewed where partial harvests which retained the dominant later successional stage species. Understory impact with the exception of major tail systems was not greatly impacted. Some attempt is being made to address the lack of early successional features on the landscape with larger group selection harvests whereby early successional vegetation will be retained or established.</p> <p>2023: See notes above in 6.3.c. Typical management adaptations are buffers with modified prescription and reduced ground impact.</p>
<p>6.3.e When planting is required, a local source of known provenance is used when available and when the local source is equivalent in terms of quality, price and productivity. The use of non-local sources shall be justified, such as in situations where other management objectives (e.g. disease resistance or adapting to climate change) are best served by non-local sources. <i>Native species</i> suited to the site are normally selected for regeneration.</p>	<p>C</p>	<p>2022: No trees or tree seed planted. BPL relies on natural regeneration.</p> <p>Erosion control mix for site stabilization. Erosion control herbaceous seed mix: Festuca rubra L. (Boreal Creeping Red Fescue), Lolium multiflorum (Annual Ryegrass), Trifolium repens f. hollandicum (Crusade Intermediate White Clover), Vicia villosa Roth (Purple Bounty Hairy Vetch), Lotus corniculatus L. (Norcen Birdsfoot Trefoil); Secale cereale L. (Winter Rye). Cost of native seed mix is at least 30x the cost of the existing mix. 2022 visited New Sweden site, see site Notes. Fill planting done in landings with white spruce. White Spruce as accessed from source in New Brunswick a similar provenance.</p>

		<p>2023: No examples of planting were observed. Erosion control practices (stabilization seeding) are verified as similar to that noted above.</p>
<p>6.3.f Management maintains, enhances, or restores habitat components and associated stand structures, in abundance and distribution that could be expected from naturally occurring processes. These components include:</p> <p>a) large live trees, live trees with decay or declining health, <i>snags</i>, and well-distributed coarse down and dead woody material. Legacy trees where present are not harvested; and</p> <p>b) vertical and horizontal complexity.</p> <p>Trees selected for retention are generally representative of the dominant species found on the site.</p>	C	<p>BPL has a Reserve and Legacy tree document covering these policies. Maintain Old growth component if they are harvesting. All OG stands are protected, no harvesting.</p> <p>The dominant partial harvesting techniques utilized by BPL should maintain stand structure and the retention of snags and large down woody debris will ensure recruitment of structural material over the land base.</p> <p>Numerous examples of green tree retention, legacy retention, and snag development were observed during field exams, see Site Notes.</p> <p>2023: Numerous examples of harvest sites were inspected, with appropriate retention strategies in place. Appropriate respect for BPL policy and this indicator is confirmed.</p>
<p>6.3.g.1 In the Southeast, Appalachia, Ozark-Ouachita, Mississippi Alluvial Valley, and Pacific Coast Regions, when even-aged systems are employed, and during salvage harvests, live trees and other native vegetation are retained within the harvest unit as described in Appendix C for the applicable region.</p> <p>In the Lake States Northeast, Rocky Mountain and Southwest Regions, when even-aged silvicultural systems are employed, and during salvage harvests, live trees and other native vegetation are retained within the harvest unit in a proportion and configuration that is consistent with the characteristic natural disturbance regime unless retention at a lower level is necessary for the purposes of restoration or rehabilitation. See Appendix C for additional regional requirements and guidance.</p>	C	<p>BPL harvest systems follow classical approaches to both even-aged and uneven-aged silvicultural techniques. Documentation of these harvest systems is reviewed in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Online policy and regional management planning, • Compartment level Prescriptions (reviewed for all field visit sites), and • Internal guidance for recording and tracking harvest activity (Rx/Mgmt. Objective Guidelines, BPL Lands Cut History Manual). <p>Heavy (nearly exclusive) reliance on natural regeneration is appropriate in practice, and common to local industry practice.</p> <p>All harvest sites visited during this audit are scheduled for natural regeneration. Visits to adjacent, older treated stands confirms that successful results are likely.</p>
<p>APPENDIX C: REGIONAL LIMITS AND OTHER GUIDELINES ON OPENING SIZES</p>	C	<p>See 6.3.g.1 above</p>

<p>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</p> <p>NORTHEAST REGION:</p> <p>6.3.g.1.a Silvicultural systems favor natural regeneration where appropriate, and forest operations are planned to protect pre-established natural regeneration of desirable species.</p>		
<p>6.3.g.2 Under very limited situations, the landowner or manager has the option to develop a qualified plan to allow minor departure from the opening size limits described in Indicator 6.3.g.1. A qualified plan:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Is developed by qualified experts in ecological and/or related fields (wildlife biology, hydrology, landscape ecology, forestry/silviculture). 2. Is based on the totality of the best available information including peer-reviewed science regarding natural disturbance regimes for the FMU. 3. Is spatially and temporally explicit and includes maps of proposed openings or areas. 4. Demonstrates that the variations will result in equal or greater benefit to wildlife, water quality, and other values compared to the normal opening size limits, including for sensitive and rare species. 5. Is reviewed by independent experts in wildlife biology, hydrology, and landscape ecology, to confirm the preceding findings. 	<p>NA</p>	
<p>6.3.h The forest owner or manager assesses the risk of, prioritizes, and, as warranted, develops and implements a strategy to prevent or control invasive species, including:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. a method to determine the extent of invasive species and the degree of threat to native species and ecosystems; 	<p>C</p>	<p>BPL works with MNAP to identify and map invasive plant species. At present invasive plants have only been identified as a major cause for concern on some of the small southern lots. Herbicide control has been initiated on those sites at the direction of MNAP staff. BPL has three licensed commercial applicators on staff. Invasive insects are monitored by the MFS which</p>

<p>2. implementation of management practices that minimize the risk of invasive establishment, growth, and spread;</p> <p>3. eradication or control of established invasive populations when feasible: and,</p> <p>4. monitoring of control measures and management practices to assess their effectiveness in preventing or controlling invasive species.</p>		<p>has the primary legal responsibility to monitor and respond to invasive insects. BPL works in conjunction with MFS staff to manage these insects.</p> <p>2022: Examination of Environmental Impact for chemical use logs and guidance documents confirm conformance. Preharvest timber cruising conducted by foresters as part of Rx writing process notes occurrences of invasives and includes active training and identification of invasive species. Plan for full reinventory of BPL ownership is being developed. Sites were observed in the field where control measures were enacted. For example, the roadside invasive treatment done in Telos, stop 2 for an aggressive, invasive pea species (See Site Notes).</p> <p>2023: Policy and practice for control and mitigation of invasive plants is integrated by the BPL with policy for chemical use. A summary of activity since the previous audit is provided, reviewed, and summarized (as required) in the DAR. Appropriate provision for items 1-4 is confirmed.</p>
<p>6.3.i In applicable situations, the forest owner or manager identifies and applies site-specific fuels management practices, based on: (1) natural fire regimes, (2) risk of wildfire, (3) potential economic losses, (4) public safety, and (5) applicable laws and regulations.</p>	<p>C</p>	<p>Few sites in Maine are fire prone. Habitat and fuel types inhibit natural or accidental fires spreading. MFS recommends a defensible space around forest dwellings but little else is recommended. BPL works with MFS staff if and when a fire occurs, but little else is required at this time. Forestry equipment are required to have suppression equipment on board and further suppression equipment available on site.</p> <p>2023: verified as noted above.</p>
<p>6.4. Representative samples of existing ecosystems within the landscape shall be protected in their natural state and recorded on maps, appropriate to the scale and intensity of operations and the uniqueness of the affected resources.</p>		
<p>6.4.a The forest owner or manager documents the ecosystems that would naturally exist on the FMU, and assesses the adequacy of their representation and protection in the <i>landscape</i> (see Criterion 7.1). The assessment for medium and large forests include some or all of the following: a) GAP</p>	<p>NE</p>	

<p>analyses; b) collaboration with state natural heritage programs and other public agencies; c) regional, landscape, and watershed planning efforts; d) collaboration with universities and/or local conservation groups.</p> <p>For an area that is not located on the FMU to qualify as a Representative Sample Area (RSA), it should be under permanent protection in its natural state.</p>		
<p>6.4.b Where existing areas within the landscape, but external to the FMU, are not of adequate protection, size, and configuration to serve as representative samples of existing ecosystems, forest owners or managers, whose properties are conducive to the establishment of such areas, designate ecologically viable RSAs to serve these purposes.</p> <p>Large FMUs are generally expected to establish RSAs of purpose 2 and 3 within the FMU.</p>	NE	
<p>6.4.c Management activities within RSAs are limited to low impact activities compatible with the protected RSA objectives, except under the following circumstances:</p> <p>a) harvesting activities only where they are necessary to restore or create conditions to meet the objectives of the protected RSA, or to mitigate conditions that interfere with achieving the RSA objectives; or</p> <p>b) road-building only where it is documented that it will contribute to minimizing the overall environmental impacts within the FMU and will not jeopardize the purpose for which the RSA was designated.</p>	NE	
<p>6.4.d The RSA assessment (Indicator 6.4.a) shall be periodically reviewed and if necessary updated (at a minimum every 10 years) in order to determine if the need for RSAs has changed; the designation of RSAs (Indicator 6.4.b) is revised accordingly.</p>	NE	

<p>6.4.e Managers of large, contiguous public forests establish and maintain a network of representative protected areas sufficient in size to maintain species dependent on interior core habitats.</p>	<p>NE</p>	
<p>6.5 Written guidelines shall be prepared and implemented to control erosion; minimize forest damage during harvesting, road construction, and all other mechanical disturbances; and to protect water resources.</p>		
<p>6.5.a The forest owner or manager has written guidelines outlining conformance with the Indicators of this Criterion.</p>	<p>NE</p>	
<p>6.5.b Forest operations meet or exceed Best Management Practices (BMPs) that address components of the Criterion where the operation takes place.</p>	<p>NC</p>	<p>This audit included visits to and inspection of a representative selection of recent, ongoing, and completed harvest sites in the Western Mountain region. Inspections were made during unusually wet weather, and during a season of unusually high rainfall. Overall, BMP implementation was observed to effective and appropriate to local conditions. Some isolated lapses were observed, leading to the finding noted here.</p> <p>NC 2023-01 (minor): The organization’s implementation of water quality BMP’s may not be fully effective. Evidence from field observations includes some recent harvests which lacked effective skid trail stabilization measures.</p>
<p>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:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 	<p>C</p>	<p>See notes above in 6.5.b</p>

<p>minimum necessary to achieve successful regeneration of species native to the site.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. 		
<p>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:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. 	C	<p>See 6.5.b above</p> <p>The audit includes significant, systematic observation and inspection of land management roads within the FMU – including long-established & active roads, dis-used roads, recently re-constructed roads, and new roads. In spite of very challenging weather conditions, overall conditions and the state of maintenance are observed to be conformant to this indicator.</p>
<p>6.5.e.1 In consultation with appropriate expertise, the forest owner or manager implements written <i>Streamside Management Zone (SMZ) buffer</i></p>	NE	

<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>		
<p>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.</p>	NE	
<p>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 <i>aquatic habitat</i>. Crossings do not impede the movement of</p>	NE	

<p>aquatic species. Temporary crossings are restored to original hydrological conditions when operations are finished.</p>		
<p>6.5.g Recreation use on the FMU is managed to avoid negative impacts to soils, water, plants, wildlife and wildlife habitats.</p>	<p>NE</p>	
<p>6.5.h Grazing by domesticated animals is 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.</p>	<p>NE</p>	
<p>6.6. Management systems shall promote the development and adoption of environmentally friendly non-chemical methods of pest management and strive to avoid the use of chemical pesticides. World Health Organization Type 1A and 1B and chlorinated hydrocarbon pesticides; pesticides that are persistent, toxic or whose derivatives remain biologically active and accumulate in the food chain beyond their intended use; as well as any pesticides banned by international agreement, shall be prohibited. If chemicals are used, proper equipment and training shall be provided to minimize health and environmental risks.</p>		
<p>6.6.a No products on the FSC list of Highly Hazardous Pesticides are used (see FSC-POL-30-001 EN FSC Pesticides policy 2005 and associated documents).</p>	<p>NE</p>	
<p>6.6.b All toxicants used to control pests and competing vegetation, including rodenticides, insecticides, herbicides, and fungicides are used only when and where non-chemical management practices are: a) not available; b) prohibitively expensive, taking into account overall environmental and social costs, risks and benefits; c) the only effective means for controlling invasive and exotic species; or d) result in less environmental damage than non-chemical alternatives (e.g., top soil disturbance, loss of soil litter and down wood debris). If chemicals are used,</p>	<p>NE</p>	

<p>the forest owner or manager uses the least environmentally damaging formulation and application method practical.</p> <p>Written strategies are developed and implemented that justify the use of chemical pesticides. Whenever feasible, an eventual phase-out of chemical use is included in the strategy. The written strategy shall include an analysis of options for, and the effects of, various chemical and non-chemical pest control strategies, with the goal of reducing or eliminating chemical use.</p>		
<p>6.6.c Chemicals and application methods are selected to minimize risk to non-target species and sites. When considering the choice between aerial and ground application, the forest owner or manager evaluates the comparative risk to non-target species and sites, the comparative risk of worker exposure, and the overall amount and type of chemicals required.</p>	NE	
<p>6.6.d Whenever chemicals are used, a written prescription is prepared that describes the site-specific hazards and environmental risks, and the precautions that workers will employ to avoid or minimize those hazards and risks, and includes a map of the treatment area.</p> <p>Chemicals are applied only by workers who have received proper training in application methods and safety. They are made aware of the risks, wear proper safety equipment, and are trained to minimize environmental impacts on non-target species and sites.</p>	NE	
<p>6.6.e If chemicals are used, the effects are monitored and the results are used for adaptive management. Records are kept of pest occurrences, control measures, and incidences of worker exposure to chemicals.</p>	NE	
<p>6.7. Chemicals, containers, liquid and solid non-organic wastes including fuel and oil shall be disposed of in an environmentally appropriate manner at off-site locations.</p>		

<p>6.7.a The forest owner or manager, and employees and contractors, have the equipment and training necessary to respond to hazardous spills</p>	<p>NE</p>	
<p>6.7.b In the event of a hazardous material spill, the forest owner or manager immediately contains the material and engages qualified personnel to perform the appropriate removal and remediation, as required by applicable law and regulations.</p>	<p>NE</p>	
<p>6.7.c. Hazardous materials and fuels are stored in leak-proof containers in designated storage areas, that are outside of riparian management zones and away from other ecological sensitive features, until they are used or transported to an approved off-site location for disposal. There is no evidence of persistent fluid leaks from equipment or of recent groundwater or surface water contamination.</p>	<p>NE</p>	
<p>6.8. Use of biological control agents shall be documented, minimized, monitored, and strictly controlled in accordance with national laws and internationally accepted scientific protocols. Use of genetically modified organisms shall be prohibited.</p>	<p>NE</p>	
<p>6.8.a Use of <i>biological control agents</i> are used only as part of a pest management strategy for the control of invasive plants, <i>pathogens</i>, insects, or other animals when other pest control methods are ineffective, or are expected to be ineffective. Such use is contingent upon peer-reviewed scientific evidence that the agents in question are non-invasive and are safe for native species.</p>	<p>NE</p>	
<p>6.8.b If biological control agents are used, they are applied by trained workers using proper equipment.</p>	<p>NE</p>	
<p>6.8.c If biological control agents are used, their use shall be documented, monitored and strictly controlled in accordance with state and national laws and internationally accepted scientific protocols. A written plan will be developed and implemented justifying such use, describing the risks, specifying the precautions workers will employ to avoid or minimize such risks, and</p>	<p>NE</p>	

describing how potential impacts will be monitored.		
6.8.d Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOs) are not used for any purpose	NE	
6.9. The use of exotic species shall be carefully controlled and actively monitored to avoid adverse ecological impacts.	C	
6.9.a The use of <i>exotic species</i> is contingent on the availability of credible scientific data indicating that any such species is non-invasive and its application does not pose a risk to native biodiversity.	C	No exotic species used on the forest. Seed mix for stabilization is not composed of species listed as invasive. These species should not persist in a forested situation. 2023: verified as recorded above.
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.	NA	See 6.9.a, above.
6.9.c The forest owner or manager shall take timely action to curtail or significantly reduce any adverse impacts resulting from their use of exotic species	NA	See 6.9.a, above.
6.10. Forest conversion to plantations or non-forest land uses shall not occur, except in circumstances where conversion: a) Entails a very limited portion of the forest management unit; and b) Does not occur on High Conservation Value Forest areas; and c) Will enable clear, substantial, additional, secure, long-term conservation benefits across the forest management unit.	NE	
6.10.a Forest <i>conversion</i> to non-forest land uses does not occur, except in circumstances where conversion entails a very limited portion of the forest management unit (note that Indicators 6.10.a, b, and c are related and all need to be conformed with for conversion to be allowed).	NE	
6.10.b Forest <i>conversion</i> to non-forest land uses does not occur on high conservation value forest areas (note that Indicators 6.10.a, b, and c are related and all need to be conformed with for conversion to be allowed).	NE	
6.10.c Forest <i>conversion</i> to non-forest land uses does not occur, except in circumstances where conversion will enable clear, substantial, additional,	NE	

<p>secure, long term conservation benefits across the forest management unit (note that Indicators 6.10.a, b, and c are related and all need to be conformed with for conversion to be allowed).</p>		
<p>6.10.d Natural or semi-natural stands are not converted to plantations. Degraded, semi-natural stands may be converted to restoration plantations.</p>	NE	
<p>6.10.e Justification for land-use and stand-type conversions is fully described in the long-term management plan, and meets the biodiversity conservation requirements of Criterion 6.3 (see also Criterion 7.1.l)</p>	NE	
<p>6.10.f Areas converted to <i>non-forest use</i> for facilities associated with subsurface mineral and gas rights transferred by prior owners, or other conversion outside the control of the certificate holder, are identified on maps. The forest owner or manager consults with the CB to determine if removal of these areas from the scope of the certificate is warranted. To the extent allowed by these transferred rights, the forest owner or manager exercises control over the location of surface disturbances in a manner that minimizes adverse environmental and social impacts. If the certificate holder at one point held these rights, and then sold them, then subsequent conversion of forest to non-forest use would be subject to Indicator 6.10.a-d.</p>	NA	
<p>Principle #7: A management plan -- appropriate to the scale and intensity of the operations -- shall be written, implemented, and kept up to date. The long-term objectives of management, and the means of achieving them, shall be clearly stated.</p>		
<p>7.1. The management plan and supporting documents shall provide:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Management objectives. b) description of the forest resources to be managed, environmental limitations, land use and ownership status, socio-economic conditions, and a profile of adjacent lands. b. Description of silvicultural and/or other management system, based on the ecology of the forest in question and information 		

<p>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.</p> <p>b) 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.</p>		
<p>7.1.a The management plan identifies the ownership and legal status of the FMU and its resources, including rights held by the owner and rights held by others.</p>	C	<p>Management Planning for the Bureau is established by the Integrated Resource Policy – executed in 2000 & updated 2007. Posted online Ownership, legal status, and relevant rights for management (established by legislation) are documented appropriately.</p>
<p>7.1.b The management plan describes the history of land use and past management, current forest types and associated development, size class and/or successional stages, and natural disturbance regimes that affect the FMU (see Indicator 6.1.a).</p>	C	<p>Forest Management Plan (FMP) documentation is organized regionally and posted publicly. Details in regional FMP’s include specifics of this indicator; reviewed & validated for the Western Mountains Region FMP during this audit. Regional strategic planning is supplemented at the compartment level with detailed operational plans,</p>
<p>7.1.c The management plan describes: a) current conditions of the timber and non-timber forest resources being managed; b) desired future conditions; c) historical ecological conditions; and d) applicable management objectives and activities to move the FMU toward desired future conditions.</p>	C	<p>See 7.1.b Current conditions are appropriately addressed, as well as management objectives, ecological history, and FMP strategic approach.</p>
<p>7.1.d The management plan includes a description of the landscape within which the FMU is located and describes how landscape-scale habitat elements described in Criterion 6.3 will be addressed.</p>	C	<p>See 7.1.b Landscape-scale habitat elements are appropriately described and addressed in the regional FMP</p>
<p>7.1.e The management plan includes a description of the following resources and outlines activities</p>	C	<p>Detailed review of the Western Mountain Region FMP verified the items in this indicator:</p>

<p>to conserve and/or protect:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Specific management consideration of RTE habitat • Species and community diversity • Water quality and aquatic habitat protection • Ecological Reserves (RSA) • Soil integrity • HCV & special management areas
<p>7.1.f If invasive species are present, the management plan describes invasive species conditions, applicable management objectives, and how they will be controlled (see Indicator 6.3.j).</p>	C	<p>Invasive species, when present, are addressed in Compartment Rx Plans. Reviewed in detail for field sample sites.</p>
<p>7.1.g The management plan describes insects and diseases, current or anticipated outbreaks on forest conditions and management goals, and how insects and diseases will be managed (see Criteria 6.6 and 6.8).</p>	C	<p>Compartment level Prescriptions include specific observations on insect and disease conditions for each operational block, along with incorporation into management planning as needed. This is verified for each site visited during this audit.</p>
<p>7.1.h If chemicals are used, the plan describes what is being used, applications, and how the management system conforms with Criterion 6.6.</p>	C	<p>A specific planning process for Chemical Use if employed. Additional details and review of application is noted in C6.6.</p>
<p>7.1.i If biological controls are used, the management plan describes what is being used, applications, and how the management system conforms with Criterion 6.8.</p>	C	<p>No use of biological agents is reported or observed.</p>
<p>7.1.j The management plan incorporates the results of the evaluation of social impacts, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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); • public access to and use of the forest, and 	C	<p>See 7.1.b</p>

<p>other recreation issues;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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). 		
<p>7.1.k The management plan describes the general purpose, condition and maintenance needs of the transportation network (see Indicator 6.5.e).</p>	C	<p>Transportation infrastructure is addressed appropriately in both the strategic and operational management planning documents. Details of access issues for compartment Rx's includes specific plans for road improvements, upgrades, and plans for maintenance. Field visits during this audit included specific inspection of recent and ongoing road improvement work in challenging landscapes during an unusually wet season.</p>
<p>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.</p>	C	<p>See 7.1.b Compartment Rx Plans include reference to standardized silvicultural treatments for application to harvest operations. Interaction between stand-level base data and harvest history data was demonstrated and validated against examples from the field review. Application of ongoing harvest operations with reference to long term objectives is appropriate.</p>
<p>7.1.m The management plan describes how species selection and harvest rate calculations were developed to meet the requirements of Criterion 5.6.</p>	C	<p>AAC calculations underlying harvest planning is confirmed by sample. Model-based stand projections and yield planning remains as verified during recertification – see additional notes in C5.6</p>
<p>7.1.n The management plan includes a description of monitoring procedures necessary to address the requirements of Criterion 8.2.</p>	C	<p>See 7.1.b Appropriate reference to monitoring procedures is confirmed. Additional details are noted in C8.2</p>
<p>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.</p>	C	<p>Full integration of GIS into forest management planning is fully verified. Site specific mapping is included in operational Rx documents. Operational use of GIS at all levels is evident.</p>
<p>7.1.p The management plan describes and justifies the types and sizes of harvesting machinery and</p>	C	<p>See 7.1.b</p>

<p>techniques employed on the FMU to minimize or limit impacts to the resource.</p>		<p>Harvesting techniques and appropriate equipment application is addressed, in various ways, within Rx Plans at the compartment level. Examples of specific adaptation on sensitive sites and limitations based on equipment capability were observed on field sites.</p>
<p>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.</p>	<p>C</p>	<p>See 7.1.b Site level harvest planning follows long-established, mature protocols which are readily verified by example during this audit. Details of Rx Plans were verified directly during field visits and interviews with responsible staff. Specific items in this indicator are all evident.</p>
<p>7.1.r The management plan describes the stakeholder consultation process.</p>	<p>C</p>	<p>See 7.1.b Management planning processes clearly involve considerable public input and participation. Details are posted publicly, and input is actively solicited. The most recent FMP – produced in 2022 for the Kennebec Highlands unit was supported by a citizen advisory committee of 17 members.</p>
<p>7.2 The management plan shall be periodically revised to incorporate the results of monitoring or new scientific and technical information, as well as to respond to changing environmental, social and economic circumstances.</p>		
<p>7.2.a The management plan is kept up to date. It is reviewed on an ongoing basis and is updated whenever necessary to incorporate the results of monitoring or new scientific and technical information, as well as to respond to changing environmental, social and economic circumstances. At a minimum, a full revision occurs every 10 years.</p>	<p>C</p>	<p>See 7.1.b FMP’s are designed for 15 year scope with a five-year review process. Review processes are published and readily accessible on the Bureau website.</p>
<p>7.3 Forest workers shall receive adequate training and supervision to ensure proper implementation of the management plans.</p>		
<p>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.</p>	<p>C</p>	<p>Evidence is provided to demonstrate appropriate and ongoing training for both professional staff and contractor workforce.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Logger training is required of contractors and verified by reference to the SFI-supported CLP

		<p>program. Random cross-check confirms currency of recently active contractors.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recent records of staff training include specific audit preparation, and general system review. <p>Interview and interaction with a substantial group of FME staff confirm strong competency and awareness.</p>
7.4 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.		
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	See 7.1.b, 7.2.a https://www.maine.gov/dacf/parks/get_involved/planning_and_acquisition/management_plans/index.html
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	See 7.2.a, 7.1.r
<p>Principle #8: Monitoring shall be conducted -- appropriate to the scale and intensity of forest management -- to assess the condition of the forest, yields of forest products, chain of custody, management activities and their social and environmental impacts.</p> <p><i>Applicability Note: On small and medium-sized forests (see Glossary), an informal, qualitative assessment may be appropriate. Formal, quantitative monitoring is required on large forests and/or intensively managed forests.</i></p>		
8.1 The frequency and intensity of monitoring should be determined by the scale and intensity of forest management operations, as well as, the relative complexity and fragility of the affected environment. Monitoring procedures should be consistent and replicable over time to allow comparison of results and assessment of change.	NE	
8.1.a Consistent with the scale and intensity of management, the forest owner or manager develops and consistently implements a regular, comprehensive, and replicable written monitoring protocol.	NE	
8.2. Forest management should include the research and data collection needed to monitor,		

<p>at a minimum, the following indicators: a) yield of all forest products harvested, b) growth rates, regeneration, and condition of the forest, c) composition and observed changes in the flora and fauna, d) environmental and social impacts of harvesting and other operations, and e) cost, productivity, and efficiency of forest management.</p>		
<p>8.2.a.1 For all commercially harvested products, an inventory system is maintained. The inventory system includes at a minimum: a) species, b) volumes, c) stocking, d) regeneration, and e) stand and forest composition and structure; and f) timber quality.</p>	<p>C</p>	<p>A formal timber inventory is done periodically, they are directed to report to legislature with an update every 5 years. Next one is scheduled for 2025. Stocking and net growth are calculated. Field inventory is conducted every 15 years, with a net growth calculation every 5 years. Adjusted for species/species basis. Post harvest area data maintained. 2022: Preharvest timber cruising is conducted by foresters as part of compartment prescription writing process. These were reviewed during the 2022 audit and all inspected sites were consistent with the compartment details of items a) - f). 2023: Reviewed harvest history update procedures within the BPL GIS system. Verified integration with period inventory base-data maintenance as noted above. Site visit Rx used as examples.</p>
<p>8.2.a.2 Significant, unanticipated removal or loss or increased vulnerability of forest resources is monitored and recorded. Recorded information shall include date and location of occurrence, description of disturbance, extent and severity of loss, and may be both quantitative and qualitative.</p>	<p>C</p>	<p>Adjustments of this type would be made, although no recent examples have occurred. Forester interviews confirmed these activities. The New Sweden site was an example where the BPL program addressed insect problems through patch cut removal/salvage. The BPL program is also conducting vulnerability analyses regarding climate change. 2023: verified – no change</p>
<p>8.2.b The forest owner or manager maintains records of harvested timber and NTFPs (volume and product and/or grade). Records must adequately ensure that the requirements under Criterion 5.6 are met.</p>	<p>C</p>	<p>Harvest records are tracked for every timber sale and reconciled against the current inventory records. 2022: For FY 22 there 116033 cords reported for products harvested. 2023: Reviewed FY23 Yield Summary - statewide (internal report). Information is adequate to verify against AAC (C5.6).</p>
<p>8.2.c The forest owner or manager periodically obtains data needed to monitor presence on the FMU of:</p>	<p>C</p>	<p>RTE habitat surveys occur continuously basis. Older records might be based on older GIS data, but new occurrences are updated in their internal databases.</p>

<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Rare, threatened and endangered species and/or their <i>habitats</i>; 2) Common and rare plant communities and/or habitat; 3) Location, presence and abundance of invasive species; 4) Condition of protected areas, set-asides and buffer zones; 5) High Conservation Value Forests (see Criterion 9.4). 	<p>Ecological Reserve Inventory has its own permanent inventory system, returns on a 10 year basis. Many of the significant areas identified as ecoreserves, are also classified as HCVF.</p> <p>Monitoring of ecoreserves:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Regional staff monitor for basic stewardship, keeping out ATVs, etc. maintenance, 2) Natural areas monitoring, species scale, MNAP tasked with monitoring rare species and ecoreserves. 3) Continuing forest inventory on ecoreserves, fixed plots, 4) Monitoring changes over time with remote sensing (lidar, satellite, changes over time) 5) Location of invasive species monitored with MNAP. <p>2022:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • East: Monitored invasive at Brad/Lag and Rocky. Duck box maintenance at Seboeis • MNAP: MNAP has monitored and updated significant natural communities on Public Reserve Lands and has continued the Continuing Forest Inventory on Ecological Reserves (ERM) • IFW: in addition to response for P.04.6.2.1 for RTE: Maine Bird Atlas and Maine Amphibian & Reptile Atlas project inventory species regardless of their status as RTE. Waterfowl production surveys at Stratton Brook Pond (Bigelow), Blanchard Flowage Dead River Peninsula), Thompson Deadwater (Reed Plt), and Seboies Upper Inlet (Seboies) are conducted in June and July. Waterfowl nest boxes are monitored annually. Vernal pool assessments at Northport and Days Academy. Grassland bird surveys at Hebron and Pineland. Loon surveys at Third and Fifth Machias Lakes. Bat monitoring with acoustic bat detectors. <p>2023: An update summary of ME Natural Areas Program (MNAP) for FY 2023: 81 monitoring plots in ecological reserves across the state. This ongoing monitoring activity appropriately tracks HCV, RTE, and other sensitive habitat features.</p>
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<p>8.2.d.1 Monitoring is conducted to ensure that site specific plans and operations are properly implemented, environmental impacts of site disturbing operations are minimized, and that harvest prescriptions and guidelines are effective.</p>	<p>C</p>	<p>Site visits and inspections, detailed further in the DAR, verified – in every case – the effective use of site monitoring protocols and forms to maintain and ensure that disturbance is minimized and mitigated according to policy and procedure. Sample review, observation, and interview confirm appropriate conformance.</p>
<p>8.2.d.2 A monitoring program is in place to assess the condition and environmental impacts of the forest-road system.</p>	<p>C</p>	<p>As part of settlement with Maine Forest Service, there is a new BMP monitoring protocol. Responsible forester for each unit assesses their road network each spring. Foresters identify road work priorities, which are then submitted to road contractors. Works from a budget and with prioritized land management in order to identify needs. 2023: Verified as above. See also 6.5.d.</p>
<p>8.2.d.3 The landowner or manager monitors relevant socio-economic issues (see Indicator 4.4.a), including the social impacts of harvesting, participation in local economic opportunities (see Indicator 4.1.g), the creation and/or maintenance of quality job opportunities (see Indicator 4.1.b), and local purchasing opportunities (see Indicator 4.1.e).</p>	<p>C</p>	<p>Annual report to the legislature compiles socio-economic issues, such as increased recreation pressure, summary of wood products sold (and supporting local job opportunities), public access issues. 2023: Verified as above.</p>
<p>8.2.d.4 Stakeholder responses to management activities are monitored and recorded as necessary.</p>	<p>C</p>	<p>Stakeholder responses are monitored, as part of BPL’s role as a public agency. 2023: A specific example of stakeholder input and response was ongoing during this audit and evaluated by the Audit Team. An interview with a concerned neighbor confirmed the appropriate use of consultation and communication protocols. See additional notes in the DAR.</p>
<p>8.2.d.5 Where sites of cultural significance exist, the opportunity to jointly monitor sites of cultural significance is offered to tribal representatives (see Principle 3).</p>	<p>C</p>	<p>2023: STATEWIDE: In the meeting at Dug Brook Hatchery, Interpretive Specialist discussed how BPL can improve communications on historical interpretations of tribal history on Public Land. Interp. Spec committed to improving signage and working with tribal members. Forest Ecologist assigned to BPL has been in communication with Tribal rep regarding ash stand monitoring. Work is ongoing.</p>

		<p>Correspondence reviewed (email 7/17 – 8/30/23 ‘APCAW – brown ash meeting follow up’.</p> <p>Culturally significant sites and resources on non-tribal lands are a long-standing sore point due to lack of trust: Tribal members are often hesitant to share discreet locations with us. Interp Spec and Recreation Planner are working to improve relationships and trust under an ongoing and likely long term timeline.</p>
<p>8.2.e The forest owner or manager monitors the costs and revenues of management in order to assess productivity and efficiency.</p>	C	<p>All costs and revenues are monitored and reported on in the annual report to the legislature.</p> <p>2023: The FY23 Yield Summary – Statewide provides a financial summary of operations for the current year. A more comprehensive report is submitted annually by the bureau and posted online: https://www.maine.gov/dacf/parks/publications_maps/docs/2022BPL-AnnualReport.pdf</p>
<p>8.3 Documentation shall be provided by the forest manager to enable monitoring and certifying organizations to trace each forest product from its origin, a process known as the "chain of custody."</p>	NE	
<p>8.3.a When forest products are being sold as FSC-certified, the forest owner or manager has a system that prevents mixing of FSC-certified and non-certified forest products prior to the point of sale, with accompanying documentation to enable the tracing of the harvested material from each harvested product from its origin to the point of sale.</p>	NE	
<p>8.3.b The forest owner or manager maintains documentation to enable the tracing of the harvested material from each harvested product from its origin to the point of sale.</p>	NE	
<p>8.4 The results of monitoring shall be incorporated into the implementation and revision of the management plan.</p>		
<p>8.4.a The forest owner or manager monitors and documents the degree to which the objectives stated in the management plan are being fulfilled, as well as significant deviations from the plan.</p>	C	<p>Examples of operational monitoring were reviewed at multiple scales during this audit. At the site level, inspection records for each harvest site appropriately evaluate performance against plan objectives and impact criteria. Post-harvest condition is incorporated</p>

		into GIS base data for use in formulating future plan updates. A demonstration of this evaluation was provided during P7 review (see 7.1.l).
8.4.b Where monitoring indicates that management objectives and guidelines, including those necessary for conformance with this Standard, are not being met or if changing conditions indicate that a change in management strategy is necessary, the management plan, operational plans, and/or other plan implementation measures are revised to ensure the objectives and guidelines will be met. If monitoring shows that the management objectives and guidelines themselves are not sufficient to ensure conformance with this Standard, then the objectives and guidelines are modified.	C	<p>The BPL planning process has a transparent and well-documented update process for its regional FMP's.</p> <p>https://www.maine.gov/dacf/parks/get_involved/planning_and_acquisition/management_plans/index.html</p> <p>The update process is well documented in policy, based on 15 year planning scopes, updated at five-year intervals. For the Western Mountains Region, a five-year review report was completed and filed in 2021. This report includes clear evidence of external and internal monitoring inputs and adaptations.</p> <p>https://www.maine.gov/dacf/parks/get_involved/planning_and_acquisition/management_plans/docs/WMtNs2nd5YrReviewFinalReport4-23-21.pdf</p>
8.5 While respecting the confidentiality of information, forest managers shall make publicly available a summary of the results of monitoring indicators, including those listed in Criterion 8.2.	NE	
8.5.a While protecting landowner confidentiality, either full monitoring results or an up-to-date summary of the most recent monitoring information is maintained, covering the Indicators listed in Criterion 8.2, and is available to the public, free or at a nominal price, upon request.	NE	
8.3 Documentation shall be provided by the forest manager to enable monitoring and certifying organizations to trace each forest product from its origin, a process known as the "chain of custody."	NE	
<p>Principle #9: Management activities in high conservation value forests shall maintain or enhance the attributes which define such forests. Decisions regarding high conservation value forests shall always be considered in the context of a precautionary approach.</p> <p>High Conservation Value Forests are those that possess one or more of the following attributes:</p> <p>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</p>		

containing the management unit, where viable populations of most if not all naturally occurring species exist in natural patterns of distribution and abundance

- b) Forest areas that are in or contain rare, threatened or endangered ecosystems**
- c) Forest areas that provide basic services of nature in critical situations (e.g., watershed protection, erosion control)**
- d) Forest areas fundamental to meeting basic needs of local communities (e.g., subsistence, health) and/or critical to local communities' traditional cultural identity (areas of cultural, ecological, economic or religious significance identified in cooperation with such local communities).**

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

Central Hardwoods:

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

North Woods/Lake States:

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

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

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

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

<p><i>Old forests that either have or are developing old-growth attributes, but which have been previously harvested, may be designated HCVFs and may be harvested under special plans that account for the ecological attributes that make it an HCVF.</i></p> <p><i>Forest management maintains a mix of sub-climax and climax old-forest conditions in the landscape.</i></p>		
<p>9.1 Assessment to determine the presence of the attributes consistent with High Conservation Value Forests will be completed, appropriate to scale and intensity of forest management.</p>	NE	
<p>9.1.a The forest owner or manager identifies and maps the presence of High Conservation Value Forests (HCVF) within the FMU and, to the extent that data are available, adjacent to their FMU, in a manner consistent with the assessment process, definitions, data sources, and other guidance described in Appendix F.</p> <p>Given the relative rarity of old growth forests in the contiguous United States, these areas are normally designated as HCVF, and all old growth must be managed in conformance with Indicator 6.3.a.3 and requirements for legacy trees in Indicator 6.3.f.</p>	NE	
<p>9.1.b In developing the assessment, the forest owner or manager consults with qualified specialists, independent experts, and local community members who may have knowledge of areas that meet the definition of HCVs.</p>	NE	
<p>9.1.c A summary of the assessment results and management strategies (see Criterion 9.3) is included in the management plan summary that is made available to the public.</p>	NE	
<p>9.2 The consultative portion of the certification process must place emphasis on the identified conservation attributes, and options for the maintenance thereof.</p>	NE	
<p>9.2.a The forest owner or manager holds consultations with stakeholders and experts to confirm that proposed HCVF locations and their attributes have been accurately identified, and that appropriate options for the maintenance of their HCV attributes have been adopted.</p>	NE	

<p>9.2.b On public forests, a transparent and accessible public review of proposed HCV attributes and HCVF areas and management is carried out. Information from stakeholder consultations and other public review is integrated into HCVF descriptions, delineations and management.</p>	<p>NE</p>	
<p>9.3 The management plan shall include and implement specific measures that ensure the maintenance and/or enhancement of the applicable conservation attributes consistent with the precautionary approach. These measures shall be specifically included in the publicly available management plan summary.</p>	<p>NE</p>	
<p>9.3.a The management plan and relevant operational plans describe the measures necessary to ensure the maintenance and/or enhancement of all high conservation values present in all identified HCVF areas, including the precautions required to avoid risks or impacts to such values (see Principle 7). These measures are implemented.</p>	<p>NE</p>	
<p>9.3.b All management activities in HCVFs must maintain or enhance the high conservation values and the extent of the HCVF.</p>	<p>NE</p>	
<p>9.3.c If HCVF attributes cross ownership boundaries and where maintenance of the HCV attributes would be improved by coordinated management, then the forest owner or manager attempts to coordinate conservation efforts with adjacent landowners.</p>	<p>NE</p>	
<p>9.4 Annual monitoring shall be conducted to assess the effectiveness of the measures employed to maintain or enhance the applicable conservation attributes.</p>		
<p>9.4.a The forest owner or manager monitors, or participates in a program to annually monitor, the status of the specific HCV attributes, including the effectiveness of the measures employed for their maintenance or enhancement. The monitoring program is designed and implemented consistent with the requirements of Principle 8.</p>	<p>C</p>	<p>Maine Natural Areas Program Ecoreserve plot monitoring at Spring River Lake/ Donnell Pond where ER long term forest inventory plots were revisited. In addition to forest inventory assessments, red pine scale was detected and has been identified causing tree mortality. 2022:</p>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IFW: - Regional HCV site visits by foresters with a focus on detecting any adverse impacts. See SharePoint site Folder P8 Monitoring for reports • MNAP: Maine Natural Areas Program Ecoreserves plot monitoring. Significant plant communities were visited in other identified HCV sites with reports available on request <p>2023: An update summary of ME Natural Areas Program (MNAP) for FY 2023: 81 monitoring plots in ecological reserves across the state. This ongoing monitoring activity appropriately tracks HCV, RTE, and other sensitive habitat features. The BPL additionally provided a specific HCV monitoring summary for 8 HCV areas. The report is dated 10/12/2022 and notes no changes from the previous year.</p>
<p>9.4.b When monitoring results indicate increasing risk to a specific HCV attribute, the forest owner/manager re-evaluates the measures taken to maintain or enhance that attribute, and adjusts the management measures in an effort to reverse the trend.</p>	<p>C</p>	<p>2021: BPL is currently evaluating options for red pine scale. 2022: None new reported. 2023: See 9.4.a above</p>
<p>Principle #10: Plantations shall be planned and managed in accordance with Principles and Criteria 1-9, and Principle 10 and its Criteria. While plantations can provide an array of social and economic benefits, and can contribute to satisfying the world's needs for forest products, they should complement the management of, reduce pressures on, and promote the restoration and conservation of natural forests.</p> <p>Not applicable - Maine PBL does not practice plantation management.</p>		

Appendix 5 – Chain of Custody Indicators for FMEs Conformance Table

Chain of Custody indicators were not evaluated during this evaluation.

Appendix 6 – Trademark Standard Conformance Table

<p>1. General Requirements for Use of the FSC Trademarks (FSC “checkmark-and-tree” logo, initials “FSC,” and/or name “Forest Stewardship Council”)</p>
<p>Trademark uses reviewed:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> All known uses reviewed.</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sample reviewed. Rationale that sample choice is sufficient to confirm requirements are met: Maine BPL transferred to SCS in 2021 SCS, but was previously certified under another CB. No new trademark has been requested since the certificate</p>

<p>transfer through 2022. The only trademark use encountered during the audit was the use of the FSC and Forest Stewardship Council in management planning documents. Note that Maine’s website contains references to FSC made by its sister agency the Maine Forest Service. No use of the checkmark-and-tree logo was encountered.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Trademark uses detected include those grandfathered in under prior FSC trademark rules (e.g., FSC-TMK-50-201). Place the initials “GF” by the specific Trademark Applications above. <i>Note: This only applies to printed items or physical promotional materials (e.g., hats, load tickets) in stock. New printings, items, and websites must be updated per FSC-STD-50-001 requirements. If the organization only has GF uses and no new uses, the rest of this checklist is NA.</i></p>	
<p>1.2 Trademark License Agreement and valid certificate In order to use these FSC trademarks, the FME shall have a valid FSC trademark license agreement and hold a valid certificate. <i>Note: Consultations for certification Organizations applying for forest management certification or conducting activities related to the implementation of controlled wood requirements, may refer to FSC by name and initials for stakeholder consultation.</i></p>	Maintained on file by SCS Main Office
<p>Evidence 1.2: A valid TLA has been signed for a 6 month period was signed on April 7, 2022</p>	
<p>1.6 Product Group List The products intended to be labeled or promoted as FSC certified have been included in the organization’s certified product group list.</p>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> NC <input type="checkbox"/> C w/ OBS
<p>Evidence 1.6: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Refer to Product Groups List in Public Summary Report; <input type="checkbox"/> The following nonconformance(s) were detected in Product Groups: ; or <input type="checkbox"/> Refer to OBS related to Product Groups:</p>	
<p>1.3 Trademark License Code The FSC trademark license code assigned by FSC to the organization accompanies any use of the FSC trademarks. It is sufficient to show the code once per product or promotional material.</p>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> NC <input type="checkbox"/> C w/ OBS
<p>1.4 Trademark Symbol The FSC logo and the ‘Forests For All Forever’ marks shall include the trademark symbol ® in the upper right corner when used on products or materials to be distributed in a country where the relevant trademark is registered. For use in a country where the trademark is not yet registered, use of the symbol ™ is recommended. The Trademark Registration List document is available in the FSC trademark portal and marketing toolkit. The symbol ® shall also be added to ‘FSC’ and ‘Forest Steward-ship Council’ at the first or most prominent use in any text; one use per material is sufficient (e.g. website or brochure). <i>NOTE: The use of the trademark symbol is not required for FSC claims in sales and delivery documents, or for the disclaimer statement specified in requirement 6.2.</i></p>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> NC <input type="checkbox"/> C w/ OBS <input type="checkbox"/> NA, one or more of noted exceptions applies
<p>2.1 Restrictions on using FSC trademarks The organization has not used the FSC trademarks in the following ways: a) in a way that could cause confusion, misinterpretation, or loss of credibility to the FSC certification scheme; b) in a way that implies that FSC endorses, participates in, or is responsible for activities performed by the organization, outside the scope of certification; c) to promote product quality aspects not covered by FSC certification; d) in product brand or company names, such as ‘FSC Golden Timber’ or website domain names; e) in connection with FSC controlled wood or controlled material – they shall not be used for labelling products or in any promotion of sales or sourcing of controlled material or FSC controlled wood; the initials FSC shall only be used to pass on FSC controlled wood claims in sales and de-livery documentation, in conformity with FSC chain of custody requirements.</p>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> NC <input type="checkbox"/> C w/ OBS

<p>2.2 Translations The name 'Forest Stewardship Council' has not been replaced with a translation. A translation may be included in brackets after the name, for example: Forest Stewardship Council® (translation)</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> NC <input type="checkbox"/> C w/ OBS <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NA, no translations</p>
<p>Evidence 1.3, 1.4, 2.1, and 2.2: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Refer to Trademark uses reviewed above; <input type="checkbox"/> The following nonconformance(s) were detected ; or <input type="checkbox"/> Refer to OBS:</p>	
<p>Sections 8 and 9 Graphic Rules The organization has only used FSC logos that conform to the standard requirements governing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • color and font (8.1-8.3); • format and size (8.4-8.9); • label placement (8.10); and • 'Forests For All Forever' marks (9.1-9.7). 	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> NC <input type="checkbox"/> C w/ OBS</p>
<p>1.5 Trademark Use Approval The organization has submitted all intended uses of the FSC trademarks to SCS for approval. OR The organization has an approved trademark use management system in place. (If the organization has a trademark use management system, complete Annex A.)</p>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> NC <input type="checkbox"/> C w/ OBS</p>
<p>4.6 FSC trademarks may be used to identify FSC-certified materials in the chain of custody before the products are finished. It is not necessary to submit such segregation marks for approval. All segregation marks shall be removed before the products go to the final point of sale or are delivered to uncertified organizations.</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> NC <input type="checkbox"/> C w/ OBS <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NA, trademarks no used for segregation marks</p>
<p>Evidence Graphic Rules, 1.5, and 4.6: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Refer to Trademark uses reviewed above; <input type="checkbox"/> The following nonconformance(s) were detected ; or <input type="checkbox"/> Refer to OBS:</p>	

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

Appendix 7 – Group Management Program

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

Appendix 8 – Additional Checklists

Include here additional checklists which may be applicable to this evaluation for example, Intact Forest Landscapes, and ESRA checklists.

No additional checklists, so this appendix is not applicable.

