

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

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

SCS-FM/COC-008672

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CERTIFIED	EXPIRATION
12 April 2022	11 April 2027

DATE OF FIELD EVALUATION
19-22 September 2022
DATE OF REPORT FINALIZATION
13 January 2022

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Foreword

Cycle in annual surveillance evaluations				
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1 st annual evaluation	<input type="checkbox"/> 2 nd annual evaluation	<input type="checkbox"/> 3 rd annual evaluation	<input type="checkbox"/> 4 th annual evaluation	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (<i>expansion of scope, Major CAR audit, special audit, etc.</i>):
Name of Forest Management Enterprise (FME) and abbreviation used in this report:				
DACF, BPL				

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

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

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

Organization of the Report

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

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SECTION A – PUBLIC SUMMARY

1. General Information

1.1 Evaluation Team

Auditor name:	Beth Jacqmain	Auditor role:	Audit Team Leader
Qualifications:	<p>Beth Jacqmain is a Senior Certification Forester at SCS Global Services, Forest Ecologist and Certified Forester (SAFCF#1467). Beth has 20+ years’ practitioner experience in forestry including public land management, private consulting, and private corporate forest management working with landowners and harvest crews. Qualified ANSI RAB accredited ISO 14001 EMS, ISO 17021 QMS, and 19001 QMS Lead Auditor and FSC®, ATFS®, SFI®, and RW® Lead Auditor for Forest Management/Chain of Custody. Audited and led forest management evaluations, harvest and logging operations certification audits, OSHA logging and chainsaw safety. Certified Trainer for FSC FM lead auditors. Served on the FSC Technical Working Group for development of International Generic Indicators for use and risk management of highly hazardous pesticides.</p> <p>Beth is a 14 year member of the Forest Guild, 23-year adjunct-Faculty with Itasca Community College, NR Department. Member 30+ years Society of American Foresters. Served SAF MN State Chair 2010 and multiple committees, state and national, throughout. Job Analysis team - SAF National Exam Revision Committee (2013/2019). Original lead instructor of UMN “Ecosystem Silviculture” certificate course for professional foresters. BS Forest Management from Michigan State University and MS Forest Biology/Ecology from Auburn University.</p>		
Auditor name:	Gordon Moore	Auditor role:	Technical Expert
Qualifications:	<p>Mr. Moore is a consulting forester in North Central Maine. As a consultant he has worked on inventory for carbon sequestration and served as a technical expert for forest certification. He also teaches basic silviculture for the Low Impact Forestry project of MOFGA for the Maine Forest Service. From 1991 to 2016 Moore worked for the Maine Forest Service.</p>		

1.2 Total Time Spent on Evaluation

A. Number of days spent on-site for evaluation	4
B. Number of auditors participating in on-site evaluation	1
C. Number of days spent by any technical experts (in addition to amount in line A)	5
D. Additional days spent on preparation, stakeholder consultation, and follow-up	3
E. Total number of person days used in evaluation	12

1.3 Applicable Standards

All applicable FSC standards are available on the websites of FSC International (www.fsc.org) or SCS Global Services (www.SCSglobalServices.com). All standards are available on request from SCS Global Services via the comment form on our website. When no national standard exists for the country/region, SCS Interim Standards are developed by modifying SCS’s Generic Interim Standard to reflect forest management in the region and by incorporating relevant components of any Draft Regional/National Standard and comments from stakeholders. More than one month prior to the start of the field evaluation, SCS Draft Interim Standards are provided to stakeholders identified by FSC International, SCS, forest managers under evaluation,

and the FSC National or Regional Office for comment. SCS’s COC indicators for FMEs are based on the most current versions of the FSC Chain of Custody Standard, FSC Standard for Group Entities in Forest Management Groups (FSC-STD-30-005), and FSC Accreditation Requirements. “Applicable standards” are all FSC standards with which the certified entity must comply, not just the standards selected for evaluation this year.

Standards applicable <i>NOTE: Please include the full standard name and Version number and check all that apply based on type of certificate.</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Forest Stewardship Standard(s), including version: FSC-US Forest Management Standard, V1-0
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FSC Trademark Standard (FSC-STD-50-001 V2-0)
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SCS COC indicators for FMEs, V8-0
	<input type="checkbox"/> FSC standard for group entities in forest management groups (FSC-STD-30-005), V2-0
	<input type="checkbox"/> Other:

1.4 Conversion Table English Units to Metric Units

Length Conversion Factors		
To convert from	To	multiply by
Mile (US Statute)	Kilometer (km)	1.609347
Foot (ft.)	Meter (m)	0.3048
Yard (yd.)	Meter (m)	0.9144
Area Conversion Factors		
To convert from	To	multiply by
Square foot (sq. ft.)	Square meter (m ²)	0.09290304
Acre (ac)	Hectare (ha)	0.4047
Volume Conversion Factors		
To convert from	To	multiply by
Cubic foot (cu ft.)	Cubic meter (m ³)	0.02831685
Gallon (gal)	Liter (l)	4.546
Quick reference		
1 acre	= 0.404686 ha	
1,000 acres	= 404.686 ha	
1 board foot	= 0.00348 cubic meters	
1,000 board feet	= 3.48 cubic meters	
1 cubic foot	= 0.028317 cubic meters	

2. Certification Evaluation Process

2.1 Evaluation Itinerary, Activities, and Site Notes

20 Sep 2022 (Tue)	Northern Region – Telos Lot
8:00 am	Opening Meeting: Introductions, client update, review audit scope, review and approve audit plan, intro/update to applicable Forest Management standards, SCS standards, confidentiality and public summary, conformance evaluation methods and tools, review of open CARs/OBS, emergency and security procedures for audit team, final site selection adjustments.
	Review Prior year findings; Review ongoing status of litigation surrounding the Central Maine Power electricity corridor.
	Conduct field visits – see Detailed Site Notes below
4:30 PM	Daily debrief: Review daily activities, communicate lines of inquiry or open questions
<i>Transit to Fort Kent</i>	<i>Auditors and teams travel to Fort Kent lodging.</i>
21 Sep 2022 (Wed)	Northern Region – Eagle and Hamlin Lots
8:00 AM	Location. Abbreviated field opening, briefing
	Conduct field visits – see Detailed Site Notes below
4:30 PM	Daily debrief: Review daily activities, communicate lines of inquiry or open questions
<i>Transit to Presque Isle</i>	<i>Auditors and teams travel to Presque Isle lodging.</i>
22 Sep 2022 (Thu)	Northern Region – Presque Isle Office
8:30 AM	Presque Isle Office. 45 Radar Road, Presque Isle. Continue staff Interviews, documentation and record review.
4:00 PM	Closing meeting preparation. Audit team takes time to consolidate notes and review audit findings for presentation at closing meeting
5:00 PM	Closing Meeting: Convene with all relevant staff to give a brief summary of audit activities, FSC present preliminary findings, SFI review identified nonconformities, confidentiality, SCS/FSC/SFI dispute policy, timeline for reports.

Detailed Site Notes

<p><i>Note:</i> All completed timber harvests had forest management prescription (Rx) documentation for the stand and compartment, “Prescription Review and Multiple Use Coordination Report”. The Rx are reviewed and authorized by signatures by forestry and wildlife staff. Rx documentation includes location identification; unique identifiers; state of Maine district identification; forester submitting for approval; approval signatories; land classification acres of forested and non-forested; Acres of Special Regulated Areas such as Riparian, Visual, LURCP-FW; Compartment Overview; Insect and Disease; Compartment Overview; Insect/Disease; Wildlife; Land Use/Water; Recreation and Visual; Engineering/Surveying; Natural Community Types; Silvicultural Guidelines; Estimated Revenue By Species & Product including volumes; and detailed descriptions of stands within the compartment. Stand breakdowns included Stand Type; total Acres; Acres To Be Treated; Species; Condition; Age; Regeneration; Species; Height; Basal Area; Site Quality; Remarks/Stand History/non-timber concerns; Management Objective/Prescription; Residual Stand targets including Type; Species; BA; Remarks; Next planned/scheduled activity. Qualified loggers were used for all timber harvests in accordance with contract requirements.</p>
9/20/22 Telos
Site 1, N307 Stand 14 M3B. T6R11 C-N307E. SW3D, Harvest to remove at risk softwoods (SW) and hardwoods (HW). Intention to shift stand to tolerant HW and SW (Red Spruce). Harvester, used an iPad w/ Avenza maps within the processor during operation, forwarder operator also uses iPad/Avenza. Interview with foreman from Pelletier Logging. Safety equipment and program review. Examined prescription documentation, “Prescription Review and Multiple Use Coordination Report”.

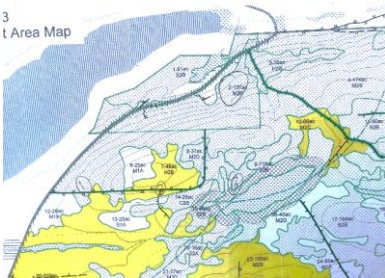


Site 2, , road stop. Invasive pea species. Forester discovered invasive in routine road monitoring. Consulted with invasives expert for treatment. Treatment covered 1.3 miles over 3 years, using Garlon product. Verified pesticide applicator log. Invasive has now jumped to a second road system. Forester worked with Licensed applicator on the spray operation. Control/eradication not yet achieved and Forester has indicated that he wants to hire an independent applicator to work on the project.

Discussions: BPL conducts about 750-800 acres a year of PCT. State maintains environmental impact folder with pesticide applicator log which contains: Applicator/licensing, date, start and end times, locations, area description, and other necessary details.



Site 3, N303 Stand 2 137 acres H2B, Hardwood mixed wood stand. Selection harvest designated in management plan 10 years ago. This was second phase of harvesting. Site has regenerated to Sugar Maple, White Ash, Red Spruce and Balsam Fir. Appears that regeneration was successful.



Stand 7, H2B. Trees of lesser quality. Harvest at both sites was harvested with a hybrid system using a buncher for felling, then pre-bunching, secondly a CTL processor delimbed and cut product length followed by a forwarder.



Site 4, Patterned fen. CTL trails here (no buncher), trails were well carpeted with slash and corduroy. BPL set buffer boundary at 330 feet from patterned fen (significant habitat). State law sets boundary at 250 feet. Very good trail selection by operator, avoiding wettest sites and brushing other wet sites well.

Site 5, Road issue. Private road which had been ceded road to state who conducted completed needed road improvements. Complaint about silt entering Chamberlain Lake on AWW. Determined that it came from BPL roadway which was recently rebuilt and resurfaced. Road dust from crushed ledge had migrated from road through Cedar to lake following a rain event. Siltation event was of short duration and did not reoccur with subsequent rain events. 2021 issue and is now reverted back again to private land management.



Site 6, N301, Summer harvest on both sides of road. Examined riparian buffer through a cedar stand including culvert. The harvest clearly avoided impacting the stream and has not affected the stability of the cedar stand. Buffer meets and exceeds state requirements. Other side of the roadway very large, old white pine have been retained and the softwoods and low grade hardwood have been removed around them. This is not the first time such a treatment has been applied on this site. site given the size, age and extent of these pine.



Old WP adjacent stand



Protected riparian buffer



Protected brook

9/21/22 Eagle Lake

Site 1 N208 Eagle Lake (N2208 N2219). TH4C, Tolerant Hardwood, Rx Remove balsam fir (BF) & declining red maple (RM).

Harvest with CTL system. Harvest timber in trail and reaching out alongside trail. Stream Xing has been closed out, both approaches appear stable, water barred, brushed and some straw applied. Slight soil movement from crossing, acceptable amount. 2 inches of rain following removal. Some soil moved outside the internal buffer into the margin of the buffer but did not enter the stream.

Site 2 Xing, Replace 24" CMP with 30" BMX. Resized stream through Cedar flowage, well armored. 2 piece metal bridges, 25' over small brook. Blue flagging for brook buffer around stream. Snags abundant. June harvest. Rx with order of removal. Grapple skidded gate. Hybrid harvest system, feller bunched, wood processed and brought by a forwarder. Verified lake buffer.



Recovered stream crossing



Lake buffer

Site 3, Blow out site/culvert failures. Culvert pipe was accidentally sheared by grader operator. Road grade raised; pipe reset. Turn out installed upslope and raised road bed to manage water flow.

Foresters were monitoring during work. Roads cruised in the spring, end of May. Into 208 Gravel removed from stream bed. Installation similar to prior site. Resized Brook channel went to 30" culvert. With additional 8" overflow. 75' buffer either side. Brought material in, bulldozer covered.



Culvert 1



Cross drain, upslope about 75'

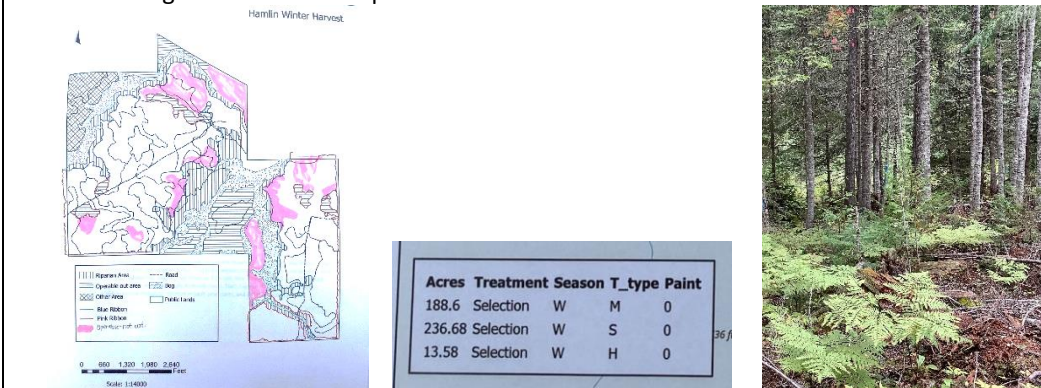
Site 4, Excellent hardwood site. Crossing, Nuprin arch, old winter road upgraded to 3 season road. Open bottom substrate continuous inside. Well armored with broken crushed ledge and screened. Roadside approaches and ditches seeded and green. Crushed ledge road surface. ESRA discussion. ESRA's, implementation, PPE, Maine process & procedures.

Road contractor interview.

Site 5, N227. Small patch cut area. In general, state conducts few clearcuts. This cut did not meet state criteria minimum size that defines as clearcut. Harvest even aged but small 3+/- acres. Planted white spruce, using improved stock acquired from local timber company. Property line, blazed and red paint. Green retention verified. Stand had severe Budworm infestation. Permitted to access on ITS snowmobile trail. Landing well vegetated and lower end replanted with White Spruce. Along the Aroostook Valley ATV / snowmobile trail. Harvest done in winter. Wide winter haul trail and landing located within harvest area to avoid trail and minimize crossing. Signed 75' along trail to warn recreational users, criteria outlined in permit. Snowmobile club monitored compliance with permit and tear down. Communicated with snowmobile trails prior to and during harvests. No issues.



Site 6, Hamlin Deer Management stakeholder Issue. Wildlife (WL) biologist joined the field tour, IF&W/BPL joined group. After complaint, WL and IF&W biologist surveyed the site pre-harvest. SH complaint and state response were reviewed. WL biologist explained deeryard zoning historic classifications and criteria in organized and unorganized towns in Maine. Inquiry first went to legislator. BPL responded within two days on site. Director and manager on site meeting with stakeholders. Later meeting in attendance ACA representative on 1st tour (letter later), (Biologist), SAM representative. BPL considered comments and adjusted by expanding buffer widths and taking areas out of the original proposed harvest Map below shows areas removed in pink highlight. Not all of the designated harvest areas were completed. IF&W did some follow up surveying on the ground by snowmobile and snowshoe. WL biologist issued report to all interested stakeholders. State executive staff put into legislature to have BPL better communicate with stakeholders with no definitive conclusions. Later met with select stakeholders at Scraggley Lake unit where WL biologist gave presentation on deer yard management with good reception. Audit examined limited amount of sale area including brook crossing. Harvest was completed 2021.



2.2 Evaluation of Management Systems

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

3. Changes in Management Practices

- There were no significant changes in the management and/or harvesting methods that affect the FME’s conformance to the FSC standards and policies.
- Significant changes occurred since the last evaluation that may affect the FME’s conformance to FSC standards and policies (*describe*): New certification point person but prior leadership still present and long-term foresters in audit. No impact on conformance.

4. Results of Evaluation

4.1 Definitions of Major CARs, Minor CARs and Observations

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

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

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

4.2 History of Findings for Certificate Period

FM Principle	Cert/Re-cert Evaluation 2021	1 st Annual Evaluation 2022	2 nd Annual Evaluation 2023	3 rd Annual Evaluation 2024	4 th Annual Evaluation 2025
No findings	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<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				
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					

4.3 Existing Corrective Action Requests and Observations

Finding Number: 2021.1	
Finding and Deadline	
<input type="checkbox"/> Major CAR: Pre-condition to certification/recertification <input type="checkbox"/> Major CAR: 3 months from Issuance of Final Report <input type="checkbox"/> Minor CAR: 12 months or next regularly scheduled audit, whichever comes first (<i>surveillance or re-evaluation</i>) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Observation – response is optional <input type="checkbox"/> Other and deadline (specify):	
FMU CAR/OBS issued to (when more than one FMU):	
Standard and Indicator	FSC-US Forest Management Standard v 1-0, 1.6.a
<input type="checkbox"/> Non-Conformity Evidence <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Observation Justification and/or Explanation Maine BPL’s publicly available statement of commitment to manage the FMU in conformance with FSC standards and policies is out of date. This commitment was contained in the BPL’s Annual Report to the legislature in previous years, but the language was not included in the most recent report from 2020. This is graded as an observation since previous versions of the annual report are still readily publicly available, but there is a concern that the commitment could be lost going forward.	
<input type="checkbox"/> Non-Conformity Corrective Action Request <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Observation; no Corrective Action is required Maine BPL’s most current publicly available documents should include a statement of commitment to manage the FMU in conformance with FSC standards and policies.	
FME response (including any evidence submitted)	BPL has added a web page with this commitment statement as well as certificate related information linked to our trip tickets. The information is at this link: Timber Harvests: About Us: Bureau of Parks and Lands: Maine DACF See: “MEMO Webpage and Trip ticket email correspondence.pdf” for SCS correspondence and approval
SCS review	The link above was verified active (last accessed 9/19/22) and confirmed content of public commitment as required in the indicator. This CAR is closed.
Status of CAR:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Closed <input type="checkbox"/> Upgraded to Major <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Other decision (refer to description above)</i>

Finding Number: 2021.2	
Finding and Deadline	

<input type="checkbox"/> Major CAR: Pre-condition to certification/recertification <input type="checkbox"/> Major CAR: 3 months from Issuance of Final Report <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Minor CAR: 12 months or next regularly scheduled audit, whichever comes first (<i>surveillance or re-evaluation</i>) <input type="checkbox"/> Observation – response is optional <input type="checkbox"/> Other and deadline (specify):	
FMU CAR/OBS issued to (when more than one FMU):	
Standard and Indicator	FSC-US Forest Management Standard v 1-0, 4.2.b
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Non-Conformity Evidence <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Observation Justification and/or Explanation Several logging contractors (including sites at Duck Lake and Spring Lake) visited during the audit did not have a first aid kit on site, or readily available at a nearby location.	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Non-Conformity Corrective Action Request <input type="checkbox"/> Observation; no Corrective Action is required Maine BPL must ensure that their contractors demonstrate a safe work environment.	
FME response (including any evidence submitted)	BPL foresters have been instructed to increase their focus on safety and environmental protection materials. Specific to this CAR, email correspondence and direction from supervisors to foresters on confirming the presence of PPE and safety equipment during harvest inspections. See: “Memo - Spill Kit and Safety Memo – All Staff.pdf” and “MEMO 2 Regional Mgrs Safety First Aid Kit.pdf” for internal correspondence
SCS review	Logging contractors were observed to follow professional, safe operations during the audit. Interviews with loggers and foresters confirmed receipt of environmental protection materials. Competency of foresters in assessing logger safety were verified by interviews and inspection at harvest sites. Corrective actions were effectively implemented, this CAR is closed.
Status of CAR:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Closed <input type="checkbox"/> Upgraded to Major <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Other decision (refer to description above)</i>

Finding Number: 2021.3	
Finding and Deadline	
<input type="checkbox"/> Major CAR: Pre-condition to certification/recertification <input type="checkbox"/> Major CAR: 3 months from Issuance of Final Report <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Minor CAR: 12 months or next regularly scheduled audit, whichever comes first (<i>surveillance or re-evaluation</i>) <input type="checkbox"/> Observation – response is optional <input type="checkbox"/> Other and deadline (specify):	
FMU CAR/OBS issued to (when more than one FMU):	
Standard and Indicator	FSC-US Forest Management Standard v 1-0, 4.4.d
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Non-Conformity Evidence <input type="checkbox"/> Observation Justification and/or Explanation Management planning for BPL does go through a public process involving public participation and opportunity for comment. However, it was not clear how an accessible and affordable appeals process to planning decisions is available.	

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Non-Conformity Corrective Action Request <input type="checkbox"/> Observation; no Corrective Action is required For public forests, the consultation process shall include an accessible and affordable appeals process to planning decisions.	
FME response <i>(including any evidence submitted)</i>	The Bureau of Parks and Lands is guided in its decisions and actions by statute and a management planning framework anchored by the Integrated Resource Policy and more specifically in unit management plans. Decisions are appealed at no cost through meetings with staff (in person, phone or virtual), appeals to the Bureau Director or in some cases the Commissioner of the Department of Agriculture Conservation and Forestry. Stakeholders also can contact their legislators to seek appeals or change. Examples include: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Staff Appeal: The Little Moose Mountain Bike Trail system where citizens appealed to staff for change in the management plan in 2021. b. Eagle Lake Sporting Camps is presently appealing to the Bureau Director about a BPL decision to remove a gate near their camps. c. Constituents in Hamlin appealed simultaneously to staff and their legislator for changes to a harvest plan in December 2021 during which process significant staff time was invested to understand concerns and modifications were made to harvest plans. These types of appeals are routine and are an effective means of hearing and responding to concerns.
SCS review	Maine BPL has added statements that specifically include reference to appeals on their public webpage under the “Management Planning Process” which may be located here . During the 2022 audit, the audit team visited the Hamlin site described above which included site inspection and interviews with participating experts and BPL staff. The appeal process was followed. This CAR is closed.
Status of CAR:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Closed <input type="checkbox"/> Upgraded to Major <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Other decision (refer to description above)</i>

Finding Number: 2021.4	
Finding and Deadline	
<input type="checkbox"/> Major CAR: Pre-condition to certification/recertification <input type="checkbox"/> Major CAR: 3 months from Issuance of Final Report <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Minor CAR: 12 months or next regularly scheduled audit, whichever comes first (<i>surveillance or re-evaluation</i>) <input type="checkbox"/> Observation – response is optional <input type="checkbox"/> Other and deadline (specify):	
FMU CAR/OBS issued to (when more than one FMU):	
Standard and Indicator	FSC-US Forest Management Standard v 1-0, 6.6.e
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Non-Conformity Evidence <input type="checkbox"/> Observation Justification and/or Explanation Maine BPL has utility right-of-ways and other easement holders with land management rights on their property. However, interviews demonstrated that BPL does not currently track pesticide use occurring on these easements for evaluation against FSC’s pesticide policy, or inclusion in annual	

pesticide reporting. Note that FSC recently released an interpretation clarifying that “a right-of-way or other easement that is located within the boundaries of a certified MU is subject to FSC pesticide reporting. The names and quantities of pesticides applied, and size of area treated must be included in the certificate holder’s certification report summary of quantitative pesticides data. If the areas are excised from the scope of the certificate following FSC-POL-20-003, then the certificate holder is not required to report pesticide application in these areas” (INT-STD-20-2007a_03, dated 3 April 2020).	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Non-Conformity Corrective Action Request <input type="checkbox"/> Observation; no Corrective Action is required Records must be kept of chemical use on the FMU, including in utility rights-of-way and other cases where chemicals are not applied directly by the forest manager.	
FME response <i>(including any evidence submitted)</i>	BPL has identified 44 instances across 28 BPL-owned properties where management rights have been conveyed via deeded lease and/or easement where management activities such as pesticide use are allowed. These occur as utility and phoneline corridors, road use agreements (right of ways), and utility parcels (e.g. cell towers). Additionally, approximately 200 acres of agricultural leases* have been identified. A total of approximately 642 acres** has been identified as potential candidates for excision under FSC-POL-20-003. See “ <i>EXCISED_PARCELS_Manie BPL Easement and Leases.xlsx</i> ” and “ <i>EXCISED_PARCELS_spatial</i> ” folder
SCS review	There were 699 acres excised under scope of the certificate and review of the spreadsheet confirmed identification of those ROWs. Chemical use is being correctly recorded for other properties as confirmed during 2022 field examinations. This CAR is closed.
Status of CAR:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Closed <input type="checkbox"/> Upgraded to Major <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Other decision (refer to description above)</i>

Finding Number: 2021.5	
Finding and Deadline	
<input type="checkbox"/> Major CAR: Pre-condition to certification/recertification <input type="checkbox"/> Major CAR: 3 months from Issuance of Final Report <input type="checkbox"/> Minor CAR: 12 months or next regularly scheduled audit, whichever comes first (<i>surveillance or re-evaluation</i>) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Observation – response is optional <input type="checkbox"/> Other and deadline (specify):	
FMU CAR/OBS issued to (when more than one FMU):	
Standard and Indicator	FSC-US Forest Management Standard v 1-0, 6.7.a
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Non-Conformity Evidence <input type="checkbox"/> Observation Justification and/or Explanation Numerous logging operators inspected during the audit did not have spill kits inside each machine, although spill kits were generally present somewhere on the logging site. According to BPL’s standard contract with loggers, spill kits are required to be in each machine. Note that this is a case where the BPL’s internal requirements exceed FSC requirements, but the logging contractors were not in conformance with BPLs own rules.	

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Non-Conformity Corrective Action Request <input type="checkbox"/> Observation; no Corrective Action is required The forest owner or manager, and employees and contractors, must have the equipment and training necessary to respond to hazardous spills.	
FME response <i>(including any evidence submitted)</i>	BPL Foresters have increased focus on spill kits during routine harvest contractor inspections. See “MEMO - Spill Kits and Safety Memo – All Staff.pdf”
SCS review	Contents of the Memo above were reviewed and confirmed. During the 2022 audit logging operation inspections verified spill kits at all operations inspected and confirmed knowledge of requirements with contract operators. This CAR is closed.
Status of CAR:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Closed <input type="checkbox"/> Upgraded to Major <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Other decision (refer to description above)</i>

Finding Number: 2021.6	
Finding and Deadline	
<input type="checkbox"/> Major CAR: Pre-condition to certification/recertification <input type="checkbox"/> Major CAR: 3 months from Issuance of Final Report <input type="checkbox"/> Minor CAR: 12 months or next regularly scheduled audit, whichever comes first (<i>surveillance or re-evaluation</i>) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Observation – response is optional <input type="checkbox"/> Other and deadline (specify):	
FMU CAR/OBS issued to (when more than one FMU):	
Standard and Indicator	FSC-US Forest Management Standard v 1-0, 7.2.a
<input type="checkbox"/> Non-Conformity Evidence <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Observation Justification and/or Explanation Many BPL written policies exist as separate unrelated documents of different origin. For example, the HCVF planning documents are set up as an excel sheet listing identified HCV areas, an HCV Essay from 2012, and an HCVF Descriptions document from 2016. Similarly the Forester’s Manual exists as a collection of individual policies and guides. Policies and procedures like these could be improved by harmonizing and updating them. This is especially true given the recent retirement of the longtime certification manager for the BPL, and the transition of this role to others within the Bureau.	
<input type="checkbox"/> Non-Conformity Corrective Action Request <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Observation; no Corrective Action is required Management planning policies and procedures for the FME could be better harmonized and updated.	
FME response <i>(including any evidence submitted)</i>	BPL currently is in the process of updating its integrated Resource Policy with completion expected in early 2023. This update includes policies directly related to forest management and FSC standards. BPL’s new Chief of Silviculture is playing a central role in this process working with a silviculture committee formed of staff from all three regions and the central office in Augusta. See “Integrated Resource Policy - Timber Mgmt Section.xlsx” for an outline of the sections to be updated.
SCS review	The BPL program has outlined a clear plan and is implementing the plan methodically. Once the Policy update is finalized and published, this Observation will be reassessed for closure.

Status of CAR:	<input type="checkbox"/> Closed <input type="checkbox"/> Upgraded to Major <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <i>Other decision (refer to description above): Remains open as OBS 2022.1</i>
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Finding Number: 2021.7	
Finding and Deadline	
<input type="checkbox"/> Major CAR: Pre-condition to certification/recertification <input type="checkbox"/> Major CAR: 3 months from Issuance of Final Report <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Minor CAR: 12 months or next regularly scheduled audit, whichever comes first (<i>surveillance or re-evaluation</i>) <input type="checkbox"/> Observation – response is optional <input type="checkbox"/> Other and deadline (specify):	
FMU CAR/OBS issued to (when more than one FMU):	
Standard and Indicator	FSC-US Forest Management Standard v 1-0, 7.3.a
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Non-Conformity Evidence <input type="checkbox"/> Observation Justification and/or Explanation The harvesting operations at the Spring Lake unit were not carried out as intended by the forester. The plan called for a removal of merchantable fir, but pine and spruce were harvested instead. The resulting stand will likely grow back as a dense balsam fir thicket and present a difficult management challenge going forward. At a neighboring site in the same unit, a closed out harvest site had water bars installed backwards, with the trench portion down grade of the hump, so that water would not reach the trench. The structure would still function to remove some water from the road, but was not installed as intended to maximize its function.	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Non-Conformity Corrective Action Request <input type="checkbox"/> Observation; no Corrective Action is required All forest workers need to be provided with sufficient guidance and supervision to adequately implement their respective components of the plan.	
FME response (including any evidence submitted)	The minor NC was the result of a single forester that did not achieve adequate results in the supervision of a contractor at a single management unit. The forester had an appropriate plan, but implementation fell short. Evidence through the audit process suggests that this is not a systemic issue across the Bureau’s 20+ foresters and dozens of contractors. The Bureau also finds that significant contractual safeguards are in place with regards to contractor performance, road and harvest planning processes with peer review, forester and contractor training, and regular harvest inspection reports. In the specific case, the Bureau found that the inspection reports had failed to adequately document and detect the identified issues. Not all inspection reports have been reviewed by Regional Managers with an assumption in some cases that problems will be flagged for attention by foresters. Action Plan: The Bureau will take several steps to address the issue of contractor performance and results: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Regional Managers will review each inspection report in a timely manner. An automated system will be developed to facilitate and confirm timely submission of reports to Regional Managers. 2. Each harvest job will receive a peer review site visit by the regional Manager and/or one or more foresters on the BPL team. Peer review is

	<p>an integral part of the BPL planning process and this will be elevated to include site visits during the harvest. The goal is to conduct this site visit early in the harvest operation start-up period so that adjustments can be made when needed.</p> <p>3. In the specific case identified by the auditor, the Chief of Silviculture has begun a field based mentoring program with the forester. This program is ongoing.</p>
SCS review	The above corrective actions have been fully implemented as verified by review of changes to procedures and interviews with forestry staff. Site exams during the 2022 audit confirmed full compliance with BMP requirements and standards. This CAR is closed.
Status of CAR:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Closed <input type="checkbox"/> Upgraded to Major <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Other decision (refer to description above)</i>

Finding Number: 2021.8	
Finding and Deadline	
<input type="checkbox"/> Major CAR: Pre-condition to certification/recertification <input type="checkbox"/> Major CAR: 3 months from Issuance of Final Report <input type="checkbox"/> Minor CAR: 12 months or next regularly scheduled audit, whichever comes first (<i>surveillance or re-evaluation</i>) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Observation – response is optional <input type="checkbox"/> Other and deadline (specify):	
FMU CAR/OBS issued to (when more than one FMU):	
Standard and Indicator	FSC-US Forest Management Standard v 1-0, 8.2.d.2
<input type="checkbox"/> Non-Conformity Corrective Action Request <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Observation; no Corrective Action is required BPL currently does not have a system in place for monitoring elements of the road network that have been closed out. In particular, the audit team visited a site where the fill over a cross drain culvert had failed and the road surface was beginning to erode. The impact of this particular crossing was limited since it did not drain to a watercourse. However, the road was intended to be closed out by removing a bridge until the next entry (10-15 years in the future) in order avoid ATV damage on the side. This was a safe long term strategy to minimize use of the road, but it was unclear how such a crossing failure would have been detected had the road been closed.	
<input type="checkbox"/> Non-Conformity Corrective Action Request <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Observation; no Corrective Action is required The FME could improve its road monitoring system to consider erosion risks in portions of the road network that have been temporarily closed out.	
FME response (including any evidence submitted)	BPL will incorporate road monitoring standard operating procedures in Chapter E section 10 Monitoring and Control of the Integrated Resource Policy update.
SCS review	The road monitoring SOP discussed with forestry staff could potentially be basis for closure of this Observation, however draft documents are not acceptable as evidence. The Observation will remain open until updates are completed and finalized, controlled, or published and new SOPs are fully implemented which

	may include trainings.
Status of CAR:	<input type="checkbox"/> Closed <input type="checkbox"/> Upgraded to Major <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <i>Other decision (refer to description above): Remains open, see OBS 2022.2</i>

Finding Number: 2021.9	
Finding and Deadline	
<input type="checkbox"/> Major CAR: Pre-condition to certification/recertification <input type="checkbox"/> Major CAR: 3 months from Issuance of Final Report <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Minor CAR: 12 months or next regularly scheduled audit, whichever comes first (<i>surveillance or re-evaluation</i>) <input type="checkbox"/> Observation – response is optional <input type="checkbox"/> Other and deadline (specify):	
FMU CAR/OBS issued to (when more than one FMU):	
Standard and Indicator	FSC-US Forest Management Standard v 1-0, 9.1.a
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Non-Conformity Evidence <input type="checkbox"/> Observation Justification and/or Explanation Maine BPL’s HCVF designations do not include any HCV 5 (Forest areas fundamental to meeting basic needs of local communities). However, the management unit does include domestic water sources, which have been classified as HCVF in the United States in some cases. BPL needs to evaluate whether this use meets the definition of HCV 5 and should be classified as HCVF.	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Non-Conformity Corrective Action Request <input type="checkbox"/> Observation; no Corrective Action is required The forest manager must identify and map the presence of High Conservation Value Forests (HCVF) within the FMU.	
FME response (including any evidence submitted)	<p>BPL assessed whether certain areas, including those in and around public drinking water sources, would qualify for designation as HCV4 or HCV5. In several instances it was determined that a well and the respective water-source/watershed is the sole and fundamental source of public drinking water (HCV5: Little Moose Unit Wiggins Bog and Bigelow Unit on the south slope of Cranberry Peak) or potentially effected by vulnerable soils and slopes pose a critical situation (HCV4: Bigelow Unit on the south slope of Cranberry Peak). It was determined that the existing levels of protection within BPL’s management system (including State and internal policy) are sufficient at mitigating risk to public water sources. Additionally, BPL does not oversee or implement the direct provision of drinking water to the public. It was also determined that the fundamental needs of the people of the State of Maine are protected and provided for via the existing policies and practices in place at BPL.</p> <p>Example: The well station and its DWP-designated buffer is located completely in the Little Moose Unit. This is the sole facility that provides public drinking water to the Town of Greenville. BPL performed consultation with experts from Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention, Drinking Water Program and the manager who oversees the day-to-day operations of the well (Zach Hansen, Maine Water Co.) BPL determined that its current management practices (special protection and wildlife allocations around catchment wetlands (Wiggins</p>

	<p>Bog), Best Management Practices (required by BPL policy) and third party (Katahdin Labs) monthly testing of the water provide adequate protection from catastrophic threat to the drinking water. Since this well is the only one serving the town and that major damage to this critical ecosystem service would cause serious prejudice or suffering, this catchment wetland meets the criteria of both HCV 4 and 5.</p> <p>Additionally, BPL is in the process of re-analyzing current HCVF designations and will have an updated version for the 2023 audit.</p> <p>See: “Public Drinking Water Wells BPL.xlsx” for analysis of designation and “HCVF descriptions 2016 and 2022 updates.docx” for further descriptions and designation rationale.</p>
SCS review	<p>Contents of the above spreadsheet and HCV descriptions confirm the assessments described. Additional evidence requested and received during the audit include email evidence of consultation with external and internal experts (See Evidence File). Further updates were made following the audits that clarify watershed identifications, and protection measures including methods, responsible parties, and identification of critical features for HCVs.</p>
Status of CAR:	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Closed</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Upgraded to Major</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Other decision (refer to description above)</p>

Finding Number: 2021.10	
Finding and Deadline	
<p><input type="checkbox"/> Major CAR: Pre-condition to certification/recertification</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Major CAR: 3 months from Issuance of Final Report</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Minor CAR: 12 months or next regularly scheduled audit, whichever comes first (<i>surveillance or re-evaluation</i>)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Observation – response is optional</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Other and deadline (specify):</p>	
FMU CAR/OBS issued to (when more than one FMU):	
Standard and Indicator	FSC-US Forest Management Standard v 1-0, 9.1.c
<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Non-Conformity Evidence <input type="checkbox"/> Observation Justification and/or Explanation</p> <p>The standard calls for a summary of HCVF assessment results and management strategies be included in the publicly available management plan summary. It was not clear how BPL’s HCVF identifications themselves are made public. Some management strategies are readily publicly available on the BPL website if they are included in other planning documents, but in most cases these are not tied to the HCVF. The most comprehensive treatment of the BPLs HCVF documents remain primarily internal working documents.</p>	
<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Non-Conformity Corrective Action Request <input type="checkbox"/> Observation; no Corrective Action is required</p> <p>BPL’s publicly available HCVF summary, assessment results, and management strategies could be improved.</p>	
FME response (including any evidence)	<p>BPL’s forest management website now hosts this information. BPL updated high conservation value forests document and will further update (e.g. old growth definitions and management protocols) as part of the IRP update.</p>

<i>submitted)</i>	
SCS review	Audit team verified website modification, https://www.maine.gov/dacf/parks/about/formgmt.shtml (last accessed 9/22/22). The summary document is located here, BPL’s assessment and description of its HCVs . This CAR is closed.
Status of CAR:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Closed <input type="checkbox"/> Upgraded to Major <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Other decision (refer to description above)</i>

Finding Number: 2021.11	
Finding and Deadline	
<input type="checkbox"/> Major CAR: Pre-condition to certification/recertification <input type="checkbox"/> Major CAR: 3 months from Issuance of Final Report <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Minor CAR: 12 months or next regularly scheduled audit, whichever comes first (<i>surveillance or re-evaluation</i>) <input type="checkbox"/> Observation – response is optional <input type="checkbox"/> Other and deadline (specify):	
FMU CAR/OBS issued to (when more than one FMU):	
Standard and Indicator	SCS FSC Chain of Custody Indicators for Forest Management Enterprises, V8-0, 2.3
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Non-Conformity Evidence <input type="checkbox"/> Observation Justification and/or Explanation Sales documents issued for outputs sold with FSC claims have not been updated to include the new FSC FM Code issued by SCS, and still contain the code of BPL’s previous CB. Additionally, sales documents issued for outputs sold with FSC claims and information about all products sold in the scope of the certification do not include the scientific species name.	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Non-Conformity Corrective Action Request <input type="checkbox"/> Observation; no Corrective Action is required BPL shall ensure that all sales documents issued for outputs sold with FSC claims include required information.	
FME response (including any evidence submitted)	BPL has updated sales documents to include a website-URL which hosts the certificates themselves along with the FSC and SFI FM Codes issued by SCS along with products sold in the scope of certificate (which include scientific species names). Trip tickets were formatted, approved by SCS personnel, and ordered. Due to supply chain issues, tickets will not arrive for 12-14 weeks since time of order. They will be distributed and put into use until December 2022. See “ <i>BPL Trip Ticket Final.pdf</i> ”, “ <i>MEMO - Approval - Trip tickets and certification information.pdf</i> ”, and Timber Harvests: About Us: Bureau of Parks and Lands: Maine DACF
SCS review	Trip ticket and approval were confirmed, “BPL Trip ticketFinal.PDF” and “MEMO - Approval - Trip tickets and certification information”. This CAR is closed.
Status of CAR:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Closed <input type="checkbox"/> Upgraded to Major <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Other decision (refer to description above)</i>

4.4 New Corrective Action Requests and Observations

Finding Number: 2022.1	
Finding and Deadline	
<input type="checkbox"/> Major CAR: Pre-condition to certification/recertification <input type="checkbox"/> Major CAR: 3 months from Issuance of Final Report <input type="checkbox"/> Minor CAR: 12 months or next regularly scheduled audit, whichever comes first (<i>surveillance or re-evaluation</i>) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Observation – response is optional <input type="checkbox"/> Other and deadline (specify):	
FMU CAR/OBS issued to (when more than one FMU):	
Standard and Indicator	FSC-US Forest Management Standard v 1-0, 7.2.a
<input type="checkbox"/> Non-Conformity Evidence <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Observation Justification and/or Explanation Many BPL written policies exist as separate unrelated documents of different origin. For example, the HCVF planning documents are set up as an excel sheet listing identified HCV areas, an HCV Essay from 2012, and an HCVF Descriptions document from 2016. Similarly the Forester’s Manual exists as a collection of individual policies and guides. Policies and procedures like these could be improved by harmonizing and updating them. This is especially true given the recent retirement of the longtime certification manager for the BPL, and the transition of this role to others within the Bureau. This is a continuance from OBS 2021.6.	
<input type="checkbox"/> Non-Conformity Corrective Action Request <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Observation; no Corrective Action is required Management planning policies and procedures for the FME could be better harmonized and updated.	
FME response (including any evidence submitted)	BPL currently is in the process of updating its integrated Resource Policy with completion expected in early 2023. This update includes policies directly related to forest management and FSC standards. BPL’s new Chief of Silviculture is playing a central role in this process working with a silviculture committee formed of staff from all three regions and the central office in Augusta. See “ <i>Integrated Resource Policy - Timber Mgmt Section.xlsx</i> ” for an outline of the sections to be updated.
SCS review	The BPL program has outlined a clear plan and is implementing the plan methodically. Once the Policy update is finalized and published, this Observation will be reassessed for closure.
Status of CAR:	<input type="checkbox"/> Closed <input type="checkbox"/> Upgraded to Major <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Other decision (refer to description above):</i>

Finding Number: 2022.2	
Finding and Deadline	
<input type="checkbox"/> Major CAR: Pre-condition to certification/recertification <input type="checkbox"/> Major CAR: 3 months from Issuance of Final Report <input type="checkbox"/> Minor CAR: 12 months or next regularly scheduled audit, whichever comes first (<i>surveillance or re-evaluation</i>) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Observation – response is optional <input type="checkbox"/> Other and deadline (specify):	

FMU CAR/OBS issued to (when more than one FMU):	
Standard and Indicator	FSC-US Forest Management Standard v 1-0, 8.2.d.2
<input type="checkbox"/> Non-Conformity Corrective Action Request <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Observation; no Corrective Action is required BPL currently does not have a system in place for monitoring elements of the road network that have been closed out. In particular, the audit team visited a site where the fill over a cross drain culvert had failed and the road surface was beginning to erode. The impact of this particular crossing was limited since it did not drain to a watercourse. However, the road was intended to be closed out by removing a bridge until the next entry (10-15 years in the future) in order avoid ATV damage on the side. This was a safe long term strategy to minimize use of the road, but it was unclear how such a crossing failure would have been detected had the road been closed. This is a continuation of Observation 2021.8.	
<input type="checkbox"/> Non-Conformity Corrective Action Request <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Observation; no Corrective Action is required The FME could improve its road monitoring system to consider erosion risks in portions of the road network that have been temporarily closed out.	
FME response <i>(including any evidence submitted)</i>	BPL will incorporate road monitoring standard operating procedures in Chapter E section 10 Monitoring and Control of the Integrated Resource Policy update.
SCS review	The road monitoring SOP discussed with forestry staff could potentially be basis for closure of this Observation, however draft documents are not acceptable as evidence. The Observation will remain open until updates are completed and finalized, controlled, or published and full implementation is demonstrated.
Status of CAR:	<input type="checkbox"/> Closed <input type="checkbox"/> Upgraded to Major <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Other decision (refer to description above):</i>

5. Stakeholder Comments

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

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

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

5.1 Stakeholder Groups Consulted

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

5.2 Summary of Stakeholder Comments and Evaluation Team Responses

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

<input type="checkbox"/> <i>FME has not received any stakeholder comments from interested parties (who are not members of the enterprise under evaluation) as a result of stakeholder outreach activities during this annual evaluation.</i>	
Summary of Outreach Activities Conducted (Check all that apply): <input type="checkbox"/> Face to face meetings <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Phone calls <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Email, or letter <input type="checkbox"/> Notice published in the national and/or local press <input type="checkbox"/> Notice published on relevant websites <input type="checkbox"/> Local radio announcements <input type="checkbox"/> Local customary notice boards <input type="checkbox"/> Social media broadcast	
Stakeholder Comment (Negative, positive, and neutral)	SCS Response
<p>A stakeholder was consulted regarding the Hamlin Deer Yarding issue with a directly impacted stakeholder. Comments included general dissatisfaction with BPL management of deer yard development issues, in general, and dissatisfaction with field outcome of the Hamlin Deer Yard specifically.</p>	<p>The stakeholder verified timing, events, and actions as described by BPL program staff in the field. Indicators related to dispute mechanisms for timber harvests and planning were determined to be in conformance by the audit team. Indicators examined included those for stakeholder consultation and engagement, as well as environmental review and management processes. However, there are higher level concerns by interested stakeholders regarding deer yard development and management across the state according to this stakeholder who represents a local conservation organization. The stakeholder indicated being unaware of higher level mechanisms for providing input and disputes in BPL’s long-term strategic and statewide planning</p>

	although he acknowledged knowing local staff and personnel to contact in the event of further issues. Although determined to be in conformance the audit team concluded that further examination of the state-level stakeholder input process merits further review at the next annual audit. Appendix 4 in the confidential section of this report notes this issue for review during the next annual audit. SCS will follow up with this stakeholder in 2023.

6. Certification Decision

The certificate holder has demonstrated continued overall conformance to the applicable Forest Stewardship Council standards. The SCS annual evaluation team recommends that the certificate be sustained, subject to subsequent annual evaluations and the FME’s response to any open CARs.	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
Comments: None	

7. Annual Data Update

<input type="checkbox"/> No changes since previous evaluation.	
<input type="checkbox"/> Information in the following sections has changed since previous evaluation.	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Name and Contact Information <input type="checkbox"/> FSC Sales Information <input type="checkbox"/> Scope of Certificate <input type="checkbox"/> Non-SLIMF FMUs <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Social Information	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pesticide and Other Chemical Use <input type="checkbox"/> Production Forests <input type="checkbox"/> FSC Product Classification <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation & High Conservation Value Areas <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Areas Outside of the Scope of Certification

Name and Contact Information

Organization name	Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry - Bureau of Parks and Lands – Maine (Maine BPL)		
Contact person	Michael Pouch, Chief of Silviculture		
Address	106 Hogan Road, Suite 5 Bangor, Maine 04401	Telephone	207-215-7824
		Fax	
		e-mail	Michael.A.Pouch@maine.gov
		Website	https://www.maine.gov/dacf/parks/

FSC Sales Information

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FSC Sales contact information same as above.			
FSC salesperson			
Address		Telephone	
		Fax	
		e-mail	
		Website	

Scope of Certificate

Certificate Type	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Single FMU		<input type="checkbox"/> Multiple FMU	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Group			
SLIMF (if applicable)	<input type="checkbox"/> Small SLIMF certificate		<input type="checkbox"/> Low intensity SLIMF certificate	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Group SLIMF certificate			
# Group Members (if applicable)	N/A			
Number of FMUs in scope of certificate	1			
Geographic location of non-SLIMF FMU(s)	<i>Latitude & Longitude: 45° 15.2' N & 69° 14.0' W</i>			
Forest zone	<input type="checkbox"/> Boreal		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Temperate	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Subtropical		<input type="checkbox"/> Tropical	
Area in scope of certificate which is: Units: <input type="checkbox"/> ha or <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ac				
privately managed	-			
state managed	634,831			
community managed	-			
Total forest area in scope of certificate <i>(Is also equal to [productive area] + [conservation area])</i>	634,831			
Prior year total forest area in scope of certificate <i>(from prior year report)</i>	635,530			
Has Total forest area changed from prior year?	<input type="checkbox"/> No Change from prior year <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes, there was a change from prior year. Explain change: <i>Explain any change. Example: GIS recalculations, land acquisition/divestiture</i>			
Number of FMUs in scope that are:				
less than 100 ha in area	-	100 - 1000 ha in area	-	
1000 - 10 000 ha in area	-	more than 10 000 ha in area	1	
Total forest area in scope of certificate which is included in FMUs that: Units: <input type="checkbox"/> ha or <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ac				
are less than 100 ha in area	-			
are between 100 ha and 1000 ha in area	-			
meet the eligibility criteria as <i>low intensity</i> SLIMF FMUs	-			
Division of FMUs into manageable units:				
<p>Maine BPL's ownership is comprised of properties that range in contiguous size of 40,000 acres down to 100-200 acre parcels. The state is administratively organized in 3 Regions: Eastern, Western, and Northern zones. Regions are further organized into Sustainable Harvest Units (SHL) which serve as the basis for the organization of operations and long term planning. Each SHU has its own Sustainable Harvest Limit (aka Annual Allowable Cut; AAC), the sum of which constitutes Maine BPL's total annual harvest goals/limits. SHUs are generally organized by areas with similar ecosystems, distance to markets and logistical details. Parallel to this organizational arrangement, management plans are</p>				

developed in a similar fashion but do not necessarily correspond spatially to SHU and often contain portions of multiple SHUs. All units are broken down further into 100-1,000 acre Compartments, which serve as the basis for prescription development and harvest implementation. At the smallest scale, the entire ownership has stand typing spatial data estimated through aerial photography and remote sensing which are housed in GIS databases.

Non-SLIMF FMUs (Group or Multiple FMU Certificates)

Name	Contact information	Latitude/ longitude of Non-SLIMF FMUs	
N/A			

Social Information

Number of forest workers (including contractors) working in forest within scope of certificate (differentiated by gender):		
male workers: # 24	female workers: # 5	
Number of accidents in forest work since previous evaluation:	Serious: # 0	Fatal: # 0

Pesticide and Other Chemical Use

<input type="checkbox"/> FME does not use pesticides.				
Commercial name of pesticide / herbicide	Active ingredient	Quantity applied since previous evaluation (kg or lbs.)	Total area treated since previous evaluation (ha or ac)	Reason for use
Garlon 4	Triclopyr	1	5	Selective control of Rosa Multiflora and Celastrus orbiculatus
Garlon 3A	Triclopyr	2	5	Selective control of Rosa Multiflora and Celastrus orbiculatus
Garlon 4	Triclopyr	0.25 (higher concentration of active ingredient)	12.4	Control of Frangula alnus
Garlon 4 ultra	Triclopyr	40	60ac	Invasive plant control of Lathyrus latifolius and roadside brush control

Production Forests

Timber Forest Products	Units: <input type="checkbox"/> ha or <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ac
Total area of production forest (i.e. forest from which timber may be harvested)	422,310 acres

<p>BPL Note1: Based on “Regulated” acres GIS layer. Regulated is defined as accessible (operable) forestland where timber harvesting excluded by deed or BPL policy (Allocated as Eco-reserves, special protection, etc). Conversely, unregulated acres are the inverse. Regulated acres were determined spatially utilizing allocation layers and forester experience in GIS.</p> <p>BPL Note2: Does not include the newest acquisitions as they have not been allocated to a specific resource as of 08/2022</p>	
Area of production forest classified as 'plantation'	Negligible; less than 1500acres of inherited red pine plantations, mostly Downeast. These are treated with thinnings of moderate reductions and are intended to be regenerated naturally, unless in extenuating circumstances such as pest or disease risk.
Area of production forest regenerated primarily by replanting or by a combination of replanting and coppicing of the planted stems	0; BPL has relied and plans on continuing to rely completely on natural regeneration
Area of production forest regenerated primarily by natural regeneration, or by a combination of natural regeneration and coppicing of the naturally regenerated stems	422,310 acres
Silvicultural system(s)	Area under type of management
Even-aged management	85,500 BPL Note: Estimated as 20% of all production forest
Clearcut (clearcut size range)	Negligible; Clearcuts occur sporadically generally a total of 40 acres every 1-5 years Bureau-wide
Shelterwood	81,280
Other:	4,220 in 1-5 acre patch cuts BPL Note: Estimated as 1% of single-aged management.
Uneven-aged management	336,810
Individual tree selection	67,360 BPL Note: 1/5 th of multi-aged acreage

Group selection	269,450 BPL Note: 4/5 th of multi-aged acreage
Other:	
<input type="checkbox"/> Other (e.g. nursery, recreation area, windbreak, bamboo, silvo-pastoral system, agro-forestry system, etc.)	
Non-timber Forest Products (NTFPs)	
Area of forest protected from commercial harvesting of timber and managed primarily for the production of NTFPs or services	Donnell Pond (blueberry): 27.3 acres Cultler Coast (blueberry): 41 acres
Other areas managed for NTFPs or services	Bald Mtn (sugarbush): 40 acres Sandy Bay (sugarbush): 400 acres
Approximate annual commercial production of non-timber forest products included in the scope of the certificate, by product type	0 BPL Note: The sale of NTFPs are not included within the scope of FSC or SFI certification. Production occurs as agricultural leases.
Species in scope of joint FM/COC certificate: <i>Scientific/ Latin Name (Common/ Trade Name)</i>	
Red spruce (<i>Picea rubens</i>), Black Spruce (<i>Picea mariana</i>), White Spruce (<i>Picea glauca</i>), Balsam Fir (<i>Abies balsamea</i>), Eastern Hemlock (<i>Tsuga canadensis</i>), Northern White Cedar (<i>Thuja occidentalis</i>), White Pine (<i>Pinus strobus</i>), Red Pine (<i>Pinus resinosa</i>), White Ash (<i>Fraxinus americana</i>), American Beech (<i>Fagus grandifolia</i>), White Birch (<i>Betula papyrifera</i>), Yellow Birch (<i>Betula alleghaniensis</i>), Red Maple (<i>Acer rubrum</i>), Sugar Maple (<i>Acer saccharum</i>), Northern Red Oak (<i>Quercus rubra</i>), Trembling Aspen (<i>Populus tremuloides</i>), Largetooth Aspen (<i>Populus grandidentata</i>), Balsam Poplar (<i>Populus balsamifera</i>)	

FSC Product Classification*

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

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

Conservation and High Conservation Value Areas

Conservation Area	Units: <input type="checkbox"/> ha or <input type="checkbox"/> ac
Total amount of land in certified area protected from commercial harvesting of timber and managed primarily for conservation objectives (includes both forested and non-forested lands).*	107,787 BPL Note: Calculated as 96,400 ecoreserves + approx. of no-harvest 11,387 non-ecoreserve HCVF

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

High Conservation Value Forest / Areas			Units: <input type="checkbox"/> ha or <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ac
Code	HCV Type	Description & Location	Area
HCV1	Forests or areas containing globally, regionally or nationally significant concentrations of biodiversity values (e.g. endemism, endangered species, refugia).	Ecoreserve areas, scattered throughout the state.	99,435
HCV2	Forests or areas containing globally, regionally or nationally significant large landscape level forests, contained within, or containing the management unit, where viable populations of most if not all naturally occurring species exist in natural patterns of distribution and abundance.	BPL’s holdings are not significantly larger relative to other ownership entities in the State, some of which surpass the widely used 120,000 acre (50,000 ha) threshold. Therefore, no BPL parcels meet the criteria of this designation.	0
HCV3	Forests or areas that are in or contain rare, threatened or endangered ecosystems.	Ecoreserve areas, scattered throughout the state.	73,826
HCV4	Forests or areas that provide basic services of nature in critical situations (e.g. watershed protection, erosion control).	Little Moose Unit (catchment wetland) and Bigelow Preserve (vulnerable soils in extremely steep portions of the drainage basin): both areas may have a critical effect on the sources of sole municipal drinking water facilities	940
HCV5	Forests or areas fundamental to meeting basic needs of local communities (e.g. subsistence, health).	Little Moose Unit (catchment wetland) and Bigelow Preserve (vulnerable soils in	940

		extremely steep portions of the drainage basin): both public drinking water sources are the sole public source of water to the respective communities	
HCV6	Forests or areas critical to local communities' traditional cultural identity (areas of cultural, ecological, economic or religious significance identified in cooperation with such local communities).	Sites with confirmed evidence/artifacts of indigenous use.	Identified but not significant acreage
Total area of forest classified as 'High Conservation Value Forest / Area'			175,141 acres (note that several areas meet the criteria of multiple HCV; this is the sum of all HCV classified acres)

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

<input type="checkbox"/> <i>N/A – All forestland owned or managed by the certificate holder is included in the scope.</i>		
<input type="checkbox"/> <i>Certificate holder owns and/or manages other FMUs not under evaluation.</i>		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <i>Certificate holder wishes to excise portions of the FMU(s) under evaluation from the scope of certification.</i>		
Note: <i>Excision cannot be applied to CW/FM certificates.</i>		
Explanation for exclusion of FMUs and/or excision:	The Bureau of Parks and Lands also owns and manages State Parks. In the case of State Parks, timber is not harvested except for a few demonstration projects prior to 2008. Several land-use easements (e.g. right of ways for powerlines) and agricultural leases occur on land owned by the Bureau. These have been excised from the scope of the certificate.	
Control measures to prevent mixing of certified and non-certified product (C8.3):	Timber is not sold from area outside of scope of certificate. If a demonstration project occurs on State Parks land, the wood will not be sold under this certificate.	
Description of FMUs excluded from, or forested area excised from, the scope of certification:		
Name of FMU or Stand	Location (city, state, country)	Size (<input type="checkbox"/> ha or <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ac)
State Parks and ROWs are maintained in GIS	There are a large number of small acreages maintained in GIS	699 in total were removed from total acres in Scope.

SECTION B – APPENDICES (CONFIDENTIAL)

Appendix 1 – List of FMUs Selected for Evaluation

- FME consists of a single FMU
- FME consists of multiple FMUs or is a Group

Appendix 2 – Staff and Stakeholders Consulted

List of FME Staff Consulted

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

Opening Meeting – 20 September 2022

- Beth Jacqmain, FSC Lead auditor
- Gordon Moore, Technical expert
- Mike Pouch, BPL FSC Contact
- North Regional Manager, BPL
- Forester 1, BPL
- Deputy Director, BPL

Closing Meeting – 22 September 2022

In person:

- Beth Jacqmain, FSC Lead auditor
- Gordon Moore, Technical expert
- North Regional Manager, BPL
- Mike Pouch, BPL FSC Contact
- Deputy Director, BPL

Remote

- Eastern Regional Manager, BPL
- MNAP Forest Ecologist, BPL
- Forest Engineer, BPL

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)
See auditor records	County Conservation Association		Email, phone	N

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

Appendix 3 – Additional Evaluation Techniques Employed

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

Appendix 4 – Required Tracking

Pesticide Derogations

- There are no active pesticide derogations for this FME.

Progressive HCVF Assessments

- FME does not use partial or progressive HCVF assessments.*

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

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 type="checkbox"/>	Audit sampling:
<input type="checkbox"/>	Audit time:
<input type="checkbox"/>	Audit season:
<input type="checkbox"/>	Travel time between sites or FMUs:
<input type="checkbox"/>	Audit frequency:
<input type="checkbox"/>	Suggested audit team competency for next audit:
<input type="checkbox"/>	Suggested requirements to include during the next audit:
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Suggested issues investigate during the next audit: Review strategic plan consultation process and mechanisms for dispute regarding deer yard management practices. SHs interested in development of new deer yards and participating in consultation mechanisms. Contact SH from 2022 in June to check on any progress with BPL on deer yard development issues.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Suggested sites for inspection:
<input type="checkbox"/>	Stakeholders to be consulted:
<input type="checkbox"/>	Other(s) – please describe:

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

Appendix 5 – Forest Management Standard Conformance Table

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

Requirements Reviewed in Annual Evaluation

Evaluation Year	Requirements Reviewed (FSC P&C Reviewed, FM/COC Indicators, Trademark Indicators, Group Standard Indicators, etc.)
2021	All – (Re)certification Evaluation
2022	P1, P6 and mandatory criteria above
2023	
2024	
2025	

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.	C	
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	C	Maine BPL’s forestry practices are regulated by the Maine Forest Service, who oversee forest management in the state. There have been no recent violations.

<p>are provided to the Certifying Body (CB) during the annual audit.</p>		<p>The last significant BMP violation was in 2018, issued over several unrelated infractions, BPL went through settlement process with Maine FS. BPL went through a settlement process including paying a fine, and developing and upgraded monitoring & planning system.</p> <p>Maine BPL is participant in Outcome Based Forestry (OBF), joined in part to demonstrate support for the program. OBF does monthly field inspection with Maine FS. It has been at least three years since they have needed to use any exceptions under the OBF.</p>
<p>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.</p>	C	<p>BPL staff were generally aware of legal requirements related to forestry. Staff carried copies of forestry rules of Maine handbook.</p>
<p>1.2. All applicable and legally prescribed fees, royalties, taxes and other charges shall be paid.</p>	C	
<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>	C	<p>BPL does not pay any taxes directly as a state agency. However, BPL shares payments in lieu of taxes to local governments, Revenue shared in plantations (a form of local government), 75% of lease income & 25% of timber revenue goes to plantation.</p> <p>BPL has a large number of revenue generating leases, usually that came in place when they acquired the land.</p> <p>BPL doesn't receive any funds from state general fund, all revenue comes from timber sales and leases.</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>	C	
<p>1.3.a. Forest management plans and operations comply with relevant provisions of all applicable binding international agreements.</p>	C	<p>Requirements of International agreements are embedded in U.S. legal requirements.</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</p>		

basis, by the certifiers and the involved or affected parties.		
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.	C	No such conflicts have arisen.
1.5. Forest management areas should be protected from illegal harvesting, settlement and other unauthorized activities.		
1.5.a. The forest owner or manager supports or implements measures intended to prevent illegal and unauthorized activities on the Forest Management Unit (FMU) .	C	Forest managers are frequently on the FMU, any unauthorized activities are reported to Maine Forest Service rangers or IFW game wardens.
1.5.b. If illegal or unauthorized activities occur, the forest owner or manager implements actions designed to curtail such activities and correct the situation to the extent possible for meeting all land management objectives with consideration of available resources.	C	2022: East: Illegal cutting of trees on the Great Heath Ecoreserve by a public individual setting up a tree stand. Violator was taken to court and required to pay for trees cut illegally. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • West: None • North: none • Augusta: None
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.	C	Maine BPL’s publicly available statement of commitment to manage the FMU in conformance with FSC standards and policies is out of date. This commitment was contained in the BPL’s Annual Report to the legislature in previous years, but the language was not included in the most recent report from 2020. This is graded as an observation since previous versions of the annual report are still readily publicly available, but there is a concern that the commitment could be lost going forward. See closure of OBS 2021.1 for additional detail.
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	C	All BPL lands are included in the certificate scope.

activities planned for the holdings being excluded from certification.		
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.	C	No such changes have occurred.
Principle #2: Long-term tenure and use rights to the land and forest resources shall be clearly defined, documented and legally established.		
2.3. Appropriate mechanisms shall be employed to resolve disputes over tenure claims and use rights. The circumstances and status of any outstanding disputes will be explicitly considered in the certification evaluation. Disputes of substantial magnitude involving a significant number of interests will normally disqualify an operation from being certified.	C	
2.3.a If <i>disputes</i> arise regarding tenure claims or use rights then the forest owner or manager initially attempts to resolve them through open communication, negotiation, and/or mediation. If these good-faith efforts fail, then federal, state, and/or local laws are employed to resolve such disputes.	C	<p>A summary of disputes was provided to the CB. All are in the process of being resolved, either through direct mediation or the court system.</p> <p>2022:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • East: None • West: Nothing new • North: Allagash, abutter questioning line location. Line surveyed with pins. does not agree with survey. • Augusta: Ongoing dispute over a small island in Damariscotta Lake. An individual holds title with a faulty source deed so land belongs to State of Maine by default.
2.3.b The forest owner or manager documents any significant disputes over tenure and use rights.	C	<p>A summary of disputes was provided to the CB. All are in the process of being resolved, either through direct mediation or the court system.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • East: N/A • West: No progress on Attean Landing. Roxy Rand Road landowner has died and heirs have removed barricades on a road giving public access to public lands where the state claims access rights. Not a permanent solution but progress. • North: Surveyor under contract in Chesuncook/ Field work expected to be completed fall of 22. Moro MFS/BPL resolved internally

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Augusta: Meeting with holder of faulty deed at Damariscotta Lake and site visit by staff. Disagreement remains.
<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>3.2. 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>In 2021: An annual outreach letter sent to 4 active tribes in 2021. BPL had a zoom call with Houlton Maliseets, which led to staff person attending a career day table.</p> <p>BPL staff person attended “First light learning journey” – foundation sponsored meetings to build relationships with the tribes. The program consists of a series of agendas, speakers, and meetings.</p> <p>Tribes have expressed interest in working on land transactions and wanting to know when BPL acquires new lands. BPL has a checklist of steps they go through when acquiring property, tribes may be consulted in cases where there may be overlapping interest.</p> <p>BPL has tried to allow Ash harvesting for basket making by tribes, but hasn’t worked out logistically. This was done on harvest by harvest basis, and there is a desire for a more direct relationship.</p> <p>6 or so units that have documented points of interest (burial area, historic artifacts etc.). Documented in HCVF. State historic preservation office also has site information. See also Northern Aroostook Region Management Plan.</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>Any historic sites are buffered out, with consultation with state office of historic preservation.</p>
<p>Principle #4: Forest management operations shall maintain or enhance the long-term social and economic well-being of forest workers and local communities.</p>		

<p>4.2. Forest management should meet or exceed all applicable laws and/or regulations covering health and safety of employees and their families.</p>	<p>C</p>	
<p>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).</p>	<p>C</p>	<p>Field and forestry observations demonstrated safe working conditions.</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>Contracts contain safety requirements. However, several logging contractors visited during the audit did not have a first aid kit on site, or readily available at a nearby location. 2022 reports no new serious injuries or fatalities for BPL staff or logging contractors. Interviews with logging contractors confirm. See closure of CAR 2021.2 for additional detail.</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 to come from a pre-qualified list, and be certified under the Certified Logging Professional (CLP) program.</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>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>2022:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Management plan updates occur on a rotating schedule and include public stakeholder committee and public comment processes. • Public meeting held at the Town of Allagash in May regarding upcoming harvests. • First Light Learning Journey – BPL Interpretive Specialist participated in ongoing statewide process to foster understanding and communication between conservation groups and Maine Tribes. • Forestry and Logging Education Grants: BPL conducted a second round of grants were opened to public vocational High Schools for Logging education program intended to promote careers in logging among High School students. • Online public meetings for the Orient and West Branch Pleasant River Mgmt Plans.
<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 will be related to forestry issues, and some recreation issues.</p> <p>2022:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public comments are a part of the Management Planning process. • North: Hamlin prescription/harvest was questioned as to how wildlife, mainly deer, played a part in the management goal. Multiple meetings and field visits held to help educate and address concerns of the citizens. Related legislative resolve passed directing BPL and sister Agency Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife to study the matter. BPL initiated policy to better communicated with Stakeholder groups.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public meetings held in Allagash for the Allagash harvest (no harvest has occurred yet). Pre-harvest meeting was held to present prescription and harvest plans to the town. • Black v Cutko update: Awaiting judge’s ruling related to public referendum.
<p>4.4.d For <i>public forests</i>, consultation shall include the following components:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Clearly defined and accessible methods for public participation are provided in both long and short-term planning processes, including harvest plans and operational plans; 2. Public notification is sufficient to allow interested stakeholders the chance to learn of upcoming opportunities for public review and/or comment on the proposed management; 3. An accessible and affordable appeals process to planning decisions is available. 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>There is a BPL webpage showing which management plan updates are ongoing with available documentation.</p> <p>Public scoping meeting is done as part of mgt planning process. Updates to plans are posted on the Bureau’s website and via email to a standing advisory committee which is consulted for potential stakeholder additions each cycle. Final opportunity for comment.</p> <p>Individual foresters reach out to neighbors on case by case basis. For example, the Dodge Point Unit is in a residential setting, forester works with local land trust, inviting to open house.</p> <p>IF&W/BPL staff initiated training and information workshop on northern unit (Scagglely Pond Unit, T7 R8 WELS) where deer yard mgt. has been ongoing so that stakeholders would better understand decision process. See closure of CAR 2021.2 for additional detail.</p>
<p>Principle #5: Forest management operations shall encourage the efficient use of the forest’s multiple products and services to ensure economic viability and a wide range of environmental and social benefits.</p>		
<p>5.6. The rate of harvest of forest products shall not exceed levels which can be permanently sustained.</p>		

<p>5.6.a In FMUs where products are being harvested, the landowner or manager calculates the sustained yield harvest level for each sustained yield planning unit, and provides clear rationale for determining the size and layout of the planning unit. The sustained yield harvest level calculation is documented in the Management Plan.</p> <p>The sustained yield harvest level calculation for each planning unit is based on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • documented growth rates for particular sites, and/or acreage of forest types, age-classes and species distributions; • mortality and decay and other factors that affect net growth; • areas reserved from harvest or subject to harvest restrictions to meet other management goals; • silvicultural practices that will be employed on the FMU; • management objectives and desired future conditions. <p>The calculation is made by considering the effects of repeated prescribed harvests on the product/species and its ecosystem, as well as planned management treatments and projections of subsequent regrowth beyond single rotation and multiple re-entries.</p>		<p>A formal inventory is conducted periodically, most recently in 1999, 2011, 2016. 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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>During fiscal year 2021, 84,919 cords were harvested, well below the AAC.</p> <p>2022: Refer to “Harvest Operations Maine BPL FY22” spreadsheet in P5 Benefits from the Forest for harvest by Units and Sustainable Harvest Unit 10 yr volume reports as compared to Sustainable Harvest Limit (SHL).</p>
<p>5.6.b Average annual harvest levels, over rolling periods of no more than 10 years, do not exceed the calculated sustained yield harvest level.</p>	C	<p>Actual annual harvests have been well below the calculated harvest level. 84,919 cds in 2021, 101,675 cds in 2020 (out of 160k cords possible).</p>
<p>5.6.c Rates and methods of timber harvest lead to achieving desired conditions, and improve or maintain health and quality across the FMU. Overstocked stands and stands that have been depleted or rendered to be below productive potential due to natural events, past management, or lack of management, are returned to desired stocking levels and composition at the earliest practicable time as justified in management objectives.</p>	C	<p>Timber harvests focus primarily on improving stand conditions. Individual site prescription are created, in line with silvicultural guidelines, in order to move towards this goal. Observed post-harvest conditions demonstrated objective of returning sites to tolerant long lived species at site #2 (Telos Unit, T8 R11 WELS) on 9/20/22.</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>C</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:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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); 3) Other habitats and species of management concern; 4) Water resources and associated riparian habitats and hydrologic functions; 5) <i>Soil resources</i>; and 6) <i>Historic conditions</i> on the FMU related to forest community types and development, size class 		<p>BPL has an overriding management document the Integrated Resource Policy which sets the outline for management of all of the divisions. As a part of this document is a process in which regional plans are created by staff and then reviewed and commented on by an advisory committee. Individual timber harvesting plans or management plans are created for each unit. These plans include a consultation with MNAP and/or MEIF&W with respect to TE and RSA. BPL has designated and mapped DWA, Eco reserves and locations within which timber harvesting is a secondary or tertiary priority on the site.</p>

<p>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>	<p>C</p>	<p>Planning process addresses long term through the IRP and short term in regional or compartment harvest or management plan.</p>
<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>	<p>C</p>	<p>Multiple use is the number one priority, with areas designated as no harvest or minimal harvest located in all regions throughout the state. SPECIAL PROTECTION AREAS includes natural areas, historic/cultural areas, and ecological reserves BACKCOUNTRY RECREATION AREAS includes non-mechanized and motorized recreation areas WILDLIFE DOMINANT AREAS includes essential habitat, significant habitat, and specialized habitat areas and features REMOTE RECREATION AREAS includes trail corridors, shorelines, and remote ponds VISUAL CONSIDERATION AREAS includes Visual Class I and Visual Class II Areas DEVELOPED RECREATION AREAS includes Developed Class I and Developed Class II Areas TIMBER MANAGEMENT AREAS. (from IRP)</p>
<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>	<p>C</p>	<p>Planning process as indicated in IRP is as follows in chronological order: 1). Resource Inventory, 2). Pre-plan development (Staff and Specialists), 3). Advisory Committee reviews draft plan, 4). Draft plan is completed by Staff and Advisory Committee, 5). Public Meeting (public input session), 6).Final Revision then goes to Commissioner of ACF.</p>

<p>6.2 Safeguards shall exist which protect rare, threatened and endangered species and their habitats (e.g., nesting and feeding areas). Conservation zones and protection areas shall be established, appropriate to the scale and intensity of forest management and the uniqueness of the affected resources. Inappropriate hunting, fishing, trapping, and collecting shall be controlled.</p>		
<p>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>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 England Mountain Bike Association to plan trails
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		<p>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). 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 consultation- developed guidance in prescription to
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		<p>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>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>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>6.3. Ecological functions and values shall be maintained intact, enhanced, or restored, including: a) Forest regeneration and succession.</p>		

<p>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>2021: 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). 2022:</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.</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 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</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 primary concern. As a result much of BPL’s land-base has seen management activity in the past. 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>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. 5. Conservation zones representative of old growth stands are established. 6. Landscape level considerations are addressed. 7. Rare species are protected. 		
<p>6.3.b To the extent feasible within the size of the ownership, particularly on larger ownerships (generally tens of thousands or more acres), management maintains, enhances, or restores</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>

<p>habitat conditions suitable for well-distributed populations of animal species that are characteristic of forest ecosystems within the landscape.</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>6.3.c Management maintains, enhances and/or restores the plant and wildlife habitat of Riparian Management Zones (RMZs) to provide:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) habitat for aquatic species that breed in surrounding uplands; b) habitat for predominantly terrestrial species that breed in adjacent aquatic habitats; c) habitat for species that use riparian areas for feeding, cover, and travel; d) habitat for plant species associated with riparian areas; and, 	<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>e) stream shading and inputs of wood and leaf litter into the adjacent aquatic ecosystem.</p>		
<p>Stand-scale Indicators 6.3.d Management practices maintain or enhance plant species composition, distribution and frequency of occurrence similar to those that would naturally occur on the site.</p>	<p>C</p>	<p>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>6.3.e When planting is required, a local source of known provenance is used when available and when the local source is equivalent in terms of quality, price and productivity. The use of non-local sources shall be justified, such as in situations where other management objectives (e.g. disease resistance or adapting to climate change) are best served by non-local sources. Native species suited to the site are normally selected for regeneration.</p>	<p>C</p>	<p>2022: No trees or tree seed planted. BPL relies on natural regeneration. 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>6.3.f Management maintains, enhances, or restores habitat components and associated stand structures, in abundance and distribution that could be expected from naturally occurring processes. These components include: a) large live trees, live trees with decay or declining health, snags, and well-distributed coarse down and dead woody material. Legacy trees where present are not harvested; and b) vertical and horizontal complexity. Trees selected for retention are generally representative of the dominant species found on the site.</p>	<p>C</p>	<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. 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. Numerous examples of green tree retention, legacy retention, and snag development were observed during field exams, see Site Notes.</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</p>	<p>C</p>	<p>BPL harvests generally average about 20% even-aged management of total areas harvested each year including 1-5 acre patch cuts (often to manage beech regen. problems). Overstory removals (OSR) are also</p>

<p>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>		<p>included in this category primarily in softwood stands with adequate advance regeneration. BPL retention practices are such that BPL OSR treatments would not generally be recognized as even aged management as ample material is retained and available to meet wildlife tree, standing and dead woody debris retention goals.</p>
<p>APPENDIX C: REGIONAL LIMITS AND OTHER GUIDELINES ON OPENING SIZES</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>	C	No even-aged silvicultural employed.
<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 	NA	

<p>regarding natural disturbance regimes for the FMU.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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>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 <i>invasive species</i>, including:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. a method to determine the extent of invasive species and the degree of threat to native species and ecosystems; 2. implementation of management practices that minimize the risk of invasive establishment, growth, and spread; 3. eradication or control of established invasive populations when feasible: and, 4. monitoring of control measures and management practices to assess their effectiveness in preventing or controlling invasive species. 	C	<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 two licensed commercial applicators on staff. Invasive insects are monitored by the MFS which 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>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>	C	<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>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 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>	C	<p>Establishment of Ecoreserve system was to establish protections regions for poorly represented habitats. Originally proposed as part of Maine forest biodiversity process circa 1998, considerable amount of research done prior to enabling legislation in 2000. Analysis allowing the reserves to be designated. Subsequent to that BPL has been conducting an ongoing GAP analysis statewide that helps inform designation of new sites. New designations along Eagle Lake were established in part because of GAP analysis. Pitch pine barrens are examples of key habitat identified in the gap analysis, but these don't occur on the certified land base</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>	C	<p>There are 11,000 acres of non eco reserve have been identified and given protection to develop those areas as RSAs.</p>
<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</p>	C	<p>Eco reserves are designated as no harvest and no road construction. Two new units added in 2021 that were existing lands, already owned (Boot Unit, & Pumphandle unit). Guidance in enabling legislation for eco reserve, doesn't allow timber harvesting, including salvage. No new motorized recreation allowed for eco</p>

<p>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>		<p>reserves managed for old forest systems. Generally the Bureau doesn't manage disturbance dependent eco reserves.</p>
<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>	<p>C</p>	<p>BPL is required to present a yearly report to the legislature and in part to discuss RSA assessment which includes coordination with MIF&W and MNAP. Original assessment was published in 2006 & updated in 2014. They are currently in the final stages of publishing a revised RSA assessment. Currently working on an update, should be published this winter. The new report is dedicated to future acquisition opportunities more than just current RSAs.</p>
<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>C</p>	<p>See above indicators</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>C</p>	<p>BPL's Integrated Resource Plan (IRP), 2000, outlines policies pertinent to this indicator.</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>C</p>	<p>BPL follows state BMPs in all instances and these are required as part of the harvest contract.</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</p>	<p>C</p>	<p>Harvesting and road construction activities are identified in IRP document and are conducted such that sedimentation and siltation are protected against. Rutting and compaction are minimized by policies, administrative monitoring during timber sales, and BMP inspections. No incidents of soil rutting were discovered during the 2022 audit, see Site Notes. Interviews with staff verified knowledge of rutting</p>

<p>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 minimum necessary to achieve successful regeneration of species native to the site. • Rutting and compaction is minimized. • Soil erosion is not accelerated. • Burning is only done when consistent with natural disturbance regimes. • Natural ground cover disturbance is minimized to the extent necessary to achieve regeneration objectives. • Whole tree harvesting on any site over multiple rotations is only done when research indicates soil productivity will not be harmed. • Low impact equipment and technologies is used where appropriate. 		<p>guidelines, contract requirements, and implementation of inspections in the field.</p>
<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; 	<p>C</p>	<p>BPL maintains road layers in GIS and conducts ongoing road monitoring where foresters record and report issues that are observed in the normal course of duties. The Telos, Eagle Lake and Hamlin Lake foresters also reported annual spring “road checks” after break up to ensure roads are in good shape and accessible. Timber sale preparations involve more detailed road assessments, improvements, and any needed road construction. Telos Road and Blake Road are two examples of inspected roads in good shape among several examples in the 2022 Site Notes. Review and discussion with responsible forester in the Telos Road issue was highly technical and demonstrated knowledge of Maine road standards, See Site Notes.</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • area converted to roads, landings and skid trails is minimized; • habitat fragmentation is minimized; • unneeded roads are closed and rehabilitated. 		
<p>6.5.e.1 In consultation with appropriate expertise, the forest owner or manager implements written Streamside Management Zone (SMZ) buffer 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>	C	The IRP mandates appropriate buffer distances and activities which are approved therein. Observations on the ground at the above mentioned sites indicate that staff has implemented these requirements appropriately.
<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</p>	NA	

<p>independent expert in aquatic ecology or closely related field.</p>		
<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 aquatic habitat. Crossings do not impede the movement of aquatic species. Temporary crossings are restored to original hydrological conditions when operations are finished.</p>	<p>C</p>	<p>Policy in the IRP dictates limited road construction and this appears to be the case on the ground. During the inspections no crossings of wetlands were observed and major crossings of streams were limited.</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>C</p>	<p>Recreation is allowed on BPL lands including hiking, camping, canoeing, hunting, snowmobiling and ATV (on some sections). Camping sites are selected by recreation specialists and constructed to minimize impact. Foresters do contribute to the planning and construction of the campsites. Hiking trails have been constructed in the same manner as have snowmobile trails. Policy is written in the IRP.</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>C</p>	<p>Grazing of domesticated animals is not a permitted use on BPL land.</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>C</p>	<p>No highly hazardous chemicals were being used.</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, 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>C</p>	<p>BPL has not recently engaged in chemical use for silvicultural purposes, but does annually for invasive control. BPL has an MOU with MNAP for use of their invasive plant biologist.</p> <p>In the past, on some smaller properties BPL would do a preventative spray prior to harvest in order to prevent spread. This would occur on parcels that used to be other state facilities with small amounts of timber that ended up with the BPL.</p> <p>Have MOU with MNAP, they have invasive plant biologist. Seasonal crews do surveys on property looking for invasive plants. Prior to harvest they have. Spraying done backpack, foliar, or basal bark.</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>		
<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</p>	<p>C</p>	<p>New chemical use memo form was developed as part of response to FSC’s new ESRA requirements.</p> <p>State licensing is required in order to apply pesticides. Interviews with applicators indicated that they understood necessary PPE requirements (follow the label for PPE, gloves, pants, eye protection, long</p>

<p>proper safety equipment, and are trained to minimize environmental impacts on non-target species and sites.</p>		<p>sleeves). SDS are all kept in a binder where the chemicals are stored. In Augusta</p> <p>BPL staff indicated that three individuals are licensed to apply herbicide, one of which has left state employment at present. No invasive insects are at epidemic levels on BPL land at present if that should occur BPL will coordinate with MFS to evaluate, design and implement a potential control program.</p>
<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>	<p>C</p>	<p>Maine reports pesticide use. Site 2, Telos inspection of records of treatment for an invasive pea species demonstrated record keeping consistent with the requirements of this indicator. Maine also annually reports pesticide use by worker. Records were available for all inspected sites where chemicals were applied. Detailed discussions were held regarding the ESRAs, labels and safety data sheets with foresters responsible for chemical applications and regarding PPE used to minimize exposure to chemicals. See closure of 2021.4 for additional detail.</p>
<p>6.7. Chemicals, containers, liquid and solid non-organic wastes including fuel and oil shall be disposed of in an environmentally appropriate manner at off-site locations.</p>		
<p>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>C</p>	<p>Numerous logging operators inspected during the audit did not have spill kits inside each machine, although spill kits were generally present somewhere on the logging site. According to BPL’s standard contract with loggers, spill kits are required to be in each machine. Note that this is a case where the BPL’s internal requirements exceed FSC requirements, but the logging contractors were not in conformance with BPLs own rules. See closure of CAR 2021.5 for additional detail.</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>C</p>	<p>Logger interviews demonstrated an understanding of the responses necessary for spill cleanup.</p>
<p>6.7.c. Hazardous materials and fuels are stored in leak-proof containers in designated storage areas,</p>	<p>C</p>	<p>Field site reviews did not show any fuel storage in riparian zones or other sensitive areas.</p>

<p>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>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>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>	C	No biocontrol used.
<p>6.8.b If biological control agents are used, they are applied by trained workers using proper equipment.</p>	NA	
<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 describing how potential impacts will be monitored.</p>	NA	
<p>6.8.d Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOs) are not used for any purpose</p>	C	No GMOs used on the forest.
<p>6.9. The use of exotic species shall be carefully controlled and actively monitored to avoid adverse ecological impacts.</p>	C	
<p>6.9.a The use of <i>exotic species</i> is contingent on the availability of credible scientific data indicating that any such species is non-invasive and its application</p>	C	No exotic species used on the forest. Seed mix for stabilization is not composed of species listed as

does not pose a risk to native biodiversity.		invasive. These species should not persist in a forested situation.
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.	C	
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).	C	No forest conversion is permitted under state law and mandate for BPL.
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).	C	No forest conversion is permitted under state law and mandate for BPL.
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, 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).	C	No forest conversion is permitted under state law and mandate for BPL.
6.10.d Natural or semi-natural stands are not converted to plantations. Degraded, semi-natural stands may be converted to restoration plantations.	C	No forest conversion is permitted under state law and mandate for BPL.
6.10.e Justification for land-use and stand-type conversions is fully described in the long-term	C	No forest conversion is permitted under state law and mandate for BPL.

<p>management plan, and meets the biodiversity conservation requirements of Criterion 6.3 (see also Criterion 7.1.l)</p>		
<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>	<p>NA</p>	
<p>Principle #8: Monitoring shall be conducted -- appropriate to the scale and intensity of forest management -- to assess the condition of the forest, yields of forest products, chain of custody, management activities and their social and environmental impacts. <i>Applicability Note: On small and medium-sized forests (see Glossary), an informal, qualitative assessment may be appropriate. Formal, quantitative monitoring is required on large forests and/or intensively managed forests.</i></p>		
<p>8.2. Forest management should include the research and data collection needed to monitor, at a minimum, the following indicators: a) yield of all forest products harvested, b) growth rates, regeneration, and condition of the forest, c) composition and observed changes in the flora and fauna, d) environmental and social impacts of harvesting and other operations, and e) cost, productivity, and efficiency of forest management.</p>		
<p>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</p>

		<p>process. These were reviewed during the 2022 audit and all inspected sites were consistent with the compartment details of items a) - f).</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.</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.</p>
<p>8.2.c The forest owner or manager periodically obtains data needed to monitor presence on the FMU of:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Rare, threatened and endangered species and/or their habitats; 2) Common and rare plant communities and/or habitat; 3) Location, presence and abundance of invasive species; 4) Condition of protected areas, set-asides and buffer zones; 5) High Conservation Value Forests (see Criterion 9.4). 	<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. 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)

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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.
8.2.d.1 Monitoring is conducted to ensure that site specific plans and operations are properly implemented, environmental impacts of site disturbing operations are minimized, and that harvest prescriptions and guidelines are effective.	C	Confirmed through site examinations and comparing to compartment prescriptions. See monitoring reported under 4.4.c, above.
8.2.d.2 A monitoring program is in place to assess the condition and environmental impacts of the forest-road system.	C	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. See closure of OBS 2021.8 for detail.
8.2.d.3 The landowner or manager monitors relevant socio-economic issues (see Indicator 4.4.a), including the social impacts of harvesting, participation in local economic opportunities (see Indicator 4.1.g), the creation and/or maintenance of quality job opportunities (see Indicator 4.1.b), and local purchasing opportunities (see Indicator 4.1.e).	C	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.
8.2.d.4 Stakeholder responses to management activities are monitored and recorded as necessary.	C	Stakeholder responses are monitored, as part of BPL's role as a public agency.
8.2.d.5 Where sites of cultural significance exist, the opportunity to jointly monitor sites of cultural significance is offered to tribal representatives (see Principle 3).	C	This has been offered, but no such monitoring has occurred.

<p>8.2.e The forest owner or manager monitors the costs and revenues of management in order to assess productivity and efficiency.</p>	<p>C</p>	<p>All costs and revenues are monitored and reported on in the annual report to the legislature.</p>
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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.

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

- a) **Forest areas containing globally, regionally or nationally significant: concentrations of biodiversity values (e.g., endemism, endangered species, refugia); and/or large landscape level forests, contained within, or containing the management unit, where viable populations of most if not all naturally occurring species exist in natural patterns of distribution and abundance**
- b) **Forest areas that are in or contain rare, threatened or endangered ecosystems**
- c) **Forest areas that provide basic services of nature in critical situations (e.g., watershed protection, erosion control)**
- d) **Forest areas fundamental to meeting basic needs of local communities (e.g., subsistence, health) and/or critical to local communities’ traditional cultural identity (areas of cultural, ecological, economic or religious significance identified in cooperation with such local communities).**

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

Central Hardwoods:

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

North Woods/Lake States:

- Old growth – (see Glossary) (a)
- Old forests/mixed age stands that include trees >120 years old (a)
- Blocks of contiguous forest, > 500 ac, which host RTEs (b)
- Oak savannas (b)
- Hemlock-dominated forests (b)
- Pine stands of natural origin (b)
- Contiguous blocks, >500 ac, of late successional species, that are managed to create old growth (a)
- Fens, particularly calcareous fens (c)
- Other non-forest communities, e.g., barrens, prairies, distinctive geological land forms, vernal pools (b or c)

- Other sites as defined by GAP analysis, Natural Heritage Inventory, and/or the World Wildlife Fund’s Forest Communities of Highest Conservation Concern (b)

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

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

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

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

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

<p>9.4 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.</p> <p>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>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.</p> <p>2022: None new reported.</p>

Appendix 6 – Chain of Custody Indicators for FMEs Conformance Table

Chain of Custody indicators were not evaluated during this evaluation.

Chain of Custody Indicators for FMEs, V 8-0

REQUIREMENT	Evidence/CAR	C/NC/NA
1. Quality Management		
1.1 The FME shall appoint a management representative as having overall responsibility and authority for the organization’s compliance with all applicable requirements of this standard.	Mike Pouch, Chief of Silviculture, has been appointed management representative. Confirmed during interview with staff and field foresters.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> NC
Evidence 1.1:		
1.2 A system shall be implemented to track and trace all products that are sold with an FSC Claim from the <i>forest of origin</i> to the <i>forest gate(s)</i> . When legally required, and for group and multiple FMU certificates, this system shall also be documented. <i>The forest of origin should be the smallest reportable manageable unit, such as a tax parcel. It shall never be larger than a Forest Management Unit (FMU). The forest gate is defined as the point where the change in ownership of the certified-forest product occurs.</i>	Trip Ticket Policy has been implemented to track and trace products sold with an FSC Claim. Witnessed Trip Ticket Policy as Exhibit E of Stumpage Permit. Witnessed and discussed implementation during document review and during site visits. Harvest Notification # is key to linking all documents.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> NC <input type="checkbox"/> NA, FME does not sell any products with an FSC claim
Evidence 1.2:		
1.3 The FME shall maintain complete records of all FSC-related COC activities, including sales and training, for at least 5 years.	Records requested provided to auditor. Timber Database system is used for documenting timber sales. Training maintained for each employee by spreadsheet.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> NC
Evidence 1.3:		
1.4 The FME shall define its <i>forest gate(s)</i> (check all that apply):		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> NC
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Stump <i>Stumpage sale or sales of standing timber; transfer of ownership of certified-forest product occurs upon harvest.</i>		
<input type="checkbox"/> On-site concentration yard <i>Transfer of ownership of certified-product occurs at concentration yard under control of FME.</i>		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Off-site Mill/ Log Yard/ Port <i>Transfer of ownership occurs when certified-product is unloaded or paid for at purchaser’s facility or a facility under the purchaser’s control.</i>		
<input type="checkbox"/> Auction house/ Brokerage <i>Transfer of ownership occurs at a government-run or private auction house/ brokerage.</i>		
<input type="checkbox"/> Lump-sum sale/ Per Unit/ Pre-Paid Agreement <i>A timber sale in which the buyer and seller agree on a total price for marked standing trees or for trees within a defined area before the wood is removed — the timber is usually paid for before harvesting begins. Similar to a per-unit sale.</i>		

<input type="checkbox"/> Log landing <i>Transfer of ownership of certified-product occurs at landing/yarding areas.</i>		
<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Please describe):		
<p>1.5 The FME shall have sufficient control over its <i>forest gate(s)</i> to ensure that there is no risk of mixing of FSC-certified forest products covered by the scope of the FM/COC certificate with forest products from outside of the scope prior to the transfer of ownership.</p>	<p>All property is FSC certified. Contract is for specific tracts that are FSC certified. The Trip Ticket Policy ensures no risk of mixing. FME follows state of Maine laws which regulate log transport on highways. See §2364-B. Transportation of wood, https://legislature.maine.gov/legis/statutes/10/title10sec2364-B.html. Witnessed and discussed implementation during document review and during site visits. Harvest Notification # is key to linking all documents.</p>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> NC <input type="checkbox"/> NA, FME does not sell any products with an FSC claim
Evidence 1.4/1.5:		
<p>1.6 The FME and its contractors shall not process FSC-certified material prior to transfer of ownership at the <i>forest gate(s)</i> without conforming to applicable chain of custody requirements.</p> <p><i>NOTE: This does not apply to log cutting or de-barking units, small portable sawmills, on-site processing of chips/biomass or primary processing of Non-Timber Forest Products (NTFPs) under the FME's control (e.g., latex, rattan, maple syrup, etc.) originating from the FMU under evaluation.</i></p>	<p>Ownership does not pass until the contract is signed and timber is severed. Timber is not severed until the contract is signed. Trip Ticket is required to be used for all sales. Witnessed contracts for sites visited.</p>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> NC <input type="checkbox"/> NA
Evidence 1.6:		
<p>1.7 The FME has supported transaction verification conducted by SCS and Assurance Services International (ASI) by providing samples of FSC transaction data as requested by SCS.</p> <p><i>NOTE: Pricing information is not within the scope of transaction verification data disclosure.</i></p>	<p>Samples have not been requested. Confirmed during interview.</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> NC <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NA, no verification requested
<p>1.8 The FME shall support fiber testing by surrendering samples and specimens of materials and information about species composition and the location where the sample originated for verification, as requested by its certification body, ASI or FSC.</p>	<p>Samples have not been requested. Confirmed during interview.</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> NC <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NA, no verification requested
Evidence 1.7/1.8:		
2. Product Control, Sales and Delivery		
<p>2.1. Products from the certified forest area shall be identifiable as certified at the <i>forest gate(s)</i>.</p>	<p>Trip Tickets contains the FSC Claim and CoC Code. Witnessed and discussed implementation during document review and during site visits. Harvest Notification # is key to linking all documents.</p>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> NC <input type="checkbox"/> NA, FME does not sell any products with an FSC claim

<p>Evidence 2.1:</p> <p>2.2 Information about all products sold shall be compiled and documented for all FMUs in the scope of certification, including:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Common and scientific species name; 2) Product name or description; 3) Volume (or quantity) of product; 4) Information to trace the material to the source of origin harvest block; 5) Harvest date; 6) If basic processing activities take place in the forest, the date and volume/quantity produced; and 7) Whether or not the material was sold with an FSC Claim. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Witnessed on Trip Ticket and Scale Ticket. Scientific species name is not included. Minor CAR. 2) Witnessed on Trip Ticket and Scale Ticket. 3) Witnessed on Scale Ticket. 4) Harvest Notification # tracks material from the Trip Ticket and Scale Ticket to the source. 5) Witnessed on Trip Ticket and Scale Ticket. 6) Witnessed on Scale Ticket. 7) Witnessed on Trip Ticket. 	<input type="checkbox"/> C <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NC
<p>Evidence 2.2:</p> <p>2.3. The FME shall ensure that all sales documents issued for outputs sold with FSC claims include the following information:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) name and contact details of the FME; b) information to identify the customer, such as their name and address; c) date when the document was issued; d) product name or description, including common and scientific species name(s); e) quantity of products sold; f) the FME’s FSC Forest Management (FM/COC) or FSC Controlled Wood (CW/FM) code; g) clear indication of the FSC claim for each product item or the total products as follows: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. the claim “FSC 100%” for products from FSC 100% product groups; or ii. the claim “FSC Controlled Wood” for products from FSC Controlled Wood product groups. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) Witnessed on Trip Ticket and Scale Ticket. b) Witnessed on Trip Ticket and Scale Ticket. c) Witnessed on Trip Ticket and Scale Ticket. d) Witnessed on Trip Ticket and Scale Ticket. Scientific species name is not included. Minor CAR. e) Witnessed on Scale Ticket. f) Witnessed on Trip Ticket. The FSC FM Code has not been updated to the new Code from SCS. Minor CAR. g) FSC Claim of “FSC 100%” is stated on the Trip Ticket. 	<input type="checkbox"/> C <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NC <input type="checkbox"/> NA, FME does not sell any products with an FSC claim

<p>2.4 If the sales documentation issued by the FME is not included with the shipment of the product and this information is relevant for the customer to identify the product as being FSC certified, the related delivery documentation has included the same information as required in indicator 2.3 and a reference linking it to the sales documentation. Note: 2.3 and 2.4 are based on FSC-STD-40-004 V3-0 Clauses 5.1 and 5.3</p>	<p>Sales documentation is the Trip Ticket issued by the FME and Scale Ticket issues by the customer. Information for identification of the product as FSC certified is included on the Trip Ticket and Scale Ticket. Witnessed during the 2022 audit.</p>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> NC <input type="checkbox"/> NA, delivery documentation not required or FME is not responsible for issuing delivery documentation/ <input type="checkbox"/> NA, FME does not sell any products with an FSC claim</p>
<p>Evidence 2.3/2.4:</p>		
<p>2.5 If the FME is unable to include the FSC claim and/or certificate code in sales or delivery documents, the required information has been provided to the customer through supplementary documentation (e.g. supplementary letters). In this case, the FME has obtained permission from SCS to implement supplementary documentation in accordance with the following criteria:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. there shall exist clear information linking the supplementary documentation to the sales or delivery documents; b. there is no risk that the customer will misinterpret which products are or are not FSC certified in the supplementary documentation; and c. where the sales documents contain multiple products with different FSC claims, each product shall be cross-referenced to the associated FSC claim provided in the supplementary documentation. 	<p>Required information is included on the Trip Ticket.</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> NC <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NA, all information included per 2.3 and/or 2.4</p>
<p>Evidence 2.5:</p>		
<p>2.6 The FME may identify products exclusively made of input materials from small or community producers by adding the following claim to sales documents: “From small or community forest producers.” This claim can be passed on along the supply chain by certificate holders. <i>A forest management unit (FMU) or group of FMUs that meet(s) the small and low-intensity managed forest eligibility criteria (FSC-STD-1-003a) and addenda. A community FMU must comply with the tenure and management criteria defined in FSC-STD-40-004.</i></p>	<p>Not a small or community producer.</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> NC <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NA, not a small or community producer; or does not wish to pass along this claim</p>

Evidence 2.6:		
3. Labeling and Promotion		
<input type="checkbox"/> NA – FME does not use/ intend to use trademarks and no trademark uses were detected during the audit.		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NA – CW/FM certificates are not allowed to use FSC trademarks and no trademark uses were detected during the audit (<i>Note: it is a Major nonconformity to 3.1 if CW/FM certificates are found to be using trademarks</i>).	No CW/FM certificate. Verified on FSC website.	
3.1 The FME shall adhere to relevant trademark use requirements of FSC-STD-50-001 described in the <i>SCS Trademark Annex for FMEs</i> .	Trademark is used in brochures and at kiosks. No changes since last audit. No approvals have been requested since 2019.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> NC
Evidence 3.1: Refer to evidence and findings cited in applicable trademark checklist(s) cited below. <input type="checkbox"/> FSC trademark use was detected for a CW/FM certificate as described in Major CAR for 3.1, FSC-STD-30-010, Annex 3, 1.2, and FSC-STD-50-001, 2.1e and 11.2:		
4. Outsourcing		
<input type="checkbox"/> NA – FME does not outsource any COC-related activities, as confirmed via interviews, sales documentation, and field observation.	Harvesting and delivery of FSC products is outsourced to loggers.	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NA – FME outsources low-risk activities such as transport and harvesting, as confirmed via interviews, sales documentation, and field observation.	Low-risk activities of transportation and harvesting are contracted to loggers.	
4.1 The FME shall provide the names and contact details of all outsourced service providers.	Required outsourcer list with contact details provided to SCS. Witnessed list.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> NC
4.2 The FME shall have a control system for the outsourced process and agreement which ensures that: a) The material used for the production of FSC-certified material is traceable and not mixed with any other material prior to the point of transfer of legal ownership; b) The outsourcer keeps records of FSC-certified material covered under the outsourcing agreement; c) The FME issues the final invoice for the processed or produced FSC-certified material following outsourcing;	Requirements are stated in Contracts. Witnessed contracts associated with harvesting sites during field examinations.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> NC

<p>d) The outsourcer only uses FSC trademarks on products covered by the scope of the outsourcing agreement and not for promotional use;</p> <p>e) The outsourcer does not further outsource the material; and</p> <p>f) The outsourcer accepts the right of the certificate body to audit them.</p>		
Evidence 4.1/4.2:		
5. Training and/or Communication Strategies/		
<p>5.1 All relevant FME staff and outsourcers shall be trained in the FME’s COC control system commensurate with the scale and intensity of operations and shall demonstrate competence in implementing the FME’s COC control system.</p>	<p>Employees are trained annually. Witnessed training spreadsheet for employees during the audit. Outsourcers are trained one-on-one during harvesting and transportation operations.</p>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> NC</p>
<p>5.2 The FME shall maintain up-to-date records of its COC training and/or communications program, such as a list of trained employees, completed COC trainings or communications, the intended frequency of COC training (e.g., training plan), and related program materials (e.g., presentations, memos, contracts, employee handbooks, etc.).</p>	<p>Employees are trained annually. Witnessed training spreadsheet for employees during the audit.</p>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> NC</p>
Evidence 5.1/5.2:		

Appendix 7 – Trademark Standard Conformance Table

Trademark Standard Conformance Table V3-0

<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 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.</p>	<p>Maintained on file by SCS Main Office</p>

<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>	
Evidence 1.2: A valid TLA has been signed for a 6 month period was signed on April 7, 2022	
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.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> NC <input type="checkbox"/> C w/ OBS
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:	
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.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> NC <input type="checkbox"/> C w/ OBS
1.4 Trademark Symbol The FSC logo and the ‘Forests For All Forever’ marks shall include the trademark symbol ® in the upper right corner when used on products or materials to be distributed in a country where the relevant trademark is registered. For use in a country where the trademark is not yet registered, use of the symbol ™ is recommended. The Trademark Registration List document is available in the FSC 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>	<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
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.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> NC <input type="checkbox"/> C w/ OBS
2.2 Translations The name ‘Forest Stewardship Council’ has not been replaced with a translation. A translation may be included in brackets after the name, for example: Forest Stewardship Council® (translation)	<input type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> NC <input type="checkbox"/> C w/ OBS <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NA, no translations
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:	
Sections 8 and 9 Graphic Rules	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> NC

<p>The organization has only used FSC logos that conform to the standard requirements governing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • color and font (8.1-8.3); • format and size (8.4-8.9); • label placement (8.10); and • 'Forests For All Forever' marks (9.1-9.7). 	<input type="checkbox"/> C w/ OBS
<p>1.5 Trademark Use Approval The organization has submitted all intended uses of the FSC trademarks to SCS for approval. OR The organization has an approved trademark use management system in place. (If the organization has a trademark use management system, complete Annex A.)</p>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> NC <input type="checkbox"/> C w/ OBS
<p>4.6 FSC trademarks may be used to identify FSC-certified materials in the chain of custody before the products are finished. It is not necessary to submit such segregation marks for approval. All segregation marks shall be removed before the products go to the final point of sale or are delivered to uncertified organizations.</p>	<input 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>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>	

Appendix 8 – Group Management Program

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