# FSC<sup>®</sup> - Forest Management Digital Audit Report Supplement

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

Certificate Holder Address		22 State House Station, Augusta, ME 04333 USA		
Certificate Holder Contact		Michael Pounch, Chief of Silviculture		
Certificate Holder Website		<u>https</u>	://www.maine.gov/	dacf/parks/
	CER	TIFIED	EXPIRATIO	N
	12 Ap	oril 2022	11 April 202	27
	127701			
	DATE OF FIEL 19-21 Sept DATE OF REPOR 11 Decer		DATE OF FIELD EVALUATION	
			mber 2023	
			FINALIZATION	
			11 December 2023	
		TYPE OF EVAL	UATION	
			1st Surveillance	
Main Evaluation     Re-Evaluation     Transfer		$\boxtimes$	2nd Surveillance	
		□ 3rd Surveillance		
			4th Surveillance	
□ Expansion of Scope			Other Surveillance:	#

### SCS-FM/COC-008672

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

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## Appendix 1 – Staff and Stakeholders Consulted

#### List of FME Staff Consulted

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

Name	Title	Contact Information	Consultation
			method
Mike Pounch	Chief of Silviculture	Michael.a.pounch@maine.gov	field, office
Bill Patterson	Deputy Director	William.a.patterson@maine.gov	field, office
Tim Post	W. Region Mgr.	Tim.post@maine.gov	field, office
Stephen Richardson	Sr. Road Engineer	Stephen.richarson@maine.gov	field, office
Nick McDougal	Forester	Nicholas.c.mcdougal@maine.gov	field, office
Eben Webb	Forester	Eben.webb@maine.gov	field, office
Harrison Drislane	Forest Technician	Harrison.j.drislane@maine.gov	field, office
Crystal Wilson	Office Mgr.	Crystal.Wilson@maine.gov	office

#### List of other Stakeholders Consulted\*

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

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

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

### Appendix 2 – Additional Evaluation Techniques Employed

 $\boxtimes$  None.

Additional techniques employed (*describe*):

## Appendix 3 – Required Tracking

FM Principle	Cert/Re-cert Evaluation (2021)	1 <sup>st</sup> Annual Evaluation (2022)	2 <sup>nd</sup> Annual Evaluation (2023)
No findings			
P1	OBS 1.6.a		
P2			
Р3			
Ρ4	Minor 4.2.b,		
	Minor 4.4.d		
Р5			
P6	Minor 6.6.e,		Minor 6.5.b
	Minor 6.7.a		
P7	OBS 7.2.a	OBS 7.2.a	
	OBS 7.3.a	OBS 7.3.a	
P8	OBS 8.2.d.2		
Р9	Minor 9.1.a		
	Minor 9.1.c		
P10			
COC for FM	Minor 2.3		
Trademark			
Group			
Other			

#### **History of Findings for Certificate Period**

#### **Progressive HCVF Assessments**

☑ FME does not use partial or progressive HCVF assessments.\*

#### Special Instructions or Scoping Notes for Next Regularly Scheduled Annual Audit

	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 a	s:
	Scope of certificate:
$\boxtimes$	Audit sampling: The client has agreed to a focus on the East Region in 2024.
	Audit time:
	Audit season:
	Travel time between sites or FMUs:
	Audit frequency:
	Suggested audit team competency for next audit:

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

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

#### **Requirements Reviewed in Annual Evaluation**

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

## **Appendix 4 – Forest Management Conformance Table**

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

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

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

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

2.1.c Boundaries of land ownership and use rights	NE	
are clearly identified on the ground and on maps		
prior to commencing management activities in the		
vicinity of the boundaries.		
2.2. Local communities with legal or customary	NE	
tenure or use rights shall maintain control, to the		
extent necessary to protect their rights or		
resources, over forest operations unless they		
delegate control with free and informed consent		
to other agencies.		
Applicability Note: For the planning and		
management of publicly owned forests, the local		
community is defined as all residents and property		
owners of the relevant jurisdiction.		
2.2.a The forest owner or manager allows the	NE	
exercise of <b>tenure</b> and <b>use rights</b> allowable by law		
or regulation.		
2.2.b In FMUs where tenure or use rights held by	NE	
others exist, the forest owner or manager consults		
with groups that hold such rights so that		
management activities do not significantly impact		
the uses or benefits of such rights.		
2.3. Appropriate mechanisms shall be employed	С	
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.		
2.3.a If disputes arise regarding tenure claims or	С	An updated summary of disputes is provided. All are in
use rights then the forest owner or manager		the process of being resolved, either through direct
initially attempts to resolve them through open		mediation or the court system.
communication, negotiation, and/or mediation. If		2023
these good-faith efforts fail, then federal, state,		Augusta: Damarriscotta Lake incident (noted in 2022)
and/or local laws are employed to resolve such		ongoing.
disputes.		WEST: None
		NORTH: Allagash Dispute resolved through thorough
		explanation, site visit, and communication; NO new
		EAST: None
	1	

<b>2.3.b</b> The forest owner or manager documents any	С	Confirmed & updated for 2023:
significant disputes over tenure and use rights.		Tenure and ownership disputes go through a
		standardized process; any landswaps require
		legislative review and authorization.
		WEST: 1. Roxy Rand and Attean still unresolved. No
		movement on Roxy Rand Due to unsettled estate. 2.
		Attean Landing- We have resumed discussions with
		Family Members and both parties open to discussions.
		NOTE: This is a dispute with a long history and
		Extensive documentation is confirmed (not reviewed).
		NORTH: Allagash Dispute resolved through thorough
		explanation, site visit, and communication. NORTH:
		Chesuncook dispute resolved through mutual
		agreement to swap ¼ acre to accommodate the
		encroachment. Agreement was approved by the
		legislature.
Principle #3: The legal and customary rights of indig	enous pe	oples to own, use and manage their lands, territories,
and resources shall be recognized and respected.	-	
3.1. Indigenous peoples shall control forest	NE	
management on their lands and territories unless		
they delegate control with free and informed		
consent to other agencies.		
<b>31 a</b> Tribal forest management planning and	NE	

consent to other agencies.		
3.1.a Tribal forest management planning and	NE	
implementation are carried out by authorized tribal		
representatives in accordance with tribal laws and		
customs and relevant federal laws.		
3.1.b The manager of a tribal forest secures, in	NE	
writing, informed consent regarding forest		
management activities from the tribe or individual		
forest owner prior to commencement of those		
activities.		
3.2. Forest management shall not threaten or		
diminish, either directly or indirectly, the		
resources or tenure rights of indigenous peoples.		
3.2.a During management planning, the forest	С	Notes concerning consultation (updated for 2023) are
owner or manager consults with American Indian		provided: Currently, Maine tribes do not claim specific,
groups that have legal rights or other binding		customary rights to Maine BPL Lands. Some formal
agreements to the FMU to avoid harming their		rights have been granted (free State park admission
resources or rights.		use in Eco-Reserves.Regardless. outreach and
		increased engagement is a long-term objective for
		BPL. As this is an ongoing initiative, see response from

		<ul> <li>2022 audit still relevant to long term nature of gaining trust.</li> <li>STATEWIDE: - <u>BPL IRP Policy</u>: B2. The Bureau will identify and assess historical and cultural resources on Bureau lands; B3 Confidentiality. Pursuant to 27 MRSA Section 377, certain research data may be withheld from public disclosure to protect sensitive archaeological, historic, or ethnographic (re: Tribal) resources.</li> <li><u>HCV</u>: 6 units that have documented points of interest (burial area, historic artifacts etc.). State historic preservation office has site information.</li> <li>Mgmt planning examples: invitations were extended to Tribal officers to participate in the Advisory Committee (AC) for a management plan and accepted participation in two plans in the Eastern Region: <i>Central Penobscot Region Plan</i> (Seboeis/Wassataquoik subcommittee. Reps from the Passamaquoddy Tribe and Penobscot Indian Nation); and <i>Eastern Interior Region Plan</i> (rep from Penobscot Indian Nation).</li> <li>A notable example of other (non-AC) consultation on a management plan is the Moosehead Region Plan (Western Region). Through the scoping process, a member of the Houlton Band of Maliseet (and former member of the Maine House of Representatives), became aware of the plan effort and attended the public Scoping meeting. He provided input and recommendations related to Native American cultural resources at Kineo and Sugar Island, some of which were incorporated into the plan and which triggered additional consultation with SHPO.</li> <li>A Tribal Member is a member of BPL's Forest Legacy Committee that (among other things) provides input on all Forest Legacy Projects, some of which will become fee ownership (within scope of certification).</li> </ul>
<b>3.2.b</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.	С	Updated for 2023: STATEWIDE: - Chief of Silv and Interp Specialist attended Maine Woods Forever Roundtable presentation "Incorporating the Indigenous Voice into Forest Use Planning." in March 2023. 2022 - Ecological Reserve statute (LD 736) update included provisions that granted tribal rights for collection and ceremonies. EAST: 2023 Permit for ash tree and seed collection issued to two tribal members (for the Seboies Unit)

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

opportunities for employment, training, and other		
services.		
4.1.a Employee compensation and hiring practices	NE	
meet or exceed the prevailing <i>local</i> norms within		
the forestry industry.		
4.1.b Forest work is offered in ways that create	NE	
high quality job opportunities for employees.		
<b>4.1.c</b> Forest workers are provided with fair wages.	NE	
4.1.d Hiring practices and conditions of	NE	
employment are non-discriminatory and follow		
applicable federal, state and local regulations.		
<b>4.1.e</b> The forest owner or manager provides work	NE	
opportunities to qualified local applicants and seeks		
opportunities for purchasing local goods and		
services of equal price and quality.		
<b>4.1.f</b> Commensurate with the size and scale of	NE	
operation, the forest owner or manager provides		
and/or supports learning opportunities to improve		
public understanding of forests and forest		
management.		
<b>4.1.g</b> The forest owner or manager participates in	NE	
local economic development and/or civic activities,		
based on scale of operation and where such		
opportunities are available.		
4.2. Forest management should meet or exceed all	С	
applicable laws and/or regulations covering health		
and safety of employees and their families.		
4.2.a The forest owner or manager meets or	С	Field and forestry observations demonstrated safe
exceeds all applicable laws and/or regulations		working conditions.
covering health and safety of employees and their		2023 update:
families (also see Criterion 1.1).		Augusta: Bat colonization of BPL offices required office
		closure. Bats relocated given decline of bats in
		general.
		contractors Latest Workers comp report (2022)
		available upon request.
		NORTH: 1 reported back injury, not a site specific
		report, but a cumulative injury claim from walking
		through the woods over several years. Workman comp
		notified no further details or follow-up was provided.
		EAST: Black mold infestation in Bangor office required
		office closure. Office back open. No illnesses reported.

		Black substance on walls and ceiling vents was noticed
		and reported to Building Control by staff. Staff were
		immediately told to not enter the office and testing
		was performed which concluded that mold was
		present. Remediation was performed and staff are
		now back in the office. No illnesses reported.
4.2.b The forest owner or manager and their	С	Verified contracts with specific requirements for safety
employees and contractors demonstrate a safe		practices and programs. Interviews with BPL staff and
work environment. Contracts or other written		logging contractors confirm appropriate emphasis on
agreements include safety requirements.		workplace safety standards and culture.
4.2.c The forest owner or manager hires well-	С	BPL requires loggers participate in regional Certified
qualified service providers to safely implement the		Logging Professional (CLP) program, which features
management plan.		curriculum emphasizing workplace safety practices
		and culture.
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.		
4.4.a The forest owner or manager understands the	С	BPL incorporates social impact throughout their
likely social impacts of management activities, and		management planning, as appropriate for a state
incorporates this understanding into management		entity. Most directly, all units have stakeholder
planning and operations. Social impacts include		committees that are directly consulted during the
effects on:		management planning process. Management plans
• Archeological sites and sites of cultural,		include descriptions of all social impacts required in
historical and community significance (on and		this indicator.
off the FMU;		
• Public resources, including air, water and food		Additional details & examples of social impact
(hunting, fishing, collecting);		incorporation to management planning is noted below
• Aesthetics;		in P7. Specific attention is noted to each of 6 bullet
Community goals for forest and natural		points in this indicator. Direct interaction with one
resource use and protection such as		community stakeholder with interest in ongoing
employment, subsistence, recreation and		harvest operations is noted in the DAR.
health;		
Community economic opportunities;		Detailed public access is provided online:
Other people who may be affected by		https://www.maine.gov/dacf/parks/get_involved/plan
management operations.		ning_and_acquisition/management_plans/index.html
A summary is available to the CB.		

4.4.b The forest owner or manager seeks and	С	Stakeholder committees for management plans
considers input in management planning from		provide this input. Notification of neighboring
people who would likely be affected by		landowners. Availability of contact information on BPL
management activities.		website. They have a monthly newsletter going out.
		Text alert system for trail conditions, logging notices,
		safety considerations.
		Online access to Advisory Councils & Committees is
		found here:
		https://www.maine.gov/dacf/parks/get_involved/advi
		sory_councils/index.shtml
4.4.c People who are subject to direct adverse	С	There is a notification process with neighboring
effects of management operations are apprised of		landowners prior to timber harvesting. Most
relevant activities in advance of the action so that		comments are related to forestry issues, and some
they may express concern.		recreation issues. Additional details are noted above
		(4.4.b) and in P7.
4.4.d For <i>public forests,</i> consultation shall include	С	As noted above and in P7, the BPL planning process is
the following components:		designed for transparency appropriate for a manager
1. Clearly defined and accessible methods for		of public forests.
public participation are provided in both long		
and short-term planning processes, including		https://www.maine.gov/dacf/parks/get_involved/plan
harvest plans and operational plans;		ning and acquisition/index.html
2. Public notification is sufficient to allow		https://www.maine.gov/dacf/parks/get_involved/plan
interested stakeholders the chance to learn of		ning_and_acquisition/management_plans/index.html
upcoming opportunities for public review		https://www.maine.gov/dacf/parks/get_involved/plan
and/or comment on the proposed		ning_and_acquisition/management_plans/flagstaff_re
management;		gion/index.html
3. An accessible and affordable appeals process to		
planning decisions is available.		1) Methods are clearly defined and accessible.
4. Planning decisions incorporate the results of		2) Public notification appears effective.
public consultation. All draft and final planning		3) Access is affordable and accessible.
documents, and their supporting data, are		4) Drafts and process documents are available.
made readily available to the public.		

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

operations and avoid damage to other forest		
resources.		
<b>5.3.a</b> Management practices are employed to minimize the loss and/or waste of harvested forest products.	С	Field site reviews generally showed high levels of utilization of harvested materials. BPL maintains a firewood program to allow collection of wood off of landings.
<ul> <li>5.3.b Harvest practices are managed to protect residual trees and other forest resources, including:</li> <li>soil compaction, <i>rutting</i> and erosion are minimized;</li> <li>residual trees are not significantly damaged to the extent that health, growth, or values are noticeably affected;</li> <li>damage to NTFPs is minimized during management activities; and</li> <li>techniques and equipment that minimize impacts to vegetation, soil, and water are used whenever feasible.</li> </ul>	C	Field reviews demonstrated acceptable amounts of residual damage on harvest sites per state policies and determined to not present threats of insect or diseases. Contracts regularly specify techniques to minimize damage, like requiring frozen ground harvesting.
5.4. Forest management should strive to	С	
strengthen and diversify the local economy,		
avoiding dependence on a single forest product.		
<b>5.4.a</b> The forest owner or manager demonstrates knowledge of their operation's effect on the local economy as it relates to existing and potential markets for a wide variety of timber and non-timber forest products and services.	С	BPL tracks the status of timber markets as part of their annual report to the legislature. Non-timber forest products developed on the forest include sugar bush licenses. BPL also has an active role in managing habitat for game species, and other forms of recreation on the forest.
5.4.b The forest owner or manager strives to	С	See above.
diversify the economic use of the forest according		
to Indicator 5.4.a.		
5.5. Forest management operations shall		
recognize, maintain, and, where appropriate,		
enhance the value of forest services and resources		
such as watersheds and fisheries.		
<b>5.5.a</b> In developing and implementing activities on the FMU, the forest owner or manager identifies, defines and implements appropriate measures for maintaining and/or enhancing forest services and resources that serve public values, including	С	As the state agency managing parks, multiple use considerations are a core value of BPL. Tourism related recreation is extensively managed, all lands are open for public use. Some limited domestic water supplies are present on the forest.
municipal watersheds, fisheries, carbon storage and sequestration, recreation and tourism.		

		BPL is beginning to analyze its carbon storage impact
		as well, relying on a University of Maine report
		showing that the BPL's Ecological Reserves store 30%
		more carbon per acre than typical Maine forests.
5.6. The rate of harvest of forest products shall not		
exceed levels which can be permanently		
sustained.		
<b>5.6.a</b> In FMUs where products are being harvested,	С	A formal inventory is conducted periodically, most
the landowner or manager calculates the sustained		recently in 1999, 2011, 2016. Due to reinventory
yield harvest level for each sustained yield planning		again and finished by 2026. Also, BPL flew the entire
unit, and provides clear rationale for determining		land base in 2015 and used the imagery to do timber
the size and layout of the planning unit. The		typing. Yield curves were developed based on this
sustained yield harvest level calculation is		inventory, which is used to project net growth and a
documented in the Management Plan.		sustained yield calculation for different species.
		Harvest level targets are set at 90% of net growth.
The sustained yield harvest level calculation for		Planning done on a sustainable harvest unit basis, with
each planning unit is based on:		areas removed from harvesting.
<ul> <li>documented growth rates for particular sites,</li> </ul>		
and/or acreage of forest types, age-classes and		Legislative annual allowable cut is set at 160k cds on a
species distributions;		3 year rolling basis. LD 586, 2017 enactment.During
<ul> <li>mortality and decay and other factors that</li> </ul>		fiscal year 2022 (2023 report), 116, 033 cords were
affect net growth;		harvested, well below the AAC. GIS records harvest
<ul> <li>areas reserved from harvest or subject to</li> </ul>		history layer, trip ticket data is used as basis for yield
harvest restrictions to meet other management		calculations.
goals;		
<ul> <li>silvicultural practices that will be employed on</li> </ul>		BPL uses categories of "regulated" and "non-
the FMU;		regulated" to remove non-production designated
<ul> <li>management objectives and desired future</li> </ul>		zones, reserve areas, or preserve areas from
conditions.		calculations.
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.		
5.6.b Average annual harvest levels, over rolling	С	Actual annual harvests have been well below the
periods of no more than 10 years, do not exceed		calculated harvest level. During fiscal year 2022, 116,
the calculated sustained yield harvest level.		U33 cords were harvested, well below the AAC. There
		was 64,919 cus in 2021, 101,075 cus in 2020 (out of 160k cords possible)
<b>5.6.c</b> Rates and methods of timber harvest lead to	С	Timber harvests focus primarily on improving stand
achieving desired conditions, and improve or		conditions or regeneration where advance
,		

maintain health and quality across the FMU.		regeneration is well established. Individual site
Overstocked stands and stands that have been		prescription are created, in line with silvicultural
depleted or rendered to be below productive		guidelines, in order to move towards condition or
potential due to natural events, past management,		regeneration goals. Review of field sites
or lack of management, are returned to desired		demonstrated that harvests were generally in line with
stocking levels and composition at the earliest		management objectives.
practicable time as justified in management		
objectives.		
5.6.d For NTFPs, calculation of quantitative	С	The most significant NTFP gathering is sugar bush
sustained yield harvest levels is required only in		licenses (for the production of maple syrup). These are
cases where products are harvested in significant		managed under 5 year lease agreements, and
commercial operations or where traditional or		reviewed in order to ensure that the gathering does
customary use rights may be impacted by such		not affect the overall forest base.
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.		
Principle #6: Forest management shall conserve biol	logical div	versity and its associated values, water resources, soils,
and unique and fragile ecosystems and landscapes,	and, by s	o doing, maintain the ecological functions and the
Integrity of the forest.	NE	
be completed appropriate to the scale intensity	INE	
of forest management and the uniqueness of the		
of forest management and the uniqueness of the		
into management systems. Accessments shall		
include landscane level considerations as well as		
the impacts of on cite processing facilities		
Environmental impacts shall be assessed prior to		
common compart of site disturbing operations		
6.1.2 Using the results of <i>credible scientific</i>	NE	
analysis hest available information (including	INC.	
relevant databases) and local knowledge and		
evnerience an assessment of conditions on the		
EMIL is completed and includes:		
1) Forest community types and development size		
class and/or successional stages and associated		
natural disturbance reaimes		
2) Rare Threatened and Endangered (PTE) species		
and rare ecological communities (including plant		
and rare ecological communities (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		
and/or successional stages, and a broad		
comparison of historic and current conditions.		
<b>6.1.b</b> Prior to commencing site-disturbing activities,	NE	
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.		
The assessment must incorporate the <b>best</b>		
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.		
<b>6.1.c</b> Using the findings of the impact assessment	NE	
(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.		
<b>6.1.d</b> On public lands, assessments developed in	NE	
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.		
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.		
6.2.a If there is a likely presence of RTE species as	С	2021: Viewed mapped TE habitat (Bradford-Lagrange
identified in Indicator 6.1.a then either a field		unit), and buffer zones. Biologist is on staff and shared
survey to verify the species' presence or absence is		with MEIF&W to ensure that TE habitat is mapped and
conducted prior to site-disturbing management		addressed in operations.
activities, or management occurs with the		2022: MNAP: Surveys have been conducted to identify
assumption that potential RTE species are present.		areas of late successional forest and for rare plant
		occurrences, conducted in preparation for harvest
Surveys are conducted by biologists with the		operations. Small areas meeting Bureau definitions of
appropriate expertise in the species of interest and		'Old-growth' were identified and excluded from
with appropriate qualifications to conduct the		harvest operations. Several additional areas are under
surveys. If a species is determined to be present,		review for special protection and designation as HCV/
its location should be reported to the manager of		Ecological Reserve, and decisions on these
the appropriate database.		designations are ongoing.
		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
		I rout Water, eagle nest, wetlands, lake frontage.
		Updated wildlife allocation on Dallas Plantation based
		on updated stream & wetland data.
		2023: An update summary of ME Natural Areas
		Program (MINAP) for FY 2023: 81 monitoring plots in
		ecological reserves across the state. Additional site-

		specific evaluation of RTE habitat is noted in
		operational Rx plans in the Western Region.
6.2.b When RTE species are present or assumed to	С	2021: Direction within IRP and unit compartment
be present, modifications in management are made		management plans indicated appropriate operational
in order to maintain, restore or enhance the extent,		considerations. Viewed site of Vernal Pool habitat on
quality and viability of the species and their		10/25 site VI where operation had refrained from
habitats. <i>Conservation zones</i> and/or <i>protected</i>		harvesting within 100 of the pool and had adjusted the
areas are established for RTE species, including		intensity of the harvest to accommodate the life zone
those S3 species that are considered rare, where		of the organisms using the habitat. Also see the
they are necessary to maintain or improve the		Management Plan for Canada Lynx Habitat in the
short and long-term viability of the species.		Seeboomook Unit where concerns for habitat integrity
Conservation measures are based on relevant		are addressed through a policy document.
science, guidelines and/or consultation with		2022:
relevant, independent experts as necessary to		MNAP: The Bureau works closely with resource
achieve the conservation goal of the Indicator.		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.
		<ul> <li>Research and special activity permits go through</li> </ul>
		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
and trail structures to avoid/minimize any impacts
on Roaring Brook mayfly
2022.
cast. Bowdoin cast Lot - Heritage front Stream. As
a part of the KX 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 USEWS and IEW. Road-stream crossing
installation: requires an approved BMP plan on file
prior to installation Harvesting in major/minor
rinarian follows wildlife guidelines. Lynx HMA
harvest consultation- enhance high quality hare
halivest consultation- enhance high quality lidle
Diantation: Zonad D. E.W. operations had a Dian
Agreement in place prior to be muching. Bey with
Agreement in place prior to narvesting. Round
Pond: narvest 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

	-	
<b>6.2</b> c. For modium and large public forests (o.g.		<ul> <li>consultation- developed guidance in prescription to encourage enhancement of shelter/closed canopy conditions for wintering deer and retention/development of travel corridors where shelter is limited.</li> <li>Hamlin unit harvest: Deer habitat assessment and track surveys found no evidence of wintering deer population.</li> <li>2023: See notes above (2022) and in 6.2.a</li> </ul>
state forests), forest management plans and operations are designed to meet species' recovery goals, as well as landscape level biodiversity conservation goals.		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. 2023: See notes above (2022) and in 6.2.a
<b>6.2.d</b> Within the capacity of the forest owner or manager, hunting, fishing, trapping, collecting and other activities are controlled to avoid the risk of impacts to vulnerable species and communities (See Criterion 1.5).	C	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. 2023: Verified as above

6.3. Ecological functions and values shall be		
maintained intact, enhanced, or restored,		
including: a) Forest regeneration and succession.		
b) Genetic, species, and ecosystem diversity. c)		
Natural cycles that affect the productivity of the		
forest ecosystem.		
<b>6.3.a.</b> Landscape-scale indicators		
<b>6.3.a.1</b> The forest owner or manager maintains, enhances, and/or restores under-represented <i>successional</i> stages in the FMU that would naturally occur on the types of sites found on the FMU. Where old growth of different community types that would naturally occur on the forest are under-represented in the landscape relative to natural conditions, a portion of the forest is managed to enhance and/or restore old growth characteristics.	C	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).
		FMP process recorded in P7.
<b>6.3.a.2</b> When a <i>rare ecological community</i> 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, <i>conservation zones</i> and/or <i>protected areas</i> are established where warranted.	С	Rare ecological communities are classified as Ecological Reserves which are designated as no cut and no new roads. BPL has 107,000 acres in this "no cut no roads" classification at present. Prior to harvest activity at Site #3 (Telos Unit, T8 R11 WELS) on 9/20/22 the boundary was clearly marked as a no cut zone at the buffer for a protected wetland area demonstrating a typical activity for protected areas. 2023: Verified as above. Additional detailed review of FMP process recorded in P7.
<b>6.3.a.3</b> When they are present, management maintains the area, structure, composition, and processes of all <i>Type 1</i> and <i>Type 2 old growth</i> . Type 1 and 2 old growth are also protected and buffered as necessary with conservation zones, unless an alternative plan is developed that	С	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

provides greater overall protection of old growth values.

Type 1 Old Growth is protected from harvesting and road construction. Type 1 old growth is also protected from other timber management activities, except as needed to maintain the ecological values associated with the stand, including old growth attributes (e.g., remove exotic species, conduct controlled burning, and thinning from below in dry forest types when and where restoration is appropriate).

Type 2 Old Growth is protected from harvesting to the extent necessary to maintain the area, structures, and functions of the stand. Timber harvest in Type 2 old growth must maintain old growth structures, functions, and components including individual trees that function as refugia (see Indicator 6.3.g).

On public lands, old growth is protected from harvesting, as well as from other timber management activities, except if needed to maintain the values associated with the stand (e.g., remove exotic species, conduct controlled burning, and thinning from below in forest types when and where restoration is appropriate).

On American Indian lands, timber harvest may be permitted in Type 1 and Type 2 old growth in recognition of their sovereignty and unique ownership. Timber harvest is permitted in situations where:

- 1. Old growth forests comprise a significant portion of the tribal ownership.
- 2. A history of forest stewardship by the tribe exists.
- 3. High Conservation Value Forest attributes are maintained.
- 4. Old-growth structures are maintained.

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.

2023: Verified as above. Additional detailed review of FMP process recorded in P7.

5. Conservation zones representative of old		
growth stands are established.		
6. Landscape level considerations are addressed.		
7. Rare species are protected.		
6.3.b To the extent feasible within the size of the	С	2022: East: Continued to maintain old fields on the
ownership, particularly on larger ownerships		Reed Central Lot. One field received some brushing
(generally tens of thousands or more acres),		back with a feller buncher.
management maintains, enhances, or restores		• West: Past Lynx habitat in Seboomook, Deer Yard
habitat conditions suitable for well-distributed		Harvest in Dallas Plantation North aimed to
populations of animal species that are		accelerate conditions conducive to adequate winter
characteristic of forest ecosystems within the		cover (currently stagnant and not in cover)
landscape.		• 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, Davs Academy,
		Kennebec Highlands, Eagle Lake, Salmon Brook
		Lake, Codvville): 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 past boxes are maintained appually for
		cavity-necting species with new hoves added when
		and where appropriate
		2023: Verified as above Additional detailed rovious of
		EMP process recorded in P7. See also notes on HCV
		monitoring bolow in 0.4

<ul> <li>6.3.c Management maintains, enhances and/or restores the plant and wildlife habitat of <i>Riparian Management Zones (RMZs)</i> to provide:</li> <li>a) habitat for aquatic species that breed in surrounding uplands;</li> <li>b) habitat for predominantly terrestrial species that breed in adjacent <i>aquatic habitats</i>;</li> <li>c) habitat for species that use riparian areas for feeding, cover, and travel;</li> </ul>	С	<ul> <li>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.</li> <li>2023: Field visits in the Mahoosic and Richardson Units include a considerable variety of watercourses and lakeshores requiring RMZ adaptation. In every case, mapping and site identification was appropriate</li> </ul>
<ul> <li>d) habitat for plant species associated with riparian areas; and,</li> <li>e) stream shading and inputs of wood and leaf litter into the adjacent aquatic ecosystem.</li> </ul>		to the local conditions. Auditors inspected examples of harvests conducted in challenging conditions in close proximity to sensitive streams, wetlands, and lakeshores. Appropriate provision for items a – e were observed and noted.
<b>Stand-scale Indicators</b> <b>6.3.d</b> Management practices maintain or enhance plant species composition, distribution and frequency of occurrence similar to those that would naturally occur on the site.	С	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. 2023: See notes above in 6.3.c. Typical management adaptations are buffers with modified prescription and reduced ground impact.
<b>6.3.e</b> When planting is required, a local source of known provenance is used when available and when the local source is equivalent in terms of quality, price and productivity. The use of non-local sources shall be justified, such as in situations where other management objectives (e.g. disease resistance or adapting to climate change) are best served by non-local sources. <i>Native species</i> suited to the site are normally selected for regeneration.	C	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.

		2023: No examples of planting were observed.
		Erosion control practices (stabilization seeding) are
		verified as similar to that noted above.
6.3.f Management maintains, enhances, or	С	BPL has a Reserve and Legacy tree document covering
restores habitat components and associated stand		these policies. Maintain Old growth component if
structures, in abundance and distribution that		they are harvesting. All OG stands are protected, no
could be expected from naturally occurring		harvesting.
processes. These components include:		The dominant partial harvesting techniques utilized by
a) large live trees, live trees with decay or		BPL should maintain stand structure and the retention
declining health, <i>snags</i> , and well-distributed		of snags and large down woody debris will ensure
coarse down and dead woody material. <i>Legacy</i>		recruitment of structural material over the land base.
trees where present are not harvested; and		
b) vertical and horizontal complexity.		Numerous examples of green tree retention, legacy
Trees selected for <i>retention</i> are generally		retention, and snag development were observed
representative of the dominant species found on		during field exams, see Site Notes.
the site.		2023: Numerous examples of harvest sites were
		inspected, with appropriate retention strategies in
		place. Appropriate respect for BPL policy and this
		indicator is confirmed.
6.3.g.1 In the Southeast, Appalachia, Ozark-	С	BPL harvest systems follow classical approaches to
Ouachita, Mississippi Alluvial Valley, and Pacific		both even-aged and uneven-aged silvicultural
Coast Regions, when even-aged systems are		techniques. Documentation of these harvest systems
employed, and during salvage harvests, live trees		is reviewed in:
and other native vegetation are retained within the		<ul> <li>Online policy and regional management</li> </ul>
harvest unit as described in Appendix C for the		planning,
applicable region.		Compartment level Prescriptions (reviewed for
		all field visit sites), and
In the Lake States Northeast, Rocky Mountain and		<ul> <li>Internal guidance for recording and tracking</li> </ul>
Southwest Regions, when even-aged silvicultural		harvest activity (Rx/Mgmt. Objective
systems are employed, and during salvage harvests,		Guidelines, BPL Lands Cut History Manual).
live trees and other native vegetation are retained		Heavy (nearly exclusive) reliance on natural
within the harvest unit in a proportion and		regeneration is appropriate in practice, and common
configuration that is consistent with the		to local industry practice.
characteristic natural disturbance regime unless		All harvest sites visited during this audit are scheduled
retention at a lower level is necessary for the		for natural regeneration. Visits to adjacent, older
purposes of restoration or rehabilitation. See		treated stands confirms that successful results are
Appendix C for additional regional requirements		likely.
and guidance.		
APPENDIX C: REGIONAL LIMITS AND OTHER	С	See 6.3.g.1 above
GUIDELINES ON		
OPENING SIZES		

This	s Appendix contains regional Indicators and		
gui	dance pertinent to maximum opening sizes and		
oth	er guidelines for determining size openings and		
rete	ention. These Indicators are requirements based		
on	FSC-US regional delineations		
NO	RTHEAST REGION:		
6.3	.g.1.a Silvicultural systems favor natural		
reg	eneration where appropriate, and forest		
оре	erations are planned to protect pre-established		
nat	ural regeneration of desirable species.		
6.3	.g.2 Under very limited situations, the	NA	
lan	downer or manager has the option to develop a		
qua	lified plan to allow minor departure from the		
оре	ening size limits described in Indicator 6.3.g.1. A		
qua	lified plan:		
1.	Is developed by qualified experts in ecological		
	and/or related fields (wildlife biology,		
	hydrology, landscape ecology,		
	forestry/silviculture).		
2.	Is based on the totality of the <i>best available</i>		
	information including peer-reviewed science		
	regarding natural disturbance regimes for the		
	FMU.		
3.	Is spatially and temporally explicit and includes		
	maps of proposed openings or areas.		
4.	Demonstrates that the variations will result in		
	equal or greater benefit to wildlife, water		
	quality, and other values compared to the		
	normal opening size limits, including for		
	sensitive and rare species.		
5.	Is reviewed by independent experts in wildlife		
	biology, hydrology, and landscape ecology, to		
	confirm the preceding findings.		
6.3	<b>.h</b> The forest owner or manager assesses the	С	BPL works with MNAP to identify and map invasive
risk	of, prioritizes, and, as warranted, develops and		plant species. At present invasive plants have only
imp	elements a strategy to prevent or control		been identified as a major cause for concern on some
inv	asive species, including:		of the small southern lots. Herbicide control has been
1.	a method to determine the extent of invasive		initiated on those sites at the direction of MNAP staff.
	species and the degree of threat to native		BPL has three licensed commercial applicators on
	species and ecosystems;		staff. Invasive insects are monitored by the MFS which

2.	implementation of management practices that		has the primary legal responsibility to monitor and
	minimize the risk of invasive establishment,		respond to invasive insects. BPL works in conjunction
	growth, and spread;		with MFS staff to manage these insects.
3.	eradication or control of established invasive		2022: Examination of Environmental Impact for
	populations when feasible: and,		chemical use logs and guidance documents confirm
4.	monitoring of control measures and		conformance. Preharvest timber cruising conducted by
	management practices to assess their		foresters as part of Rx writing process notes
	effectiveness in preventing or controlling		occurrences of invasives and includes active training
	invasive species.		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).
			2023: Policy and practice for control and mitigation of
			invasive plants is integrated by the BPL with policy for
			chemical use. A summary of activity since the
			previous audit is provided, reviewed, and summarized
			(as required) in the DAR. Appropriate provision for
			items 1-4 is confirmed.
6.3	.i In applicable situations, the forest owner or	С	Few sites in Maine are fire prone. Habitat and fuel
ma	nager identifies and applies site-specific fuels		types inhibit natural or accidental fires spreading. MFS
ma	nagement practices, based on: (1) natural fire		recommends a defensible space around forest
reg	times, (2) risk of wildfire, (3) potential economic		dwellings but little else is recommended. BPL works
los	ses, (4) public safety, and (5) applicable laws and		with MFS staff if and when a fire occurs, but little else
reg	ulations.		is required at this time. Forestry equipment are
			required to have suppression equipment on board and
			further suppression equipment available on site.
			2023: verified as noted above.
6.4	. Representative samples of existing		
eco	osystems within the landscape shall be		
pro	ptected in their natural state and recorded on		
ma	ps, appropriate to the scale and intensity of		
ор	erations and the uniqueness of the affected		
res	ources.		
6.4	.a The forest owner or manager documents the	NE	
eco	osystems that would naturally exist on the FMU,		
an	d assesses the adequacy of their representation		
an	d protection in the <i>landscape</i> (see Criterion 7.1).		
Th	e assessment for medium and large forests		
	lude 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.		
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.		
6.4.b Where existing areas within the landscape,	NE	
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.		
Large FMUs are generally expected to establish		
RSAs of purpose 2 and 3 within the FMU.		
6.4.c Management activities within RSAs are limited	NE	
to low impact activities compatible with the		
protected RSA objectives, except under the		
following circumstances:		
a) harvesting activities only where they are		
necessary to restore or create conditions to		
meet the objectives of the protected RSA, or to		
mitigate conditions that interfere with achieving		
the RSA objectives; or		
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.		
6.4.d The RSA assessment (Indicator 6.4.a) shall be	NE	
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		
the need for horis has changed, the designation of		

6.4.e Managers of large, contiguous public forests	NE	
establish and maintain a network of representative		
protected areas sufficient in size to maintain		
species dependent on interior core habitats.		
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.		
6.5.a The forest owner or manager has written	NE	
guidelines outlining conformance with the		
Indicators of this Criterion.		
6.5.b Forest operations meet or exceed Best	NC	This audit included visits to and inspection of a
Management Practices (BMPs) that address		representative selection of recent, ongoing, and
components of the Criterion where the operation		completed harvest sites in the Western Mountain
takes place.		region. Inspections were made during unusually wet
		weather, and during a season of unusually high
		rainfall. Overall, BMP implementation was observed
		to effective and appropriate to local conditions. Some
		isolated lapses were observed, leading to the finding
		noted here.
		NC 2023-01 (minor): The organization's
		implementation of water quality BMP's may not be
		fully effective. Evidence from field observations
		includes some recent harvests which lacked effective
		skid trail stabilization measures.
6.5.c Management activities including site	С	See notes above in 6.5.b
preparation, harvest prescriptions, techniques,		
timing, and equipment are selected and used to		
protect soil and water resources and to avoid		
erosion, landslides, and significant soil disturbance.		
Logging and other activities that significantly		
increase the risk of landslides are excluded in areas		
where risk of landslides is high. The following		
actions are addressed:		
Slash is concentrated only as much as		
necessary to achieve the goals of site		
preparation and the reduction of fuels to		
moderate or low levels of fire hazard.		
• Disturbance of topsoil is limited to the		

minimum necessary to achieve successful		
regeneration of species native to the site.		
<ul> <li>Rutting and compaction is minimized.</li> </ul>		
• 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.		
<ul> <li>Low impact equipment and technologies is</li> </ul>		
used where appropriate.		
6.5.d The transportation system, including design	С	See 6.5.b above
and placement of permanent and temporary haul		The audit includes significant, systematic observation
roads, skid trails, recreational trails, water crossings		and inspection of land management roads within the
and landings, is designed, constructed, maintained,		FMU – including long-established & active roads, dis-
and/or reconstructed to reduce short and long-		used roads, recently re-constructed roads, and new
term environmental impacts, habitat		roads. In spite of very challenging weather conditions,
fragmentation, soil and water disturbance and		overall conditions and the state of maintenance are
cumulative adverse effects, while allowing for		observed to be conformant to this indicator.
customary uses and use rights. This includes:		
<ul> <li>access to all roads and trails (temporary and</li> </ul>		
permanent), including recreational trails, and		
off-road travel, is controlled, as possible, to		
minimize ecological impacts;		
<ul> <li>road density is minimized;</li> </ul>		
<ul> <li>erosion is minimized;</li> </ul>		
<ul> <li>sediment discharge to streams is minimized;</li> </ul>		
<ul> <li>there is free upstream and downstream</li> </ul>		
passage for aquatic organisms;		
<ul> <li>impacts of transportation systems on wildlife</li> </ul>		
habitat and migration corridors are minimized;		
<ul> <li>area converted to roads, landings and skid</li> </ul>		
trails is minimized;		
<ul> <li>habitat fragmentation is minimized;</li> </ul>		
<ul> <li>unneeded roads are closed and rehabilitated.</li> </ul>		
6.5.e.1 In consultation with appropriate expertise,	NE	
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.		
In the Appalachia, Ozark-Ouachita, Southeast,		
Mississippi Alluvial Valley, Southwest, Rocky		
Mountain, and Pacific Coast regions, there are		
requirements for minimum SMZ widths and explicit		
limitations on the activities that can occur within		
those SMZs. These are outlined as requirements in		
Appendix E.		
6.5.e.2 Minor variations from the stated minimum	NE	
SMZ widths and layout for specific stream		
segments, wetlands and other water bodies are		
permitted in limited circumstances, provided the		
forest owner or manager demonstrates that the		
alternative configuration maintains the overall		
extent of the buffers and provides equivalent or		
greater environmental protection than FSC-US		
regional requirements for those stream segments,		
water quality, and aquatic species, based on site-		
specific conditions and the best available		
information. The forest owner or manager		
develops a written set of supporting information		
including a description of the riparian habitats and		
species addressed in the alternative configuration.		
The CB must verify that the variations meet these		
requirements, based on the input of an		
independent expert in aquatic ecology or closely		
related field.		
6.5.f Stream and wetland crossings are avoided	NE	
when possible. Unavoidable crossings are located		
and constructed to minimize impacts on water		
quality, hydrology, and fragmentation of <i>aquatic</i>		
habitat. Crossings do not impede the movement of		

aquatic species. Temporary crossings are restored		
to original hydrological conditions when operations		
are finished.		
6.5.g Recreation use on the FMU is managed to	NE	
avoid negative impacts to soils, water, plants,		
wildlife and wildlife habitats.		
6.5.h Grazing by domesticated animals is controlled	NE	
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.		
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.		
6.6.a No products on the FSC list of Highly	NE	
Hazardous Pesticides are used (see FSC-POL-30-001		
EN FSC Pesticides policy 2005 and associated		
documents).		
6.6.b All toxicants used to control pests and	NE	
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.		
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.		
6.6.c Chemicals and application methods are	NE	
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.		
6.6.d Whenever chemicals are used, a written	NE	
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.		
Chemicals are applied only by workers who have		
received proper training in application methods		
and safety. They are made aware of the risks, wear		
proper safety equipment, and are trained to		
minimize environmental impacts on non-target		
species and sites.		
6.6.e If chemicals are used, the effects are	NE	
monitored and the results are used for adaptive		
management. Records are kept of pest		
occurrences, control measures, and incidences of		
worker exposure to chemicals.		
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.		

<b>6.7.a</b> The forest owner or manager, and employees	NE	
and contractors, have the equipment and training		
necessary to respond to hazardous spills		
<b>6.7.b</b> In the event of a hazardous material spill, the	NE	
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.		
6.7.c. Hazardous materials and fuels are stored in	NE	
leak-proof containers in designated storage areas,		
that are outside of riparian management zones and		
away from other ecological sensitive features, until		
they are used or transported to an approved off-		
site location for disposal. There is no evidence of		
persistent fluid leaks from equipment or of recent		
groundwater or surface water contamination.		
6.8. Use of biological control agents shall be	NE	
documented, minimized, monitored, and strictly		
controlled in accordance with national laws and		
internationally accepted scientific protocols. Use		
of genetically modified organisms shall be		
prohibited.		
6.8.a Use of <i>biological control agents</i> are used only	NE	
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.		
6.8.b If biological control agents are used, they are	NE	
applied by trained workers using proper		
equipment.		
<b>6.8.c</b> If biological control agents are used, their use	NE	
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		
the allower and a difference of the second state of the second sta		
Implemented justifying such use, describing the		
risks, specifying the precautions workers will		

describing how potential impacts will be		
monitored.		
6.8.d Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOs) are	NE	
not used for any purpose		
6.9. The use of exotic species shall be carefully	С	
controlled and actively monitored to avoid		
adverse ecological impacts.		
6.9.a The use of <i>exotic species</i> is contingent on the	C	No exotic species used on the forest. Seed mix for
availability of credible scientific data indicating that		stabilization is not composed of species listed as
any such species is non-invasive and its application		invasive. These species should not persist in a
does not pose a risk to native biodiversity.		forested situation.
		2023: verified as recorded above.
<b>6.9.b</b> If exotic species are used, their provenance	NA	See 6.9.a, above.
and the location of their use are documented, and		
their ecological effects are actively monitored.		
6.9.c The forest owner or manager shall take timely	NA	See 6.9.a, above.
action to curtail or significantly reduce any adverse		
impacts resulting from their use of exotic species		
6.10. Forest conversion to plantations or non-	NE	
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.		
6.10.a Forest conversion to non-forest land uses	NE	
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).		
6.10.b Forest conversion to non-forest land uses	NE	
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).		
6.10.c Forest conversion to non-forest land uses	NE	
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).		
6.10.d Natural or semi-natural stands are not	NE	
converted to plantations. Degraded, semi-natural		
stands may be converted to restoration		
plantations.		
6.10.e Justification for land-use and stand-type	NE	
conversions is fully described in the long-term		
management plan, and meets the biodiversity		
conservation requirements of Criterion 6.3 (see		
also Criterion 7.1.I)		
6.10.f Areas converted to non-forest use for	NA	
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.		
Principle #7: A management plan appropriate to t	he scale a	and intensity of the operations shall be written,
implemented, and kept up to date. The long-term of	bjectives	of management, and the means of achieving them,
shall be clearly stated.		
7.1. The management plan and supporting		
documents shall provide:		
a. Management objectives. b) description of the		
forest resources to be managed,		
environmental limitations, land use and		
ownership status, socio-economic conditions,		
and a profile of adjacent lands.		
b. Description of silvicultural and/or other		
management system, based on the ecology of		
the forest in question and information		

8 1 1 1 1 1 5) 1 1 1 1 1	gathered through resource inventories. d) Rationale for rate of annual harvest and species selection. e) Provisions for monitoring of forest growth and dynamics. f) Environmental safeguards based on environmental assessments. g) Plans for the identification and protection of rare, threatened and endangered species. h) Maps describing the forest resource base including protected areas, planned management activities and land ownership. i) Description and justification of harvesting techniques and equipment to be used.		
7.1.2	a The management plan identifies the	С	Management Planning for the Bureau is established by
own reso right	a me management plan dentifies the pership and legal status of the FMU and its purces, including rights held by the owner and ts held by others.		the Integrated Resource Policy – executed in 2000 & updated 2007. <u>Posted online</u> Ownership, legal status, and relevant rights for management (established by legislation) are documented appropriately.
of la type and/ distu	b The management plan describes the history and use and past management, current forest es and associated development, size class for successional stages, and natural urbance regimes that affect the FMU (see	L	organized regionally and <u>posted publicly</u> . Details in regional FMP's include specifics of this indicator; reviewed & validated for the <u>Western Mountains</u> <u>Region FMP</u> during this audit.
maid	cator 6.1.a).		compartment level with detailed operational plans,
7.1.0 a) cu fore: conc d) ap activ conc	c The management plan describes: urrent conditions of the timber and non-timber st resources being managed; b) desired future ditions; c) historical ecological conditions; and pplicable management objectives and vities to move the FMU toward desired future ditions.	С	See 7.1.b Current conditions are appropriately addressed, as well as management objectives, ecological history, and FMP strategic approach.
7.1.0 of th and elem addr	<b>d</b> The management plan includes a description ne landscape within which the FMU is located describes how landscape-scale habitat nents described in Criterion 6.3 will be ressed.	C	See 7.1.b Landscape-scale habitat elements are appropriately described and addressed in the regional FMP
<b>7.1.</b> of th	<b>e</b> The management plan includes a description ne following resources and outlines activities	С	Detailed review of the <u>Western Mountain Region FMP</u> verified the items in this indicator:

to conserve and/or protect.		<ul> <li>Specific management consideration of RTE</li> </ul>
<ul> <li>rare threatened or endangered species and</li> </ul>		habitat
natural communities (see Criterion 6.2):		<ul> <li>Species and community diversity</li> </ul>
<ul> <li>plant species and community diversity and</li> </ul>		Water quality and aquatic babitat protection
wildlife habitats (see Criterion 6.3).		Ecological Pacaryos (PSA)
<ul> <li>water resources (see Criterion 6.5);</li> </ul>		Soil integrity
<ul> <li>soil resources (see Criterion 6.3);</li> </ul>		HCV & special management areas
Benresentative Sample Areas (see Criterion		• FICV & special management areas
6 4).		
High Conservation Value Forests (see Principle		
Other special management areas		
<b>7 1 f</b> If invasive species are present the	C	Invasive species when present are addressed in
management plan describes invasive species	C	Compartment By Plans Reviewed in detail for field
conditions applicable management objectives		sample sites
and how they will be controlled (see Indicator		sample sites.
6 3 i)		
<b>7.1</b> g The management plan describes insects and	C	Compartment level Prescriptions include specific
diseases current or anticipated outbreaks on	C	observations on insect and disease conditions for each
forest conditions and management goals, and how		operational block along with incorporation into
insects and diseases will be managed (see Criteria		management planning as needed. This is verified for
6.6 and 6.8)		each site visited during this audit
<b>7.1 h</b> If chemicals are used the plan describes	C	A specific planning process for Chemical Lise if
what is being used applications and how the	C	employed Additional details and review of
management system conforms with Criterion 6.6.		application is noted in C6.6.
<b>7.1.i</b> If biological controls are used, the	С	No use of biological agents is reported or observed.
management plan describes what is being used.	-	
applications, and how the management system		
conforms with Criterion 6.8.		
<b>7.1.j</b> The management plan incorporates the	С	See 7.1.b
results of the evaluation of social impacts,		
including:		
• traditional cultural resources and rights of use		
(see Criterion 2.1);		
<ul> <li>potential conflicts with customary uses and</li> </ul>		
use rights (see Criteria 2.2, 2.3, 3.2);		
<ul> <li>management of ceremonial, archeological,</li> </ul>		
and historic sites (see Criteria 3.3 and 4.5);		
<ul> <li>management of aesthetic values (see</li> </ul>		
Indicator 4.4.a);		
<ul> <li>public access to and use of the forest, and</li> </ul>		

	1	
other recreation issues;		
Iocal and regional socioeconomic conditions		
and economic opportunities, including		
creation and/or maintenance of quality jobs		
(see Indicators 4.1.b and 4.4.a), local		
purchasing opportunities (see Indicator		
4.1.e), and participation in local development		
opportunities (see Indicator 4.1.g).		
<b>7.1.k</b> The management plan describes the general	С	Transportation infrastructure is addressed
purpose, condition and maintenance needs of the		appropriately in both the strategic and operational
transportation network (see Indicator 6.5.e).		management planning documents. Details of access
		issues for compartment Rx's includes specific plans for
		road improvements, upgrades, and plans for
		maintenance. Field visits during this audit included
		specific inspection of recent and ongoing road
		improvement work in challenging landscapes during
		an unusually wet season.
<b>7.1.I</b> The management plan describes the	С	See 7.1.b
silvicultural and other management systems used		Compartment Rx Plans include reference to
and how they will sustain, over the long term,		standardized silvicultural treatments for application to
forest ecosystems present on the FMU.		harvest operations.
		Interaction between stand-level base data and harvest
		history data was demonstrated and validated against
		examples from the field review. Application of
		ongoing harvest operations with reference to long
		term objectives is appropriate.
7.1.m The management plan describes how	С	AAC calculations underlying harvest planning is
species selection and harvest rate calculations		confirmed by sample. Model-based stand projections
were developed to meet the requirements of		and yield planning remains as verified during
Criterion 5.6.		recertification – see additional notes in C5.6
7.1.n The management plan includes a description	С	See 7.1.b
of monitoring procedures necessary to address		Appropriate reference to monitoring procedures is
the requirements of Criterion 8.2.		confirmed. Additional details are noted in C8.2
7.1.0 The management plan includes maps	С	Full integration of GIS into forest management
describing the resource base, the characteristics of		planning is fully verified. Site specific mapping is
general management zones, special management		included in operational Rx documents. Operational
areas, and protected areas at a level of detail to		use of GIS at all levels is evident.
achieve management objectives and protect		
sensitive sites.		
7.1.p The management plan describes and justifies	С	See 7.1.b
the types and sizes of harvesting machinery and		

techniques employed on the FMU to minimize or		Harvesting techniques and appropriate equipment
limit impacts to the resource.		application is addressed, in various ways, within Rx
		Plans at the compartment level. Examples of specific
		adaptation on sensitive sites and limitations based on
		equipment capability were observed on field sites.
7.1.a Plans for harvesting and other significant	C	See 7.1 h
site-disturbing management activities required to	C	Site level harvest planning follows long-established.
carry out the management plan are prepared prior		mature protocols which are readily verified by
to implementation. Plans clearly describe the		example during this audit. Details of Rx Plans were
activity, the relationship to objectives, outcomes		verified directly during field visits and interviews with
any necessary environmental safeguards, health		responsible staff. Specific items in this indicator are all
and safety measures and include mans of		evident
adequate detail		
<b>7.1.r</b> The management plan describes the	C	See 7.1 b
stakeholder consultation process	C	Management planning processes clearly involve
		considerable public input and participation. Details
		are nosted publicly and input is actively solicited. The
		most recent EMP – produced in 2022 for the Kennebec
		Highlands unit was supported by a citizen advisory
		committee of 17 members
7.2 The management plan shall be periodically		
revised to incorporate the results of monitoring		
or new scientific and technical information, as		
well as to respond to changing environmental,		
social and economic circumstances.		
7.2.a The management plan is kept up to date. It is	С	See 7.1.b
reviewed on an ongoing basis and is updated		FMP's are designed for 15 year scope with a five-year
whenever necessary to incorporate the results of		review process. Review processes are published and
monitoring or new scientific and technical		readily accessible on the Bureau website.
information, as well as to respond to changing		
environmental, social and economic		
circumstances. At a minimum, a full revision		
occurs every 10 years.		
7.3 Forest workers shall receive adequate		
training and supervision to ensure proper		
implementation of the management plans.		
7.3.a Workers are qualified to properly	С	Evidence is provided to demonstrate appropriate and
implement the management plan; All forest		ongoing training for both professional staff and
workers are provided with sufficient guidance and		contractor workforce.
supervision to adequately implement their		Logger training is required of contractors and
respective components of the plan.		verified by reference to the SFI-supported CLP

		program. Random cross-check confirms
		currency of recently active contractors.
		Recent records of staff training include specific
		audit preparation, and general system review.
		Interview and interaction with a substantial group of
		FME staff confirm strong competency and awareness.
7.4 While respecting the confidentiality of		
information, forest managers shall make publicly		
available a summary of the primary elements of		
the management plan, including those listed in		
Criterion 7.1.		
7 4 a While respecting landowner confidentiality	С	See 7.1.b, 7.2.a
the management plan or a management plan		https://www.maine.gov/dacf/parks/get_involved/plan
summary that outlines the elements of the plan		ning and acquisition/management plans/index.html
described in Criterion 7.1 is available to the public		
oither at no charge or a nominal fee		
<b>7.4.b</b> Managers of public forests make draft	С	See 7.2.a, 7.1.r
management plans, revisions and supporting		
documentation easily accessible for public review		
and comment prior to their implementation.		
Managers address public comments and modify		
the plans to ensure compliance with this Standard.		
Principle #8: Monitoring shall be conducted appre	opriate to	the scale and intensity of forest management to
assess the condition of the forest, yields of forest p	roducts, c	hain of custody, management activities and their social
and environmental impacts.	ta lana Cla	and an informal qualitative approximate many be
appropriate Formal quantitative monitoring is requ	ired on la	rae forests and/or intensively managed forests
8.1 The frequency and intensity of monitoring	NE	
should be determined by the scale and intensity of		
forest management operations, as well as, the		
relative complexity and fragility of the affected		
environment. Monitoring procedures should be		
consistent and replicable over time to allow		
comparison of results and assessment of change.		
<b>8.1.a</b> Consistent with the scale and intensity of	NF	
management the forest owner or manager		
develops and consistently implements a regular		
comprehensive and replicable written monitoring		
notocol		
8.2 Expect management should include the		
o.2. Forest management should include the		
research and data collection needed to monitor,		

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

1) Dave threatened as devides the	Eastering Descent to set to the the the
1) Kare, threatened and endangered species	Ecological Reserve Inventory has its own permanent
and/or their <b>nabitats</b> ;	inventory system, returns on a 10 year basis. Many of
2) Common and rare plant communities and/or	the significant areas identified as ecoreserves, are also
habitat;	classified as HCVF.
3) Location, presence and abundance of	Monitoring of ecoreserves:
invasive species;	1) Regional staff monitor for basic stewardship,
4) Condition of protected areas, set-asides and	keeping out ATVs, etc. maintenance,
buffer zones;	2) Natural areas monitoring, species scale, MNAP
5) High Conservation Value Forests (see	tasked with monitoring rare species and
Criterion 9.4).	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.
	East: Monitored invasive at Brad/Lag and Rocky.
	Duck box maintenance at Seboels
	MINAP: MINAP has monitored and updated
	significant natural communities on Public Reserve
	Lands and has continued the Continuing Forest
	Inventory on Ecological Reserves (ERIVI)
	IFW: In addition to response for P.04.6.2.1 for RTE:
	Maine Bird Atlas and Maine Amphibian & Repute
	Atlasting project inventory species regardless of
	at Stratton Brook Dond (Pigelow) Planshard
	Elowage Dead Biver Deningula). Thempson
	Provage Deau River Permisuia), mompsoli Doadwater (Rood Dit), and Schoice Upper Inlat
	(Sebajes) are conducted in lune and luly
	(Sebules) are conducted in june and july.
	Varenal pool according at Northport and David
	Academy, Grassland hird surveys at Hebren and
	Academy, Grassiand Diru surveys at nebroll and Bineland Loon surveys at Third and Eifth Mashies
	Lakes. Bat monitoring with accustic bat detectors
	2022: An undate summary of ME Natural Areas
	2025. All upuale summary of IVIE Natural Areas
	ecological records acress the state. This engring
	monitoring activity appropriately tracks HCV_PTF_and
	activity appropriately tracks HCV, RTE, and
	other sensitive habitat features.

8.2.d.1 Monitoring is conducted to ensure that site	С	Site visits and inspections, detailed further in the DAR,
specific plans and operations are properly		verified – in every case – the effective use of site
implemented, environmental impacts of site		monitoring protocols and forms to maintain and
disturbing operations are minimized, and that		ensure that disturbance is minimized and mitigated
harvest prescriptions and guidelines are effective.		according to policy and procedure. Sample review,
		observation, and interview confirm appropriate
		conformance.
8.2.d.2 A monitoring program is in place to assess	С	As part of settlement with Maine Forest Service, there
the condition and environmental impacts of the		is a new BMP monitoring protocol. Responsible
forest-road system.		forester for each unit assesses their road network
		each spring. Foresters identify road work priorities,
		which are then submitted to road contractors. Works
		from a budget and with prioritized land management
		in order to identify needs.
		2023: Verified as above. See also 6.5.d.
8.2.d.3 The landowner or manager monitors	С	Annual report to the legislature compiles socio-
relevant socio-economic issues (see Indicator		economic issues, such as increased recreation
4.4.a), including the social impacts of harvesting,		pressure, summary of wood products sold (and
participation in local economic opportunities (see		supporting local job opportunities), public access
Indicator 4.1.g), the creation and/or maintenance		issues.
of quality job opportunities (see Indicator 4.1.b),		2023: Verified as above.
and local purchasing opportunities (see Indicator		
4.1.e).		
8.2.d.4 Stakeholder responses to management	С	Stakeholder responses are monitored, as part of BPL's
activities are monitored and recorded as necessary.		role as a public agency.
		2023: A specific example of stakeholder input and
		response was ongoing during this audit and evaluated
		by the Audit Team. An interview with a concerned
		neighbor confirmed the appropriate use of
		consultation and communication protocols. See
		additional notes in the DAR.
8.2.d.5 Where sites of cultural significance exist,	С	2023:
the opportunity to jointly monitor sites of cultural		STATEWIDE: In the meeting at Dug Brook Hatchery,
significance is offered to tribal representatives (see		Interpretive Specialist discussed how BPL can improve
Principle 3).		communications on historical interpretations of tribal
		history on Public Land. Interp. Spec committed to
		improving signage and working with tribal members.
		Forest Ecologist assigned to BPL has been in
		communication with Tribal rep regarding ash stand
		monitoring. Work is ongoing.

		Correspondence reviewed (email 7/17 –
		8/30/23 'APCAW – brown ash meeting follow
		up. Culturally significant sites and resources on non-tribal
		lands are a long-standing sore point due to lack of
		trust. Tribal members are often besitant to share
		discret leasting with us Intern Cree and Decretion
		discreet locations with us. Interp Spec and Recreation
		Planner are working to improve relationships and trust
		under an ongoing and likely long term timeline.
8.2.e The forest owner or manager monitors the	С	All costs and revenues are monitored and reported on
costs and revenues of management in order to		in the annual report to the legislature.
assess productivity and efficiency.		2023: The FY23 Yield Summary – Statewide provides a
		financial summary of operations for the current year.
		A more comprehensive report is submitted annually
		by the bureau and posted online:
		https://www.maine.gov/dacf/parks/publications_map
		s/docs/2022BPL-AnnualReport.pdf
8.3 Documentation shall be provided by the	NE	
forest manager to enable monitoring and		
certifying organizations to trace each forest		
product from its origin, a process known as the		
"chain of custody."		
<b>8.3.a</b> When forest products are being sold as FSC-	NE	
certified, the forest owner or manager has a system		
that prevents mixing of ESC-certified and non-		
certified forest products prior to the point of sale		
with accompanying documentation to enable the		
tracing of the baryested material from each		
harvested product from its origin to the point of		
Sale.		
<b>6.5.b</b> The forest owner of manager maintains	INE	
documentation to enable the tracing of the		
narvested material from each narvested product		
from its origin to the point of sale.		
8.4 The results of monitoring shall be incorporated		
into the implementation and revision of the		
management plan.		
<b>8.4.a</b> The forest owner or manager monitors and	С	Examples of operational monitoring were reviewed at
documents the degree to which the objectives		multiple scales during this audit. At the site level,
stated in the management plan are being fulfilled,		inspection records for each harvest site appropriately
as well as significant deviations from the plan.		evaluate performance against plan objectives and
		impact criteria. Post-harvest condition is incorporated

		into GIS base data for use in formulating future plan
		updates. A demonstration of this evaluation was
		provided during P7 review (see 7.1.I).
8.4.b Where monitoring indicates that	С	The BPL planning process has a transparent and well-
management objectives and guidelines, including		documented update process for its regional FMP's.
those necessary for conformance with this		
Standard, are not being met or if changing		https://www.maine.gov/dacf/parks/get_involved/plan
conditions indicate that a change in management		ning_and_acquisition/management_plans/index.html
strategy is necessary, the management plan,		
operational plans, and/or other plan		The update process is well documented in policy,
implementation measures are revised to ensure the		based on 15 year planning scopes, updated at five-
objectives and guidelines will be met. If monitoring		year intervals. For the Western Mountains Region, a
shows that the management objectives and		five-year review report was completed and filed in
guidelines themselves are not sufficient to ensure		2021. This report includes clear evidence of external
conformance with this Standard, then the		and internal monitoring inputs and adaptations.
objectives and guidelines are modified.		
		https://www.maine.gov/dacf/parks/get_involved/plan
		ning_and_acquisition/management_plans/docs/WMt
		ns2nd5YrReviewFinalReport4-23-21.pdf
8.5 While respecting the confidentiality of	NE	
information, forest managers shall make publicly		
available a summary of the results of monitoring		
indicators, including those listed in Criterion 8.2.		
8.5.a While protecting landowner confidentiality,	NE	
either full monitoring results or an up-to-date		
summary of the most recent monitoring		
information is maintained, covering the Indicators		
listed in Criterion 8.2, and is available to the public,		
free or at a nominal price, upon request.		
8.3 Documentation shall be provided by the	NE	
forest manager to enable monitoring and		
certifying organizations to trace each forest		
product from its origin, a process known as the		
"chain of custody."		

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

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

		<ul> <li>IFW: - Regional HCV site visits by foresters with a focus on detecting any adverse impacts. See SharePoint site Folder P8 Monitoring for reports</li> <li>MNAP: Maine Natural Areas Program Ecoreserves plot monitoring. Significant plant communities were visited in other identified HCV sites with reports available on request</li> <li>2023: An update summary of ME Natural Areas Program (MNAP) for FY 2023: 81 monitoring plots in ecological reserves across the state. This ongoing monitoring activity appropriately tracks HCV, RTE, and other sensitive habitat features. The BPL additionally provided a specific HCV monitoring summary for 8 HCV areas. The report is dated 10/12/2022 and notes no changes from the previous year.</li> </ul>
<b>9.4.b</b> When monitoring results indicate increasing	С	2021: BPL is currently evaluating options for red pine
risk to a specific HCV attribute, the forest		
owner/manager re-evaluates the measures taken		2022: None new reported.
to maintain or enhance that attribute, and adjusts		2023: See 9.4.a above
the management measures in an effort to reverse		
the trend.		

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

Not applicable - Maine PBL does not practice plantation management.

## **Appendix 5 – Chain of Custody Indicators for FMEs Conformance Table**

 $\boxtimes$  Chain of Custody indicators were not evaluated during this evaluation.

#### **Appendix 6 – Trademark Standard Conformance Table**

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

□ Trademark uses detected include those grandfathered in under prior FSC trademark rules (e.g., FSC-TMK-50-201). Place the initials "GF" by the specific Trademark Applications above. *Note: This only applies to printed items or physical promotional materials (e.g., hats, load tickets) in stock. New printings, items, and websites must be updated per FSC-STD-50-001 requirements. If the organization only has GF uses and no new uses, the rest of this checklist is NA.* 

1.2 Trademark License Agreement and valid certificate	Maintained on file by SCS Main
In order to use these FSC trademarks, the FME shall have a valid FSC trademark license	Office
agreement and hold a valid certificate.	
Note: Consultations for certification Organizations applying for forest management	
certification or conducting activities related to the implementation of controlled wood	
requirements, may refer to FSC by name and initials for stakeholder consultation.	
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	⊠C
The products intended to be labeled or promoted as FSC certified have been included in	
the organization's certified product group list.	$\Box$ C w/ OBS
<b>Evidence 1.6</b> : 🛛 Refer to Product Groups List in Public Summary Report;	
□ The following nonconformance(s) were detected in Product Groups: ; or	
□ Refer to OBS related to Product Groups:	
1.3 Trademark License Code	⊠c
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.	
1.4 Trademark Symbol	⊠C
The FSC logo and the 'Forests For All Forever' marks shall include the trademark symbol <sup>®</sup>	
in the upper right corner when used on products or materials to be distributed in a	
country where the relevant trademark is registered.	$\Box$ NA one or more of noted
For use in a country where the trademark is not yet registered, use of the symbol <sup>™</sup> is	In NA, one of more of noted
recommended. The Trademark Registration List document is available in the FSC trade-	exceptions applies
mark portal and marketing toolkit.	
The symbol <sup>®</sup> shall also be added to 'FSC' and 'Forest Steward-ship Council' at the first or	
most prominent use in any text; one use per material is sufficient (e.g. website or	
brochure).	
NOTE: The use of the trademark symbol is not required for FSC claims in sales and delivery	
documents, or for the disclaimer statement specified in requirement 6.2.	
2.1 Restrictions on using FSC trademarks	⊠C
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	□ C w/ OBS
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;	
<ul> <li>c) to promote product quality aspects not covered by FSC certification;</li> <li>d) in product brand or company pames, such as (ESC Colden Timber' or woheits demain pames).</li> </ul>	
a) in product brand of company names, such as FSC Golden nimber of website domain names;	
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 ESC chain of custody requirements	

2.2 Translations	□C			
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	□ C w/ OBS			
Council <sup>®</sup> (translation)	🛛 NA, no translations			
Evidence 1.3, 1.4, 2.1, and 2.2: 🛛 Refer to Trademark uses reviewed above;				
□ The following nonconformance(s) were detected ; or				
Refer to OBS:				
Sections 8 and 9 Graphic Rules	⊠C			
The organization has only used FSC logos that conform to the standard requirements				
governing:	□ C w/ OBS			
<ul> <li>color and font (8.1-8.3);</li> </ul>				
<ul> <li>format and size (8.4-8.9);</li> </ul>				
<ul> <li>label placement (8.10); and</li> </ul>				
• 'Forests For All Forever' marks (9.1-9.7).				
1.5 Trademark Use Approval	⊠C			
The organization has submitted all intended uses of the FSC trademarks to SCS for				
approval.	□ C w/ OBS			
OR				
The organization has an approved trademark use management system in place. (If the				
organization has a trademark use management system, complete Annex A.)				
<b>4.6</b> FSC trademarks may be used to identify FSC-certified materials in the chain of custody	□c			
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	□ C w/ OBS			
of sale or are delivered to uncertified organizations.	⊠ NA, trademarks no used for			
	segregation marks			
Evidence Graphic Rules, 1.5, and 4.6: 🛛 Refer to Trademark uses reviewed above;				
□ The following nonconformance(s) were detected ; or				
Refer to OBS:				

□ N/A, does not use/intend to use FSC trademarks for any purposes (finished with this section); or

□ N/A, is fully integrated and all trademark uses are treated under the COC Annex to this report that includes a full review of FSC-STD-40-004 and FSC-STD-50-001.

#### Appendix 7 – Group Management Program

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

#### **Appendix 8 – Additional Checklists**

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

 $\boxtimes$  No additional checklists, so this appendix is not applicable.