

Audit Findings

Wisconsin DNR's SFI Program was found to be in overall conformance with the SFIS Standard. The NSF-ISR SFI Certification Audit Process determined that there were non-conformances as detailed below.

One New Minor Non-conformance

Indicator 2.3.4 requires "Post-harvest conditions conducive to maintaining site productivity (e.g., limited rutting, retained down woody debris, minimized skid trails)."

Minor Non-conformance SFI-2010-01: An improperly located main skid trail in the Hoffman Hills SRA Tract #1-09 has led to erosion and sedimentation.

One Transitional Minor Non-conformance

The SFI 2010-2014 Standard, Indicator 15.3.2 requires "Program Participants are knowledgeable about climate change impacts on wildlife, wildlife habitats and conservation of biological diversity through international, national, regional or local programs."

Transitional Minor Non-conformance SFI-2010-2: Available information is being monitored, but not all managers are knowledgeable about climate change impacts for the forests they manage. There is no plan for meeting this requirement by 12.31.10 as required by the SFI Transition Guidelines.

Wisconsin DNR will develop corrective action plans to address these non-conformances. Progress in implementing these actions will be reviewed in subsequent surveillance audits.

The following non-conformances from 2009 were closed:

Major Non-conformance SFI-2009-01 was closed by 12.30.09 as required.

Indicator 1.1.1 requires "A long-term resource analysis to guide forest management planning at a level appropriate to the size and scale of the operation, including: a. a periodic or ongoing forest inventory; b. a land classification system; c. soils inventory and maps, where available; d. access to growth-and-yield modeling capabilities; e. up-to-date maps or a geographic information system (GIS); f. recommended sustainable harvest levels; and g. a review of nontimber issues (e.g., pilot projects and economic incentive programs to promote water protection, carbon storage, or biological diversity conservation)."

The approved 2008.1 SFI CAR plan specified "the Department will develop preliminary land management objectives for all DNR-managed properties". At the time of the 2009 audit this had not been completed, but objectives were completed and posted on-line, satisfying the requirement. During the 2010 audit, selected management plans and objectives were reviewed and conformance confirmed.

Minor Non-conformance SFI-2009-02:

SFI Indicator 2.2.5 requires "Supervision of forest chemical applications by state-trained or certified applicators." At the time of the 2009 audit Lands Division policies regarding staff who apply general use chemicals but who may not be Certified Pesticide Applicators (and thus may not be trained) were unclear. Not all employees applying chemicals were trained or working under a trained supervisor. The Wisconsin DNR has clarified these policies and communicated them through a Divisional Directive from both Lands and Forestry Divisions as well as agency-specific internal communication tools.