

## FSC Forest Management Audit

### Public Summary Report

Audit Conducted By	SCS Global Services 2000 Powell Street Ste. 600  Emeryville CA 94608 United States of America <a href="http://www.scsglobalservices.com">www.scsglobalservices.com</a>
Contact Person	Brendan Grady
Report last updated on	27 September 2023
Certificate Holder	Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, MFL 3911 Fish Hatchery Road  Fitchburg WI 53711 USA <a href="https://dnr.wisconsin.gov">https://dnr.wisconsin.gov</a>
Contact Person	Cody Didier
Certified Forest Areas	0
FSC certificate registration code	SCS-FM/COC-004622
Certificate issue date	30 November 2023
Certificate expiry date	29 November 2028
Audit Sequence	0

This forest has been certified by SCS Global Services as meeting the requirements of FSC national forest standard FSC-STD-USA-01-2010.

# Certificate Holder and Certification Body Details

Question	Inputs
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## Certificate Holder

1.01 Certificate holder name *	Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, MFL
1.02.1 Street Address *	3911 Fish Hatchery Road
1.02.2 Address Line 2	
1.02.3 City *	Fitchburg
1.02.4 State or Province	WI
1.02.5 Postal Code	53711
1.03 Country *	USA
1.04 Contact person full name *	Cody Didier
1.05 Email *	Cody.Didier@wisconsin.gov
1.06 Telephone	608-574-6878
1.07 Website *	https://dnr.wisconsin.gov

## Certificate Parameters

1.08 FSC licence code *	FSC-C117792
1.09 Certificate code *	SCS-FM/COC-004622
1.10 Former certificate code (if any)	
1.11 Certificate type *	FM/COC
1.12 Group certificate *	Yes
1.13.1 Initial certification date *	2013-08-12
1.13.2 Most recent certification date *	2023-11-30
1.13.3 Certificate expiry date *	2028-11-29
1.14 Total number of MUs in the scope of certificate *	0
1.15 Total area certified *	0.0 ha
1.16 Change of scope since previous audit *	Yes
1.16.1 Nature of scope change	Excise utility and railroad right-of-ways
1.17 Ecosystem services (ES) in the scope *	No
1.25 Name and/or location of the certified forest area(s)	

## Certification Body

1.18 Certification body name *	SCS Global Services
1.19.1 Street Address *	2000 Powell Street Ste. 600
1.19.2 Address Line 2	
1.19.3 City *	Emeryville
1.19.4 State	CA
1.19.5 Postal Code	94608
1.20 Country *	United States of America
1.21 Contact person full name *	Brendan Grady
1.22 Email *	bgrady@scsglobalservices.com
1.23 Telephone	+1.510.452.8000
1.24 Website *	www.scsglobalservices.com

## The evaluation process

Question	Inputs
<b>Audit Parameters</b>	
2.01 Audit type *	Re-Evaluation
2.01.1 Audit sequence	
2.02 Audit start date *	2023-08-14
2.03 Audit finish date *	2023-08-18
2.04 Total person days *	24.5
2.05 Date of report *	2023-09-27
2.06 Total area under evaluation *	0.0 ha
<b>Normative Documents</b>	
<b>2.07 Evaluated international normative document(s)</b>	
2.07.1 Trademark standard FSC-STD-50-001 *	Yes
2.07.2 Group standard FSC-STD-30-005 *	Yes
2.07.3 CoC standard FSC-STD-40-004 *	No
2.07.4 ES procedure FSC-PRO-30-006 *	No
2.07.5 Excision Policy FSC-POL-20-003 *	Yes
2.07.6 Pesticides Policy FSC-POL-30-001 *	Yes
2.07.7 Applicable NTFP Standard *	No
2.07.8 CIP FSC PRO 30-011 *	No
2.08 Code(s) of NFSS or INS used *	FSC-STD-USA-01-2010
2.09 Web link to the standard used	<a href="https://connect.fsc.org/document-centre/documents/resource/234">https://connect.fsc.org/document-centre/documents/resource/234</a>
2.10 If applicable, the adaptation process of CB interim standard	

# The evaluation process

Question	Inputs
<b>Certification Decision</b>	
<b>2.20 Conditions (corrections of minor non-conformities) or pre-conditions (corrections of major non-conformities) associated with the certification decision</b>	
2.20.1 No specific condition *	No
2.20.2 Correction of minor NCRs issued within required timelines *	Yes
2.20.3 Correction of major NCRs issued within required timelines *	Yes
2.20.4 Correction of the pre-conditions to certification identified *	Yes
2.20.5 Other	
<b>2.21 Lead auditor opinion</b>	
2.21.1 The certificate holder's system of management, if implemented as described, is capable of ensuring that all of the requirements of the applicable standard(s) are met over the whole forest area covered by the scope of the evaluation. *	Yes
2.21.2 The certificate holder has demonstrated, subject to correction of the identified non-conformities, that the described system of management is being implemented consistently over the whole forest area covered by the scope of the certificate. *	Yes
<b>2.22 Auditor recommendation for the certificate holder's management system and performance</b>	
2.22.1 A certificate can only be issued/reissued/maintained when all identified Major CARs are closed *	Yes
2.22.2 The FM system of the evaluated enterprise does not comply with the provisions and standards of FSC. Due to the number of identified major non-compliances the auditors recommend the immediate suspension of the certificate *	No
2.23 Certification decision *	Recertify
2.24 Decision detail	
2.25 Decision date *	2023-09-22
2.26 Decision making entity *	SCS Global Services





# Forest management enterprise information

Question	Inputs
<b>5.19 Environmental safeguards relevant to forest operations</b>	
5.19.1 buffer zone *	Yes
5.19.2 chemical use control *	Yes
5.19.3 conservation area set aside *	No
5.19.4 erosion control *	Yes
5.19.5 other, please specify	
5.20 Description of environmental safeguards	

## Forest management enterprise information

Question	Inputs
<b>Group Management</b>	
5.27 Total number of group members *	0
5.28 Group members located in more than one country	
5.29 Maximum manageable number of group members	
5.30 Number of members sampled annually by group entity	
<b>5.31 Sampling system implemented by the group entity</b>	
5.31.1 stratified sampling	
5.31.2 cluster sampling	
5.31.3 random sampling	
5.31.4 systematic sampling	
5.31.5 other, please specify	
5.32 Group entity's sampling system employed to select MUs for evaluation, and its implementation	
<b>5.33 Responsibilities for implementation of the applicable standard(s) in the group</b>	
5.33.1 Management planning	
5.33.2 Forest protection	
5.33.3 Silviculture	
5.33.4 Harvesting	
5.33.5 Sales & marketing	
5.33.6 Use of trademark	
5.33.7 Stakeholder engagement	
5.33.8 Training	
5.33.9 Ecosystem services impacts	
5.34 Elaboration of responsibilities of group entity, members and contractors, include ecosystem services if applicable	



## st context and management plan

Question	Inputs
11.28 Description of the forest	<a href="https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/forestlandowners/mfl">https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/forestlandowners/mfl</a> and <a href="https://dnr.wi.gov/topic/landscapes/documents/18051Intro.pdf">https://dnr.wi.gov/topic/landscapes/documents/18051Intro.pdf</a>
11.29 Description of the management system	<a href="https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/forestlandowners/mfl">https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/forestlandowners/mfl</a> , including the Tax Law Book, Silvicultural Guide, etc.
11.01 Legislative, administrative and land use context of the forest operation	<a href="https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/forestlandowners/mfl">https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/forestlandowners/mfl</a>
11.02 Roles of responsible government agencies involved in aspects of forest management	<a href="https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/forestlandowners/mfl">https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/forestlandowners/mfl</a>
11.03 Ownership and use-rights (both legal and customary) of lands and forest of external parties other than the certificate holder	<a href="https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/forestlandowners/mfl">https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/forestlandowners/mfl</a> - only private, non-industrial landowners are eligible. Most use rights held by other parties include utility rights of way and recreational leases (e.g., hunt lease).
<b>11.04 Non-forestry activities being undertaken within the area evaluated, whether they are undertaken by the certificate holder or by some other party (e.g. mining, industrial operations, agriculture, hunting, commercial tourism, etc.)</b>	
11.04.1 mining	No
11.04.2 industrial operation	No
11.04.3 agriculture	Yes
11.04.4 hunting	Yes
11.04.5 commercial tourism	Yes

## Context and management plan

Question	Inputs
11.04.6 other, please specify	
11.05 Forest management objectives	Refer to Wisconsin's Managed Forest Law A Program Summary PUB-FR-295 (Rev. April 2022); found on <a href="https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/forestlandowners/mfl">https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/forestlandowners/mfl</a>
11.06 Land use and ownership status of the forest resource	All group members are small, private landowners (<1,000 ha) with deeded property rights. Landowners are responsible for complying to program requirements, as summarized here: <a href="https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/sites/default/files/topic/ForestLandowners/mflLandownersResponsibilitiesTable.pdf">https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/sites/default/files/topic/ForestLandowners/mflLandownersResponsibilitiesTable.pdf</a>
11.07 Socio-economic conditions of the forest management	Most of the following information is from the "Forest Economy of Wisconsin" based on 2016 analyses.* Forestry is one of the top ten industries by employment and output in Wisconsin, providing 1.8% of the jobs and 4% of the output in the state. Every job in forestry supports 1.7 additional jobs in the state. Every million dollars of output in forestry creates \$721,000 of output in other sectors. Wisconsin is the number one paper producing state in the US and is 2% of the state GDP. Forest products international exports totaled \$2.2 billion. (**Forest industry economic impacts were modeled using the Impact Analysis for Planning (IMPLAN) software, originally developed by the US Forest Service in cooperation with the University of Minnesota and Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). The model is designed to estimate economic effects of an industry on the local or regional economy. The database contains economic statistics by zip code and is not estimated from national averages. It can be used to summarize the importance of various industries to the economy and to evaluate economic impacts to local economy if there is a change in the industry. IMPLAN uses a 440 sector input-output table based on the North American Industrial Classification Scheme)
11.08 Brief description of forest composition	A primary guidance that provides this rationale is the Forestry Silviculture and Aesthetics Handbook, Forestry Silviculture and Aesthetics Handbook.
<b>11.09 Profile of adjacent lands</b>	
11.09.1 urban	Yes
11.09.2 agriculture	Yes
11.09.3 wetland	Yes
11.09.4 mining	No
11.09.5 desert	No
11.09.6 pasture	Yes
11.09.7 orchards	Yes
11.09.8 other, please specify	
11.10 Management structure of the certificate holder	DNR serves as the primary regulatory entity and group manager for the non-industrial, family forest (MFL) lands enrolled in this certificate. The program is administered by the Division of Forestry, Tax Law Section through the following positions: Tax Law Compliance Specialist (Group Manager), Tax Law Section Chief, Tax Law Operations Specialist, Tax Law Administration Coordinator, Tax Law Forestry Specialists (Foresters), and Tax Law Administrative Specialists. The latter two positions are structured as Tax Law Field Teams organized geographically into four broad Field Teams: Northwest, South, Northeast, and North Central. Each Field Team has a Field Team Leader.
11.11 Division of forest management responsibilities	<a href="https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/forestlandowners/mfl">https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/forestlandowners/mfl</a> - refer to Tax Law book and summary table of Landowner responsibilities.

## st context and management plan

Question	Inputs
<b>11.12 Use of contractors by the certificate holder</b>	
11.12.1 silviculture	Yes
11.12.2 road building	Yes
11.12.3 harvesting	Yes
11.12.4 transportation	Yes
11.12.5 forest protection	No
11.12.6 pest and disease control	Yes
11.12.7 other, please specify	
<b>11.13 Training implemented by the certificate holder</b>	
11.13 Training implemented by the certificate holder	Periodic trainings are provided to landowners and other program participants, such as private forestry consultants, throughout the year. These are announced via regular emails. The organization also maintains a blog.
<b>11.14 Silvicultural system/regime implemented by the certificate holder</b>	
11.14 Silvicultural system/regime implemented by the certificate holder	A primary guidance that provides this rationale is the Forestry Silviculture and Aesthetics Handbook, Forestry Silviculture and Aesthetics Handbook.
<b>11.15 Technique used for harvesting operations of the certificate holder</b>	
11.15.1 mechanized harvesting	Yes
11.15.2 manual harvesting	Yes
11.15.3 semi-mechanized harvesting	No
11.15.4 animal hauling	No
11.15.5 other, please specify	
<b>11.16 Management strategy for the identification and protection of rare, threatened and endangered species</b>	
11.16 Management strategy for the identification and protection of rare, threatened and endangered species	<p>The MFL program uses the following strategies for protecting threatened and endangered species.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Training of foresters on RTE species and use of Natural Heritage Inventory search, National Heritage Inventory maps</li> <li>•RTE species are identified as part of the plan writing and prior to timber harvests.</li> <li>•When RTE species are known to occur (by querying the Natural Heritage Inventory), staff will determine appropriate steps to protect the species. These steps include use of RTE species guidelines and a consultation with the biologist or ecologist, as needed.</li> </ul>
<b>11.17 Forest monitoring methods implemented by the certificate holder</b>	
11.17.1 forest inventory	Yes
11.17.2 drone monitoring	No
11.17.3 remote sensing	No
11.17.4 social survey	Yes
11.17.5 sampling plots	Yes
11.17.6 other, please specify	

## st context and management plan

Question	Inputs
11.18 Elaboration of Monitoring of growth, yield and forest dynamics including change of fauna and flora	Monitored on each MFL property by DNR and Cooperating Foresters during plan writing and mandatory practices. Monitored systematically across the State. See WI DNR Statewide Forest Assessment <a href="http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/ForestPlanning/conclusions.asp?id=1">http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/ForestPlanning/conclusions.asp?id=1</a>
11.19 Environmental and social impacts, and costs, productivity, and efficiency	Not applicable to individual MFL properties because they all qualify as SLIMF. Monitored at the State level. See WI DNR Statewide Forest Assessment <a href="http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/ForestPlanning/conclusions.asp?id=1">http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/ForestPlanning/conclusions.asp?id=1</a>
11.20 Explanation of the assumptions (e.g. silvicultural) on estimate of the maximum sustainable yield for the main commercial species	Growth and yield is monitored on each MFL property by DNR and Cooperating Foresters during plan writing and mandatory practices. Monitored systematically across the State. See WI DNR Statewide Forest Assessment <a href="http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/ForestPlanning/conclusions.asp?id=1">http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/ForestPlanning/conclusions.asp?id=1</a>
11.21 Reference to the source of data (e.g. inventory data, permanent sample plots, yield tables) on which estimates are based	Each of the group member/land owners have their own harvest intervals based on inventory data.
11.22 Investments and measures taken for the prevention and control of natural hazards (fires, storm, flood, disease, pests, pathogens etc.) during the last calendar year	Road maintenance and invasive species control are the most common investments to prevent negative impacts from natural hazards.

## st context and management plan

Question	Inputs
<p>11.23 The risk of products from non-certified sources (including any areas specifically excluded from the scope of the certificate) being mixed with products from the forest area evaluated</p>	<p>None. All timber is purchased on the stump and is the responsibility of the buyer to maintain chain of custody.</p>
<p>11.23.1 Description of segregation controls implemented</p>	<p>By law, the timber on MFL timber must be segregated from non-MFL timber. Review of Cutting Notices for MFL tract visited reveals that FMUs are marketing with the claim of FSC 100%. However, there are limited markets for certified material. Interview with DNR staff, consulting foresters, and landowners confirmed segregation and described process for segregation. No issues identified.</p>
<p>11.24 Explanation of the control (tracking and tracing) systems in place that address the risk identified</p>	<p>No risk identified</p>
<p><b>11.25 The documentation or marking system that allows products from the certified forest area to be reliably identified</b></p>	
<p>11.25.1 documents with transportation</p>	<p>Yes</p>
<p>11.25.2 tree mark</p>	<p>No</p>
<p>11.25.3 bar code or quadratic code</p>	<p>No</p>
<p>11.25.4 other, please specify</p>	
<p>11.26 Elaboration of the chain of custody documentation or marking system</p>	
<p><b>11.27 The final point or forest gate of the certified product</b></p>	
<p>11.27.1 log yard</p>	<p>Yes</p>
<p>11.27.2 road side</p>	<p>Yes</p>
<p>11.27.3 other, please specify</p>	<p>Tree stump</p>