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 www.scsglobalservices.com
Contact Person	Brendan Grady
Report last updated on	03 March 2025
Certificate Holder	Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry - Bureau of Parks and Lands – Maine 22 State House Station,18 Elkins Lane Augusta Maine 04333 United States of America
Contact Person	Mike Pounch
Certified Forest Areas	Statewide
FSC certificate registration code	SCS-FM/COC-008672
Certificate issue date	12 April 2022
Certificate expiry date	11 April 2027
Audit Sequence	Surveillance

This forest has been certified by SCS Global Services as meeting the requirements of FSC national forest standard FSC-STD-USA-1.1-2018.

Certificate Holder and Certification Body Details

Question	Inputs
Certificate Holder	
1.01 Certificate holder name *	Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry - Bureau of Parks and Lands – Maine
1.02.1 Street Address *	22 State House Station,18 Elkins Lane
1.02.2 Address Line 2	
1.02.3 City *	Augusta
1.02.4 State or Province	Maine
1.02.5 Postal Code	04333
1.03 Country *	United States of America
1.04 Contact person full name *	Mike Pounch
1.05 Email *	michael.a.pounch@maine.gov
1.06 Telephone	207-215-7824
1.07 Website *	https://www.maine.gov/dacf/parks/about/public_reserved_lands.shtml
Certificate Parameters	
1.08 FSC licence code *	FSC-C109865
1.09 Certificate code *	SCS-FM/COC-008672
1.10 Former certificate code (if any)	
1.11 Certificate type *	FM/COC
1.12 Group certificate *	No
1.13.1 Initial certification date *	2012-03-13
1.13.2 Most recent certification date *	2022-04-12
1.13.3 Certificate expiry date *	2027-04-11
1.14 Total number of MUs in the scope of certificate *	1
1.15 Total area certified *	259,640.2 ha
1.16 Change of scope since previous audit *	no
1.16.1 Nature of scope change	
1.17 Ecosystem services (ES) in the scope *	Yes
1.25 Name and/or location of the certified forest area(s)	Statewide
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
Audit Parameters	
2.01 Audit type *	Surveillance
2.01.1 Audit sequence	Surveillance
2.02 Audit start date *	2024-09-30
2.16 First stakeholder consultation date for this audit	
2.03 Audit finish date *	2024-10-03
2.04 Total person days *	7.0
2.05 Date of report *	2025-03-03
2.06 Total area under evaluation *	259,640.2 ha
Normative Documents	
2.07 Evaluated international normative document(s)	
2.07.1 Trademark standard FSC-STD-50-001 *	Yes
2.07.2 Group standard FSC-STD-30-005 *	No
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-1.1-2018
2.09 Web link to the standard used	https://us.fsc.org/preview.fsc-std-usa-v1-1-2018.a-719.pdf
2.10 If applicable, the adaptation process of CB interim standard	NA

The evaluation process

Question	Inputs
Certification Decision	
2.20 Conditions (corrections of minor non-conformities) or pre-conditions (corrections of major non-conformities) associated with the certification decision	
2.20.1 No specific condition *	NA
2.20.2 Correction of minor NCRs issued within required timelines *	Yes
2.20.3 Correction of major NCRs issued within required timelines *	NA
2.20.4 Correction of the pre-conditions to certification identified *	NA
2.20.5 Other	
2.21 Lead auditor opinion	
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. *	NA
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
2.22 Auditor recommendation for the certificate holder's management system and performance	
2.22.1 A certificate can only be issued/reissued/maintained when all identified Major CARs are closed *	NA
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 *	NA
2.23 Certification decision *	Maintain
2.24 Decision detail	
2.25 Decision date *	2025-03-03
2.26 Decision making entity *	SCS Global Services

Audit itinerary

					Type of Site															
4.01 Audit Itinerary Item Start Date	**4.02 Hours**	**4.03 MUs or members**	**4.04 Activities**	**4.05 Site detail**	4.06.1 Office	4.06.2 Seed orchards	4.06.3 Nursery	4.06.4 Protected area	4.06.5 Production forest area	4.06.6 Workers' amenities	4.06.7 Areas used by local communities and Indigenous Peoples	4.06.8 Water courses	4.06.9 Forest roads	4.06.10 Chemical storage sites	4.06.11 HCVs	4.06.12 Monitoring sites	4.06.13 Logging trails	4.06.14 Restoration area	4.06.15 Pesticide application area	4.06.16 Other, please specify
2024-10-01	16.00	Maine BPL, Eastern region	Field assessment	Seboies Lake				Yes	Yes		Yes	Yes	Yes		Yes		Yes			
2024-10-02	16.00	Maine BPL, Eastern region	Field assessment	Nahmakanta Forest				Yes	Yes		Yes	Yes	Yes		Yes		Yes			
2024-10-03	16.00	Maine BPL, Eastern region	Document review, interviews	Refer to the appendix for site details	Yes															

Forest management enterprise information

Question	Inputs
Forest Area	
5.02 Brief description of any area of forest over which the certificate holder has some responsibility, whether as owner (including shared or partial ownership), manager, consultant or other responsibility) which the certificate holder has chosen to exclude from the scope of the certificate, together with an explanation of the reason.	Maine BPL's ownership is comprised of properties that range in contiguous size of 40,000 acres on the high end to 100-200 acre parcels on the low end. The state is broken down into 3 Regions: Eastern, Western, and Northern zones. Regions are further organized into Sustainable Harvest Units (SHL) serve as the basis for the organization of operations and long term planning. Each SHU has its own Sustainable Harvest Limit (aka Annual Allowable Cut; AAC), the sum of which constitutes Maine BPL's total annual harvest goals/limits. SHUs are generally organized by areas with similar ecosystems, distance to markets and logistical details. Parallel to this organizational arrangement, management plans are developed in a similar fashion but do not necessarily correspond spatially to SHU and often contain multiple SHUs. All units are broken down further into 100-1,000 acre Compartments, which serve as the basis for prescription development and harvest implementation. At the smallest scale, the entire ownership has stand typing spatial data estimated through aerial photography and remote sensing.
5.03 Area of forest owned/managed but excluded from MUs in the scope of certification	
5.03.1 According to FSC-POL-20-003 *	0.0 ha
5.03.2 Other reasons *	0.0 ha
Forest Workers	

Forest management enterprise information

Question	Inputs
5.19 Environmental safeguards relevant to forest operations	
5.19.1 buffer zone *	Yes
5.19.2 chemical use control *	Yes
5.19.3 conservation area set aside *	Yes
5.19.4 erosion control *	Yes
5.19.5 other, please specify	Monitoring, peer review processes (prescription reviews, chief of silviculture site visits), retention/legacy tree policy
5.20 Description of environmental safeguards	

Impacted Parties

Environmental Values

Management Units

Area Units: ha

7.01 MU name *	7.02 Forest zone *	7.03 SLIMF type *	7.04 Tenure-ownership *	7.05 Tenure-management *	7.06 Centroid Latitude *	7.07 Centroid Longitude *	7.08 Total production forest area *	7.09 Total non-production forest area *	7.10 Total area of MU *
Number of Valid Entries:	**1**				**Area Totals**		**170,902.79**	**88,737.44**	**259,640.24**
State of Maine Public Reserved and N	Temperate	Non-SLIMF	State	State	45.25325700	-69.23348400	170,902.79	88,737.44	259,640.24

Main commercial timber species included in scope of the certificate

8.01 Species *	8.02 Product code *	8.03 Trade name	8.05 Remarks
Picea mariana	W1 Rough wood	Black spruce	Rarely Harvested spp; generally included in red spruce category in reporting; listed as zero per FSC FM Digital Audit Reporting Template User Guide p38.
Picea glauca	W1 Rough wood	White spruce	Rarely Harvested spp; listed as zero per FSC FM Digital Audit Reporting Template User Guide p38.
Quercus rubra	W1 Rough wood	Northern red oak	Rarely Harvested spp; listed as zero per FSC FM Digital Audit Reporting Template User Guide p38.; actual 2022 calender year yield entered in cell to right
Populus balsamifera	W1 Rough wood	Balsam poplar/Balm of Gilead	Rarely Harvested spp; listed as zero per FSC FM Digital Audit Reporting Template User Guide p38.
Acer spp.	W3.1 Wood chips	Mix of hardwood and softwood biomass	Picea sp., Quercus sp., Populus sp., Acer sp., Abies balsamea, Pinus sp., Tsuga sp., Thuja sp., Fraxinus sp., Fagus sp., Populus sp.
Picea rubens	W1.1 Roundwood (logs)	Red spruce	Primary spruce species; volumes reported may include a small amount of white spruce (Picea glauca); estimated harvest plan for current calender year anticipates simliar harvest rates of each species/product combination applied to our 10yr harvest average; at time of audit prepation 2023 it appears harvest volumes will be significantl lower than planned due to market issues, weather, and contractor availability
Abies balsamea	W1.1 Roundwood (logs)	Balsam fir	*Estimated harvest plan for current calender year anticipates simliar harvest rates of each species/product combination applied to our 10yr harvest average; at time of audit prepation 2023 it appears harvest volumes will be significantl lower than planned due to market issues, weather, and contractor availability
Not Applicable	W1.1 Roundwood (logs)	Spruce/fir mix	*Estimated harvest plan for current calender year anticipates simliar harvest rates of each species/product combination applied to our 10yr harvest average; at time of audit prepation 2023 it appears harvest volumes will be significantl lower than planned due to market issues, weather, and contractor availability
Pinus strobus	W1.1 Roundwood (logs)	White pine	*Estimated harvest plan for current calender year anticipates simliar harvest rates of each species/product combination applied to our 10yr harvest average; at time of audit prepation 2023 it appears harvest volumes will be significantl lower than planned due to market issues, weather, and contractor availability

Main commercial timber species included in scope of the certificate

8.01 Species *	8.02 Product code *	8.03 Trade name	8.05 Remarks
Pinus resinosa	W1.1 Roundwood (logs)	Red pine	*Estimated harvest plan for current calender year anticipates simliar harvest rates of each species/product combination applied to our 10yr harvest average; at time of audit prepation 2023 it appears harvest volumes will be significantl lower than planned due to market issues, weather, and contractor availability
Tsuga canadensis (L.) Carr.	W1.1 Roundwood (logs)	Eastern hemlock	*Estimated harvest plan for current calender year anticipates simliar harvest rates of each species/product combination applied to our 10yr harvest average; at time of audit prepation 2023 it appears harvest volumes will be significantl lower than planned due to market issues, weather, and contractor availability
Thuja occidentalis	W1.1 Roundwood (logs)	Northern white cedar	*Estimated harvest plan for current calender year anticipates simliar harvest rates of each species/product combination applied to our 10yr harvest average; at time of audit prepation 2023 it appears harvest volumes will be significantl lower than planned due to market issues, weather, and contractor availability
Fraxinus americana	W1.1 Roundwood (logs)	White ash	Reported volume for distinct hardwood species here is almost entireley sawlog and/or boltwood sales. Hardwood pulp is sold as "mixedhardwood" and is often a combination of 3+ different species. *Estimated harvest plan for current calender year anticipates simliar harvest rates of each species/product combination applied to our 10yr harvest average; at time of audit prepation 2023 it appears harvest volumes will be significantl lower than planned due to market issues, weather, and contractor availability
Fagus grandifolia	W1.1 Roundwood (logs)	American beech	Reported volume for distinct hardwood species here is almost entireley sawlog and/or boltwood sales. Hardwood pulp is sold as "mixedhardwood" and is often a combination of 3+ different species. *Estimated harvest plan for current calender year anticipates simliar harvest rates of each species/product combination applied to our 10yr harvest average; at time of audit prepation 2023 it appears harvest volumes will be significantl lower than planned due to market issues, weather, and contractor availability

Main commercial timber species included in scope of the certificate

8.01 Species *	8.02 Product code *	8.03 Trade name	8.05 Remarks
Betula papyrifera	W1.1 Roundwood (logs)	White/paper birch	Reported volume for distinct hardwood species here is almost entireley sawlog and/or boltwood sales. Hardwood pulp is sold as "mixedhardwood" and is often a combination of 3+ different species. *Estimated harvest plan for current calender year anticipates simliar harvest rates of each species/product combination applied to our 10yr harvest average; at time of audit prepation 2023 it appears harvest volumes will be significantl lower than planned due to market issues, weather, and contractor availability
Betula alleghaniensis	W1.1 Roundwood (logs)	Yellow birch	Reported volume for distinct hardwood species here is almost entireley sawlog and/or boltwood sales. Hardwood pulp is sold as "mixedhardwood" and is often a combination of 3+ different species. *Estimated harvest plan for current calender year anticipates simliar harvest rates of each species/product combination applied to our 10yr harvest average; at time of audit prepation 2023 it appears harvest volumes will be significantl lower than planned due to market issues, weather, and contractor availability
Acer rubrum	W1.1 Roundwood (logs)	Red maple	Reported volume for distinct hardwood species here is almost entireley sawlog and/or boltwood sales. Hardwood pulp is sold as "mixedhardwood" and is often a combination of 3+ different species. *Estimated harvest plan for current calender year anticipates simliar harvest rates of each species/product combination applied to our 10yr harvest average; at time of audit prepation 2023 it appears harvest volumes will be significantl lower than planned due to market issues, weather, and contractor availability
Acer saccharum L	W1.1 Roundwood (logs)	Sugar/hard maple	Reported volume for distinct hardwood species here is almost entireley sawlog and/or boltwood sales. Hardwood pulp is sold as "mixedhardwood" and is often a combination of 3+ different species. *Estimated harvest plan for current calender year anticipates simliar harvest rates of each species/product combination applied to our 10yr harvest average; at time of audit prepation 2023 it appears harvest volumes will be significantl lower than planned due to market issues, weather, and contractor availability

Main commercial timber species included in scope of the certificate

8.01 Species *	8.02 Product code *	8.03 Trade name	8.05 Remarks
Populus tremuloides	W1.1 Roundwood (logs)	Trembling/quaking aspen/poplar/popple	Reported volumedoes NOT include aspen volume sold in mixed pulp loads. Trembling aspen is considered to be 2/3 of total aspen yield (aspen spp not reported on trip ticket). *Estimated harvest plan for current calender year anticipates simliar harvest rates of each species/product combination applied to our 10yr harvest average; at time of audit prepation 2023 it appears harvest volumes will be significantl lower than planned due to market issues, weather, and contractor availability
Populus grandidentata	W1.1 Roundwood (logs)	Bigtooth aspen/poplar/popple	Reported volumedoes NOT include aspen volume sold in mixed pulp loads. Bigtooth aspen is considered to be 1/3 of total aspen yield (aspen spp not reported on trip ticket). *Estimated harvest plan for current calender year anticipates simliar harvest rates of each species/product combination applied to our 10yr harvest average; at time of audit prepation 2023 it appears harvest volumes will be significantl lower than planned due to market issues, weather, and contractor availability
Not Applicable	W1.1 Roundwood (logs)	Mixed hardwood	Mixed hardwood Pulpwood. *Estimated harvest plan for current calender year anticipates simliar harvest rates of each species/product combination applied to our 10yr harvest average; at time of audit prepation 2023 it appears harvest volumes will be significantl lower than planned due to market issues, weather, and contractor availability

Pesticide use since previous audit/year

10.01 Active ingredient *	10.02 Restriction	10.03 Applied area *	10.04 Reason for use *	10.05 Quantity of ingredient *	10.06 Summary of ESRA *
trichlopyr	Unrestricted	#VALUE!	T6 R11 (Telos): Invasive plant control of Lathyrus latifolius and roadside brush control	1.9 litres	See: "ChemicalUseMemoTelos24": Minimal adverse effects: soil, atmosphere, NTFP, HCVs, landscape considerations, Ecosystem services, HCV 5-6, human health,welfare, economic viability, rights | Moderate effects: aquatic non-target plants {CONSIDER: Substantial drift or off-site transport via runoff could result in acute effects in sensitive fish or aquatic vegetation; Use of Garlon 4(BEE) minimizes risk since it rapidly converts into less toxic form upon entering environment and is not persistent in soil or surface water); Garlon 3a (TEA) must be minimized near water sources and minimize drift), food and water (low risk due to implausibility of acute/longterm occurances) | Negative effects: non-target plants and mammals || STRATEGIES TO MITIGATE RISK: Seek to minimize the frequency, interval, and amount of application. use the most efficient and effective method of application by seeking to minimize risk to environmental and social values. -Understand the site (e.g., soil type, topography, etc.) and climatic (e.g., wind, temperature, and humidity) conditions and the likely effect on risk to environmental and social values. -Have appropriate, waste management systems in place. Minimize risk of spray drift: unintentional spray drift has potential to significantly increase risk to the environment and public welfare. Follow product-specific guidelines for reducing spray drift for specific application scenarios. Do not apply where runoff or irrigation water may flow onto agricultural land as injury to crops may result. Do not apply directly to water, to areas where surface water is present. Do not contaminate water when cleaning equipment. Follow labvel instructions and wear PPE.
Aminopyralid	Unrestricted	6.1 ha	Eagle Lake: invasive plant control for Galium mollugo	2.2 litres	See: "ChemicalUseMemoELFields24": Aminopyralid, is not considered a highly hazardous pesticide (HHP) per the FSC Pesticides Policy and the FSC Lists of Highly Hazardous Pesticides. Aminopyralid is “practically nontoxic” to aquatic organisms and only “slightly toxic” to some aquatic vegetation, however, precautions will be taken to mitigate risk of introduction to water resources. Spot treatment methodology with further reduce the risk to water resources. All legal requirements will be followed as well as the requirements in the ESRA. Appropriate signage will be posted on site at the time of application. Environmental/social risks/concerns associated with the prescription: Few environmental or social risks are associated with this small area of treatment given the herbicide selected, low percent application rate, and the application sites' location. Aminopyralid has been shown to be “practically nontoxic” to birds, fish, honeybees, earthworms and aquatic invertebrates. “Practically nontoxic” is the EPA’s least toxic category per ESRA. Signage will be posted on site along the roadway at the time of application to indicate application manner and timing.
trichlopyr	Unrestricted	#VALUE!	T6 R11 (Telos): Invasive plant control of Lathyrus latifolius and roadside brush control	0.2 litres	See: "ChemicalUseMemoTelos24": Minimal adverse effects: soil, atmosphere, NTFP, HCVs, landscape considerations, Ecosystem services, HCV 5-6, human health,welfare, economic viability, rights | Moderate effects: aquatic non-target plants {CONSIDER: Substantial drift or off-site transport via runoff could result in acute effects in sensitive fish or aquatic vegetation; Use of Garlon 4(BEE) minimizes risk since it rapidly converts into less toxic form upon entering environment and is not persistent in soil or surface water); Garlon 3a (TEA) must be minimized near water sources and minimize drift), food and water (low risk due to implausibility of acute/longterm occurances) | Negative effects: non-target plants and mammals || STRATEGIES TO MITIGATE RISK: Seek to minimize the frequency, interval, and amount of application. use the most efficient and effective method of application by seeking to minimize risk to environmental and social values. -Understand the site (e.g., soil type, topography, etc.) and climatic (e.g., wind, temperature, and humidity) conditions and the likely effect on risk to environmental and social values. -Have appropriate, waste management systems in place. Minimize risk of spray drift: unintentional spray drift has potential to significantly increase risk to the environment and public welfare. Follow product-specific guidelines for reducing spray drift for specific application scenarios. Do not apply where runoff or irrigation water may flow onto agricultural land as injury to crops may result. Do not apply directly to water, to areas where surface water is present. Do not contaminate water when cleaning equipment. Follow labvel instructions and wear PPE.

Pesticide use since previous audit/year

10.01 Active ingredient *	10.02 Restriction	10.03 Applied area *	10.04 Reason for use *	10.05 Quantity of ingredient *	10.06 Summary of ESRA *
trichlopyr	Unrestricted	2.3 ha	T11 R4 (Scopan): roadside brush control	4.3 litres	See: "ChemicalUseMemo_Roadside-Bureauwide": Triclopyr ESRA: Minimal adverse effects: soil, atmosphere, NTFP, HCVs, landscape considerations, Ecosystem services, HCV 5-6, human health,welfare, economic viability, rights | Moderate effects: aquatic non-target plants {CONSIDER: Substantial drift or off-site transport via runoff could result in acute effects in sensitive fish or aquatic vegetation; Use of Garlon 4(BEE) minimizes risk since it rapidly converts into less toxic form upon entering environment and is not persistent in soil or surface water); Garlon 3a (TEA) must be minimized near water sources and minimize drift), food and water (low risk due to implausibility of acute/longterm occurances) | Negative effects: non-target plants and mammals || STRATEGIES TO MITIGATE RISK: Seek to minimize the frequency, interval, and amount of application. use the most efficient and effective method of application by seeking to minimize risk to environmental and social values. -Understand the site (e.g., soil type, topography, etc.) and climatic (e.g., wind, temperature, and humidity) conditions and the likely effect on risk to environmental and social values. -Have appropriate, waste management systems in place. Minimize risk of spray drift: unintentional spray drift has potential to significantly increase risk to the environment and public welfare. Follow product-specific guidelines for reducing spray drift for specific application scenarios. Do not apply where runoff or irrigation water may flow onto agricultural land as injury to crops may result. Do not apply directly to water, to areas where surface water is present. Do not contaminate water when cleaning equipment. Follow labvel instructions and wear PPE.
trichlopyr	Unrestricted	3.7 ha	T16 R5 (Square Lake): roadside brush control	8.5 litres	See: "ChemicalUseMemo_Roadside-Bureauwide": Triclopyr ESRA: Minimal adverse effects: soil, atmosphere, NTFP, HCVs, landscape considerations, Ecosystem services, HCV 5-6, human health,welfare, economic viability, rights | Moderate effects: aquatic non-target plants {CONSIDER: Substantial drift or off-site transport via runoff could result in acute effects in sensitive fish or aquatic vegetation; Use of Garlon 4(BEE) minimizes risk since it rapidly converts into less toxic form upon entering environment and is not persistent in soil or surface water); Garlon 3a (TEA) must be minimized near water sources and minimize drift), food and water (low risk due to implausibility of acute/longterm occurances) | Negative effects: non-target plants and mammals || STRATEGIES TO MITIGATE RISK: Seek to minimize the frequency, interval, and amount of application. use the most efficient and effective method of application by seeking to minimize risk to environmental and social values. -Understand the site (e.g., soil type, topography, etc.) and climatic (e.g., wind, temperature, and humidity) conditions and the likely effect on risk to environmental and social values. -Have appropriate, waste management systems in place. Minimize risk of spray drift: unintentional spray drift has potential to significantly increase risk to the environment and public welfare. Follow product-specific guidelines for reducing spray drift for specific application scenarios. Do not apply where runoff or irrigation water may flow onto agricultural land as injury to crops may result. Do not apply directly to water, to areas where surface water is present. Do not contaminate water when cleaning equipment. Follow labvel instructions and wear PPE.
Imazapyr	Unrestricted	1.6 ha	T16 R10 (Allagash River Lot): road surface vegetation control	3.8 litres	See: "ChemicalUseMemo_Roadside-Bureauwide". Imazapyr is not considered a highly hazardous pesticide (HHP) per the FSC Pesticides Policy and the FSC Lists of Highly Hazardous Pesticides. Aminopyralid is “practically nontoxic” to aquatic organisms and only “slightly toxic” to some aquatic vegetation (As an effective herbicide, aquatic applications will damage aquatic macrophytes. Some sensitive species of algae and other non-target aquatic plants may be damaged in the event of an extreme accidental spil), however, precautions will be taken to mitigate risk of introduction to water resources. Spot treatment methodology with further reduce the risk to water resources. All legal requirements will be followed as well as the requirements in the ESRA. Few enirnmental or social risks are associated with this small area of treatment. ESRA shows very minimal adverse SOCIAL affects except general exposure effects (use PPE and followinstruction on label) || Other CONSIDERATIONS: DO NOT apply where runoff or irrigation water may flow onto agricultural land as injury to crops may result" (3). -DO NOT apply directly to water, or to areas where surface water is present, or to intertidal areas below the mean high-water mark (4); -DO NOT contaminate water when cleaning equipment or disposing of equipment washwaters or rinsate. This herbicide is phytotoxic at extremely low concentrations. Non-target plants may be adversely affected from drift (3); -DO NOT apply where runoff or irrigation water may flow onto agricultural land as injury to crops may result. Keep from contact with fertilizers, insecticides, fungicides and seeds -DO NOT apply or drain or flush equipment on or near desirable trees or other plants, or on areas where their roots may extend, or in locations where the chemical may be washed or moved into contact with their roots -Minimize risk of spray drift: unintentional spray drift has potential to significantly increase risk to the environment and

Pesticide use since previous audit/year

10.01 Active ingredient *	10.02 Restriction	10.03 Applied area *	10.04 Reason for use *	10.05 Quantity of ingredient *	10.06 Summary of ESRA *
Aminopyralid	Unrestricted	1.8 ha	T16 R11 (Allagash S Lot): roadside brush control	5.3 litres	See: "ChemicalUseMemo_Roadside-Bureauwide": Aminopyralid, is not considered a highly hazardous pesticide (HHP) per the FSC Pesticides Policy and the FSC Lists of Highly Hazardous Pesticides. Aminopyralid is “practically nontoxic” to aquatic organisms and only “slightly toxic” to some aquatic vegetation, however, precautions will be taken to mitigate risk of introduction to water resources. Spot treatment methodology with further reduce the risk to water resources. All legal requirements will be followed as well as the requirements in the ESRA. Appropriate signage will be posted on site at the time of application. Environmental/social risks/concerns associated with the prescription: Few environmental or social risks are associated with this small area of treatment given the herbicide selected, low percent application rate, and the application sites' location. Aminopyralid has been shown to be “practically nontoxic” to birds, fish, honeybees, earthworms and aquatic invertebrates. “Practically nontoxic” is the EPA’s least toxic category per ESRA. Signage will be posted on site along the roadway at the time of application to indicate application manner and timing.
Aminopyralid	Unrestricted	4.3 ha	T7 R12 (Indian Pond): roadside brush control	7.6 litres	See: "ChemicalUseMemo_Roadside-Bureauwide": Aminopyralid, is not considered a highly hazardous pesticide (HHP) per the FSC Pesticides Policy and the FSC Lists of Highly Hazardous Pesticides. Aminopyralid is “practically nontoxic” to aquatic organisms and only “slightly toxic” to some aquatic vegetation, however, precautions will be taken to mitigate risk of introduction to water resources. Spot treatment methodology with further reduce the risk to water resources. All legal requirements will be followed as well as the requirements in the ESRA. Appropriate signage will be posted on site at the time of application. Environmental/social risks/concerns associated with the prescription: Few environmental or social risks are associated with this small area of treatment given the herbicide selected, low percent application rate, and the application sites' location. Aminopyralid has been shown to be “practically nontoxic” to birds, fish, honeybees, earthworms and aquatic invertebrates. “Practically nontoxic” is the EPA’s least toxic category per ESRA. Signage will be posted on site along the roadway at the time of application to indicate application manner and timing.
trichlopyr	Unrestricted	6.8 ha	T7 R8 (Scraggly): roadside brush control	12.8 litres	See: "ChemicalUseMemo_Roadside-Bureauwide": Triclopyr ESRA: Minimal adverse effects: soil, atmosphere, NTFP, HCVs, landscape considerations, Ecosystem services, HCV 5-6, human health,welfare, economic viability, rights | Moderate effects: aquatic non-target plants {CONSIDER: Substantial drift or off-site transport via runoff could result in acute effects in sensitive fish or aquatic vegetation; Use of Garlon 4(BEE) minimizes risk since it rapidly converts into less toxic form upon entering environment and is not persistent in soil or surface water); Garlon 3a (TEA) must be minimized near water sources and minimize drift), food and water (low risk due to implausibility of acute/longterm occurances) | Negative effects: non-target plants and mammals || STRATEGIES TO MITIGATE RISK: Seek to minimize the frequency, interval, and amount of application. use the most efficient and effective method of application by seeking to minimize risk to environmental and social values. -Understand the site (e.g., soil type, topography, etc.) and climatic (e.g., wind, temperature, and humidity) conditions and the likely effect on risk to environmental and social values. -Have appropriate, waste management systems in place. Minimize risk of spray drift: unintentional spray drift has potential to significantly increase risk to the environment and public welfare. Follow product-specific guidelines for reducing spray drift for specific application scenarios. Do not apply where runoff or irrigation water may flow onto agricultural land as injury to crops may result. Do not apply directly to water, to areas where surface water is present. Do not contaminate water when cleaning equipment. Follow labvel instructions and wear PPE.

Pesticide use since previous audit/year

10.01 Active ingredient *	10.02 Restriction	10.03 Applied area *	10.04 Reason for use *	10.05 Quantity of ingredient *	10.06 Summary of ESRA *
trichlopyr	Unrestricted	#VALUE!	T16 R10 (Allagash River Lot): Invasive plant control of Lathyrus latifolius	0.1 litres	See: "ChemicalUseMemoTelos24": Minimal adverse effects: soil, atmosphere, NTFP, HCVs, landscape considerations, Ecosystem services, HCV 5-6, human health,welfare, economic viability, rights | Moderate effects: aquatic non-target plants {CONSIDER: Substantial drift or off-site transport via runoff could result in acute effects in sensitive fish or aquatic vegetation; Use of Garlon 4(BEE) minimizes risk since it rapidly converts into less toxic form upon entering environment and is not persistent in soil or surface water); Garlon 3a (TEA) must be minimized near water sources and minimize drift), food and water (low risk due to implausibility of acute/longterm occurances) | Negative effects: non-target plants and mammals || STRATEGIES TO MITIGATE RISK: Seek to minimize the frequency, interval, and amount of application. use the most efficient and effective method of application by seeking to minimize risk to environmental and social values. -Understand the site (e.g., soil type, topography, etc.) and climatic (e.g., wind, temperature, and humidity) conditions and the likely effect on risk to environmental and social values. -Have appropriate, waste management systems in place. Minimize risk of spray drift: unintentional spray drift has potential to significantly increase risk to the environment and public welfare. Follow product-specific guidelines for reducing spray drift for specific application scenarios. Do not apply where runoff or irrigation water may flow onto agricultural land as injury to crops may result. Do not apply directly to water, to areas where surface water is present. Do not contaminate water when cleaning equipment. Follow labvel instructions and wear PPE.
Glyphosate	Restricted	13.8 ha	Allagash (17-10): American beech cut stump control	4.7 litres	See: "ChemicalUseMemo - Beech Cut Stump Allagash T17-R10". Additional info given restricted status: This memo references "The Environmental and Social Risk Assessment: National Guidance for the United States Appendix 1: National Guidance ESRA for Glyphosate Ver. 1.1" (FSC-US 2020).See Appendix 3 for national level mitigation strategies defined to minimize risk. The following are potential risks identified that are possible with this treatment and the mitigation/minimization strategies: 6.1: There is potential for soil erosion due to vegetation changes and effects on soil microorganisms. The reduction in beech is not expected to cause significant, if any, reductions in vegetation on the site as other woody vegetation is expected to readily establish in the area vacated by beech. Additionally, the harvest is a partial removal, targeting a 60-90 ft2/ac basal area in residual. 6.2: There is potential for direct and secondary effects to non-target aquatic and broadleaf terrestrial plants. The cut-stump application method is among the most target specific method for beech control. As long as label requirements are followed (e.g. proper storage and containment) and the instructions in section 4 above are followed, negative effects non-target species will be minimized. Do not apply directly to water. 6.3: There is potential for toxicity for terrestrial and aquatic animals. However, this has been found only in application rates exceeding common forestry application rates (of which this treatment is much less). Precaution is needed with application in close proximity to water, as there is a potential of risk to amphibians, invertebrates, algae and other aquatic organisms.

Nonconformities/Observations raised

14.01 Unique Finding	14.02 CB Non-conformity Ref	14.06 Grading *	14.07 Open / Closed *	14.08 Standard *	14.09 Clause *	14.03 Issue date *	14.04 Due date *	14.05 Close date *	14.10 Requirement *	14.11 Description of audit finding *	14.12 Corrective action taken by the auditee	14.13 CB's review of corrective actions
2024-C109865-01	2024-01	Minor	Open	NFSS	4.2a	2025-03-03	2026-03-02		The forest owner or manager meets or exceeds all applicable laws and/or regulations covering health and safety of employees and their families (also see Criterion 1.1).	Applicable laws and/or regulations covering health and safety of employees are not effectively implemented. During the field visit, an operator exited the harvesting equipment and did not wear proper PPE.		
2024-C109865-02	2024-02	Minor	Open	NFSS	8.2.d.1	2025-03-03	2026-03-02		Monitoring is conducted to ensure that site specific plans and operations are properly implemented, environmental impacts of site disturbing operations are minimized, and that harvest prescriptions and guidelines are effective.	Monitoring data does not allow to confirm if the area harvested between 2021-2023 in Compartment W209 in the Bigelow Preserve resulted in a clearcut as defined by the Chapter 20 Rule for Forest Regeneration and Clearcutting Standards. Furthermore, the Bigelow Management Plan limits the size of clearcuts in Bigelow to 10 acres.		
2024-C109865-03	2024-03	Obs	Open	NFSS	8.2.d.1	2025-03-03			Monitoring is conducted to ensure that site specific plans and operations are properly implemented, environmental impacts of site disturbing operations are minimized, and that harvest prescriptions and guidelines are effective.	BPL could agree with the Friends of Bigelow on the field assessment protocol in relation to NC 2024-02.		
2024-C109865-04	2024-04	Obs	Open	NFSS	4.4.b	2025-03-03			The forest owner or manager seeks and considers input in management planning from people who would likely be affected by management activities.	A document entitled 'Policy Statements and Recommendations from the 1989 Bigelow Management Plan' were brought to the attention of the 2024 surveillance audit. This document highlights certain policy statements and questions are raised wether these statements are still applicable today. These comments were brought to the attention of the Chief of Silviculture for comment. The conclusion is that the Bigelow forest management plan will be revised in the coming year, and the audit concludes that the highlighted comments should be brought to the attention of the advisory committee responsible for the revision of the forest management plan (including the concerns relating to the roles and responsibilities of the Preserve Manager.		

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	P1	**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.**	**0**	
	C1.01	Forest management shall respect all national and local laws and administrative requirements.	0	
	C1.02	All applicable and legally prescribed fees, royalties, taxes and other charges shall be paid.	0	
	C1.03	In signatory countries, the provisions of all binding international agreements such as CITES, ILO Conventions, ITTA, and Convention on Biological Diversity, shall be respected.	0	
	C1.04	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.	0	NE
	C1.05	Forest management areas should be protected from illegal harvesting, settlement and other unauthorized activities.	0	Active program of boundary maintenance. Field staff conduct regular surveillance of properties to prevent dumping, illegal cutting or other unauthorized activity. No illegal issues this past year with dumping that were prosecuted. The Warden's service has located several illegal bear bait sites on one of our Lakeville Lots and one of our foresters had noticed an illegal site on our Webster Plantation property. I reported the latter to the Warden's service for investigation and have not heard back regarding any prosecution.
	C1.06	Forest managers shall demonstrate a long-term commitment to adhere to the FSC Principles and Criteria.	0	NE
	C1.07		0	
	C1.08		0	
	P2	**Long-term tenure and use rights to the land and forest resources shall be clearly defined, documented and legally established.**	**0**	
	C2.01	Clear evidence of long-term forest use rights to the land (e.g. land title, customary rights, or lease agreements) shall be demonstrated.	0	All deeds, easements, and management agreements are maintained at the office in Augusta and/or the appropriate regional office. BPL has a staff position whose responsibilities include maintaining and updating landbase records.(Planning & Research Associate Gayl Koyangi; Rex Turner: supervisor). Property management system details each lot number, transaction ID, parcel size, recording date of Deed. Verified examples for Nahmakanta forest unit. Periodic boundary line updates, given on a contractual basis. Flagging near boundaries. No boundary line issues or concerns raised during the field visit. Witnessed municipality boundary lines and survey posts during the field visits. Well maintained.
	C2.02	Local communities with legal or customary tenure or use rights shall maintain control, to the extent necessary to protect their rights or resources, over forest operations unless they delegate control with free and informed consent to other agencies.	0	Boundary lines are marked and updated periodically. There are no land use and tenure rights identified on the landbase. Hunting, hiking, fishing. Public use roads are maintained and graded, regardless of the occurrence of timber management activities, to allow for public use.
	C2.03	Appropriate mechanisms shall be employed to resolve disputes over tenure claims and use rights. The circumstances and status of any outstanding disputes will be explicitly considered in the certification evaluation. Disputes of substantial magnitude involving a significant number of interests will normally disqualify an operation from being certified.	0	The Bureau has dispute resolution provisions over tenure and use rights, and has access to staff at the State Attorney General's office. A dispute is ongoing on Seboeis Lake concerning tenure of a right-of-way. Discussions are ongoing. Records are maintained of all discussions and attempts for resolution. Interview Mike Pounch. Review of records.
	C2.04		0	
	C2.05		0	
	C2.06		0	
	P3	**The legal and customary rights of indigenous peoples to own, use and manage their lands, territories, and resources shall be recognized and respected.**	**0**	
	C3.01	Indigenous peoples shall control forest management on their lands and territories unless they delegate control with free and informed consent to other agencies.	0	There are no instance of management of tribal lands. BPL does not own any lands with specific customary rights. Formal rights have been granted.
	C3.02	Forest management shall not threaten or diminish, either directly or indirectly, the resources or tenure rights of indigenous peoples.	0	BPL does not own any lands with formal or legally recognized use rights claimed by Maine tribes. Currently, Maine tribes do not claim specific, customary rights to Maine BPL Lands. Some formal rights have been granted (free State park admission and collection and ceremony holding as an allowable use in Eco-Reserves. Regardless, outreach and increased engagement is a long-term objective for BPL. As this is an ongoing initiative, outreach efforts and engagement from 2022 audit still relevant to long term nature of gaining trust. 2024, several staff will be attending Ash Mgmt (2 day event) conference put on, n part, by the Penobscot Nation. HCV 6 has some confidential identified on Bureau Lands; see Portage Trail in Duck Lake (protected via Spec Prot). Invites sent for Tribal leaders to partake in mgmt planning Advisory committees. Historic sites are buffered out, with consultation with state office of historic preservation. Legacy tree policy implements a "no cut everything of any one thing) (i.e. spp); ash are retained (see Apple tree rd job in Seboeis where multiple ash trees were retained). 2023 Permit for ash tree and seed collection issued to two tribal members (for the Seboies Unit).

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	C3.03	Sites of special cultural, ecological, economic or religious significance to indigenous peoples shall be clearly identified in cooperation with such peoples, and recognized and protected by forest managers.	0	High Conservation Value areas on Bureau-managed lands include sites with important historical, cultural and/or religious values to Maine's tribes and bands. These sites are not publicly specified so to protect those values. The Bureau is consulting with the tribes and bands to ensure that management activities on the landbase cause no adverse effects to those sites. Invitations are sent for consultation for management planning processes.
	C3.04	Indigenous peoples shall be compensated for the application of their traditional knowledge regarding the use of forest species or management systems in forest operations. This compensation shall be formally agreed upon with their free and informed consent before forest operations commence.	0	There are no instances of the use of traditional knowledge in forest management activities.
	C3.05		0	
	C3.06		0	
	P4	**Forest management operations shall maintain or enhance the long-term social and economic well-being of forest workers and local communities.**	**0**	
	C4.01	The communities within, or adjacent to, the forest management area should be given opportunities for employment, training, and other services.	0	NE
	C4.02	Forest management should meet or exceed all applicable laws and/or regulations covering health and safety of employees and their families.	1	Bureau Policies and Procedures require safety equipment in the field and in remote locations (i.e., the Upper St. John Valley), vehicles are equipped with two-way radios on the MFS frequencies plus MURS frequencies for road safety, and loggers have safety training. Contracts require an emergency response plan. Bureau logging, road construction/maintenance and recreation development contracts include language requiring that contractors meet or exceed federal and state standards for safety and also requires the use of certified loggers and that training certificates are current. Verified contracts with specific requirements for safety practices and programs. Interviews with BPL staff and logging contractors confirm appropriate emphasis on workplace safety standards and culture. Bureau stumpage permits and contracts for logging services stipulate contractor and/or loggers be trained as Master Logger or Certified Logging Professional. BPL requires loggers participate in regional Certified Logging Professional (CLP) program, which features curriculum emphasizing workplace safety practices and culture. Field and forestry observations demonstrated safe working conditions. NC 2024-01 – Applicable laws and/or regulations covering health and safety of employees are not effectively implemented. An operator exited the harvesting equipment and did not wear proper PPE . 2024 update: East – No new incidents. West – No new incidents. NORTH: 4 reported incidents. Incidents are reported using the form: Employee's Report of injury, exposure or medical condition. Verified reports for these reported incidents.
	C4.03	The rights of workers to organize and voluntarily negotiate with their employers shall be guaranteed as outlined in Conventions 87 and 98 of the International Labour Organisation (ILO).	0	NE
	C4.04	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.	0	The Bureau actively seeks input from both stakeholders and the general public at multiple steps during its management plan process. Advisory committees consisting of various stakeholders are created for each Plan. The Bureau has developed and is maintaining a large recreational infrastructure, including hiking trails, campsites and boat launches, and takes into account potential impacts on these places when planning and conducting other management activities. BPL incorporates social impact throughout their management planning, as appropriate for a state entity. Most directly, all units have stakeholder committees that are directly consulted during the management planning process. Management plans include descriptions of all social impacts required in this indicator. Additional details & examples of social impact incorporation to management planning is noted below in P7. Specific attention is noted to each of 6 bullet points in this indicator. Direct interaction with one community stakeholder with interest in ongoing harvest operations is noted in the DAR.
	C4.05	Appropriate mechanisms shall be employed for resolving grievances and for providing fair compensation in the case of loss or damage affecting the legal or customary rights, property, resources, or livelihoods of local peoples. Measures shall be taken to avoid such loss or damage.	0	NE
	C4.06		0	
	C4.07		0	
	C4.08		0	
	P5	**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.**	**0**	

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	C5.01	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.	0	NE
	C5.02	Forest management and marketing operations should encourage the optimal use and local processing of the forest's diversity of products.	0	NE
	C5.03	Forest management should minimize waste associated with harvesting and on-site processing operations and avoid damage to other forest resources.	0	NE
	C5.04	Forest management should strive to strengthen and diversify the local economy, avoiding dependence on a single forest product.	0	NE
	C5.05	Forest management operations shall recognize, maintain, and, where appropriate, enhance the value of forest services and resources such as watersheds and fisheries.	0	NE
	C5.06	The rate of harvest of forest products shall not exceed levels which can be permanently sustained.	0	A formal inventory is conducted periodically, most recently in 1999, 2011, 2016. Due to update the inventory again and planned to be completed by 2026. Also, BPL flew the entire land base in 2015 and used the imagery to do timber typing. Yield curves were developed based on this inventory, which is used to project net growth and a sustained yield calculation for different species. Harvest level targets are set at 90% of net growth. Planning done on a sustainable harvest unit basis, with areas removed from harvesting. Bureau forest management objectives include the production of high-quality forest products, typically sawlogs and veneer, by fostering the growth of trees to large sizes and long ages. Harvest records show that more than 80% of harvested acres are done by the selection method and less than 1% by clearcutting. The irregular shelterwood system with partial instead of total removal harvests also result in stands with good horizontal and vertical diversity. Though the vast majority of acres are dominated by late-successional species, the Bureau generally seeks to maintain its currently small area of early successional species such as aspen and white birch, though not always on the same footprint. Timber harvests focus primarily on improving stand conditions or regeneration where advance regeneration is well established. Individual site prescription are created, in line with silvicultural guidelines, in order to move towards condition or regeneration goals. Review of field sites demonstrated that harvests were generally in line with management objectives. Legislative annual allowable cut is set at 161,096 cds on a 3-year rolling basis. Number was confirmed through the verification of document 'Model 2019 results.xlsx' which is the output of the wood supply analysis model. BPL uses categories of "regulated" and "non-regulated" to remove non-production designated zones, reserve areas, or preserve areas from calculations. Total landbase is 644,647 ac, of which, annual harvest level
	P6	**Forest management shall conserve biological diversity and its associated values, water resources, soils, and unique and fragile ecosystems and landscapes, and, by so doing, maintain the ecological functions and the integrity of the forest.**	**0**	
	C6.01	Assessment of environmental impacts shall be completed - appropriate to the scale, intensity of forest management and the uniqueness of the affected resources - and adequately integrated into management systems. Assessments shall include landscape level considerations as well as the impacts of on-site processing facilities. Environmental impacts shall be assessed prior to commencement of site-disturbing operations.	0	NE

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	C6.02	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.	0	Bureau foresters routinely check with MNAP for RTE species and with IFW for critical habitats when preparing prescriptions and during harvest planning. Biologist is on staff and shared with MEIF&W to ensure that TE habitat is mapped and addressed in operations. MNAP: Surveys have been conducted to identify areas of late successional forest and for rare plant occurrences, conducted in preparation for harvest operations. Small areas meeting Bureau definitions of 'Old-growth' were identified and excluded from harvest operations. Several additional areas are under review for special protection and designation as HCV/ Ecological Reserve, and decisions on these designations are ongoing. IFW: Surveys: Maine Bird Atlas (inclusive of all breeding birds, statewide); 2 Peregrine falcon eyries (Tumbledown, Nahmahanta); grassland birds (includes notes on monarch abundance); Maine Amphibian and Reptile Atlas (inclusive of all species, statewide); Maine Bumble Bee Atlas; stationary acoustic detectors for bats (inclusive of all species, statewide); snowshoe hare pellet plots in support of Canada lynx management at Seboomook; wood turtle; northern bog lemming. New zones: New Tumbledown Management Plan (Feb 2022) includes wildlife allocation for peregrine falcon, Bicknell's thrush, northern spring salamander, IWWH, streams, wetlands; new St. John Uplands Plan (Aug 2021) includes wildlife allocation for deer wintering area, IWWH, wetlands, Quebec emerald, Heritage Brook Trout Water, eagle nest, wetlands, lake frontage. Updated wildlife allocation on Dallas Plantation based on updated stream & wetland data. An update summary of ME Natural Areas Program (MNAP) 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. Consultation with Maine Natural Areas Program and Inland Fisheries and Wildlife (IFW). Critical habitat updating. Consultation during the
	C6.03	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.	0	Generally, the Bureau manages to maintain or increase late successional habitats, which are a very small fraction of Maine's forest. While the Bureau will work to maintain the currently minor acres in early successional species/habitats, this acreage will be a much smaller portion of the landbase than might otherwise be present, as abutting/nearby lands hold considerable early successional habitat. 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. Type 1 and Type 2 are protected. MNAP has mapped larger OG sites and is in an agreement with BPL to manage small OG sites. At present there some small areas of OG and a few OG sites on BPL. Many of the parcels managed by BPL were acquired from large organizations which had timber harvesting as their primary concern. As a result much of BPL’s land-base has seen management activity in the past.
	C6.04	Representative samples of existing ecosystems within the landscape shall be protected in their natural state and recorded on maps, appropriate to the scale and intensity of operations and the uniqueness of the affected resources.	0	NE
	C6.05	Written guidelines shall be prepared and implemented to: control erosion; minimize forest damage during harvesting, road construction, and all other mechanical disturbances; and protect water resources.	0	NE
	C6.06	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.	0	NE
	C6.07	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.	0	NE
	C6.08	Use of biological control agents shall be documented, minimized, monitored and strictly controlled in accordance with national laws and internationally accepted scientific protocols. Use of genetically modified organisms shall be prohibited.	0	NE
	C6.09	The use of exotic species shall be carefully controlled and actively monitored to avoid adverse ecological impacts.	0	The Bureau uses for erosion control and wildlife a seed mix (usually Conservation Mix) that contains plant species not native to most/all of Maine and such mixes have a very small component (<1%) of "other" seeds, not identified. Observations have revealed that these seedings have not spread into the surrounding forest and usually are outcompeted by native species within ten years. Seed mix for stabilization is not composed of species listed as invasive. These species should not persist in a forested situation. Verified as recorded above. Interview Mike Pounch. Verification of the species used for seeding against the MNAP Advisory List of invasive Plants and determined that no species in the seed mix used by Maine BPL are considered invasive.

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	C6.10	Forest conversion to plantations or non-forest land uses shall not occur, except in circumstances where conversion: a) entails a very limited portion of the forest management unit; and b) does not occur on high conservation value forest areas; and c) will enable clear, substantial, additional, secure, long term conservation benefits across the forest management unit.	0	There are no instances of forest conversion to non-forest land use.
	P7	**A management plan - appropriate to the scale and intensity of the operations - shall be written, implemented, and kept up to date. The long term objectives of management, and the means of achieving them, shall be clearly stated.**	**0**	
	C7.01	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. c) Description of silvicultural and/or other management system, based on the ecology of the forest in question and information 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.	0	NE
	C7.02	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.	0	NE
	C7.03	Forest workers shall receive adequate training and supervision to ensure proper implementation of the management plan.	0	NE
	C7.04	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.	0	NE
	C7.05		0	
	C7.06		0	
	P8	**Monitoring shall be conducted - appropriate to the scale and intensity of forest management - to assess the condition of the forest, yields of forest products, chain of custody, management activities and their social and environmental impacts.**	**0**	
	C8.01	The frequency and intensity of monitoring should be determined by the scale and intensity of forest management operations as well as the relative complexity and fragility of the affected environment. Monitoring procedures should be consistent and replicable over time to allow comparison of results and assessment of change.	0	NE
	C8.02	Forest management should include the research and data collection needed to monitor, at a minimum, the following indicators: a) Yield of all forest products harvested. b) Growth rates, regeneration and condition of the forest. c) Composition and observed changes in the flora and fauna. d) Environmental and social impacts of harvesting and other operations. e) Costs, productivity, and efficiency of forest management.	1	The Bureau stumpage program records all harvested timber products by species, product and price, with summary reports downloaded at the operational, regional and landbase levels. Harvest operation inspection forms include condition of the residual and any regeneration. A formal timber inventory is done periodically, they are directed to report to legislature with an update every 5 years. Next one is scheduled for 2025. Stocking and net growth are calculated. Field inventory is conducted every 15 years, with a net growth calculation every 5 years. Adjusted for species/species basis. Post harvest area data maintained. Preharvest timber cruising is conducted by foresters as part of compartment prescription writing process. These were reviewed during the audit and all inspected sites were consistent with the compartment details of items a) - f). Reviewed harvest history update procedures within the BPL GIS system. Verified integration with period inventory base-data maintenance as noted above. Site visit prescriptions used as examples. The Bureau participates with the Cooperative Forestry Research Unit to sponsor forest management and ecological research including projects to monitor Canada Lynx populations at the landscape extending beyond Bureau property. The Bureau entered into a fifteen-year MOU with IFW concerning Canada lynx and snowshoe hare habitat at Seboomook in 2014, as part of the latter agency's Incidental Take Permit. Cooperation with MNAP assists the Bureau in accessing data on RTE species and their habitats, and other critical habitats. RTE habitat surveys occur continuously basis. Older records might be based on older GIS data, but new occurrences are updated in their internal databases. Ecological Reserve Inventory has its own permanent inventory system, returns on a 10-year basis. Many of the significant areas identified as Eco
	C8.03	Documentation shall be provided by the forest manager to enable monitoring and certifying organizations to trace each forest product from its origin, a process known as the "chain of custody".	0	NE
	C8.04	The results of monitoring shall be incorporated into the implementation and revision of the management plan.	0	NE

Principles & Criteria Summary

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Display	**Index**	**18.01 Standard Requirement**	**18.02 Num CARs**	**18.03 Summary Assessment**
	C8.05	While respecting the confidentiality of information, forest managers shall make publicly available a summary of the results of monitoring indicators, including those listed in Criterion 8.2.	0	NE
	P9	**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.**	**0**	
	C9.01	Assessment to determine the presence of the attributes consistent with High Conservation Value Forests will be completed, appropriate to scale and intensity of forest management.	0	Source: High Conservation Value Areas on BPL (updated 07/2023) The Bureau of Parks and Lands has identified 27 mostly forested areas which qualify as High Conservation Value (HCV). These cover about 100,000 acres, about 16% of the Bureau's fee lands, with about 90% of the area allocated as ecological reserves, on which timber management is excluded. Though the areas differ widely in character, their HCV categories are often similar. Most HCV on BPL's lands are Category 1 and Category 3 HCV, with several discrete point locations of HCV 6 in which total area is relatively small. Categories 2, 4, and 5 were assessed. The majority of HCV areas on BPL land are encompassed within the Bureau's Ecological Reserve system. Ecological Reserves are areas established by statute (Title 12, Section 1801) to mean "an area owned or leased by the State and under the jurisdiction of the Bureau, designated by the Director, for the purpose of maintaining one or more natural community types or native ecosystem types in a natural condition and range of variation and contributing to the protection of Maine's biological diversity, and managed: A) as a benchmark against which biological and environmental change can be measured, B) to protect sufficient habitat for those species whose habitat needs are unlikely to be met on lands managed for other purposes; or C) as a site for ongoing scientific research, long-term environmental monitoring, and education." Most ecological reserves will encompass more than 1,000 contiguous acres. In addition to those 27 HCV areas, the managed lands also hold a number of sites with physical evidence of use by indigenous peoples, these qualifying as HCVs under Category 6. Such sites are not shown individually on this document nor described beyond the generic language in this paragraph, but the tracts on which such sites have been identified are listed by region, below the descriptions of other types of HCV. These "Category 6" sites will be buffered/protected as appropriate, reflecting advice provided by Maine's tribes and bands, and archeological sources including the Maine State Museum
	C9.02	The consultative portion of the certification process must place emphasis on the identified conservation attributes, and options for the maintenance thereof.	0	Consultation was conducted during the ecological reserve designation process. Furthermore, consultation is conducted during the forest management planning process. BPL's Allocation System provides an advantageous and appropriate framework for identifying and protecting all ecologically and socially significant areas in the ownership, both areas that qualify for HCVF and those that don't (whether due to size requirements or non-qualifying species protection (i.e. deer wintering areas)). Further, BPL's Forest management prescription process includes specialist review that ensures areas identified as ecologically or socially significant are protected (whether it is in the form of no-cut buffers, BMP planning and implementation, and additional allocation). Lastly, as BPL continues to acquire new lands, manage lands previously not managed by the Bureau, and employ state of the art monitoring and inventory technology, special protection allocation and HCVF designations will continue to evolve.
	C9.03	The management plan shall include and implement specific measures that ensure the maintenance and/or enhancement of the applicable conservation attributes consistent with the precautionary approach. These measures shall be specifically included in the publicly available management plan summary.	0	BPL's Allocation System provides an advantageous and appropriate framework for identifying and protecting all ecologically and socially significant areas in the ownership, both areas that qualify for HCVF and those that don't (whether due to size requirements or non-qualifying species protection (i.e. deer wintering areas)). Further, BPL's Forest management prescription process includes specialist review that ensures areas identified as ecologically or socially significant are protected (whether it is in the form of no-cut buffers, BMP planning and implementation, and additional allocation). Lastly, as BPL continues to acquire new lands, manage lands previously not managed by the Bureau, and employ state of the art monitoring and inventory technology, special protection allocation and HCVF designations will continue to evolve.
	C9.04	Annual monitoring shall be conducted to assess the effectiveness of the measures employed to maintain or enhance the applicable conservation attributes.	0	Maine Natural Areas Program Eco reserve plot monitoring at Spring River Lake/ Donnell Pond where ER long term forest inventory plots were revisited. In addition to forest inventory assessments, red pine scale was detected and has been identified causing tree mortality. •IFW: - Regional HCV site visits by foresters with a focus on detecting any adverse impacts. See SharePoint site Folder P8 Monitoring for reports •MNAP: Maine Natural Areas Program Eco reserves plot monitoring. Significant plant communities were visited in other identified HCV sites with reports available on request 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.