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

The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Department of Conservation and Natural Resources Bureau of Forestry

SCS-FM/COC-00011N

Client Address	State Forester's Office, P.O. Box 8552, Harrisburg, PA 17105-8552, United States
Client Contact	Abby Jamison
Client Website	https://www.dcnr.pa.gov/StateForests/Pages/default.aspx

CERTIFIED EXPIRATION
1 January 2019 31 December 2023

DATE OF FIELD EVALUATION

4-6 October 2022

DATE OF REPORT FINALIZATION

1 December 2022

SCS Contact:

Brendan Grady | Director

Forest Management Certification

+1.510.452.8000

bgrady@scsglobalservices.com

SCSglobal

Setting the standard for sustainability

2000 Powell Street, Ste. 600, Emeryville, CA 94608 USA +1.510.452.8000 main | +1.510.452.8001 fax www.SCSglobalServices.com

Foreword

Cycle in annual surveillance evaluations				
☐ 1 st annual evaluation	☐ 2 nd annual evaluation	☐ 3 rd annual evaluation	□ 4 th annual evaluation	☐ Other (expansion of scope, Major CAR audit, special audit, etc.):
Name of Forest Management Enterprise (FME) and abbreviation used in this report:				
Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, DCNR; Bureau of Forestry, BoF or BOF				

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

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

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

Organization of the Report

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

Table of Contents

SECTION A – PUBLIC SUMMARY	4
1. GENERAL INFORMATION	
1.2 Total Time Spent on Evaluation	4
1.3 Applicable Standards	5
1.4 Conversion Table English Units to Metric Units	5
CERTIFICATION EVALUATION PROCESS	
2.2 Evaluation of Management Systems	15
3. CHANGES IN MANAGEMENT PRACTICES	15
4. RESULTS OF EVALUATION	
4.2 History of Findings for Certificate Period	16
4.3 Existing Corrective Action Requests and Observations	16
4.4 New Corrective Action Requests and Observations	17
5. STAKEHOLDER COMMENTS	
5.2 Summary of Stakeholder Comments and Evaluation Team Responses	18
6. CERTIFICATION DECISION	19
7 ANNUAL DATA UPDATE	19

SECTION A – PUBLIC SUMMARY

1. General Information

1.1 Evaluation Team

Auditor name:	Beth Jacqmain	Auditor role:	Audit Team Leader
Auditor name: Qualifications:	Beth Jacqmain is a Senior Certification Forester at SCS Global Services, Forest Ecologist and Certified Forester (SAFCF#1467). Beth has 20+ years' practitioner experience in forestry including public land management, private consulting, and private corporate forest management working with landowners and harvest crews. Qualified ANSI RAB accredited ISO 14001 EMS, ISO 17021 QMS, and 19001 QMS Lead Auditor and FSC®, ATFS®, SFI®, and RW® Lead Auditor for Forest Management/Chain of Custody. Audited and led forest management evaluations, harvest and logging operations certification audits, OHSA logging and chainsaw safety. Certified Trainer for FSC FM lead auditors. Served on the FSC Technical Working Group for development of International Generic Indicators for use and risk management of highly hazardous pesticides. Beth is a 14 year member of the Forest Guild, 23-year adjunct-Faculty with Itasca Community College, NR Department. Member 30+ years Society of American Foresters. Served SAF MN State Chair 2010 and multiple committees, state and national, throughout. Job Analysis team - SAF National Exam Revision Committee (2013/2019). Original lead instructor of UMN "Ecosystem Silviculture" certificate course for professional foresters. BS Forest Management from Michigan State		
	University and MS Forest Biology/Ecology from Auburn University.		
Auditor name:	Tucker Watts	Auditor role:	Team Auditor
Qualifications:	Tucker Watts is a partner in Watts Consulting LLC. His primary focus is forest certification through auditing. Since 2008, Watts has been involved with SFI Forest Management, Fiber Sourcing, Certified Sourcing, and Chain of Custody auditing, FSC Forest Management and Chain of Custody auditing, Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification Chain of Custody auditing, auditing of the American Tree Farm System's Group certification, auditing of the Responsible Procurement Program of the National Wood Flooring Association and auditing of the Sustainable Biomass Partnership. Watts has 30 years of experience in forest management with a large forest products corporation involved in the manufacturing of paper, lumber and plywood. For 10 years, Watts was a system manager for the forest certification system.		volved with SFI Chain of Custody ting, Programme for diting, auditing of the the Responsible ation and auditing of experience in forest ed in the

1.2 Total Time Spent on Evaluation

A.	Number of days spent on-site for evaluation	3
B.	Number of auditors participating in on-site evaluation	2
C.	Number of days spent by any technical experts (in addition to amount in line A)	0
D.	Additional days spent on preparation, stakeholder consultation, and follow-up	3
E.	Total number of person days used in evaluation	9

1.3 Applicable Standards

All applicable FSC standards are available on the websites of FSC International (www.fsc.org) or SCS Global Services (www.SCSglobalServices.com). All standards are available on request from SCS Global Services via the comment form on our website. When no national standard exists for the country/region, SCS Interim Standards are developed by modifying SCS's Generic Interim Standard to reflect forest management in the region and by incorporating relevant components of any Draft Regional/National Standard and comments from stakeholders. More than one month prior to the start of the field evaluation, SCS Draft Interim Standards are provided to stakeholders identified by FSC International, SCS, forest managers under evaluation, and the FSC National or Regional Office for comment. SCS's COC indicators for FMEs are based on the most current versions of the FSC Chain of Custody Standard, FSC Standard for Group Entities in Forest Management Groups (FSC-STD-30-005), and FSC Accreditation Requirements. "Applicable standards" are all FSC standards with which the certified entity must comply, not just the standards selected for evaluation this year.

Standards applicable NOTE: Please include the full standard name and Version number and check all that apply based on type of certificate.	☑ Forest Stewardship Standard(s), including version:FSC US Forest Management Standard, V1-0
	☑ FSC Trademark Standard (FSC-STD-50-001 V2-0)
	SCS COC indicators for FMEs, V8-0
	\square FSC standard for group entities in forest management groups (FSC-STD-30-005), V1-1
	☐ Other:

1.4 Conversion Table English Units to Metric Units

Length Conversion Factors				
To convert from	То	multiply by		
Mile (US Statute)	Kilometer (km)	1.609347		
Foot (ft.)	Meter (m)	0.3048		
Yard (yd.)	Meter (m)	0.9144		
Area Conversion Factors				
To convert from	То	multiply by		
Square foot (sq. ft.)	Square meter (m ²)	0.09290304		
Acre (ac)	Hectare (ha)	0.4047		
Volume Conversion Factors				
To convert from	То	multiply by		
Cubic foot (cu ft.)	Cubic meter (m³)	0.02831685		
Gallon (gal)	Liter (I)	4.546		
Quick reference				
1 acre	= 0.404686 ha			
1,000 acres	= 404.686 ha			
1 board foot	= 0.00348 cubic meters			
1,000 board feet	= 3.48 cubic meters	= 3.48 cubic meters		
1 cubic foot	= 0.028317 cubic meters			

2. Certification Evaluation Process

2.1 Evaluation Itinerary, Activities, and Site Notes

2022 Audit Itinerary

Tuesday, October 4, 2022 Sproul Forest District 10

8:00 am – Opening Meeting and Presentation Sproul Forest District Office Conference Room 15187 Renovo Rd, Renovo, PA 17764

9:00 am - Sproul State Forest

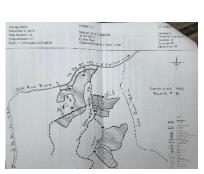
Notes: Timber sale Proposals and Prospectus for all harvest blocks were provided and complete unless otherwise specified. Their contents are generally listed below. For all completed sales it was verified that each crew that operates on a sale is logger qualified.

Proposals: All timber sales pre-harvest environmental reviews are done through a *Proposal* process that requires approval from authorized forestry/silvicultural staff. Data for proposals included SILVAH results; silviculture prescription (Rx) for each block in a particular sale; PNDI reviews; soils; forest cover typing; topographic maps of the sale area; operability limitations; adjacent landowners; stakeholder concerns; other ownerships (such as pipeline owners); etc. These were made available for all timber sales unless otherwise specified. Once approved a Prospectus is generated.

Prospectus: Timber sales are sold by prospectus which becomes the timber sale contract. Prospectus includes: Location; Contract ID; Sale Name; Certification claims; Sale locations; Volume computations – products, species, volumes; Cutting specifications; Expiration of contract; Tour of the sale area; Timber cruising – tree marking specifications; Bids – forms, dates, payment terms, Performance deposit; Sales tax; Execution of contract – requirements for completion of contract; Payment for timber damages per statute; Cutting blocks – description of cutting blocks and order of harvest; Felling of trees; Sale boundaries; Logging restrictions – equipment, damage to residuals, skidding restrictions, date restrictions, E&S plan; Tops and slash treatments for sites, roads, ditches, rows, roads, and other included features; Haul roads condition and use; Seeding sale areas; Safety; Logger certification; Environmental protections; Extension of expiration date of contract; U. S. Department of agriculture quarantines; Green certification statement; Non-discrimination clause; and other miscellaneous clauses.

Sproul Field Sites Examined:

1. 10-2019BC07 - Broken Horn Timber sale – (GM). 252 acre timber sale in compartment 31. Examined Blocks 4 & 6. Sold not cut. Overstory removal (OSR), Shelterwood (SW). Buffer along road, "2-Aged Buffer" standard along roads promotes White Pine and Oak. Harvest in 7 harvest blocks total plus landings. OSR winter harvest only. Harvest to improve stand, retaining quality crop trees. Cut down to 4" top for pole wood, 8" top for saw timber, tops left onsite. Cut To Length job will be used. Contacted gas company for crossing. Pipeline crossing will be padded. In the future companies will pad the crossings. Shallow gas risers through sale protected by pipe. Logger training verification witnessed. SFI trained crew leader. 2-aged set up. 1st cut. Regen white pine (WP) is good. Conifer is desired and oak difficult to regenerate. Normally would reduce to 20-30 BA but this one to 40 BA, shading to discourage black birch encroachment. Oak retained as good for wildlife mast eaters. Will create PNDI (RTE) check found Allegheny wood rat and eastern timber rattlesnake. Wrote to PA agencies and there was no anticipated impact on these species' habitat from management activities. PA Fish and Boat Commission consulted for snake occurrence. Contacted PA Game Commission to consult for rat species. Retain wildlife (WL) trees & snags, marked to keep. Green tree retention (GTR) also done by species designations.







Gated road into Blocks 3&4. Limestone base and buildup of road. Road improvements done about a year ago. Blocks 4&6 in between stop, cut down to 40 BA residual. Good oak & WP regen to be retained. Cut marked and 6" top down to 2" to remove. Round dot of paint to indicate pulp product, painted "slash" to indicate sawlog product. Some concerns w cherry leaf spotting but not a great concern for this area.

Some damage to culvert on road. Brought maintenance contact out for inspection/recommendation. Gas well access road so has had heavy equip traffic in the past.



Example of Block data summary included in this sale proposal is below:

BLOCK	TREATMENT	ACRES	STAND	SOILS
1	Shelterwood	30	#38 MAH22C	HmD 71% WeB 15% CpB 10%
2	Shelterwood	59	#38 MAH22C	HmD 50% WgB 29% CpB 20%
3	Overstory Removal	30	#38 MAH22C	CgB 61% Hmd 31%
4	Two Aged	24	#38 MAH22C	CgB51% HmD 41%
5	Shelterwood	14	#38 MAH22C	Hmd 81% CpB 14%
6	Two Aged	76	#38 MAH22C	HmD 42% CpB28% CgB 27%
7	Two Age Selection (Buffer)	18	#38 MAH22C	CfB 42% CgB 35% CpB 21%

2. PA-RX-BOF10202201- Broken Horn Prescribed Fire – (JD/GM) 43 acres inside fenced area. Had very good oak regeneration (regen) but it overtopped and there were concerns about successful recruitment out of the ground layer so it was determined to burn and release oak regen from birch, and cherry. There were 4 prior treatments starting 2006 with most recent an overstory (OS) removal 2017. Gas lines throughout area so staff contacted all relevant entities of planned burn and invitation to attend. Left 50' buffer around well features. Notified agencies at time of actual burns. County staff viewed burn. All hand ignition for burn. Burn plan & post burn assessment provided and reviewed. Regen monitoring plots to be done in years 2 & 5 following burn. Baseline pre-burn plots, provided plot data for review.



3. Marcellus Gas Pad Reclamation - Dry Run – (MA) 4-5 ac pad. Appalachian Regional Reforestation Initiative for planting pit & mound used for reclamation. Seeded conducted with mix prescribed by PA DCNR. Planted spring 2021 with 10 k conifer bare root seedlings PA DCNR Bureau of Forestry's Penn Nursery planted on 6x6 spacing. Monitored 2 years after planting with 75% survival. Red oak (RO), Pitch pine, Norway Spruce. Witnessed Permit Application for Drilling Or Altering A Well and Well Map Plat.

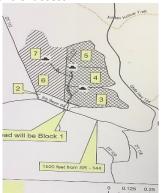


- 4. 10-2019BC10 Active Timber sale Slide Hollow (BM) Logger interview. 68 acres, 2 Blocks each about 30 acres. Reviewed Timber Sale Inspection and Completion reports, FMT 9s. FMT 21, Timber Sale / Permit tracking Logger, SFI certified. Site will be used for SFI Game of Logging, Nov 11, 2022. Laurel mowed prior to harvest. Merchandizing good utilization: Pole wood going to homeowners. PA BOF has small and large sales developed to give small loggers chances. Logs go to 2 diff mills. Discussions: SFI program in PA. Initial, base qualifications and continuing, annual education requirements. Boundaries marked in blue paint. Erosion and Sedimentation Plan set up for the site (tube and blue paint) which provides guidelines for streams. COC Mills load and haul the wood. Mill verifies wood source and is responsible for COC. Slash retention everything < 4" diam kept on site (tops and limbs). Slash distributed across sale for stabilization. Minimal skinning.</p>
- 5. Big Basin Road -culvert and turnout.





 Regeneration Project - #10-20-01- Tree Planting - Big Basin Timber sale (JD) Planted Spring of 2021 (TS #10-2016-BC05). Provided FMT 33 Regeneration fund general Proposal. Harvest areas were overstory removal of 93 acres. Planted Pitch Pine (20,000) and White Pine (5,000) to create biodiversity. Spacing of 10X10. SW about 70 acres. Note: Steep slope between 4&3 excluded from sale area to protect site and due to operational concerns. Type AH22 oak heath. Good green tree retention (GTR) throughout. Berm used to control access.







7. Cattaraugus Road bridge, construction completed in last year. Culvert inspections/monitored annually. Culvert resized as part of climate change project. Banks are well stabilized.





- 8. 10-21-01 Three Point Fence 1- Crowley Road- Fence Construction Contract (GM). 10-21-02 Three Point Fence 2 Crowley Road Fence Construction Contract. Same stand and treatment, 67 acres fence 1, fence 2 is 71 acres, installed July-Aug 2022. PO against the scope of work. Low bid goes as a fund commitment (like PO).
- 9. 10-14-11 Hicks Hollow Crowley Road Fence Dismantle Contract (RF). Fence removal. Difference between regeneration inside fencing on left, unfenced and browsed on right in photo.



5:00 pm - Daily Debrief and End of Tour

Auditors and Central Office Staff travel to DuBois, PA

Wednesday, October 5, 2022 Moshannon Forest District 9

8:00 am – Opening Meeting and Presentation Moshannon Forest District Office Conference Room 3372 State Park Rd, Penfield, PA 15849

8:45 am - Depart for Field Sites

Chemical Storage - Moshannon Annex. In good order, all containers labelled, clean area, secure chemical storage unit, concrete floor. Fire extinguishers, ventilation, spill equipment, safety equipment.



Site 1 – Schofield Road Prescribed Burn. Burned inside the fence. 151 of 209 acres burned. Goal to improve Oak habitat while reducing Maple and Birch. Prescribed Burning Plan provides goals, alternatives, and smoke management map. 40 personnel involved. Notification through road signs, and letters sent to camps. Regen plots showed good success. Visual management along road, buffer rules (2-Aged harvest), 20-40 sqft retained.







Interview Ecological Services Section Chief. There are 2 Eco divisions, one is public lands, inventory w focus on wild plant inventories. Heritage staff statewide, systematic inventories. 35 designated wild plant sanctuaries. Review process to add HCVs (FORI), then they're put into the PA state system. Specific attributes to be maintained and enhanced, when possible. Invasives species coordinator, works with statewide coordinator, often from SF forest staff. Manages the budget for invasive funding. Early detection rapid response. 6 staff statewide.

Site 2 – Firebreak Herbicide, Little Sicily. 195 acres foliar ground application of oust and accord for release of Shelterwood with limited regeneration. Used chemical because too wet to burn. 70 % stocked, SILVAH guide requires 80% for successful regeneration. Swampy areas buffered. Good kill on beech, striped maple, any black birch. Oust applied at 3 oz/ac, accord 1.5 qt/ ac. Competitive concerns about "ferns" which include Hay-scented fern and New York fern (in N part of state). Site used for SFI training.







Site 3 – Between Timber Sale (092021BC06). Harvested, just completed early Aug 2022. SW, 8 ac OS, 177 ac SW. AR22, red oak dominated, 18" diam ave. 66% RO, 11% RM, 6% BO, 6% Chestnut oak, 5% WO. Old Orchard retained. Gas pad planted apple trees spot was excluded from harvest. Apple orchard retained long term. NE edge excluded and buffered blue line stream. Aesthetic buffer along road using block 6, 2 age buffer. No cut

buffer along private line. Blocks marked by blue paint property line by orange paint. Debris used for stabilization of skid trail. Observed snag retention. No skinning observed. Sales boundary is buffer for stream.







Site 4 – Haystack Mountain ACTIVE Timber Sale (092019BC05). Existing gas well road was improved for logging job. Block 1 is the buffer block. Cut 2012 and this is re-entry. 160 ac split into blocks. 120 acres from 120 BA to target 80 BA. Red Maple harvested to benefit Oak regeneration. Exhibit D of contract has BMP. Part 17 logger qualification, part 18 BMPs. Debris spread for stabilization.

Blocks 1&2 examined.



Blocks 4&5 logger interview. Logger interview. Logger training. Initial qualification. 15 years. Pulp, grade, pallet merchandising. Bear sighting on road during interview.





District Forester Discussions: HCVs, HCV monitoring, general history of the forest. Acquisitions strategy for conservation. Stone markers for location markers along road. Spongy moth and accelerated harvest scheduling for smaller timber. Modeling for AAC done at District level. Age class distributions and cover types. Modeling staff includes GIS analysis done by Forest Information & Spatial Analysis Section Chief.

Site 5. North Run salvage/Firewood Haven planting. Black Moshannon, spongy moth 2007-2008. 80-90% oak kill. Drought, oak anthracnose. 2020 more spongy moth defoliation. Sprayed 40,000 acres in 2021. This year high eggs masses in NE of Black Moshannon. Salvage started 2009-2010. Cut 2012-2013 Salvaged 25,000 of 40,000 acres. 2014 supplemental planted with White Pine, Red Pine, and Norway Spruce. Diversify the stand 8x8, 680 TPA

Site 6 – Turkey Nest. Part of larger, prior 350 ac salvage cut. 2013 high volume sale and built road. 72 acre stand was finished and closed out in early 2022. Poor red maple (RM) removed, it had been left from earlier salvage as an emergency seed source. No whole tree skidding also helped direct it to smaller operators. Had planted WP in 2013. Wanted to keep WP during this harvest. Retained hickory, conifer, serviceberry, healthy oak trees for mast (genetics). (Note: 212 species of insects feed on oak in contrast to 12 on RM.)



Add-on: CCC lease camp- Remnant camp facilities protections. System and infrastructure is state responsibility. Water flow of creek threatening buildings and needed to address it. Set up meetings and outreach to the local community, historical society, college, and others who gathered to discuss options. Objectives to maintain CCC characteristics, conclusions include retaining and using "cut stone" typical to the original materials but us this material to bring stream/culvert up to specs. Could be considered eligible as landmark but not necessary for protection given actions taken by the state. Old root cellar being retained.





5:00 pm – Daily Debrief and End of Tour

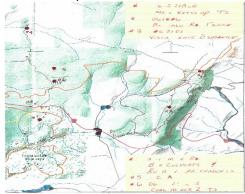
Auditors and Central Office Staff travel to Johnstown, PA

Thursday, October 6, 2022 Gallitzin Forest District 6

8:00 am - Opening Meeting and Presentation

Gallitzin Forest District Babcock Division Forest Foreman Headquarters 7339 Clear Shade Road, Windber, PA 15963

8:45 am - Depart for Field Sites



Site 1 – More Ketchup Timber Sale (062021B01). Block 1 & 3. Same try 2-aged road buffer. Road and fence drove split into blocks. Herbicides, SW, fence 2009. OS removal winter 2021-2022. The goal of this treatment was to remove the overstory to continue the process of regenerating these stands. A 300 foot buffer along Shade Road. This buffer (Blocks 1 and 3) 2-age treatment. Was predominately a red maple and cherry stand.

Cherry decline killed 25% with more in obvious decline. Likely around 100 -120 year old stand prior to harvest. Beech bark disease present and hemlock wooly adelgid. Will check regen at 4 years to monitor for OS removal. Modeling discussions - See notes in conformity table. Group retention. Debris scattered for stabilization. Deck seeded with wildlife mix prescribed by PA DCNR. Interviewed logger.

Area	Proposed Treatment	Stands Represented	Acreage
Block 1	Two-Age Buffer	MBB22C	7
Block 2	Overstory Removal	MBB22C, MBB23C	33
Block 3	Two-Age Buffer	MBB22C	7
Block 4	Overstory Removal	MBB23C	5
Total			52

From Sale Proposal



Site 2 – Buffalo Road Fence. Chestnut planting following 2019 harvesting. Random planting of seed, based on apparent sunlight. 2/3 of 850 nuts planted at this site. Supplied by American Chestnut Foundation. Chinese hybrids. Tree tubes used for protection from Chipmunks and Squirrels. No fence at establishment. Fence established in 2021. Discussion: District tours for Silviculture to see what different Districts are doing, 2 tours per year.



Site 4 (Site 3 dropped) – Strip Mine Road Box Culverts and Road Improvements. Originally had 36" culvert pipes installed 9x7', 2' below stream bed, Aug -June 2020 installed this new open-bottom culvert. Discussed costs to build; Design build contracted. AMD stream, acid mine drainage. Headwaters of Paint Creek. Riprap to stabilize sides. Concrete wings.

Road was an old strip mine road, was flat and narrow. 2017 replaced 6 culverts. 3' berm removed on side of road, grass planting and narrowing road. 2018 put down 4- stone, fist size, then high-level DSA at 16-18' width. June 2019 applied DSA to crown the road.







Babcock HCVA. The Babcock HCVA is used by a variety of grassland obligate birds for nesting. Invasives have been mowed and chemicals have been used for conversion to grassland. The HCVA contains additional habitat that is important for birds including for migratory stopover, early successional habitats, overwintering habitats, and wetland habitats. Area was formerly a coal strip mine that was obtained by the BOF in February 1991 and designated as an anthropogenic zone (leased mineral site) and M-1 (shale or borrow pit, quarry, strip mine) land typing for internal classification purposes. Designated as HCV in 2011, selected for unique and diverse assemblage of grassland bird species that includes four species of special concern and species of concern listed in the Pennsylvania Game Commission's (PGC) Wildlife Action Plan (WAP). Objective of HCV is preserving and properly managing a restored grassland ecosystem which also maintains and increases local grassland bird populations, as well as, populations of other wildlife species including the game species that use these habitats. Goal is to expand grassland annually by removing the Autumn Olive. Prescribe fire can be used when it will not have detrimental effect on spring nesting. Mechanical control can be established with mowing. The species of special concern documented in the management plan and includes descriptions for each of these

species and a summary is provided in Table 2. Status and code descriptions for species of special concern are included in Appendix A and breeding phenology is in Appendix B. Management plan includes specifics of planned management and monitoring.











12:30 pm - Depart for Gallitzin District Office, Ebensburg, PA

1:30 pm – Document and record reviews, staff interviews, stakeholder interviews/calls

2:00 pm - 4:00 pm - Staff On-Call Period

4:30 pm – Closing Meeting and End of Tour
End Audit

2.2 Evaluation of Management Systems

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

3. Changes in Management Practices

☐ There were no significant changes in the management and/or harvesting methods that affect the
FME's conformance to the FSC standards and policies.

⊠ Significant changes occurred since the last evaluation that may affect the FME's conformance to FSC standards and policies (*describe*):

PA DCNR has a new certification coordinator, Forest Program Specialist with support from existing staff there was no impact on conformity of the organization to the standards.

4. Results of Evaluation

4.1 Definitions of Major CARs, Minor CARs and Observations

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

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

Observations: These are subject areas where the evaluation team concludes that there is conformance, but either future nonconformance may result due to inaction or the FME could achieve exemplary status through further

refinement. Action on observations is voluntary and does not affect the maintenance of the certificate. However, observations can become CARs if performance with respect to the indicator(s) triggering the observation falls into nonconformance.

4.2 History of Findings for Certificate Period

FM Principle	Cert/Re-cert Audit (2018)	1 st Annual Audit (2019)	2 nd Annual Audit (2020)	3 rd Annual Audit (2021)	4 th Annual Evaluation (2022)
No findings			\boxtimes		\boxtimes
P1					
P2					
P3					
P4					
P5					
P6	OBS 6.7.a	OBS 6.7.a			
P7				Minor 7.3.a	
P8					
P9					
P10					
COC for FM					
Trademark					
Group					
Other					

4.3 Existing Corrective Action Requests and Observations

	Finding Number: 2021.1		
Finding and Deadline			
☐ Major CAR : Pre-co	ondition to certification/recertification		
☐ Major CAR : 3 mor	nths from Issuance of Final Report		
Minor CAR: 12 mg	onths or next regularly scheduled audit, whichever comes first (surveillance or re-		
evaluation)			
☐ Observation – res	ponse is optional		
☐ Other and deadlin	e (specify):		
FMU CAR/OBS issued	I to (when more than one FMU):		
Standard and	7.3.a Workers are qualified to properly implement the management plan; All		
Indicator	forest workers are provided with sufficient guidance and supervision to		
	adequately implement their respective components of the plan.		
Non-Conformity E	vidence Observation Justification and/or Explanation		
This finding addresses	This finding addresses training by DCNR-BOF relative to Environmental and Social Risk Assessments		
(ESRAs) under the new FSC pesticides policy, FSC-POL-30-001, V3-0. Interviews with Foresters indicated			
limited understanding of DCNR's FSC ESRAs for pesticides/herbicides under the forest management			
program. There was variability in understanding by DCNR staff regarding what and where PA DCNR FSC			
ESRAs may be found and procedures to be used in implementing ESRA mitigations for identified			
environmental and social risks when using herbicides/chemicals in certified State Forests.			
Non-Conformity C Non-Conformity C	Corrective Action Request		

DNCR must continue to train Foresters in their roles, responsibilities, and available resources related to mitigating risks to the environment and in communities where chemical herbicides are used in PA DCNR state forests as part of implementing related components of forest management planning. **FME** response FME provided a detailed, comprehensive, and thorough response to the finding (including any organized into a summary document with the following sections: Pesticide Policy evidence submitted) Updates and Resource Creation, Internal Audit – Staff Education and Data Collection, and Integration of ESRAs into the Contracting Process for Forest Management. The organization trained field staff on new requirements, particularly for mitigations of adopted environmental and social risk assessments for the use of highly hazardous (HH) chemicals. In April of 2022, the Planning Section and Certification Coordinator updated the Pennsylvania Bureau of Forestry's Pesticide Use Policy and Procedures. This update provided further clarification about ESRAs, what they are, why ESRAs are used by the agency, what the expectations are for using chemical pesticides and ESRAs, and where staff can locate current ESRAs. Per the Pennsylvania Bureau of Forestry's Pesticide Use Policy and Procedures, if a staff member is seeking to use a chemical pesticide that does not have an existing ESRA, they are required to develop one and propose it to the Certification Coordinator. To support staff in this process, PA BOF have developed a template for developing an ESRA for new HH chemicals, if necessary. As part of PA BOF annual internal audit process, ESRAs and chemical use were incorporated into 2022 field inspections, staff surveys, and a comprehensive use review. The policy also requires the ESRAs to be adhered to for staff use which is referenced and documented in the internal website, IntraForestry, in digital form. Finally, the organization developed procedures, reference sites, and directives relative to use by contracting entities that cover all requirements, including mitigations. **SCS** review Review of all materials found this to be an exceptionally thorough treatment of the finding. Interviews with staff during the audit confirmed all aspects of this response. Field reviews of office GIS and internal forestry "modules" also confirmed aspects of the response. The detailed review of responses is maintained in the "Evidence File" for PA BOF. The response was found by the audit team to be fully implemented. This CAR is closed. Status of CAR: \boxtimes Closed ☐ Upgraded to Major ☐ Other decision (refer to description above)

4.4 New Corrective Action Requests and Observations

No new corrective action requests were issued as a result of this audit.

5. Stakeholder Comments

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

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

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

5.1 Stakeholder Groups Consulted

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

5.2 Summary of Stakeholder Comments and Evaluation Team Responses

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

\Box FME has not received any stakeholder comments from interested parties (who are not members of the enterprise under evaluation) as a result of stakeholder outreach activities during this annual evaluation.		
Summary of Outreach Activities Co	onducted (Check all that apply):	
□ Face to face meetings		
□ Phone calls		
☑ Email, or letter		
☐ Notice published in the national and/or local press		
☐ Notice published on relevant websites		
☐ Local radio announcements		
☐ Local customary notice boards		
☐ Social media broadcast		
Stakeholder Comment	SCS Response	
(Negative positive and neutral)		

The PA BOF forestry staff are accessible and fair in treatment of loggers and harvest operators. They "toe the line" but are operationally flexible where they can be.

Harvest site documentation and logger interviews found this comment to be true across the Districts sampled in 2022. This is considered evidence of conformity for indicators relating to environmental site reviews, environmental protections, and harvest operator qualifications to implement forest management planning. Overall, PA BOF was found to have an effective management system.

6. Certification Decision

	tificate holder has demonstrated continued overall conformance to the ble Forest Stewardship Council standards. The SCS annual evaluation	Yes ⊠ No □		
team re	ecommends that the certificate be sustained, subject to subsequent			
annual	evaluations and the FME's response to any open CARs.			
Comme	ents:			
PA DCN	IR is to be commended for the following:			
1.	State Forest roads are of consistent good quality across Districts over mu			
	across Districts is the knowledgeable and competent forestry staff, relati			
	construction and maintenance, who fully leverage training opportunities	, materials, funds,		
	and technical resources available to them.			
2. Timber Sale proposal process is both proactive and preventative in terms of accounting for,				
	reviewing, and protecting environmental and social resources.			
3.	The organization has demonstrated commitment to Continuous Improve	ement and conducts		
	audits with openness and transparency.			
4. Multiple and consistent instances of protecting advanced tree seedling and sapling				
	regeneration were witness during this audit, and in prior audits thus pro-	tecting the next		
	generations of forest development.			
5.	PA BOF practices solid silviculture by consistently and routine matching h			
	protection treatments to the stand towards meeting management objection			
6.	Incorporating research and new ideas was found throughout all levels of			
7.	Reclamation of degraded lands was demonstrated during 2022 and past	audits that is		

7. Annual Data Update

☐ No changes since previous evaluation.				
☐ Information in the following sections has changed since previous evaluation.				
☑ Pesticide and Other Chemical Use				
☐ Production Forests				
☐ FSC Product Classification				
☐ Conservation & High Conservation Value Areas				
☐ Areas Outside of the Scope of Certification				

effective in restoring forest lands and accelerating forest development.

Name and Contact Information

Organization	PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, Bureau of Forestry			
name				
Contact person	Abby Jamison, Forest Program Specialist			
Address	State Forester's Telephone 570-895-4011			
	Office, P.O. Box	Office, P.O. Box Fax 570-895-4041		
	8552, Harrisburg,	e-mail	abjamison@pa.gov	
	PA 17105-8552,	Website	https://www.dcnr.pa.gov/Pages/default.aspx	
	United States			

FSC Sales Information

|--|

Scope of Certificate

Certificate Type	⊠ Single FMU	☐ Multiple FMU	
	☐ Group		
SLIMF (if applicable)	☐ Small SLIMF	☐ Low intensity SLIMF	
	certificate	certificate	
	☐ Group SLIMF certif	ficate	
# Group Members (if applicable)			
Number of FMUs in scope of certificate	1		
Geographic location of non-SLIMF FMU(s)	Latitude & Longitude:		
	40.94601090724174,	-77.51972283849808	
Forest zone	☐ Boreal	□ Temperate	
	☐ Subtropical	☐ Tropical	
Area in scope of certificate which is:	s: \square ha or \boxtimes ac		
privately managed			
state managed	2,174,968		
community managed			
Total forest area in scope of certificate	2,174,968		
(Is also equal to [productive area] +			
[conservation area])			
Prior year total forest area in scope of	2,166,776		
certificate (from prior year report)			
Has Total Forest area changed from prior	\square No Change from prior year		
year?	☑ Yes, there was a change from prior year. Explain		
	change: PA DCNR acquires new lands through		
	conservation partnerships and other means and		
	added new properties in 2020-2021. There are		
	48,018 acres of excision areas. Also, H (anthropogenic) zone and new land acquisitions not		

		yet zoned/typed make up some of that difference		
		too. None are double counted.		
Number of FMUs in scop	e that are:			
less than 100 ha in area	-	100 -	1000 ha in area	-
1000 - 10 000 ha in	-	more	than 10 000 ha in area	1
area				
Total forest area in scope	e of certificate which is i	include	d in FMUs that:	Units: ☐ ha or ☒ ac
are less than 100 ha in ar	ea		-	
are between 100 ha and 1000 ha in area -				
meet the eligibility criteria as low intensity SLIMF		-		
FMUs				
Division of FMUs into manageable units:				
State forest management is administered by the BOF within the DCNR through a cooperative effort				
involving field staff in 20 Forest Districts located throughout Pennsylvania and a Central Office located				
in Harrisburg. Staffing in the Forest Districts varies, depending on the size of the state forest and				
specific circumstances found in the district. Forest Districts are normally staffed by a varying				
compliment including a District Forester, Assistant District Foresters, Foresters, Forest Rangers, Fire				
Specialists, Administrative Assistants, Clerical Support, and Maintenance positions. Central Office				
includes the Director (State Forester), two Assistant Directors, and eight Program Areas, which				

Social Information

Number of forest workers (including contractors) working in forest within scope of certificate (differentiated by gender):			
Male workers: Salary=392, Wage=211 Note: These were reviewed during the 2021 audit	Female workers: Salary=86, Wage=24 Note: These were reviewed during the		
Number of accidents in forest work since previous evaluation:	Serious: #6	Fatal: #0	

provide program direction, support and technical assistance to the Forest Districts.

Pesticide and Other Chemical Use

Note: PA BOF provided FMU-level ESRAs for all pesticides used in their program which were reviewed by the audit team who confirmed records and information were appropriate to the size and scale of operations.

□ N/A - FME has not used pesticides since last audit.					
Commercial name of pesticide / herbicide	Active ingredient	Quantity applied since previous evaluation (kg or lbs.)	Total area treated since previous evaluation (ha or ac)	Reason for use	
\Documents and Record Review for Auditors\Chemical Use Records\20220921 Chemicals Report.xlsx					

Production Forests

Timber Forest Products	Units: ☐ ha or ☒ ac
Total area of production forest (i.e. forest from which timber may be	1,028,388 acres are zoned
harvested)	"Multiple Resource
	Management Zone" with
	"Commercial" designation.
	Timber harvests in other
	zones may be allowed if
	warranted under
	extenuating circumstances
Area of production forest classified as 'plantation'	None
Area of production forest regenerated primarily by replanting or by a	None
combination of replanting and coppicing of the planted stems	
Area of production forest regenerated primarily by natural	6,382 acres SFL receiving
regeneration, or by a combination of natural regeneration and	reproduction cuts in 2021
coppicing of the naturally regenerated stems Silvicultural system(s)	Area under tune of
Silvicultural system(s)	Area under type of management
Even-aged management	See 2021 Annual Forest
Lven-aged management	Products Statistical Report
	(aka Silvicultural Report) –
Clearcut (clearcut size range:)	1088 acres (includes
Greateut Greateut Size Failige.	salvage clearcuts)
Shelterwood	4599 acres
Other:	Improvements: 435 acres
	Salvage Only: 187 acres
Uneven-aged management	
Individual tree selection	81 Acres
Group selection	20 Acres
Other:	Two-age Buffer: 1890 acres
	Two-age Shelterwood
	Buffer: 414 acres
	Misc.: 81 acres
☐ Other (e.g. nursery, recreation area, windbreak, bamboo, silvo-	-
pastoral system, agro-forestry system, etc.)	
Non-timber Forest Products (NTFPs)	
Area of forest protected from commercial harvesting of timber and	1,156,098 acres are zoned
managed primarily for the production of NTFPs or services	multiple resource-non-
	commercial zones, limited
	zones, buffer zones, wild
	and natural area zones,
	and special resource
	management zones. The

	strictest protected zones	
	are State Forest Natural	
	Areas = 79,372 acres.	
Other areas managed for NTFPs or services		
Approximate annual commercial production of non-timber forest	No commercial production	
products included in the scope of the certificate, by product type	of NTFPs	
Species in scope of joint FM/COC certificate: (Scientific / Latin Name and Common / Trade Name)		

Pinus strobus (White Pine), Pinus resinosa (Red pine), Tsuga Canadensis (Eastern Hemlock), Pinus rigida (Pitch Pine), Pinus virginiana (Virginia Pine), Pinus pungens (Table Mountain Pine), Picea abies (Norway Spruce), Larix spp. (Larch), Acer saccharum (Sugar Maple), Acer rubrum (Red Maple), Quercus rubra (Northern Red Oak), Quercus velutina (Black Oak), Quercus coccinea (Scarlet Oak), Quercus alba (White oak), Quercus prinus (Chestnut Oak), Betula alleghaniensis (Yellow Birch), Betula lenta (Sweet Birch), Betula papyrifera (White Birch), Fagus grandifolia (American Beech), Fraxinus Americana (White Ash), Fraxinus pennsylvanica (Green Ash), Tilia americana (Basswood), Liriodendron tulipifera (Tulip Tree), Carya spp. (Hickory), Ulmus Americana (American Elm), Populus tremuloides (Quaking aspen), Populus grandidentata (Big-tooth Aspen), Nyssa sylvatica (Black Gum), Juglans nigra (Black Walnut), Prunus serotina (Black Cherry), Magnolia acuminate (Cucumber Tree), Morus alba (Mulberry).

FSC Product Classification*

Timber products		
Product Level 1	Product Level 2	Species
W1	W1.1 (Roundwood logs)	All above
W1	W1.2 (Fuelwood)	All above
Non-Timber Forest Produc	cts	
Product Level 1	Product Level 2	Product Level 3 and Species

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

Conservation and High Conservation Value Areas

Conservation Area		Units: \square ha or \boxtimes ac
Total amount of land in certified area protected	1,156,098 acres. This is th	ne sum of multiple
from commercial harvesting of timber and	resource-non-commercial	zones, limited zones,
managed primarily for conservation objectives	buffer zones, wild and nat	cural area zones, and
(includes both forested and non-forested lands).*	special resource managen	nent zones

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

High Co	onservation Value Forest / Areas		Units	: ☐ ha or ☒ ac
Code	HCV Type	Description & Location		Area
HCV1	Forests or areas containing globally,	Wild Plant Sanctuaries	and	1.1= 9,467
	regionally or nationally significant	Ecological Focus Areas		1.2 = 34,718
	concentrations of biodiversity values (e.g.			
	endemism, endangered species, refugia).			
HCV2	Forests or areas containing globally,	Wild Areas		2.1 = 136,462
	regionally or nationally significant large	Natural Areas > 2,000 A	Acres	
	landscape level forests, contained within, or			
	containing the management unit, where	Wild Areas		
	viable populations of most if not all naturally	Natural Areas > 2,000 A		2.2 = 159,277
	occurring species exist in natural patterns of	William Penn SF Parcel	S	
	distribution and abundance.	Four Corners		
HCV3	Forests or areas that are in or contain rare,	Old Growth		3.1 = 19,454
	threatened or endangered ecosystems.	ROS Primitive Areas >5		3.2 = 21,644
		S1 Natural Communitie		3.3 = 955
HCV4	Forests or areas that provide basic services of	Public Drinking Water [DEP	4.1 = 7,432
	nature in critical situations (e.g. watershed	Buffers.		4.2 = 6,580.02
	protection, erosion control).	0 151 11.		4.3 = 96
110) (5	5	Critical Floodplain		
HCV5	Forests or areas fundamental to meeting			
	basic needs of local communities (e.g.			
HCV6	subsistence, health). Forests or areas critical to local communities'	DUNAC Archaeological D	ACC	268
псуб	traditional cultural identity (areas of cultural,	PHMC Archaeological PASS 268 Data		208
	ecological, economic or religious significance	Data		
	identified in cooperation with such local			
	communities).			
Total a	<u> </u>			
*Note: This is not a sum of all above acres. These areas may duplicate or				
overlap boundaries. This number is an exact representation of the acres set Total – 208,855 *				
aside. Acres are subject to change annually as these boundaries may change				
	data entry methods and refinement of coarse da	•		

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

\square N/A – All forestland owne	d or managed by the certificate holder is included in the scope.
⊠ Certificate holder owns ar	nd/or manages other FMUs not under evaluation.
☐ Certificate holder wishes to certification.	to excise portions of the FMU(s) under evaluation from the scope of
Note: Excision cannot be app	lied to CW/FM certificates.
Explanation for exclusion	The DCNR BOF is currently in possession of several properties where
of FMUs and/or excision:	timber rights were reserved for a period of time by the seller. The BOF
	also has one Nursery and one golf course. These properties are
	excluded from the scope of the certificate.

		· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	asionally arranges harvests for other state		
		_	ed (e.g., Bureau of State Parks). Procedures		
		require that contracts specif	•		
Control mea		The FME does not sell certification			
-	ing of certified	Certified sales are designated			
	tified product	first page of the contracts. For		pment clearings,	
(C8.3):		"BF16 Invoices" with no COC			
Description	of FMUs exclude	d from, or forested area exci	sed from, the scope of c	ertification:	
Name of FM	IU or Stand		Location (city, state,	Size (\square ha or \boxtimes	
			country)	ac)	
District	Acreage	Reason			
11	27,781	Timber reservations	Dalton, PA, US	27,781	
4	2363	Timber reservations	Laughlintown, PA,US	2363	
1	61	Golf Course – non-forest use	Fayetteville, PA, US	61	
Penn Nursery	325	Not part of a forest mgt property	Spring Mills, PA, US	325	
13	17,488	Timber reservations	Elk County	17,488	
13	9,362	State Forest Conservation Easement only	Cameron County	9,362 (not included in SFL	

total or total below)

Forest Managemei	nt & Stump-to-Forest G	ate Chain-of-Custo	Forest Management & Stump-to-Forest Gate Chain-of-Custody Surveillance Evaluation Report PUB			