

# **SFI Scoping Report: Ohio State Forests**

*Sustainable Forestry Initiative® Standard  
2010-2014 Edition*



**for the**

**Ohio Division of Forestry**

**March 4, 2010**

**By Michael Ferrucci**

**NSF-ISR**

**789 North Dixboro Road**

**Ann Arbor, MI 48105**

**888-NSF-9000**

**[www.nsf-isr.org](http://www.nsf-isr.org)**

# SFI Scoping Report for Ohio Division of Forestry

## Background and Approach

The goal of this scoping review is to provide guidance to the Ohio Division of Forestry (ODOF) about the challenges of SFI (and FSC) certification on the state forests. This report provides the findings regarding the requirements of the SFI 2010-2014 Standard. A separate report, prepared by Scientific Certification Systems, covers the FSC requirements.

This section of the report provides an overview of the SFI Standard, describes the approach to this scoping audit, provides an overall description of the Ohio Division of Forestry and the state forests under management, and briefly touches on preliminary work done by the division to prepare for scoping and ultimately certification. The next section provides a summary of the findings, with an emphasis on the gaps between current programs and the SFI requirements. Appendices provide the plan for the scoping audit, the sites visited, the participants, and finally a detailed chart with all of the requirements and findings.

## About the SFI 2010-2014 Standard

The 2010-2014 Sustainable Forestry Initiative Standard<sup>1</sup> consists of a tiered array of Principles, Objectives, Performance Measures, and Indicators that collectively comprise an approach to forestry that is sustainable. Organizations or individuals that manage forestland or procure wood for use in the manufacture of forest products can subscribe to this voluntary standard in order to demonstrate a commitment to forestry programs that are economically viable, environmentally appropriate, and socially acceptable. Program Participants must follow these standards, and can choose to undergo a third-party certification against the standards to further demonstrate their commitment to following good practices.

The SFI Principles (listed on the following two pages) describe the overall approach to sustainable forestry that is embedded in all SFI requirements. Certification audits focus on the applicable Objectives, Performance Measures, and Indicators. Objectives are the broad categories of issues considered in SFI certification. In cases such as the Ohio DOF where only land management is involved Objectives 1-7 and 14 -20 apply. The actual metrics are found in the indicators and performance measures. For this project 89 SFI Indicators organized under 30 SFI Performance Measures were deemed relevant.

## SFI Scoping Methods

SFI Scoping (sometimes called Baseline Audit) findings are generally focused on the adequacy of documentation and existence of programs for each relevant Performance Measure and Indicator. They are designed to ensure that the organization seeking certification understands the standard and has adequate program substance to justify the cost and expense of a full SFI Certification Audit. An SFI Scoping is designed to identify gaps in programs or documentation rather than determining actual conformance with the requirement. Therefore this report focuses on areas where programs and practices are not likely meeting the SFI requirements at this time.

---

<sup>1</sup> For a complete copy of the SFI Standard go to <http://www.sfiprogram.org> and download the PDF document at [http://www.sfiprogram.org/sustainable\\_forestry\\_initiative\\_standard.php](http://www.sfiprogram.org/sustainable_forestry_initiative_standard.php).

Each requirement (SFI Indicator or Performance Measure) was classified as either:

- Likely Gap Likely GAP Against 2010-2014 SFIS
- Likely Conf. Likely Conformance With 2010-2014 SFIS
- N.A. Not Applicable

These findings are preliminary, and do not constitute a fully-informed finding suitable for award of certification. Instead they are intended as advisory, giving ODOF a preliminary indication, based on partial review that is less rigorous than the required review for full certification.

## **SFI Principles**

*SFI Program Participants* believe forest landowners have an important stewardship responsibility and a commitment to society, and they recognize the importance of maintaining viable commercial, family forest, and *conservation* forest land bases. They support *sustainable forestry* practices on forestland they manage, and promote it on other lands. They support efforts to protect private property rights, and to help all private landowners manage their forestland sustainably. In keeping with this responsibility, *SFI Program Participants* shall have a written *policy* (or *policies*) to implement and achieve the following *principles*:

### **1. Sustainable Forestry**

To practice *sustainable forestry* to meet the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs by practicing a land stewardship ethic that integrates *reforestation* and the managing, growing, nurturing and harvesting of trees for useful products and ecosystem services such as the *conservation* of soil, air and water quality, carbon, *biological diversity*, *wildlife* and *aquatic habitats*, recreation, and aesthetics.

### **2. Forest Productivity and Health**

To provide for regeneration after harvest and maintain the productive capacity of the forest land base, and to protect and maintain *long-term* forest and soil *productivity*. In addition, to protect forests from economically or environmentally undesirable levels of wildfire, pests, diseases, *invasive exotic plants and animals* and other damaging agents and thus maintain and improve *long-term forest health* and *productivity*.

### **3. Protection of Water Resources**

To protect water bodies and *riparian* zones, and to conform with *best management practices* to protect water quality.

### **4. Protection of Biological Diversity**

To manage forests in ways that protect and promote *biological diversity*, including animal and plant species, *wildlife habitats*, and ecological or natural community types.

### **5. Aesthetics and Recreation**

To manage the visual impacts of forest operations, and to provide recreational opportunities for the public.

### **6. Protection of Special Sites**

To manage forests and lands of special significance (ecologically, geologically or *culturally important*) in a manner that *protects* their integrity and takes into account their unique qualities.

### **7. Responsible Fiber Sourcing Practices in North America**

To use and promote among other forest landowners *sustainable forestry* practices that are both scientifically credible and economically, environmentally and socially responsible.

### **8. Avoidance of Controversial Sources including Illegal Logging in Offshore Fiber Sourcing**

To avoid wood fiber from illegally logged forests when procuring fiber outside of North America, and to avoid *sourcing fiber from countries without effective social laws*.

#### **9. Legal Compliance**

To comply with applicable federal, provincial, state, and local *forestry* and related environmental laws, statutes, and regulations.

#### **10. Research**

To support advances in sustainable forest management through *forestry* research, science and technology.

#### **11. Training and Education**

To improve the practice of *sustainable forestry* through training and education *programs*.

#### **12. Public Involvement**

To broaden the practice of *sustainable forestry* on *public lands* through community involvement.

#### **13. Transparency**

To broaden the understanding of forest certification to the *SFI 2010-2014 Standard* by documenting certification audits and making the findings publicly available.

#### **14. Continual Improvement**

To continually improve the practice of forest management, and to monitor measure and report performance in achieving the commitment to *sustainable forestry*.

*Source: Sustainable Forestry Initiative® (SFI) Standard, 2010-2014 Edition*

### **Ohio Division of Forestry**

The following background on the certification goals and on the Ohio State Forests was excerpted from the Request for Proposals that initiated this project.

The Ohio Department of Natural Resources – Division of Forestry (ODNR-DOF) manages 20 state forests covering more than 185,000 acres in 21 Ohio counties mostly in Ohio's un-glaciated southeastern region. The Chief of the Division and State Forester of Ohio, is given statutory authority for multiple-use management of state forests through Ohio Revised Code (ORC), Section 1503.

State forests are grouped into eight (8) administrative units; with each unit having a manager and associated support staff, as outlined in Appendix A. There are approximately 70 employees on state forests; approximately 20 professional foresters or administrators and 50 support staff. There are eleven (11) Division of Forestry field offices located throughout the State. Further, the ODNR-DOF is headquartered at 2045 Morse Road, Building H-1, Columbus, OH 43229-6693.

On October 25, 2007, Ohio Governor Ted Strickland issued a Directive to the Ohio Department of Natural Resources – Division of Forestry to obtain certification of Ohio's State forests in order to promote good forest management practices. To comply with the Governor's directive, maintain the market for forest products, and to continue sustainable, multiple-use management; ODNR-DOF desires services to conduct full assessments and ongoing surveillance audits of ODNR-DOF state forests relative to FSC and SFI certification.

STATUS OF ODNR-DOF CURRENT STATE FOREST MANAGEMENT:

In 1916, the state forest system in Ohio was born with the purchase of 1,721 acres to become the first two state forests. Most state forest land was acquired from the 1920's through the 1950's.

Forest management occurs on state forests to promote forest health and sustainability, wood products that contribute to local communities, recreational opportunities that require a large land base, and outreach and education to private landowners.

State forests have four (4) active programs: a land management program, a prescribed fire program, a recreation and law enforcement program, and an infrastructure and maintenance program. Each program has a program administrator. Each program conducts a variety of activities each year. Timber sales average approximately 8 million board feet on approximately 25 different sales each year. Both even-aged and uneven-aged management occurs on state forests. State forest silviculture is actively focusing on the oak regeneration problem and developing even-aged harvesting coupled with prescribed fire silvicultural systems. Partial timber harvesting occurs on approximately 2,500 acres per year and regeneration harvesting occurs on approximately 400 acres per year. Revenue from state forest timber sales are distributed to local governments and ODNR. Prescribed fire activities average approximately 1500 acres each year on approximately eight (8) different units. Recreational opportunities exist and are managed in the form of 462 miles of bridle or hiking trails, and 40 miles of motorized trails.

The last two years have been a transition phase in the management of state forests. ODNR-DOF successfully procured an integrated forest information system to better utilize GIS technologies and to track forest activities. DOF also contracted to complete a comprehensive forest inventory of 80% of our state forest acreage. DOF desires to complete the remaining 20% in the next two years. The new information system; as well as the inventory data, is intended to transition our management to a more landscape approach replacing the file-based area approach.

Management of Ohio's state forest is being guided by a strategic plan implemented in 2008, as well as 5-year forest-specific management plans and annual work plans. Annual work plans have been completed for fiscal year 2010. Forest-specific management plans are in-progress at this time but are expected to be completed within the next ten (10) months. Further, all land management and prescribed fire activities follow the policies and procedures of an internal guidance manual that contains all aspects of operational, environmental, and governmental policies.

ODOF has been working towards forest certification since Governor Ted Strickland issued his directive late in 2007. The organization has focused on several key issues as it updated its programs and policies:

- The implementation of a GIS-enabled forest information system that will assist in tracking, scheduling, and monitoring of forest management activities
- The procurement of a baseline forest inventory for 80% of their acreage to be used for growth & yield calculations as well as decision-support for foresters
- Transition from a focus on individual stand and tree health to a strategic focus on oak sustainability in a landscape management context
- Revisions and updates to the Land Management Manual that serves as the main guidance document of State Forest Management

This work has helped ODOF achieve apparent readiness to commence with a full certification review on a schedule to be determined.

## Summary of Findings

The audit team found that the current management program for Ohio's state forests is generally compatible with SFI requirements, provided the gaps outlined below are addressed.

Current approaches to the management of state forests appear to meet the SFI requirements in the vast majority of cases. There are some important gaps to be resolved. Six (out of 89) SFI Indicators have at least partial gaps that could rise to the level of non-conformance. These six are found in five separate SFI Performance Measures; only two of the indicators are in the same performance measure. The gaps are summarized directly below.

- SFI Indicator 1.1.1 requires "Forest management planning at a level appropriate to the size and scale of the operation, including: ... g. e. access to growth-and-yield modeling capabilities..." Plans reviewed cover most requirements, except that draft plans do not currently include long-term harvest levels; growth and yield models are not far enough developed to ensure harvest levels are sustainable. (It should be noted that the list of plan requirements in the SFI program is far shorter than the FSC list of such requirements.)
- SFI Indicator 4.1.4 requires "Development and implementation of criteria, as guided by regionally appropriate best scientific information, to retain stand-level wildlife habitat elements such as snags, stumps, mast trees, down woody debris, den trees and nest trees." Most issues are covered, but biomass retention guidelines are not in place. Given the current energy situation, with efforts to find renewable energy sources leading to increased efforts to use forest residues more thoroughly, biomass retention standards must be a part of the retention strategy.
- SFI Indicator 5.2.2 requires "Documentation through internal records of clearcut size and the process for calculating average size." While this is easily accomplished using existing records and the GIS it is not currently done.

- SFI Performance Measure 15.3 “Program Participants shall individually and/or through cooperative efforts involving SFI Implementation Committees, associations or other partners broaden the awareness of climate change impacts on forests, wildlife and biological diversity.” And both of the underlying Indicators are not fully met. SFI Indicator 15.3.1 requires “Where available, monitor information generated from regional climate models on long-term forest health, productivity and economic viability. SFI Indicator 15.3.2 requires “Program Participants are knowledgeable about climate change impacts on wildlife, wildlife habitats and conservation of biological diversity through international, national, regional or local programs. Some related activity is underway, but this activity is not currently sufficient to meet these three related requirements.
- SFI Indicator 17.1.3 requires “Support for the development of regional, state or provincial information materials that provide forest landowners with practical approaches for addressing special sites and biological diversity issues, such as invasive exotic plants and animals, specific wildlife habitat, Forests with Exceptional Conservation Value, and threatened and endangered species.” There is no specific landowner outreach on special sites or Forests with Exceptional Conservation Value.

ODOF is striving to resolve all identified gaps prior to the full certification review. During an SFI certification audit (or follow-up annual surveillance audit) any remaining “gaps” in meeting the requirements are termed Non-Conformances. These must be resolved in a timely manner, generally within one year, with longer-term solutions acceptable provided that clear timelines are established and resources are available to complete corrective actions. Certification would be expected to be a continuing priority; other emergencies would generally not be expected to halt progress in meeting certification requirements.

Appendix 4 provides a matrix of detailed findings, including requirements and observations. The applicable SFI requirements form the framework of the matrix; the code “J” is used to indicate the finding (or N.A. if the requirement is not applicable). Notes below each requirement describe how the requirements are met or detail the gaps.

## **Next Steps**

This draft of the SFI report is to be reviewed by Ohio DOF representatives. Editing suggestions will be incorporated within two weeks of the report’s return.

Planning for the full certification audit will follow during March and April.

## **Appendices:**

1. Scoping Audit Plan
2. Sites Visited
3. Participants in Scoping Meetings
4. Detailed Findings and Observations

## Appendix 1: Scoping Audit Plan



**NSF International Strategic Registrations  
Management Systems Registration**

**December 8, 2009**

Chad Sanders - Land Management Administrator  
ODNR-Division of Forestry  
2045 Morse Road, Bldg H-1  
Columbus, Ohio 43229-6693

Re: Readiness Review / Pre-Assessment for SFI and FSC, Ohio DNR

Dear Mr. Sanders,

We will be conducting a SFI Readiness Review / FSC Pre-Assessment on Jan 13-14, 2010 starting at 8 am. This 2-day review is designed to:

- Identify and confirm the scope of the your forest management program and the scope and objectives of the audit;
- For FSC, identify potential non-conformities (“gaps”) relative to the applicable FSC forest stewardship standard;
- Determine whether sufficient documentation is available to proceed with a full evaluation;
- Develop and finalize all aspects of an audit plan for a full evaluation; and
- Make all necessary arrangements for the SFI and FSC Certification Audits (full evaluations).

In preparation for the meeting, please review the 2010-2014 Sustainable Forestry Initiative Standard® and the FSC Appalachian Regional Standard requirements and assemble your indicators and evidence.

### **Overview**

- Day 1: Columbus central offices; Day 2: 2 state forests, return to airport by 5 pm
- Ohio DNR selected two forests to visit, each within 1 hour of Columbus/airport. You will select sites to visit within each forest: Tar Hollow State Forest and Scioto Trail State Forest. (Hocking State Forest alternate)
- Information Requests were provided by SCS (for FSC) and by NSF (for SFI); SFI 2010-2014 most recently draft was the basis for the SFI request.
- This information to be posted to FTP by Ohio DNR

**Logistics**

- Travel Tuesday Jan 12; audit, flight home evening of the 14th.
- We will stay at the Hampton Inn near the airport (4280 International Gateway, Columbus, OH 43219 800-426-7866) and take a cab to your offices Day 1; you will pick us up Day 2, transport us to field sites, and return us to the airport by 5 pm Day 2
- You should plan to provide lunch on site to expedite the visits;
- We ask that you provide hardhats and other needed safety equipment.

The tentative schedule follows:

**Day 1 Schedule**

- 8-8:45 Introductions and Overview of Audit Protocol
- 8:45-11 Overview of Ohio State Forest System and management
- 11- 1 Inventory and Monitoring, Management Planning (FSC Principles 7 & 8)
- Noon Working Lunch
- 1-2 FSC Principles 1, 2, 3, 4
- 2-3 FSC Principles 5, 6, and 9
- 3-4 SFI Requirements
- 4-4:30 Audit Planning Considerations
- 4:30 Adjourn; determine dinner location
- 5:30-7 Dinner nearby in Columbus

**Day 2 Schedule**

- 7 am Depart from airport hotel
- 8 am-11 am State Forest #1 Tar Hollow State Forest
- 11-12 Travel to second state forest
- 12-1 Lunch at State Forest #2 during overview
- 1-3:30 Field sites SF#2 Scioto Trail State Forest (Hocking State Forest alternate)
- 3:30 Wrap up
- 5:00 Arrive airport

We look forward to working with you on this important part of the certification process.

Sincerely yours,



Mike Ferrucci  
SFI Program Manager, NSF-ISR  
26 Commerce Drive  
North Branford, CT 06471  
[mferrucci@iforest.com](mailto:mferrucci@iforest.com)  
Office and Mobile: 203-887-9248



Dr. Robert Hrubes  
Senior Vice-President SCS  
2200 Powell St. Suite Number 725  
Emeryville, CA 94608  
[rhrubes@scscertified.com](mailto:rhrubes@scscertified.com)  
510-452-8007 Mobile: 510-913-0696

## **Appendix 2: Sites Visited**

### **Tar Hollow State Forest**

Site 1: Coey Hollow Grouse Management Area – completed sanitation/pre-salvage harvest, merchandizing sale

Site 2: Interview Jason and Tom Perkins, Loggers

Site 3: Interview local firewood cutters

Site 4: Brush Ridge Fire Tower and interpretive signs

Site 5: Prescribed fire program, landscape scale

Site 6: Dullan Hollow – completed shelterwood harvest

Site 7: Boy Scout Camp – group camping area

### **Scioto Trail State Forest**

Site 8: Perkins Wood Products – starting logging clearcut portion in area with heavy mortality

Site 9: Perkins Wood Products – starting logging selection portion

Site 10: Merchandizing Woodyard

Site 11: Scioto Trail State Forest Headquarters and Pesticide Storage Area

Site 12: Old nursery site, completed pre-salvage 2007

### **Appendix 3: Participants in Scoping Meetings**

David Lytle, Chief State Forester, ODOF  
Nate Kirk, State Forests Administrator, ODOF  
Chad Sanders - Land Management Administrator, ODOF  
Bob Boyles, Southern District Forest Manager, ODOF  
Gregg Maxfield, Northern District Forest Manager, ODOF  
Andy Sabula, Forest Industries Forester, ODOF  
Mike Bowden, Fire Program Coordinator, ODOF  
Greg Guess, Southern District Land Management Coordinator, ODOF  
Greg Smith, Information and Education, ODOF  
Tom Shuman, Zaleski State Forest, ODOF  
Dick Lusk, Law Enforcement/Recreation, ODOF  
Bill Stanley, The Nature Conservancy  
Jennifer Windus, Wildlife Program Administrator, Ohio Division of Wildlife  
Dan Yaussy, US Forest Service, Northern Research Station  
Brian Kelly, Forest Manager, ODOF  
Dan Balsar, Forest Health Program, ODOF

ODOF: Ohio Division of Forestry

## Appendix 4: Detailed Findings and Observations

Readiness Review and Scoping – Ohio Division of Forestry

February 2010

### Findings and Instructions:

<b>C</b>	Conformance
<b>Exr</b>	Exceeds the Requirements
<b>Maj</b>	Major Non-conformance
<b>Min</b>	Minor Non-conformance
<b>OFI</b>	Opportunity for Improvement (can also be in Conformance)
<b>NA</b>	Not Applicable
<b>Likely Gap</b>	Likely GAP Against 2010-2014 SFIS
<b>Likely Conf.</b>	Likely Conformance With 2010-2014 SFIS
<b>Auditor</b>	Optional; may be used for audit planning.
10, 11	Date Codes, for example: 10= July 2010; 11=Aug. 2011
Other	Words in <i>italics</i> are defined in the standard.  Portions that are underlined are modified (and may be subject to transition rules); non-conformances against these for re-certifications will <b>not</b> adversely affect re-registration until after December 31, 2010. New certifications must be against the entire 2010-2014 SFI Standard.
	<b>Readiness Review Code: Jan. 2010 Scoping = J</b>

**Objective 1. Forest Management Planning**

To broaden the implementation of *sustainable forestry* by ensuring *long-term forest productivity and yield* based on the use of the *best scientific information* available.

	2010-2014 Requirement	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap</u>	<u>Likely Conf.</u>
1.1	<b>Program Participants shall ensure that forest management plans include long-term harvest levels that are sustainable and consistent with appropriate growth-and-yield models.</b>							J	
Notes	Draft plans do not currently include long-term harvest levels; growth and yield models are not far enough developed to ensure harvest levels are sustainable.								

	2010-2014 Requirement (Performance Measures bold)	Audit or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap</u>	<u>Likely Conf.</u>
1.1.1	Forest management planning at a level appropriate to the size and scale of the operation, including: a. <u>a long-term resources analysis;</u> b. <u>a periodic or ongoing forest inventory;</u> c. <u>a land classification system;</u> d. <u>soils inventory and maps, where available;</u> e. <u>access to growth-and-yield modeling capabilities;</u> f. <u>up-to-date maps or a geographic information system;</u> g. <u>recommended sustainable harvest levels for areas available for harvest; and</u> h. <u>a review of non-timber issues (e.g. recreation, tourism, pilot projects and economic incentive programs to promote water protection, carbon storage, bioenergy feedstock production, or biological diversity conservation, or to address climate-induced ecosystem change).</u>							J	
Notes	Planning is conducted at multiple levels: strategic, state forest, and compartment, and is implemented through annual work plans. Plans reviewed cover the above requirements, except that draft plans do not currently include long-term harvest levels; growth and yield models are not far enough developed to ensure harvest levels are sustainable. A key feature of the planning is the compartment review process, linked to the cruise cycle of 20-years. The process includes a consideration of impacts. Complex areas or issues are subject to interdisciplinary review, generally by wildlife biologists. GIS maps include forest “zoning” showing: HCVG, Restricted, Intensive Management, and Intensive Recreation/Administration.								
1.1.2	Documentation of annual harvest trends in relation to the sustainable forest management plan <u>in a manner appropriate to document past and future activities.</u>								J

<i>Notes</i>	Good records are available (GENUS information system); confirmed from FY 1999 through FY2010 (YTD 12/12/09). Harvest during that span ranged from 4 to 11 million board feet per year from the 190,000 acre state forest system. The ability to relate plans to actual harvest levels is a key focus of the requirement.
--------------	--

	<b>2010-2014 Requirement</b>	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap</u>	<u>Likely Conf.</u>
1.1.3	A forest inventory system and a method to calculate growth and yield.								J
<i>Notes</i>	Methods to calculate growth and yield are still being finalized, but existing systems might meet this indicator. 2009 overall inventory of the largest forests, covering 80%+ of the forestland; 20-year inventory system. Concern: more information would be needed to confirm that there is a reliable method to calculate growth.								
	<b>2010-2014 Requirement</b>	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap</u>	<u>Likely Conf.</u>
1.1.4	Periodic updates of <u>forest</u> inventory and recalculation of planned harvests <u>to account for changes in growth due to productivity increases or decreases (e.g. improved data, long-term drought, fertilization, climate change, forest land ownership changes, etc.)</u> .								J
<i>Notes</i>	2009 overall inventory of the largest forests, covering 80%+ of the forestland; 20-year inventory prior to the development of any harvest or treatment prescriptions.								
	<b>2010-2014 Requirement</b>	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap</u>	<u>Likely Conf.</u>
1.1.5	Documentation of forest practices (e.g., planting, fertilization, and thinning) consistent with assumptions in harvest plans.								J
<i>Notes</i>	System of 20-year inventory updates prior to developing prescriptions ensures that harvest levels are adjusted if stands do not develop as expected. Further there is no “allowable cut effect”; ODOF does not base current harvest levels on anticipated growth responses to forest practices such as fertilization or thinning.								

**Objective 2. Forest Productivity.**

To ensure *long-term forest productivity*, carbon storage, and *conservation* of forest resources through prompt *reforestation*, *soil conservation*, *afforestation* and other measures.

	<b>2010-2014 Requirement</b>	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap</u>	<u>Likely Conf.</u>
2.1	<b>Program Participants shall promptly reforest after final harvest.</b>								J
<i>Notes</i>	Programs have been in place for decades to address the overall SFI Objective 2; most reforestation is by natural regeneration, which is generally reliable. For example, final harvests in shelterwood systems (to promote oak-hickory types) are not done until after sufficient oak regeneration is present and established. The plantation management strategy specifies approaches, including planting, natural regeneration, etc.								

	<b>2010-2014 Requirement</b>	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap</u>	<u>Likely Conf.</u>
2.1.1	Designation of all harvest areas for either natural regeneration or by planting.								J
<i>Notes</i>	Regeneration method is described in harvest proposals.								

	<b>2010-2014 Requirement</b>	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap</u>	<u>Likely Conf.</u>
2.1.2	Reforestation, unless delayed for site-specific environmental or forest health considerations or legal requirements, through planting within two years or two planting seasons, or by planned natural regeneration methods within five years.								J
<i>Notes</i>	Most planting occurs within two years, but in the past (2006) budget issues delayed.								

	<b>2010-2014 Requirement</b>	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap</u>	<u>Likely Conf.</u>
2.1.3	Clear criteria to judge adequate regeneration and appropriate actions to correct under stocked areas and achieve acceptable species composition and stocking rates for both planting and natural regeneration.								J
<i>Notes</i>	Criteria generally are found in USFS handbooks; field foresters have familiarity with this documentation. All past regeneration efforts have been successful.								

	<b>2010-2014 Requirement</b>	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap</u>	<u>Likely Conf.</u>
2.1.4	Minimized plantings of exotic tree species, and research documentation that exotic tree species, planted operationally, pose minimal risk.								N.A.
<i>Notes</i>	N.A.; no longer plant exotic tree species.								

	<b>2010-2014 Requirement</b>	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap</u>	<u>Likely Conf.</u>
2.1.5	Protection of desirable or planned advanced natural regeneration during harvest.								J
<i>Notes</i>	Most species being regenerated are vigorous sprouters, so damage during overstory removals is often ameliorated by resprouting, often producing a seedling-sprout of superior form.								

	<b>2010-2014 Requirement</b>	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap</u>	<u>Likely Conf.</u>
2.1.6	Planting programs that consider potential ecological impacts of a different species or species mix from that which was harvested.								J
<i>Notes</i>	Consideration of changing species composition is part of the pre-planting planning process.								

	<b>2010-2014 Requirement</b>	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap</u>	<u>Likely Conf.</u>
2.1.7	<u>Afforestation programs that consider potential ecological impacts of the selection and planting of tree species in non-forested landscapes.</u>								J
<i>Notes</i>	Afforestation is rarely needed.								

	<b>2010-2014 Requirement</b>	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap</u>	<u>Likely Conf.</u>
--	------------------------------	--------------	----------	------------	------------	------------	------------	-----------------------	-------------------------

2.2	<b>Program Participants shall minimize chemical use required to achieve management objectives while protecting employees, neighbors, the public and the environment, <u>including wildlife and aquatic habitats.</u></b>								J
<i>Notes</i>	Use chemical herbicides for crop-release and for site preparation. By policy, chemical herbicides are employed only if other non-chemical means (silvicultural methods, bio-control) are not effective.								

	<b>2010-2014 Requirement</b>	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap</u>	<u>Likely Conf.</u>
2.2.1	Minimized chemical use required to achieve management objectives.								J
<i>Notes</i>	Use chemical herbicides for crop-release and for site preparation. By policy, chemical herbicides are employed only if other non-chemical means (silvicultural methods, bio-control) are not effective.								

	<b>2010-2014 Requirement</b>	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap</u>	<u>Likely Conf.</u>
2.2.2	Use of least-toxic and narrowest-spectrum pesticides necessary to achieve management objectives.								J
<i>Notes</i>	Required by policy. Need to confirm in the field.								

	<b>2010-2014 Requirement</b>	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap</u>	<u>Likely Conf.</u>
2.2.3	Use of pesticides registered for the intended use and applied in accordance with label requirements.								J
<i>Notes</i>	Project Documentation: Project proposal includes written prescription, Ohio district-level review of proposal covers environmental protections, post treatment follow-up of completion as planned, and filing of records. 6-9 months later there is a follow-up site visit for effectiveness and to determine the need for follow-up treatment. Confirmed proper storage area for forest chemicals at the Scioata Trail State Forest.								

	<b>2010-2014 Requirement</b>	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap</u>	<u>Likely Conf.</u>
--	------------------------------	--------------	----------	------------	------------	------------	------------	-----------------------	-------------------------

2.2.4	Use of integrated pest management where feasible.								J
<b>Notes</b>	Use of IPM is official policy; foresters are trained to manage to maintain healthy forests; staffing levels might affect implementation of timely forest treatments.								

	<b>2010-2014 Requirement</b>	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap</u>	<u>Likely Conf.</u>
2.2.5	Supervision of forest chemical applications by state- or provincial-trained or certified applicators.								J
<b>Notes</b>	All projects must have a licensed person on site. 60 of 66 people hired for the OWJC thus far have become licensed pesticide applicator; all 66 have had the safety training.								

	<b>2010-2014 Requirement</b>	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap</u>	<u>Likely Conf.</u>
2.2.6	Use of management practices appropriate to the situation, for example: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. notification of adjoining landowners or nearby residents concerning applications and chemicals used;</li> <li>b. appropriate multilingual signs or oral warnings;</li> <li>c. control of public road access during and immediately after applications;</li> <li>d. designation of streamside and other needed buffer strips;</li> <li>e. use of positive shutoff and minimal-drift spray valves;</li> <li>f. aerial application of forest chemicals parallel to buffer zones to minimize drift;</li> <li>g. monitoring of water quality or safeguards to ensure proper equipment use and protection of streams, lakes and other water bodies;</li> <li>h. appropriate storage of chemicals;</li> <li>i. filing of required state or provincial reports; and/or</li> <li>j. use of methods to ensure protection of threatened and endangered species.</li> </ul>								J

<b>Notes</b>	Management practices appropriate to the situation are routinely employed, are mandated by policy and ensured by training and supervision by experienced managers. Confirmed proper storage area for forest chemicals at the Scioata Trail State Forest.								
--------------	---	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

	<b>2010-2014 Requirement</b>	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap</u>	<u>Likely Conf.</u>
2.3	<b>Program Participants shall implement forest management practices to protect and maintain forest and soil productivity.</b>								J
<b>Notes</b>	All harvests are planned, laid out, and supervised by trained foresters, who are supervised by experienced forest managers. A Ohio Department of Natural Resources - Division of Forestry - Pre-Harvest Checklist is used.								

	<b>2010-2014 Requirement</b>	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap</u>	<u>Likely Conf.</u>
2.3.1	Use of soils maps where available.								J
<b>Notes</b>	Soils information is available to forest managers on maps and in the GIS. This information is used in sale planning.								

	<b>2010-2014 Requirement</b>	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap</u>	<u>Likely Conf.</u>
2.3.2	Process to identify soils vulnerable to compaction, and use of appropriate methods to avoid excessive soil disturbance.								J
<b>Notes</b>	ODOF has a wet weather policy; soils maps are routinely used to plan harvests and identify highly erodible sites.								

	<b>2010-2014 Requirement</b>	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap</u>	<u>Likely Conf.</u>
2.3.3	Use of erosion control measures to <i>minimize</i> the loss of soil and site productivity.								J
<b>Notes</b>	BMP use is specified in various documents and ODOF personnel are familiar with the various BMPs. Conformance can best be determined in the field during certification audit. Scoping evaluation occurred during early January with snow cover, preventing a complete visual assessment.								

	<b>2010-2014 Requirement</b>	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap</u>	<u>Likely Conf.</u>
2.3.4	Post-harvest conditions conducive to maintaining site productivity (e.g. limited rutting, retained down woody debris, minimized skid trails).								J
<i>Notes</i>	Can best be determined in the field during the full evaluation. The baseline /scoping evaluation occurred during early January when the ground had some snow cover, preventing a complete visual assessment. Other elements of a system that would meet this indicator are in place.								

	<b>2010-2014 Requirement</b>	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap</u>	<u>Likely Conf.</u>
2.3.5	Retention of vigorous trees during partial harvesting, consistent with <u>scientific silvicultural standards</u> for the area.								J
<i>Notes</i>	This was confirmed for the partial harvests reviewed. Foresters are trained and conversant in silvicultural and forest health science to indicate that they can determine forest health while marking trees for partial harvest.								

	<b>2010-2014 Requirement</b>	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap</u>	<u>Likely Conf.</u>
2.3.6	Criteria that address harvesting and site preparation to protect soil productivity.								J
<i>Notes</i>	Criteria are in place in the “Wet weather policy”. Soil maps are used to plan harvests and identify highly erodible sites.								

	<b>2010-2014 Requirement</b>	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap</u>	<u>Likely Conf.</u>
2.3.7	<u>Road construction and skidding layout to minimize impacts to soil productivity and water quality.</u>								J
<i>Notes</i>	Preliminary indications are positive, but this issue must be assessed more thoroughly in the field. Illegal ORV trails are present, but such use is not overwhelming.								

	<b>2010-2014 Requirement</b>	Audit -or	<b><u>C</u></b>	<b><u>EXR</u></b>	<b><u>Maj</u></b>	<b><u>Min</u></b>	<b><u>OFI</u></b>	<b><u>Likely Gap</u></b>	<b><u>Likely Conf.</u></b>
2.4	<b>Program Participants shall manage so as to protect forests from damaging agents, such as environmentally or economically undesirable wildfire, pests, diseases <u>and invasive exotic plants and animals</u>, to maintain and improve long-term forest health, productivity and economic viability.</b>								J
<i>Notes</i>	The Performance Measure appears to be met; more field work during the certification audit will be needed to confirm; see indicators below.								

	<b>2010-2014 Requirement</b>	Audit -or	<b><u>C</u></b>	<b><u>EXR</u></b>	<b><u>Maj</u></b>	<b><u>Min</u></b>	<b><u>OFI</u></b>	<b><u>Likely Gap</u></b>	<b><u>Likely Conf.</u></b>
2.4.1	Program to protect forests from damaging agents.								J
<i>Notes</i>	ODOF has a dedicated forest pest program that includes extensive monitoring and some control areas. Monitoring information is stored in a database which managers and field foresters contribute information to and can access.								

	<b>2010-2014 Requirement</b>	Audit -or	<b><u>C</u></b>	<b><u>EXR</u></b>	<b><u>Maj</u></b>	<b><u>Min</u></b>	<b><u>OFI</u></b>	<b><u>Likely Gap</u></b>	<b><u>Likely Conf.</u></b>
2.4.2	Management to promote healthy and productive forest conditions to minimize susceptibility to damaging agents.								J
<i>Notes</i>	Examples of such management (salvage, pre-salvage, improvement thinning) were observed during the field portion of the scoping assessment.								

	<b>2010-2014 Requirement</b>	Audit -or	<b><u>C</u></b>	<b><u>EXR</u></b>	<b><u>Maj</u></b>	<b><u>Min</u></b>	<b><u>OFI</u></b>	<b><u>Likely Gap</u></b>	<b><u>Likely Conf.</u></b>
2.4.3	Participation in, and support of, fire and pest prevention and control programs.								J
<i>Notes</i>	Fire and pest prevention and control are clearly strong areas for this program.								

	<b>2010-2014 Requirement</b>	Audit -or	<b><u>C</u></b>	<b><u>EXR</u></b>	<b><u>Maj</u></b>	<b><u>Min</u></b>	<b><u>OFI</u></b>	<b><u>Likely Gap</u></b>	<b><u>Likely Conf.</u></b>
--	------------------------------	--------------	-----------------	-------------------	-------------------	-------------------	-------------------	------------------------------	--------------------------------

2.5	<b>Program Participants that deploy improved planting stock, <u>including varietal seedlings</u>, shall use sound scientific methods.</b>								N.A.
<i>Notes</i>	See indicator below.								

	<b>2010-2014 Requirement</b>	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap</u>	<u>Likely Conf.</u>
2.5.1	Program for appropriate research, testing, evaluation and deployment of improved planting stock, <u>including varietal seedlings</u> .								N.A.
<i>Notes</i>	In the past foresters planted some improved planting stock, at which time they had a tree improvement program. The tree improvement program has since ended (not staffed). Very little tree planting is done; if improved planting stock is used in the future scientific methods would need to be used.								

**Objective 3. Protection and Maintenance of Water Resources**

To protect water quality in rivers, streams, lakes, and other water bodies.

	2010-2014 Requirement	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap</u>	<u>Likely Conf.</u>
3.1	Program Participants shall meet or exceed all applicable federal, provincial, state and local water quality laws, and meet or exceed best management practices developed under Canadian or U.S. Environmental Protection Agency–approved water quality programs.								J
<i>Notes</i>	Can best be determined in the field during the full evaluation. The baseline /scoping evaluation occurred during early January when the ground had some snow cover, preventing a complete visual assessment. Water bars and professionally planned timber harvests were confirmed.								

	2010-2014 Requirement	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap</u>	<u>Likely Conf.</u>
3.1.1	Program to implement state or provincial best management practices during all phases of management activities.								J
<i>Notes</i>	All harvests are planned, laid out, and supervised by trained foresters, who are supervised by experienced forest managers. Forest managers (who supervise foresters conducting the timber management program but who are also responsible for all management activities) ensure BMPs are used as needed.								

	2010-2014 Requirement	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap</u>	<u>Likely Conf.</u>
3.1.2	Contract provisions that specify <u>conformance</u> to best management practices.								J
<i>Notes</i>	BMP provisions are in place in the timber sale and timber harvesting contracts.								

	2010-2014 Requirement	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap</u>	<u>Likely Conf.</u>
3.1.3	Plans that address wet-weather events (e.g. <u>forest</u> inventory systems, wet-weather tracts, definitions of acceptable operating conditions).								J
<i>Notes</i>	Such plans are in place, including provisions in the timber sale and timber harvesting contracts and the ODOF has a wet-weather policy. BMP provisions are in place in contracts.								

	<b>2010-2014 Requirement</b>	Audit -or	<b><u>C</u></b>	<b><u>EXR</u></b>	<b><u>Maj</u></b>	<b><u>Min</u></b>	<b><u>OFI</u></b>	<b><u>Likely Gap</u></b>	<b><u>Likely Conf.</u></b>
3.1.4	Monitoring of overall best management practices implementation.								J
<i>Notes</i>	Final inspections by foresters who administer the harvests and by their supervisors include a review of BMPs.								

	<b>2010-2014 Requirement</b>	Audit -or	<b><u>C</u></b>	<b><u>EXR</u></b>	<b><u>Maj</u></b>	<b><u>Min</u></b>	<b><u>OFI</u></b>	<b><u>Likely Gap</u></b>	<b><u>Likely Conf.</u></b>
3.2	<b>Program Participants shall have or develop, implement and document riparian protection measures based on soil type, terrain, vegetation, ecological function, harvesting system and other applicable factors.</b>								J
<i>Notes</i>	Such programs exist; see indicators below.								

	<b>2010-2014 Requirement</b>	Audit -or	<b><u>C</u></b>	<b><u>EXR</u></b>	<b><u>Maj</u></b>	<b><u>Min</u></b>	<b><u>OFI</u></b>	<b><u>Likely Gap</u></b>	<b><u>Likely Conf.</u></b>
3.2.1	Program addressing management and protection of <u>rivers</u> , streams, lakes, and other water bodies and riparian zones.								J
<i>Notes</i>	All harvests are planned, laid out, and supervised by trained foresters, who are supervised by experienced forest managers. Forest managers (who supervise foresters conducting the timber management program but who are also responsible for all management activities) ensure that these features are protected. The program makes extensive use of harvest buffers around sensitive features and resources.								

	<b>2010-2014 Requirement</b>	Audit -or	<b><u>C</u></b>	<b><u>EXR</u></b>	<b><u>Maj</u></b>	<b><u>Min</u></b>	<b><u>OFI</u></b>	<b><u>Likely Gap</u></b>	<b><u>Likely Conf.</u></b>
3.2.2	Mapping of <u>rivers</u> , streams, lakes, and other water bodies as specified in state or provincial best management practices and, where appropriate, identification on the ground.								J
<i>Notes</i>	Rivers, streams, lakes, and other water bodies are shown on USGS topographic maps, which are the base of many of the maps prepared in the GIS. Additional layers are available.								

	<b>2010-2014 Requirement</b>	Audit -or	<b><u>C</u></b>	<b><u>EXR</u></b>	<b><u>Maj</u></b>	<b><u>Min</u></b>	<b><u>OFI</u></b>	<b><u>Likely Gap</u></b>	<b><u>Likely Conf.</u></b>
--	------------------------------	--------------	-----------------	-------------------	-------------------	-------------------	-------------------	------------------------------	--------------------------------

3.2.3	Implementation of plans to manage or protect <u>rivers</u> , streams, lakes, and other water bodies.								J
<b>Notes</b>	The limited field visits during the baseline/scoping audit indicated that such plans are fully implemented. Interviews indicate that some loggers have occasionally not fully followed harvest requirements, but these major water features have apparently not been affected.								

	<b>2010-2014 Requirement</b>	Audit -or	<b><u>C</u></b>	<b><u>EXR</u></b>	<b><u>Maj</u></b>	<b><u>Min</u></b>	<b><u>OFI</u></b>	<b><u>Likely Gap</u></b>	<b><u>Likely Conf.</u></b>
3.2.4	Identification and protection of non-forested wetlands, including bogs, fens and marshes, and vernal pools of <u>ecological significance</u> .								J
<b>Notes</b>	These features are quite uncommon on this ownership; these lands were generally carved out and administered by the Ohio Division of Natural Areas and Preserves. This will be reviewed during the field portion of the full certification audit.								

	<b>2010-2014 Requirement</b>	Audit -or	<b><u>C</u></b>	<b><u>EXR</u></b>	<b><u>Maj</u></b>	<b><u>Min</u></b>	<b><u>OFI</u></b>	<b><u>Likely Gap</u></b>	<b><u>Likely Conf.</u></b>
3.2.5	Where regulations or best management practices do not currently exist to protect riparian areas, use of experts to identify appropriate protection measures.								N.A.
<b>Notes</b>	N.A., except possibly need to consider provisions for protection of non-forested wetlands.								

**Objective 4. Conservation of Biological Diversity including Forests with Exceptional Conservation Value.**

To manage the quality and distribution of wildlife habitats and contribute to the conservation of biological diversity by developing and implementing stand- and landscape-level measures that promote a diversity of types of habitat and successional stages, and conservation of forest plants and animals, including aquatic species.

	<b>2010-2014 Requirement</b>	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap</u>	<u>Likely Conf.</u>
4.1	<b>Program Participants shall have programs to promote biological diversity at stand- and landscape-levels.</b>								J
<i>Notes</i>	Such programs appear to be in place (see indicators below).								

	<b>2010-2014 Requirement</b>	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap</u>	<u>Likely Conf.</u>
4.1.1	Program to promote the conservation of native biological diversity, including species, wildlife habitats and <u>ecological</u> community types.								J
<i>Notes</i>	Cooperation between ODOF and ODOW (MOU); field-level consultation and cooperation between foresters and wildlife biologists.								

	<b>2010-2014 Requirement</b>	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap</u>	<u>Likely Conf.</u>
4.1.2	Program to protect threatened and endangered species.								J
<i>Notes</i>	ODOF has a comprehensive program to protect threatened and endangered species. Foresters check the database of threatened and endangered species during planning prior to ground disturbing activities. These are also covered in management plans.								

	<b>2010-2014 Requirement</b>	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap</u>	<u>Likely Conf.</u>
4.1.3	Program to locate and protect known sites associated with viable occurrences of critically imperiled and imperiled species and communities <u>also known as Forests with Exceptional Conservation Value</u> . Plans for protection may be developed independently or collaboratively, and may include Program Participant management, cooperation with other stakeholders, or use of easements, conservation land sales, exchanges, or other conservation strategies.								J

<b>Notes</b>	While conformance is likely the team will explore this issue further during the certification audit. Examples of protection plans will be requested.
--------------	--

	<b>2010-2014 Requirement</b>	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFl</u>	<u>Likely Gap</u>	<u>Likely Conf.</u>
4.1.4	Development and implementation of criteria, as guided by regionally appropriate <u>best scientific information</u> , to retain stand-level wildlife habitat elements such as snags, <u>stumps</u> , mast trees, down woody debris, den trees and nest trees.							J	
<b>Notes</b>	Most issues are covered, but biomass retention guidelines are not in place. Given the current energy situation, with efforts to find renewable energy sources leading to increased efforts to use forest residues more thoroughly, biomass retention standards must be a part of the retention strategy.								

	<b>2010-2014 Requirement</b>	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFl</u>	<u>Likely Gap</u>	<u>Likely Conf.</u>
4.1.5	Program for assessment, conducted either individually or collaboratively, of forest cover types, <u>age or size classes</u> , and habitats at the individual ownership level and, where credible data are available, across the landscape, <u>and take into account findings in planning and management activities</u> .								J
<b>Notes</b>	Examples were provided, including “Shawnee and Zaleski Forest Focus Area Forest Landscape Management Geographic Information System”; more information needed to ensure that landscape assessment is considered across all 20 Ohio State Forests.								

	<b>2010-2014 Requirement</b>	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFl</u>	<u>Likely Gap</u>	<u>Likely Conf.</u>
4.1.6	Support of and participation in plans or programs for the conservation of old-growth forests in the region of ownership.								J
<b>Notes</b>	Known old growth areas in the region are all protected by the Ohio Division of Natural Areas and Preserves; many of the lands this agency protects came from (were carved out of) the state forests.								

	<b>2010-2014 Requirement</b>	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFl</u>	<u>Likely Gap</u>	<u>Likely Conf.</u>
4.1.7	Participation in programs and demonstration of activities as appropriate to limit the introduction, impact and spread of invasive exotic plants and animals that directly threaten or are likely to threaten native plant and animal communities.								J

<i>Notes</i>	Ohio Woodland Job Corps (OWJC): 2-year Federal Stimulus (ARRA) grant project focused on the control of invasive plants in state forests. Will hire and train 132 workers who will treat sites of invasive plants; thus far have treated 326 acres of invasive plant, 94 acres of crop-tree release, 978 acres of grape vine control.								
--------------	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

	<b>2010-2014 Requirement</b>	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap</u>	<u>Likely Conf.</u>
<b>4.1.8</b>	Program to incorporate the role of prescribed or natural fire where appropriate.								J
<i>Notes</i>	Some citizen-activists have strong objections to the use of prescribed fire. Despite frequent administrative appeals ODF continues to prescribe fire, and has been able to implement some of the proposed prescribed fires. Ohio's Certified Prescribed Fire Manager Program helps ensure that trained staff are available for prescribed fire.								

	<b>2010-2014 Requirement</b>	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap</u>	<u>Likely Conf.</u>
<b>4.2</b>	<b>Program Participants shall apply knowledge gained through research, science, technology and field experience to manage wildlife habitat and contribute to the conservation of biological diversity.</b>								J
<i>Notes</i>	See indicators below.								

	<b>2010-2014 Requirement</b>	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap</u>	<u>Likely Conf.</u>
<b>4.2.1</b>	Collection of information on <u>Forests with Exceptional Conservation Value</u> and other biodiversity-related data through forest inventory processes, mapping or participation in external programs, such as NatureServe, state or provincial heritage programs, or other credible systems. Such participation may include providing non-proprietary scientific information, time and assistance by staff, or in-kind or direct financial support.								J
<i>Notes</i>	Foresters consult with Ohio Natural Heritage Database when developing management plans or harvest prescriptions.								

	<b>2010-2014 Requirement</b>	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap</u>	<u>Likely Conf.</u>

4.2.2	A methodology to incorporate research results and field applications of biodiversity and ecosystem research into forest management decisions.								J
<i>Notes</i>	Relationship with USFS Northern Station, ODOW, and TNC.								

**Objective 5. Management of Visual Quality and Recreational Benefits.**

To manage the visual impact of forest operations and provide recreational opportunities for the public.

	<b>2010-2014 Requirement</b>	Audit -or	<b><u>C</u></b>	<b><u>EXR</u></b>	<b><u>Maj</u></b>	<b><u>Min</u></b>	<b><u>OFI</u></b>	<b><u>Likely Gap</u></b>	<b><u>Likely Conf.</u></b>
5.1	<b>Program Participants shall manage the impact of harvesting on visual quality.</b>								J
<i>Notes</i>	ODOF uses a variety of methods to manage the impact of harvesting on visual quality (see indicators below).								

	<b>2010-2014 Requirement</b>	Audit -or	<b><u>C</u></b>	<b><u>EXR</u></b>	<b><u>Maj</u></b>	<b><u>Min</u></b>	<b><u>OFI</u></b>	<b><u>Likely Gap</u></b>	<b><u>Likely Conf.</u></b>
5.1.1	Program to address visual quality management.								J
<i>Notes</i>	The core elements of the program are the use of trained foresters to plan all treatments and visual management zoning in sensitive areas.								

	<b>2010-2014 Requirement</b>	Audit -or	<b><u>C</u></b>	<b><u>EXR</u></b>	<b><u>Maj</u></b>	<b><u>Min</u></b>	<b><u>OFI</u></b>	<b><u>Likely Gap</u></b>	<b><u>Likely Conf.</u></b>
5.1.2	Incorporation of aesthetic considerations in harvesting, road, landing design and management, and other management activities where visual impacts are a concern.								J
<i>Notes</i>	Trained foresters plan all sales and incorporate several approaches to visual management in visually sensitive areas, including visual buffers (less intensive harvesting), modified layout of clearcut blocks, adjusting road layout to screen landings, moving or hiding slash piles, and rehabilitation such as seeding and mulching exposed soil areas.								

	<b>2010-2014 Requirement</b>	Audit -or	<b><u>C</u></b>	<b><u>EXR</u></b>	<b><u>Maj</u></b>	<b><u>Min</u></b>	<b><u>OFI</u></b>	<b><u>Likely Gap</u></b>	<b><u>Likely Conf.</u></b>
5.2	<b>Program Participants shall manage the size, shape and placement of clearcut harvests.</b>								J
<i>Notes</i>	See timber harvest preparation chapter of the Land Management Manual.								

	<b>2010-2014 Requirement</b>	Audit -or	<b><u>C</u></b>	<b><u>EXR</u></b>	<b><u>Maj</u></b>	<b><u>Min</u></b>	<b><u>OFI</u></b>	<b><u>Likely Gap</u></b>	<b><u>Likely Conf.</u></b>
--	------------------------------	--------------	-----------------	-------------------	-------------------	-------------------	-------------------	------------------------------	--------------------------------

5.2.1	Average size of clearcut harvest areas does not exceed 120 acres (50 hectares), except when necessary <u>to meet regulatory requirements</u> or to respond to forest health emergencies or other natural catastrophes.								J
<i>Notes</i>	Average clearcut size appears to be under 20 acres; there is a 25-acre maximum size for clearcuts.								

	<b>2010-2014 Requirement</b>	Audit -or	<b><u>C</u></b>	<b><u>EXR</u></b>	<b><u>Maj</u></b>	<b><u>Min</u></b>	<b><u>OFI</u></b>	<b><u>Likely Gap</u></b>	<b><u>Likely Conf.</u></b>
5.2.2	Documentation through internal records of clearcut size and the process for calculating average size.							J	
<i>Notes</i>	While this is easily accomplished using existing records and the GIS it is not currently done.								

	<b>2010-2014 Requirement</b>	Audit -or	<b><u>C</u></b>	<b><u>EXR</u></b>	<b><u>Maj</u></b>	<b><u>Min</u></b>	<b><u>OFI</u></b>	<b><u>Likely Gap</u></b>	<b><u>Likely Conf.</u></b>
5.3	<b>Program Participants shall adopt a green-up requirement or alternative methods that provide for visual quality.</b>								J
<i>Notes</i>	See indicators below.								

	<b>2010-2014 Requirement</b>	Audit -or	<b><u>C</u></b>	<b><u>EXR</u></b>	<b><u>Maj</u></b>	<b><u>Min</u></b>	<b><u>OFI</u></b>	<b><u>Likely Gap</u></b>	<b><u>Likely Conf.</u></b>
5.3.1	Program implementing the green-up requirement or alternative methods.								J
<i>Notes</i>	See timber harvest preparation chapter of the Land Management Manual.								

	<b>2010-2014 Requirement</b>	Audit -or	<b><u>C</u></b>	<b><u>EXR</u></b>	<b><u>Maj</u></b>	<b><u>Min</u></b>	<b><u>OFI</u></b>	<b><u>Likely Gap</u></b>	<b><u>Likely Conf.</u></b>
5.3.2	Harvest area tracking system to demonstrate <u>conformance</u> with the green-up requirement or alternative methods.								J

<i>Notes</i>	GIS; See also timber harvest preparation chapter of the Land Management Manual.
--------------	---

	<b>2010-2014 Requirement</b>	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap</u>	<u>Likely Conf.</u>
5.3.3	Trees in clearcut harvest areas are at least 3 years old or 5 feet (1.5 meters) high at the desired level of stocking before adjacent areas are clearcut, or as appropriate to address operational and economic considerations, alternative methods to reach the performance measure are utilized by the Program Participant.								J
<i>Notes</i>	Required per timber harvest preparation chapter of the Land Management Manual. Clearcuts observed during the scoping field visits met this requirement.								

	<b>2010-2014 Requirement</b>	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap</u>	<u>Likely Conf.</u>
5.4	<b><u>Program Participants shall support and promote recreational opportunities for the public.</u></b>								J
<i>Notes</i>	See indicator.								

	<b>2010-2014 Requirement</b>	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap</u>	<u>Likely Conf.</u>
5.4.1	<u>Provide recreational opportunities for the public, where consistent with forest management objectives.</u>								J
<i>Notes</i>	All Ohio State Forests offer some form of recreation; the range of uses and activities offered is impressive. Many recreational user group partnerships are in place.								

**Objective 6. Protection of Special Sites.**

To manage lands that are ecologically, geologically or culturally important in a manner that takes into account their unique qualities.

	<b>2010-2014 Requirement</b>	Audit -or	<b><u>C</u></b>	<b><u>EXR</u></b>	<b><u>Maj</u></b>	<b><u>Min</u></b>	<b><u>OFI</u></b>	<b><u>Likely Gap</u></b>	<b><u>Likely Conf.</u></b>
6.1	<b>Program Participants shall identify special sites and manage them in a manner appropriate for their unique features.</b>								J
<i>Notes</i>	See indicators below.								

	<b>2010-2014 Requirement</b>	Audit -or	<b><u>C</u></b>	<b><u>EXR</u></b>	<b><u>Maj</u></b>	<b><u>Min</u></b>	<b><u>OFI</u></b>	<b><u>Likely Gap</u></b>	<b><u>Likely Conf.</u></b>
6.1.1	Use of information such as existing natural heritage data, expert advice or <u>stakeholder consultation</u> in identifying or selecting special sites for protection.								J
<i>Notes</i>	Ample evidence provided; will confirm during certification review. The DOF has developed a database of special sites based on information that was already known to the division’s staff. One challenge, since mostly resolved involved obtaining information on known archeological site locations from the Ohio Historical Society. The organization has developed a web-based map and tool; ODNR pays the required annual fee that allows access to this site. A system is being set up to get this information to the foresters who are conducting inventories and developing harvest proposals. Although conformance is likely, additional work may be needed to implement this enhanced access to information so that field foresters can readily obtain information needed to ensure that historical sites are protected.								

	<b>2010-2014 Requirement</b>	Audit -or	<b><u>C</u></b>	<b><u>EXR</u></b>	<b><u>Maj</u></b>	<b><u>Min</u></b>	<b><u>OFI</u></b>	<b><u>Likely Gap</u></b>	<b><u>Likely Conf.</u></b>
6.1.2	Appropriate mapping, cataloging and management of identified special sites.								J
<i>Notes</i>	DOF appears to meet this requirement. Some examples were identified. Oak-Openings associated with the Maumee State Forests, a Globally Rare community type, are being managed to restore and expand this vegetation community.								

**Objective 7. Efficient Use of Forest Resources.**

To promote the efficient use of forest resources.

	2010-2014 Requirement	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap</u>	<u>Likely Conf.</u>
7.1	<b>Program Participants shall employ appropriate forest harvesting technology and in-woods manufacturing processes and practices to minimize waste and ensure efficient utilization of harvested trees, where consistent with other SFI Standard objectives.</b>								J
<i>Notes</i>	Based on field inspections during the scoping (very limited in duration) the requirement appears to be met. Foresters review all harvests. ODOF has developed a wood yard for merchandizing trees harvested and delivered by a contractor; utilization in such harvests is thus directly controlled.								

	2010-2014 Requirement	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap</u>	<u>Likely Conf.</u>
7.1.1	Program or monitoring system to ensure efficient utilization, which may include provisions to ensure: a. <u>management of harvest residue (e.g. slash, limbs, tops) considers economic, social and environmental factors (e.g. organic and nutrient value to future forests) and other utilization needs;</u> b. training or incentives to encourage loggers to enhance utilization; c. cooperation with mill managers for better utilization of species and low-grade material; d. <u>exploration of markets for underutilized species and low-grade wood and alternative markets (e.g. bioenergy markets);</u> or e. periodic inspections and reports noting utilization and product separation.								J
<i>Notes</i>	Dan Sabula, Ohio Forest Industries Forester (forest utilization) conducts periodic survey of wood use with published results (significant import of wood from WV with manufacturing in Ohio; primary and secondary manufacturing directories; BMP manual; price surveys and price reports; fairly new Ohio State Forest Merchandizing Program. His job includes the exploration of markets for low-grade wood /alternative markets. Examples include grant received for the “Mid-Ohio River Valley Woody Biomass Feedstock Zone” and VA Hospital Biomass Study which has led to the conversion of the boiler to wood.								

**Objective 14. Legal and Regulatory Compliance.**

Compliance with applicable federal, provincial, state and local laws and regulations.

	<b>2010-2014 Requirement</b>	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap</u>	<u>Likely Conf.</u>
14.1	<b>Program Participants shall take appropriate steps to comply with applicable federal, provincial, state and local forestry and related social and environmental laws and regulations.</b>								J
<i>Notes</i>	This issue did not receive significant attention during scoping. Based on limited review of systems conformance is likely.								

	<b>2010-2014 Requirement</b>	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap</u>	<u>Likely Conf.</u>
14.1.1	Access to relevant laws and regulations in appropriate locations.								J
<i>Notes</i>	Laws are available on internet sites.								

	<b>2010-2014 Requirement</b>	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap</u>	<u>Likely Conf.</u>
14.1.2	System to achieve compliance with applicable federal, provincial, state or local laws and regulations.								J
<i>Notes</i>	All projects are carefully planned; project approval process contributes to compliance record.								

	<b>2010-2014 Requirement</b>	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap</u>	<u>Likely Conf.</u>
14.1.3	Demonstration of commitment to legal compliance through available regulatory action information.								J
<i>Notes</i>	Scoping time budget did not allow independent review of regulatory record.								

	<b>2010-2014 Requirement</b>	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap</u>	<u>Likely Conf.</u>
14.2	<b>Program Participants shall take appropriate steps to comply with all applicable social laws at the federal, provincial, state and local levels in the country in which the Program Participant operates.</b>								J
<i>Notes</i>	Ohio has an array of policies and laws; staff is aware and regular training is offered.								

	<b>2010-2014 Requirement</b>	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap</u>	<u>Likely Conf.</u>
14.2.1	Written policy demonstrating commitment to comply with social laws, such as those covering civil rights, equal employment opportunities, anti-discrimination and anti-harassment measures, workers' compensation, indigenous peoples' rights, workers' and communities' right to know, prevailing wages, workers' right to organize, and occupational health and safety.								J
<i>Notes</i>	Such policies are in place; bulletin board notices were confirmed.								

	<b>2010-2014 Requirement</b>	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap</u>	<u>Likely Conf.</u>
14.2.2	<u>Forestry enterprises will respect the rights of workers and labor representatives in a manner that encompasses the intent of the International Labor Organization (ILO) core conventions.</u>								J
<i>Notes</i>	Are there any ILO-related complaints? If yes NSF must pass these along to SFI Inc.								

**Objective 15. Forestry Research, Science, and Technology.**

To support forestry research, science, and technology, upon which sustainable forest management decisions are based.

	2010-2014 Requirement	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap</u>	<u>Likely Conf.</u>
15.1	<b>Program Participants shall individually and/or through cooperative efforts involving <u>SFI Implementation Committees</u>, associations or other partners provide in-kind support or funding for forest research to improve forest health, productivity, and <u>sustainable management of forest resources, and the environmental benefits and performance of forest products.</u></b>								J
<i>Notes</i>	Research is supported by allowing use of state forests, and by direct funding by the ODNR.								

	2010-2014 Requirement	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap</u>	<u>Likely Conf.</u>
15.1.1	Financial or in-kind support of research to address questions of relevance in the region of operations. The research shall include some of the following issues: a. forest health, productivity, and ecosystem functions; b. chemical efficiency, use rate and integrated pest management; c. water quality and/or effectiveness of best management practices <u>including effectiveness of water quality and best management practices for protecting the quality, diversity and distributions of fish and wildlife habitats;</u> d. wildlife management at stand- and landscape-levels; e. conservation of biological diversity; f. <u>ecological impacts of bioenergy feedstock removals on productivity, wildlife habitat, water quality and other ecosystem functions;</u> g. <u>climate change research for both adaptation and mitigation;</u> h. <u>social issues;</u> i. <u>forest operations efficiencies and economics;</u> j. <u>energy efficiency;</u> k. <u>life cycle assessment;</u> l. <u>avoidance of illegal logging; and</u> m. <u>avoidance of controversial sources.</u>								J

<b>Notes</b>	<p>Research is only required for some (not all) of the listed items. Confirmed evidence of research involving:                  Item a: (fire ecology and silviculture studies);                  Item b: (bio control organisms are tested on state forests);                  Item e: (Fire Surrogate Study Areas and Shelterwood Study)                  Much of the research (Fire Surrogate Study Areas and Shelterwood Study) is cooperative. Have cooperated with Master's and PhD research projects. Consider demonstration of good forestry to be a major goal of the entire state forest management program.</p>
--------------	--

	<b>2010-2014 Requirement</b>	Audit -or	<b><u>C</u></b>	<b><u>EXR</u></b>	<b><u>Maj</u></b>	<b><u>Min</u></b>	<b><u>OFI</u></b>	<b><u>Likely Gap</u></b>	<b><u>Likely Conf.</u></b>
15.1.2	Research on genetically engineered trees via forest tree biotechnology shall adhere to all applicable federal, state, and provincial regulations and international protocols.								N.A.
<b>Notes</b>	Not applicable								

	<b>2010-2014 Requirement</b>	Audit -or	<b><u>C</u></b>	<b><u>EXR</u></b>	<b><u>Maj</u></b>	<b><u>Min</u></b>	<b><u>OFI</u></b>	<b><u>Likely Gap</u></b>	<b><u>Likely Conf.</u></b>
15.2	<b>Program Participants shall individually <u>and/or</u> through cooperative efforts involving SFI Implementation Committees, associations or other partners develop or use state, provincial or regional analyses in support of their sustainable forestry programs.</b>								J
<b>Notes</b>	This area must be assessed more thoroughly during the certification assessment.								

	<b>2010-2014 Requirement</b>	Audit -or	<b><u>C</u></b>	<b><u>EXR</u></b>	<b><u>Maj</u></b>	<b><u>Min</u></b>	<b><u>OFI</u></b>	<b><u>Likely Gap</u></b>	<b><u>Likely Conf.</u></b>
15.2.1	Participation, individually <u>and/or</u> through cooperative efforts involving SFI Implementation Committees <u>and/or</u> associations at the <u>national</u> , state, provincial or regional level, in the development or use of <u>some</u> of the following: a. regeneration assessments; b. growth and drain assessments; c. best management practices implementation and conformance; d. biodiversity conservation information for family forest owners; and e. <u>social, cultural or economic benefit assessments.</u>								J

<i>Notes</i>	USDA Forest Service FIA, Working on the Ohio Statewide Resource Assessment; DOF is leading this effort, to be completed in June and approved by July 1, 2010.
--------------	---

	<b>2010-2014 Requirement</b>	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap</u>	<u>Likely Conf.</u>
15.3	<b><u>Program Participants shall individually and/or through cooperative efforts involving SFI Implementation Committees, associations or other partners broaden the awareness of climate change impacts on forests, wildlife and biological diversity.</u></b>							J	
<i>Notes</i>	Working on the Ohio Statewide Resource Assessment, which will have some information on greenhouse gas impacts. ODOF has at least four separate leases with local energy companies for carbon sequestration plantations (hardwood trees) located on state forests. The state has nearly completed its purchase of the Vinton Furnace Experimental Forest. The site has climate change research projects and data that will be maintained by the state once it has ownership.								

	<b>2010-2014 Requirement</b>	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap</u>	<u>Likely Conf.</u>
15.3.1	Where available, monitor information generated from regional climate models on long-term forest health, productivity and economic viability.							J	
<i>Notes</i>	No evidence was provided.								

	<b>2010-2014 Requirement</b>	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap</u>	<u>Likely Conf.</u>
15.3.2	<u>Program Participants are knowledgeable about climate change impacts on wildlife, wildlife habitats and conservation of biological diversity through international, national, regional or local programs.</u>							J	
<i>Notes</i>	No evidence was provided.								

**Objective 16. Training and Education.**

To improve the implementation of sustainable forestry practices through appropriate training and education programs.

	<b>2010-2014 Requirement</b>	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap</u>	<u>Likely Conf.</u>
16.1	<b>Program Participants shall require appropriate training of personnel and contractors so that they are competent to fulfill their responsibilities under the SFI 2010-2014 Standard.</b>								J
<i>Notes</i>	Personnel and contractors have considerable training.								

	<b>2010-2014 Requirement</b>	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap</u>	<u>Likely Conf.</u>
16.1.1	Written statement of commitment to the SFI 2010-2014 Standard communicated throughout the organization, particularly to <u>facility</u> and woodland managers, fiber sourcing staff and field foresters.								J
<i>Notes</i>	Memo from Governor Strickland (“Directive to ODNR Regarding Attainment of Third-Party Certification for Ohio's Forest Lands”) on October 25, 2007 stated the commitment. This is backed up by statements from the Chief State Forester and Chief of the Forestry Division.								

	<b>2010-2014 Requirement</b>	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap</u>	<u>Likely Conf.</u>
16.1.2	Assignment and understanding of roles and responsibilities for achieving SFI 2010-2014 Standard objectives.								J
<i>Notes</i>	Chad Sanders has lead staff role; Chief State Forester has ultimate responsibility; staffers understand the standard.								

	<b>2010-2014 Requirement</b>	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap</u>	<u>Likely Conf.</u>
16.1.3	Staff education and training sufficient to their roles & responsibilities.								J
<i>Notes</i>	Staff members have professional degrees and/or advanced degrees. Additional training is routinely available. For example Ohio’s Certified Prescribed Fire Manager Program helps ensure that trained personnel are available for prescribed fire. Training for road maintenance employees includes BMP training. There are 10 law enforcement officers and 3 supervisors, all of whom have 36 or more hours of in-service training annually.								

	<b>2010-2014 Requirement</b>	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap</u>	<u>Likely Conf.</u>
--	------------------------------	--------------	----------	------------	------------	------------	------------	-----------------------	-------------------------

16.1.4	Contractor education and training sufficient to their roles and responsibilities.								J
<i>Notes</i>	All harvests of state forest timber must be conducted by Ohio Master Loggers.								

	2010-2014 Requirement	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap</u>	<u>Likely Conf.</u>
16.1.5	<u>Forestry enterprises shall have a program for the use of certified logging professionals (where available) and qualified logging professionals.</u>								J
<i>Notes</i>	All harvests of state forest timber must be conducted by Ohio Master Loggers.								

	2010-2014 Requirement	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap</u>	<u>Likely Conf.</u>
16.2	<b>Program Participants shall work <u>individually and/or</u> with SFI Implementation Committees, logging or forestry associations, or appropriate agencies or others in the forestry community to foster improvement in the professionalism of wood producers.</b>								J
<i>Notes</i>	Ohio Division of Forestry has been involved in the Ohio SIC for several years.								

	2010-2014 Requirement	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap</u>	<u>Likely Conf.</u>

16.2.1	<p>Participation in or support of SFI Implementation Committees to establish criteria and identify delivery mechanisms for wood producers' training courses that address:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. awareness of sustainable forestry principles and the SFI program;</li> <li>b. best management practices, including streamside management and road construction, maintenance and retirement;</li> <li>c. reforestation, <u>invasive exotic plants and animals</u>, forest resource conservation, aesthetics, and <u>special sites</u>;</li> <li>d. awareness of responsibilities under the U.S. Endangered Species Act, the Canadian Species at Risk Act, and other measures to protect wildlife habitat (e.g. <u>Forests with Exceptional Conservation Value</u>);</li> <li>e. logging safety;</li> <li>f. <u>U.S. Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) and Canadian Centre for Occupational Health and Safety (COHS)</u> regulations, wage and hour rules, and other provincial, state and local employment laws;</li> <li>g. transportation issues;</li> <li>h. business management;</li> <li>i. public policy and outreach; and</li> <li>j. <u>awareness of emerging technologies</u>.</li> </ul>								J
<b>Notes</b>	Ohio Division of Forestry has been involved in the Ohio SIC for several years. Agency personnel have significant involvement in logger education and are also involved with the Ohio Forestry Association								

	<b>2010-2014 Requirement</b>	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap</u>	<u>Likely Conf.</u>
--	------------------------------	--------------	----------	------------	------------	------------	------------	-----------------------	-------------------------

<p>16.2.2</p>	<p><u>Participation in or support of SFI Implementation Committees to establish criteria for recognition of logger certification programs, where they exist, that include:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><u>a. completion of SFI Implementation Committee recognized logger training programs and meeting continuing education requirements of the training program;</u></li> <li><u>b. independent in-the-forest verification of conformance with the logger certification program standards;</u></li> <li><u>c. compliance with all applicable laws and regulations including responsibilities under the U.S. Endangered Species Act, the Canadian Species at Risk Act and other measures to protect wildlife habitat;</u></li> <li><u>d. use of best management practices to protect water quality;</u></li> <li><u>e. logging safety;</u></li> <li><u>f. compliance with acceptable silviculture and utilization standards;</u></li> <li><u>g. aesthetic management techniques employed where applicable; and</u></li> <li><u>h. adherence to a management or harvest plan that is site specific and agreed to by the forest landowner.</u></li> </ul>								<p>J</p>
<p><i>Notes</i></p>	<p>Ohio Division of Forestry has been involved in the Ohio SIC for several years.</p>								

**Objective 17. Community Involvement in the Practice of Sustainable Forestry.**

To broaden the practice of sustainable forestry by encouraging the public and forestry community to participate in the commitment to sustainable forestry, and publicly report progress.

	2010-2014 Requirement	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap</u>	<u>Likely Conf.</u>
17.1	<b>Program Participants shall support and promote efforts by consulting foresters, state, provincial and federal agencies, state or local groups, professional societies, <u>conservation organizations, indigenous peoples and governments, community groups, sporting organizations, labor, universities, extension agencies, the American Tree Farm System® and/or other landowner cooperative programs to apply principles of sustainable forest management.</u></b>								J
<i>Notes</i>	All field staff is expected to provide information and education opportunities to the public. They are supported by the ODOF's Communications Team and by the Ohio Department of Natural Resources' Public Relations Group.								

	2010-2014 Requirement	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap</u>	<u>Likely Conf.</u>
17.1.1	Support, <u>including financial</u> , for efforts of SFI Implementation Committees.								J
<i>Notes</i>	Ohio Division of Forestry has been involved in the Ohio SIC for several years.								

	2010-2014 Requirement	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap</u>	<u>Likely Conf.</u>
17.1.2	Support for the development of educational materials for use with forest landowners ( <u>e.g. information packets, websites, newsletters, workshops, tours, etc.</u> ).								J
<i>Notes</i>	Foresters have been involved in Annual tours (Tar Hollow State Forest Project Learning Tree). There are 4 forest management demonstration areas.								

	2010-2014 Requirement	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap</u>	<u>Likely Conf.</u>

17.1.3	Support for the development of regional, state or provincial information materials that provide forest landowners with practical approaches for addressing <u>special sites</u> and biological diversity issues, such as <u>invasive exotic plants and animals</u> , specific wildlife habitat, <u>Forests with Exceptional Conservation Value</u> , and threatened and endangered species.							J	
<b>Notes</b>	The information provided to the audit team does not fully meet the indicator; supplemental information might close this gap. In-house landowner assistance for invasives mgmt thru a USFS grant is currently in-progress on the private lands side of the Forestry Division. There is no specific landowner outreach on special sites or Forests with Exceptional Conservation Value.								

	<b>2010-2014 Requirement</b>	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap</u>	<u>Likely Conf.</u>
17.1.4	Participation in efforts to support or promote conservation of managed forests through voluntary market-based incentive programs such as current-use taxation programs, Forest Legacy Program or conservation easements.								J
<b>Notes</b>	Ongoing efforts to purchase the Vinton Experimental Forest (50 year history of research and demonstration) and add it to the Ohio State Forest system. This will be a Forest Legacy project. Ohio DNR manages the Ohio Forest Legacy Program. The Nature Conservancy works closely with ODOF on forest conservation issues.								

	<b>2010-2014 Requirement</b>	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap</u>	<u>Likely Conf.</u>
17.1.5	Program Participants are knowledgeable about credible regional conservation planning and priority-setting efforts that include a broad range of stakeholders and have a program to <u>take into account the results of these efforts in planning</u> .								J
<b>Notes</b>	Foresters know about the relevant parts of the Ohio State Wildlife Action Plan (SWAP). . The US Forest Service, Ohio Division of Wildlife, and The Nature Conservancy all work with ODOF on forest conservation issues, particularly planning and large-landscape issues.								

	<b>2010-2014 Requirement</b>	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap</u>	<u>Likely Conf.</u>
17.2	<b>Program Participants shall support and promote, at the state, provincial or other appropriate levels, mechanisms for public outreach, education and involvement related to sustainable forest management.</b>								J
<b>Notes</b>	See indicator below.								

	<b>2010-2014 Requirement</b>	Audit -or	<b><u>C</u></b>	<b><u>EXR</u></b>	<b><u>Maj</u></b>	<b><u>Min</u></b>	<b><u>OFI</u></b>	<b><u>Likely Gap</u></b>	<b><u>Likely Conf.</u></b>
17.2.1	Periodic educational opportunities promoting sustainable forestry, such as a. field tours, seminars, <u>websites</u> , <u>webinars</u> or workshops; b. educational trips; c. self-guided forest management trails; d. publication of articles, educational pamphlets or newsletters; or e. support for state, provincial, and local forestry organizations and soil and water conservation districts.								J
<b>Notes</b>	Information and education activities occur on most of the state forests. A list of educational activities over past few years was provided. Consider demonstration of good forestry to be a major goal of the entire state forest management program. Use signs and other methods to promote the spread of best practices. Division of Forestry Communications Team; Division of Forestry Communications Strategy. Forestry Advisory Council								

	<b>2010-2014 Requirement</b>	Audit -or	<b><u>C</u></b>	<b><u>EXR</u></b>	<b><u>Maj</u></b>	<b><u>Min</u></b>	<b><u>OFI</u></b>	<b><u>Likely Gap</u></b>	<b><u>Likely Conf.</u></b>
17.3	<b>Program Participants shall establish, at the state, provincial, or other appropriate levels, procedures to address concerns raised by loggers, consulting foresters, employees, <u>unions</u>, the public or other Program Participants regarding practices that appear inconsistent with the SFI Standard principles and objectives.</b>								J
<b>Notes</b>	Involvement in Ohio SFI Implementation Committee was confirmed; unknown level of involvement with the committee's Inconsistent Practices Program.								

	<b>2010-2014 Requirement</b>	Audit -or	<b><u>C</u></b>	<b><u>EXR</u></b>	<b><u>Maj</u></b>	<b><u>Min</u></b>	<b><u>OFI</u></b>	<b><u>Likely Gap</u></b>	<b><u>Likely Conf.</u></b>
17.3.1	Support for SFI Implementation Committees (e.g. toll free numbers and other efforts) to address concerns about apparent nonconforming practices.								J
<b>Notes</b>	Ohio Division of Forestry has been involved in the Ohio SIC for several years.								

	<b>2010-2014 Requirement</b>	Audit -or	<b><u>C</u></b>	<b><u>EXR</u></b>	<b><u>Maj</u></b>	<b><u>Min</u></b>	<b><u>OFI</u></b>	<b><u>Likely Gap</u></b>	<b><u>Likely Conf.</u></b>
17.3.2	Process to receive and respond to public inquiries. <u>SFI Implementation Committees shall submit data annually to SFI Inc. regarding concerns received and responses.</u>								J

<i>Notes</i>	Managers follow-up on complaints; record-keeping regarding complaints varies. Formal appeals process is used, generally be experienced activists.
--------------	---

**Objective 18. Public Land Management Responsibilities.**

To promote and implement sustainable forest management on public lands.

	<b>2010-2014 Requirement</b>	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap</u>	<u>Likely Conf.</u>
<i>18.1</i>	<b>Program Participants with forest management responsibilities on public lands shall participate in the development of public land planning and management processes.</b>								J
<i>Notes</i>	ODOF solicits input from the general public on management decisions, generally through its regional open house process. At these open houses the public can review plans at all three levels (strategic, state forest, and annual work plans). These documents have recently also been made available in advance of the open house. Completed plans are posted on the division's web site.  Also ODOF sought formal input on the new Strategic Plan developed to guide State Forest management for the upcoming 2-5 years.								

	<b>2010-2014 Requirement</b>	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap</u>	<u>Likely Conf.</u>
<i>18.1.1</i>	Involvement in public land planning and management activities with appropriate governmental entities and the public.								J
<i>Notes</i>	Open houses are regularly held at each state forest (see above). Public has opportunity to provide input at that time. Open houses are advertised locally and featured on the Division of Forestry's web site.								

	<b>2010-2014 Requirement</b>	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap</u>	<u>Likely Conf.</u>
<i>18.1.2</i>	Appropriate contact with local stakeholders over forest management issues through state, provincial, federal or independent collaboration.								J
<i>Notes</i>	See description of open house process above. During the certification audit the process will be investigated further.								

	<b>2010-2014 Requirement</b>	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap</u>	<u>Likely Conf.</u>
<i>18.2</i>	<b>Program Participants with forest management responsibilities on public lands shall confer with affected indigenous peoples.</b>								J

<i>Notes</i>	See indicator below.
--------------	----------------------

	<b>2010-2014 Requirement</b>	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap</u>	<u>Likely Conf.</u>
18.2.1	Program that includes communicating with affected indigenous peoples to enable Program Participants to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. understand and respect traditional forest-related knowledge;</li> <li>b. identify and protect spiritually, historically, or culturally important sites; and</li> <li>c. address the use of non-timber forest products of value to indigenous peoples in areas where Program Participants have management responsibilities on public lands.</li> </ul>								J
<i>Notes</i>	There are no federally-recognized Indian tribes in Ohio. The ODOF is working to locate and identify representatives of extirpated tribes that were formerly found in Ohio.								

**Objective 19. Communications and Public Reporting.**

To broaden the practice of sustainable forestry by documenting progress and opportunities for improvement.

	2010-2014 Requirement	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap</u>	<u>Likely Conf.</u>
19.1	<b><u>A Certified Program Participant shall provide a summary audit report, prepared by the certification body, to SFI Inc. after the successful completion of a certification, recertification or surveillance audit to the SFI 2010-2014 Standard.</u></b>								N.A.
Notes	N.A. until after the audit is conducted and the report is completed.								

	2010-2014 Requirement	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap</u>	<u>Likely Conf.</u>
19.1.1	The summary audit report submitted by the <i>Program Participant</i> (one copy must be in English), shall include, at a minimum, <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. a description of the audit process, <i>objectives</i> and scope;</li> <li>b. a description of substitute <i>indicators</i>, if any, used in the audit and a rationale for each;</li> <li>c. the name of <i>Program Participant</i> that was audited, including its SFI representative;</li> <li>d. a general description of the <i>Program Participant's</i> forestland and manufacturing operations included in the audit;</li> <li>e. the name of the <i>certification body</i> and <i>lead auditor</i> (names of the <i>audit team</i> members, including <i>technical experts</i> may be included at the discretion of the <i>audit team</i> and <i>Program Participant</i>);</li> <li>f. the dates the certification was conducted and completed;</li> <li>g. a summary of the findings, <u>including general descriptions of evidence of conformity</u> and any nonconformities and corrective action plans to address them, opportunities for improvement, and exceptional practices; and</li> <li>h. the certification decision.</li> </ul>								N.A.
Notes	Not applicable during scoping.								

	<b>2010-2014 Requirement</b>	Audit -or	<b><u>C</u></b>	<b><u>EXR</u></b>	<b><u>Maj</u></b>	<b><u>Min</u></b>	<b><u>OFI</u></b>	<b><u>Likely Gap</u></b>	<b><u>Likely Conf.</u></b>
19.2	<b>Program Participants shall report annually to SFI Inc. on their conformance with the SFI 2010-2014 Standard.</b>								N.A.
<i>Notes</i>	Not applicable during scoping.								

	<b>2010-2014 Requirement</b>	Audit -or	<b><u>C</u></b>	<b><u>EXR</u></b>	<b><u>Maj</u></b>	<b><u>Min</u></b>	<b><u>OFI</u></b>	<b><u>Likely Gap</u></b>	<b><u>Likely Conf.</u></b>
19.2.1	Prompt response to the SFI annual progress report.								N.A.
<i>Notes</i>	Not applicable during scoping.								

	<b>2010-2014 Requirement</b>	Audit -or	<b><u>C</u></b>	<b><u>EXR</u></b>	<b><u>Maj</u></b>	<b><u>Min</u></b>	<b><u>OFI</u></b>	<b><u>Likely Gap</u></b>	<b><u>Likely Conf.</u></b>
19.2.2	Recordkeeping for all the categories of information needed for SFI annual progress reports.								J
<i>Notes</i>	ODOF obtained an SFI annual progress reporting survey and determined that the appropriate information is being collected.								

	<b>2010-2014 Requirement</b>	Audit -or	<b><u>C</u></b>	<b><u>EXR</u></b>	<b><u>Maj</u></b>	<b><u>Min</u></b>	<b><u>OFI</u></b>	<b><u>Likely Gap</u></b>	<b><u>Likely Conf.</u></b>
19.2.3	Maintenance of copies of past reports to document progress and improvements to demonstrate conformance to the SFI 2010-2014 Standard.								N.A.
<i>Notes</i>	Not applicable during scoping.								

**Objective 20. Management Review and Continual Improvement.**

To promote continual improvement in the practice of sustainable forestry, and to monitor, measure and report performance in achieving the commitment to sustainable forestry.

	<b>2010-2014 Requirement</b>	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap</u>	<u>Likely Conf.</u>
20.1	<b>Program Participants shall establish a management review system to examine findings and progress in implementing the SFI Standard, to make appropriate improvements in programs, and to inform their employees of changes.</b>								J
<i>Notes</i>	The management review system, while not fully implemented as yet to deal with SFI Certification, appears ready to meet the requirements. ODOF is waiting for the results of this scoping report to complete the management review.								

	<b>2010-2014 Requirement</b>	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap</u>	<u>Likely Conf.</u>
20.1.1	System to review commitments, programs and procedures to evaluate effectiveness. <u>Note: For multi-site programs the auditing requirements of Section 9 or the ISO requirements must be followed; at a minimum internal audits or monitoring that spans all sites and addresses the relevant part of the SFI Standard is expected.</u>								J
<i>Notes</i>	The Strategic Plan / 5 year forest specific plan / Annual Work Plan process is used, in part, to review the effectiveness of existing programs. The Integration Committee – is a review process for all plans and selected high-risk activities that involves program heads with ODOF. 20-yr compartment review process done by foresters. Post-activity inspection forms are reviewed and signed off by supervisors.								

	<b>2010-2014 Requirement</b>	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap</u>	<u>Likely Conf.</u>
20.1.2	System for collecting, reviewing, and reporting information to management regarding progress in achieving SFI 2010-2014 Standard objectives and performance measures.								J
<i>Notes</i>	ODOF has assigned Chad Sanders the lead staff role for assessing the division’s ability to conform to the SFI Standard. He works closely with the ODOF leadership in this effort.								

	<b>2010-2014 Requirement</b>	Audit -or	<u>C</u>	<u>EXR</u>	<u>Maj</u>	<u>Min</u>	<u>OFI</u>	<u>Likely Gap</u>	<u>Likely Conf.</u>
20.1.3	Annual review of progress by management and determination of changes and improvements necessary to continually improve conformance to the SFI 2010-2014 Standard.								J
<i>Notes</i>	Required prior to certification audit; ODOF plans to use scoping reports as part of the management review process.								

