

2021 SFI® Public Summary Report

Washington State Department of Natural Resources Sustainable Forestry Initiative® (SFI) Forest Management Standard [2015-2019]

Date: August 29, 2021

Project Scope and Objectives

PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP (“PwC”) completed a Maintenance Assessment on Washington Department of Natural Resources’ (“the Company” or “DNR”) Forest Management (“FM”) activities across the State of Washington for the Central Office located in Olympia, WA and 6 regional units: South Puget Sound, Pacific Cascade, Northwest, Olympic, Northeast and Southeast. The Lead Assessor was James Lucas, MF, RPF, EMS (LA) with Khoi Mai, PwC Assessor in Training and Jenny Knoth, MS, PhD, Assessor. Due to COVID-19 the office portion of the Assessment was conducted remotely while all field assessments were conducted on-site. The Assessment team was assisted by the DNR’s SFI Representative, Nicole Jacobsen.

The primary objective of the Assessment was to assess the Company’s forest management system and to evaluate the Company’s implementation of the SFI Forest Management Standard in the field.

Client Profile

The Washington State Department of Natural Resources (“DNR”) employs approximately 1,400 full-time, part-time, seasonal, and temporary employees. DNR manages 5.6 million acres of public lands including approximately 2.4 million acres of forestlands and natural areas. Most of these lands are managed for trust beneficiaries to produce revenue in support of public schools, state institutions, and county services. DNR-managed Natural Resources Conservation Areas (“NRCAs”) and Natural Area Preserves (“NAPs”) protect unique and threatened native ecosystems and provide educational and research opportunities.

Currently, all DNR-managed forested state trust lands, as well as all NAPs and NRCAs on forested state trust lands in Washington State are certified under the SFI Forest Management Standard. DNR-managed forested trust lands offer local markets a continuous flow of wood that supports Northwest mills and woodworkers. Having some of the most commercially productive forests in the United States, DNR works to ensure that forest products are managed and harvested to protect core environmental and social values.

Indicators

All the indicators in the SFI Forest Management Standard were within the scope of the assessment. There were no substitute indicators.

Assessment Process

Between October 19th-22nd, 2021, the assessment team conducted interviews, reviewed appropriate documentation to assess policies and procedures, and tested the implementation of SFI program requirements in the field. On October 19th the assessment team conducted a remote review of the DNR SFI FM program. On October 20th and 21st on-site field reviews were conducted for the Pacific Cascade (“PC”) and South Puget Sound (“SPS”) regions. A closing meeting was held remotely on October 22nd. Field activities were assessed on a selected list of harvesting, road building, and silviculture sites on the managed land base. Additional review was done for recreational activities (both regions), cultural and historical resources (both regions) and the DNR’s natural areas programs in the SPS region. Additionally, Assessors reviewed records of pre-works, active inspections and close outs as well as interviewing DNR staff who administered the activities or were knowledgeable about the activities. The assessment team spent 2 days for the remote office assessment and 4 days for the field assessments. In total, 9 harvesting and road construction units and 5 different silviculture units were sampled during the 2021 assessment, with activities including site preparation, planting, PCT, herbicide application and various silviculture surveys. Additional sites were visited which highlighted the DNR’s Road Maintenance and Abandonment (“RMAP”) program as well as a recent stream restoration project. The audit report was dated September 5, 2021.

PwC uses a rotational audit approach where the central office is audited annually, and 2 regions are sampled annually on a 5-year rotating schedule that conforms to the International Accreditation Forum Inc.’s Mandatory Document 1.

Summary of Conformance, Findings, and Good Management Practices

FOREST MANAGEMENT

SFI Forest Management Objective	Evidence of Conformity
<p>Objective 1. Forest Management Planning To ensure forest management plans include long-term sustainable harvest levels and measures to avoid forest conversion</p>	<p><i>Not reviewed in 2021. Information below based on 2020 assessment.</i></p> <p><i>Evidence: Interviews with DNR staff, Review of Alternatives for the Establishment of a Sustainable Harvest Level, 2019 State Lands Report, Sustainable Harvest Level Presentation (Dec 3, 2019), and 2018 HCP Annual Report.</i></p> <p>DNR manages 5.6 million acres of public lands including approximately 2.4 million acres of forestlands and natural areas. Most of these lands produce revenue in support of public schools, state institutions, and county services. DNR has a fiduciary obligation to generate revenue from these lands for trust beneficiaries while managing them sustainably in perpetuity. Management activities on forested state trust lands are subject to the State Environmental Policy Act (“SEPA”).</p> <p>The DNR models their harvest levels in 10-year steps for 10 decades using an inventory that is updated every 2 years and Growth & Yield data that is updated at least every 10 years. The DNR has a sophisticated land classification system incorporating over 80 GIS layers. The Habitat Conservation Plan (“HCP”) is one example of their landscape-level biodiversity plans.</p> <p>Forest inventory plot data is continually being collected as part of their Remote Sensing-Forest Resource Inventory System (“RS-FRIS”). Ground plots are sampled to collect more detailed data at the smaller plot sizes. This data is then correlated to the remote sensing (Lidar and PhoDAR) information to generate stand-level inventory approximations. Air photos are captured on a 2-year interval to supplement Lidar and plot data for inventory updates. Growth and Yield analysis is updated at least every 10 years to support the sustainable harvest level calculation. This process incorporates cruise data along with inventory plot data collected based on federal Forest Inventory Analysis sampling methodologies.</p>

	<p>The primary repository for tracking all silviculture and timber harvest activities is the DNR’s Land Resource Manager (“LRM”) database. All documentation pertaining to a timber sale and regulatory compliance is stored in the Timber Sale Document Center (“TSDC”) on the DNR’s intranet site. LRM entries are initiated based on a timer harvest and all future surveys and activities are automatically populated and scheduled. Budgetary requirements ensure LRM is kept up to date and all activities are conducted in a given fiscal year.</p> <p>The DNR occasionally converts small areas of forest to develop recreation infrastructure. The conversions for recreation purposes provide social benefit while also protecting ecological integrity by concentrating users in controlled areas. The development of infrastructure for recreation sites is rare and must align with the overall management objectives of the DNR.</p> <p>The DNR's riparian enhancement conversions are not converting forest lands to another land use. The conversions for recreational infrastructure provide recreational opportunities, help protect sensitive areas, and enhance social benefit.</p>
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No Nonconformities or Opportunities for Improvement were identified related to this performance measure.

<p>Objective 2. Forest Health and Productivity To ensure long-term forest productivity, carbon storage and conservation of forest resources through prompt reforestation, afforestation, minimized chemical use, soil conservation, and protecting forests from damaging agents.</p>	<p><i>Evidence: Interview with silviculture staff, SFI Indicator Document, 2020-21 Silviculture Reports, WAC Reforestation Regulations, Research and Monitoring Program, Various Procedures from DNR Forestry Handbook - Young Stand Surveys, IPM Procedure</i></p> <p>All forestry harvest activities are well documented. The legal minimum is 190 trees per acre (“tpa”) at 5 years across all Regions but the DNR currently plants at 400 tpa or more. Each stand has a silvicultural prescription stored in the sale file. The prescription describes current stand and physical site characteristics and the treatment including future management steps (planting, spray, surveys) as well as bare land discounted cash flow at 5% and 7%. The overall stand history and treatments are also captured in LRM. Another tool (data cubes) pulls data from LRM and can run a variety of reports for the land base such as yearly harvest treatments at the county level. Species planted include: Ponderosa pine, lodgepole pine, Douglas fir, western larch, white pine, spruce and western red cedar. Planting generally occurs the year after harvest and all lands are restocked in 2 years if planted.</p> <p>Each stand gets a 1-year survival survey which documents regeneration quantity and quality. Procedures for surveying young stands are documented in the DNR Guideline 14-006-010. The results of surveys are documented in LRM. Currently, LRM requires the user to capture species, natural and planted trees per acre, survival, and any notes (competition and damage) for "Survival Surveys". This is the case for other (FG or Free Growing) surveys.</p> <p>DNR uses a variety of silviculture systems, from partial retention and shelterwoods to even-aged management. The type of operation depends on the type of forest including the amount of advanced regeneration in the stand. Based on field observation, the immature stands (if any) will be used as leave areas or excluded from harvest operations where present. Harvests are mainly Variable Retention Harvests (“VRH”) with some thinnings.</p> <p>The DNR has procedures for the use of chemicals. Treatment is up to the discretion of the Silviculture Forester and/or Intensive Management Forester in each region, who works with the Unit Forester to document current and future treatments. Treatment options are described in the "Site Preparation & Vegetation Management" procedure (PR14-006-040). The goal is to limit chemical use where possible and rates are at the label dosage or less. Sprays are largely manual with only Pacific Cascade currently using aerial spraying, which is preferred over manual due to cost and worker safety considerations.</p> <p>The DNR uses Integrated Pest Management (“IPM”) including a variety of ground and aerial herbicide applications plus mechanical treatment of brush in some cases. Each unit is reviewed on a case by case basis and prescriptions are created to control competition and minimize cost. Other manual techniques are used including hand slashing.</p>
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	<p>Many DNR staff are licensed applicators and all contractors are licensed. Stand treatment records were reviewed for multiple files and include both DNR and contractor license numbers. These are legally required for each activity under various contracts including site prep, manual or aerial, or release treatment. All activities are supervised by qualified DNR staff. Herbicide use procedures are documented in TK - 14-006-020. A variety of protective measures are in place including: chemical handling requirements, training, notification requirements for adjacent landowners, site signage, PPE, spill prevention and management, and emergency assistance.</p> <p>DNR have soils maps and processes to identify soil types in the field.</p> <p>Water bars and erosion control measures are used across the Regions for erosion management on forest roads. Many examples of use of Best Management Practices (“BMP’s”) were seen in the field. Contracts specify soil disturbance criteria (e.g. 6 inches depth and maximum area) within harvest units. The actual disturbance size allowed is dependent on the activity and the soil types.</p> <p>Foresters are on-site frequently to monitor soil conditions during and at the end of harvest activity. Post-harvest inspections assess conditions and contractors are required to address soil disturbance if it exceeds contract specifications.</p> <p>The DNR has its own seed orchard and tree nursery. They are involved in progeny trials across the land base and are members of a variety of seed and tree improvement research cooper. Seed transfer guidelines are documented in the State.</p>
<p><i>No Nonconformities were identified related to this performance measure. One Opportunity for Improvement was identified related to this performance measure.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The DNR uses a variety of techniques to ensure retention patches or adjacent forest fringes are protected from wind fall post-harvest. These techniques include harvest design using a prevailing winds model as well a cutting larger stream buffers to achieve windfirming. The DNR may wish to consider additional techniques such as tree pruning and heli-windfirming which has been shown to be effective in similar jurisdictions. 	
<p>Objective 3. Protection and Maintenance of Water Resources To protect the water quality of rivers, streams, lakes, wetlands and other water bodies through meeting or exceeding best management practices.</p>	<p><i>Evidence: Interviews with DNR Division staff, various District level staff, SFI Indicator Document , HCP 2020 Annual Report, DNR Forest Roads Guidebook, WAC Forest Roads Regulations, Various Procedures from DNR Forestry Handbook, Access records for bridge and record inspections for various areas.</i></p> <p>The DNR is subject to the WA State Forest Practices Rules that cover harvesting, road management and BMPs including audits by DNR Forest Practices compliance foresters. In addition, all DNR timber sales are conducted via contracts that specify legal compliance and are closely supervised by DNR State Lands contract administrators. All sales include: pre-work start up reviews, ongoing active harvest inspections and final close out inspections to ensure that contract compliance is met.</p> <p>The DNR has an organized and efficient road and bridges inspection process. The Forest Roads Guidebook is the manual for DNR roads management. Region Engineers direct work on roads undertaken by contractors or DNR roads staff. Reviewed the Road Maintenance and Abandonment Plan (“RMAP”) program with a Regional Engineer. All fixes have been completed with a few minor upgrades to be implemented including one recent issue found in 2020 which was not on the original list. All bridges and crossings have been inventoried and documented inspections are conducted in specified years. Issues found during inspections are addressed in a priority manner to ensure safety and environmental standards are not compromised.</p> <p>Road construction procedures are documented in the Forest Roads Guidebook, a technical guide to road construction and maintenance on state-managed land. The guidebook has</p>

	<p>recently been updated (2018) and is geared towards new engineering staff (forestry engineering or civil) as a "how to" guide. Most road building is conducted in conjunction with timber sale activities. DNR has six Region Engineers (1 for each Region) that have staff at each Region office (ex: 4 staff in South Puget Sound). District Engineers help to design and implement roads activities for all timber sales. Additionally, roads engineers carry out maintenance activities, bridge and culvert inspections and support larger projects where they can. The DNR also has a roads crew at each region (2-5 staff) who carry out roads maintenance activities across the land base. In total, the DNR has 14,000 miles of road on State Lands and all roads are inspected to determine condition of fish crossings and other structures. In addition to road building and maintenance, the DNR has a roads "deactivation and abandonment" mandate that it carries out in areas where activities won't be scheduled for many years or in the case of non-compliant roads (stream adjacent or unstable roads). DNR is in the second round of a long-term (7 year) roads and culvert inspections project. Bridges and culverts are inspected on a 1-2 year time horizon.</p>
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No Nonconformities were identified related to this performance measure. One Opportunity for Improvement was identified related to this performance measure.

- DNR staff in various regions have developed inspection/survey tools in the Survey 1,2,3 platform which are innovative and user friendly. These tools include bridge and culvert inspections in the South Puget Sound Region as well as recreation interaction surveys in the Pacific Cascade Region. The DNR could consider how to share these innovative tools with other staff members to encourage their deployment in other Regions.

Objective 4. Conservation of Biological Diversity

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 successful stages, and the conservation of forest plants and animals, including aquatic species, as well as threatened and endangered species, Forests with Exceptional Conservation Value, old-growth forests and ecologically important sites.

Evidence: Interviews with DNR staff. Review of Special Concerns Documentation, HCP Implementation and Monitoring Program Overview, Wildlife Habitat Policies, sample of harvest unit files.

The DNR's HCP is an extensive plan to conserve and enhance biodiversity and Threatened & Endangered ("T&E") species. Focal species are marbled murrelet and northern spotted owl but other T&E species include: northern goshawk, and bald eagles among others. Species and habitat specific plans are in place regionally across the state.

The DNR has forest cover and inventory data based on Lidar, air photo and ground plot information. In response to listed or priority species, DNR manages habitat types to ensure no net loss of suitable habitat. For threatened and endangered species such as lynx, they operate special management zones on State lands. In these areas they communicate with neighbors to ensure habitat is maintained, replaced, or enhanced.

During timber sale planning, foresters communicate with Region Wildlife Biologists to determine if any additional assessments or management constraints are required for an area. Foresters and Biologists will assess areas on the ground when there is a chance of certain priority species being identified. Riparian assessments are conducted in the unit planning phase and the DNR has a comprehensive GIS database which lists areas of ecological significance and riparian features.

DNR-managed Natural Resource Conservation Areas ("NRCA's") and Natural Areas Program ("NAP's") protect unique and threatened native ecosystems and provide educational and research opportunities. The DNR is continuously updating the information contained in the Natural Heritage program GIS layer and documenting occurrences of noxious weeds on state lands in the LRM database.

No Nonconformities or Opportunities for Improvement were identified related to this performance measure.

<p>Objective 5. Management of Visual Quality and Recreational Benefits</p> <p>To manage the visual impact of forest operations and provide recreational opportunities for the public.</p>	<p><i>Evidence: Interviews with DNR staff. Review of Visual Management Procedure PR-14-004-080, Forestry Handbook, and site visit and file review for various timber sales, SFI annual report 2020.</i></p> <p>Reviewed in the field in 2021. The DNR has a two-level approach to visual management: harvest unit level and viewshed level. Particular attention is paid in areas that can potentially be seen from significant highways and other high traffic or highly populated locations. Visual quality is considered in the early stages of harvest unit planning. When there are potential concerns along highway corridors, efforts are made to retain a visual screen in front of the unit. For areas with local residence or stakeholders, consultations take place to determine what concerns (if any) they have pertaining to visual management. To lessen the visual impact of harvest units, the DNR implements a number of possible approaches including leave strip buffers, strategically designed unit boundaries, in-block retention patches, and/or scattered single stem retention.</p> <p>The DNR has procedures in place limiting their maximum harvest unit size to 100 acres when the resulting plantation will be an even aged stand. This can be exceeded in exceptional circumstances such as forest health concerns or salvage. There is no unit-size limitation for thinning/shelterwood style harvests. If a proposed regeneration harvest will exceed 100 acres, additional reviews and approvals must take place. In 2020, the average even-age management unit size was 43 acres.</p> <p>Records of harvest unit size are maintained in several places. Individual sale folders contain prescriptions, contracts, plans and maps that all indicate harvest unit size. This information is also stored in the TSDC. The DNR's GIS system contains geospatial data of all harvest units. The LRM documents each unit area and the schedule of activities on a unit by unit bases.</p> <p>During the initial planning stages of a harvest unit the responsible forester will conduct an assessment of the proposed unit boundaries and what proportion of the boundary will abut against plantation less than 5 years of age. The DNR's GIS database can be queried to identify neighboring harvest units of specific age ranges to determine conformance with green up requirements.</p> <p>State law (WAC 222-30-25) regulates the size and timing of even aged harvest openings. Forest practices rules require that the perimeter of an even aged harvest unit is at least 30% bordered by trees 30 years of age or older, at least 60% bordered by trees 15 years of age or older, or at least 90% bordered by trees that are either 5 years of age or older or an average of at least four feet tall. No violations of this rule were identified during harvest unit file reviews or field visits.</p> <p>DNR develops trail networks for motorized (4x4, quads, and dirt bikes) and non-motorized (hikers, mountain bikers, and equestrians) users. These trail networks are typically segregated for safety purposes and clustered into geographic regions to ensure users keep to the appropriate trails. In total, DNR manages approximately 1,100 miles of trails and 160 acres of recreation sites. The DNR is in the process of developing a new campground and the DNR worked with a local mountain bike club and harvesting contractors to identify leave trees, and to design and build trails in areas with active logging.</p>
<p><i>No Nonconformities were identified related to this performance measure. One Opportunity for Improvement was identified related to this performance measure.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • While visuals management was well done on one timber sale in the Hood Canal District, in discussions with the forester responsible for the unit, it was unclear whether this unit would have triggered a visual assessment. This timber sale might be a good one to review against the DNR's visuals management policy and program and determine whether the site might be a good one to use as an education opportunity for DNR staff and the policy itself. 	

<p>Objective 6. Protection of Special Sites To manage lands that are geologically or culturally important in a manner that takes into account their unique qualities.</p>	<p><i>Evidence: Review of Cultural resource policy, GIS layers and management plans.</i></p> <p>The DNR maintains a "Special Concerns Tool" which queries ~80 GIS layers including Natural Heritage Data. Meetings take place annually with tribes to identify sacred sites that may be present in the annual harvest plan. Special sites on DNR land primarily consist of cultural and archeological sites. Some historic sites are present, mainly associated with past logging. These features include abandoned steam donkeys, railroad beds and trestles. All existing and newly discovered special sites are mapped and incorporated in their GIS system and flagged in the development of management plans in accordance with state law that prevents the disclosure of archaeological site locations. These features are protected when identified. DNR has several cultural resource policies in place, and at each district one or more foresters are trained and certified as cultural resource technicians. This role involves reviewing management plan proposals and providing direction regarding protection specifications.</p>
<p><i>No Nonconformities or Opportunities for Improvement were identified related to this performance measure.</i></p>	
<p>Objective 7. Efficient Use of Fiber Resources To minimize waste and ensure the efficient use of fiber resources.</p>	<p><i>Evidence: Interviews with DNR staff. Review of Forestry Handbook, Timber Sale Contract Handbook, and site visit and file review for various timber sales.</i></p> <p>The DNR's contracts for timber sales include clauses to ensure utilization targets are met. These include rights of contract administrators to halt operations if they deem utilization is insufficient. Utilization is discussed during pre-work meetings and specified in clauses of timber sale contracts.</p>
<p><i>No Nonconformities or Opportunities for Improvement were identified related to this performance measure.</i></p>	
<p>Objective 8. Recognize and Respect Indigenous Peoples' Rights To recognize and respect Indigenous Peoples' rights and traditional knowledge.</p>	<p><i>Evidence: Interviews with DNR staff. Review of Statutory requirements, Commissioner's order, Cultural resource and indigenous people Policies, and various agreements and MOU's with tribes.</i></p> <p>State law and the Commissioner's order mandate the DNR's relationship/policies regarding interactions with tribes. Government to Government relationships are recognized and implemented. The DNR conforms to laws addressing protection of indigenous peoples' rights.</p> <p>Tribes act as reviewers of the DNR's SEPA documents and Forest Practice applications for timber harvests and major planning efforts on State Lands. Cedar bark harvests and tribal vehicle access agreements are examples of the DNR's support to tribal interests.</p> <p>The DNR has staff Archeologists and approximately 50 trained Cultural Resource Technicians. Regions are encouraged to contact tribes early and often during the harvest planning process to head off any potential issues. Formal referrals are conducted during the SEPA announcement process. Tribal communication also take place at the Government to Government level between the Commissioner for public lands plus Tribal relations director and the tribal leaders when necessary.</p> <p>Along with DNR's SEPA center, the State Lands Archeologists and the Tribal Liaison are the main avenues of communication with tribes. Specialists regularly confer with tribes to understand their interests, concerns and needs. Cultural resource management on State Lands is closely linked with the WA State Department of Archeological and Historic Preservation, who maintains a spatial database of features of cultural interest to tribes.</p>
<p><i>No Nonconformities or Opportunities for Improvement were identified related to this performance measure.</i></p>	
<p>Objective 9. Legal and Regulatory Compliance</p>	<p><i>Not reviewed in 2021. Information below based on 2020 assessment.</i></p> <p><i>Evidence: Interview with staff, SFI Indicator Document , HCP 2018 Annual Report, Forest Roads Guidebook, WAC Forest Regulations</i></p>

<p>To comply with applicable federal, provincial, state, and local laws and regulations.</p>	<p>All forest operations staff are aware of WA State forest practices rules and frequently attend training. The DNR’s State Lands management staff frequently helps draft proposed state legislation. DNR has a strong system to achieve compliance with all laws and regulations. Staff are well trained and educated to carry out compliant management activities. All activities are underwritten by strong legal contracts. Contracts require all bidders to be qualified under the Washington State Contract Logger Association (“WCLA”) training for on-site crew supervision, and all activities are closely monitored by DNR foresters who conduct pre-work meetings, active inspections and close out inspections to ensure compliance with forest practices rules. Additionally, DNR Forest Practices compliance officers conduct spot checks during operations and close out inspections on State Lands timber sales as they would any other forestland manager in the state.</p> <p>DNR use the Forest Practices Application Review (“FPAR”) system to track compliance issues across the organization. In the Olympic & Northwest Regions, there have been 7 Notices to Comply (violations) since 2017. Operators are the timber harvest bidders and the DNR work with them to ensure all compliance issues are addressed. The FPAR system shows the entire approved Forest Practice Application, NTC and remedial action online.</p> <p>The DNR has a policy in place to comply with all applicable social laws at all levels (PO01-001 equal opportunity and non-discrimination addresses workers’ rights). ILO Core Conventions are addressed in policies for Collective Bargaining, Trafficking and the elimination of all forms of forced or compulsory labor, Wages and Working Conditions of Minors and Equal Opportunity/ Non-discrimination in respect of employment and occupation.</p>
<p><i>No Nonconformities or Opportunities for Improvement were identified related to this performance measure.</i></p>	
<p>Objective 10. Forestry Research, Science and Technology To invest in forestry research, science and technology, upon which sustainable forest management decisions are based and broaden the awareness of climate change impacts on forests, wildlife and biological diversity.</p>	<p><i>Evidence: Review of DNR membership in research cooperatives includes vegetation management (OSU), stand management (UW) tree improvement (OSU, UI), center for intensive planted-forest silviculture, Intermountain forestry cooperative (UI), Hardwood silviculture (OSU), Inland NW Growth and Yield (U MT) and Adaptive Management Database.</i></p> <p>The Olympic Experimental State Forest (“OESF”) is used as a research forest for in-house DNR projects as well as outside researchers from University of Washington and other organizations. The Mission is to provide conduct research and monitoring to balance revenue and economic values. Findings are communicated through newsletters, conferences and the OESF website.</p> <p>The DNR is an active member of the Washington SFI Implementation Committee (“SIC”) and provides administrative support for the organization. DNR Forest Practices also provides a Forest Practices Compliance monitoring report for the SIC and supported the Family Forests Office and species information sheets. Additionally, DNR provides quarterly Economic Revenue Forecasts.</p> <p>The DNR has numerous natural resource specialists who maintain current information and report on forest health, risk analyses, HCP implications, and sustainable harvest implications analyses. Forest health specialists and climate change scientists monitor and participate in climate change research.</p> <p>The DNR recently (February, 2020) released a Climate Resiliency strategy which has been informed by both internal and external research. The DNR’s forest health programs include pathology and entomology specialists who consider effects of climate change as it relates to these problem areas. Consequences of climate change are part of the HCP and sustainable harvest calculations statewide. A climate change resilience process is ongoing to develop a long-term climate change strategy.</p>

	<p>The DNR has designated staff to maintain current information on climate change effects relative to state lands and has produced or contributed to a number of peer-reviewed papers on effects of climate change relative to wildfire, wildlife habitat, and sustainable management in NW forests. Climate change implications are being built into the developing marbled murrelet strategy.</p>
<p><i>No Nonconformities or Opportunities for Improvement were identified related to this performance measure.</i></p>	
<p>Objective 11. Training and Education To improve the implementation of sustainable forestry practices through appropriate training and education programs.</p>	<p><i>Evidence: Interviews with DNR staff. Review of DNR website, Strategic Plan 2018-2021, DNR training videos, upcoming training schedule, DNR's Learning Management System, Forestry Handbook, Timber Sale Contract Handbook, Master Logger website (http://loggers.com/master-logger-program/), and site visit and file review for various timber sales.</i></p> <p>The DNR has committed to maintaining third party certification across all of their forestland. This commitment can be found in their 2018-2021 Strategic Plan as well as on their website. Currently they have 2.4 million acres certified under SFI and 176,000 acres dual certified to SFI and FSC. The DNR has one full-time position (Forest Certification Program Lead) responsible for maintaining their forest management certifications.</p> <p>The DNR has implemented an adaptive and comprehensive training program, with a focus on keeping staff learning throughout their careers. They are continuing to develop training videos for internal and public audiences (YouTube), and are designing their courses to ensure participants stay engaged through videos and interactive participation. Basic courses are required for new hires with some requiring annual attendance. Additional courses are offered on intermediate and advanced topics depending on an individual's role and responsibilities. These are all tracked and/or mandated through the Learning Management System. Each employee has an individual learning plan which the DNR's State Lands Training Manager and their own Supervisor helps to support.</p> <p>The WCLA administers a Master Logger Program ("MLP"), a voluntary education program that accredits individual loggers and the company they represent. The program is designed to exceed the training requirements set out by the Washington State SIC and requires 4 days of coursework in silviculture and ecology, safety and compensation, forest practices act and regulations, and business management. In addition, Master Loggers must maintain valid first aid certification and complete continuing education requirements.</p> <p>All DNR timber sale contracts require proof of Master Logger or Onsite Supervisor Certification for a company to work as a prime harvesting contractor. Contract requirements state that a "Purchaser shall have at least one person on-site during active operations that have completed training according to the requirements outlined within the SFI program Standard."</p> <p>DNR staff are active participants in the Washington SIC which publishes brochures and white papers on a range of topics impacting forest management. Educational efforts include offering college scholarships and working with the Washington Contract Loggers Association on the Master Logger Program.</p> <p>In order to maintain Master Logger certification, participants are required to complete 8 hours of qualifying continuing education training per year. Credits can be banked so loggers who complete more than 8 hours per year are able to extend their MLP certification expiry out for multiple years.</p>
<p><i>No Nonconformities or Opportunities for Improvement were identified related to this performance measure.</i></p>	
<p>Objective 12. Community Involvement and</p>	<p><i>Evidence: Interviews with DNR staff, DNR SFI compliance matrix, past SFI annual reports</i></p>

<p>Landowner Outreach To broaden the practice of sustainable forestry through public outreach, education and involvement, and to support the efforts of SFI Implementation Committees.</p>	<p>The DNR supports the WA State SFI SIC through in-kind donations. The DNR’s Forest Certification Program Lead is the SIC Secretary and Webmaster and DNR pays for the web domain for the WA SIC.</p> <p>The DNR have supported a large variety of conservation planning efforts within the State including the following: WA State Natural Heritage Plan - 2007 Plan, 2009 & 2011 updates, and 2018 plan. Other publications include: Field Guide: Managing Wetlands on State Forest Lands in Washington (June 2000), Guide: Recognizing Wetlands and Wetland Indicator Plants on Forests in Washington (June 2000), Brochure: Identifying Mature and Old Forests in Western Washington by Robert Van Pelt, June 2007 (old growth) (Linked to on DNR’s external “Identifying Mature and Old Forests in Washington webpage), Brochure: Identifying Old Trees and Forests in Eastern Washington by Robert Van Pelt, September 2008 (old growth) (Linked to on DNR’s external “Identifying Mature and Old Forests in Washington webpage), Seed Zone Info: Manual: WA Tree Seed Transfer Zones (Summer 2002), Field Guide for Identifying Stream Channel Types and Habitat Units in Western Washington (2015).</p> <p>SIC Participation: The DNR Forest Certification Program Lead is the Secretary and Webmaster for the WA SIC. Examples of support for documenting inconsistent practices, co-developing and distributing SIC agendas and meeting highlights, developing and posting SIC brochures regarding inconsistent practices, a white paper on a verifiable auditing / monitoring program, a WA SIC resources list, WA Contract Loggers Association Master Logger Program training curriculum, and WA SIC Annual Reports including a roll-up of inconsistent practices reporting.</p>
<p><i>No Nonconformities were identified related to this performance measure. One Opportunity for Improvement was identified related to this performance measure.</i></p>	
<p>Objective 13. Public Land Management Responsibilities To participate and implement sustainable forest management on public lands.</p>	<p><i>Not reviewed in 2021. Information below based on 2020 assessment.</i></p> <p><i>Evidence: Interviews with DNR staff, DNR SFI compliance matrix, SFI planning processes</i></p> <p>All DNR State Lands are public lands and the public has a variety of means to be involved in the development of plans. All major planning documents go through a public consultation process. There are a wide array of procedures/methods for soliciting public feedback on State Lands activities including: soliciting public comment on timber sales through the SEPA process and the Forest Land Planning Public Process which conducts outreach with a wide variety of stakeholders and incorporates stakeholder feedback into management approaches.</p>
<p><i>No Nonconformities or Opportunities for Improvement were identified related to this performance measure.</i></p>	
<p>Objective 14. Communications and Public Reporting To increase transparency and to annually report progress on conformance with the SFI 2015-2019 Forest Management Standard.</p>	<p><i>Evidence: Interviews with DNR staff, DNR SFI compliance matrix, 2020 and past SFI annual reports</i></p> <p>All past SFI public summary reports are posted on DNR’s public website (https://www.dnr.wa.gov/programs-and-services/product-sales-and-leasing/timber-sales/forest-certification) and on the SFI website.</p>
<p><i>No Nonconformities or Opportunities for Improvement were identified related to this performance measure.</i></p>	
<p>Objective 15. Management Review and</p>	<p><i>Evidence: Interviews with DNR staff, DNR SFI compliance matrix, various communication processes.</i></p>

<p>Continual Improvement To promote continual improvement in the practice of sustainable forestry by conducting a management review and monitoring performance.</p>	<p>Management continually solicits and gathers information from staff and then makes improvements to DNR’s management systems. Meetings include: regular internal staff meetings, Senior Leadership meetings, Forest Resource Division Leadership Team meetings and All-Hands meetings, State Lands Operational Team meetings, Regional Management/Division Management meetings and various specialists’ meetings.</p> <p>Regular public input meetings (in addition to project-specific meetings) include: Monthly Board of Natural Resources meetings, Annual Tribal Summits and an Annual Culvert Injunction Report from Engineering.</p>
<p><i>No Nonconformities or Opportunities for Improvement were identified related to this performance measure.</i></p>	

Specific Good Management Practices are noted below:

- The DNR have developed a timber sale “snapshot” summary which presents key details of each timber sale operation including retention, habitat and important research features, future stand treatments and economic impact of each harvest. This summary helps to explain the planning process that goes into each sale and helps to build social license for its activities.
- The DNR use “sorts” sales help to maximize utilization and timber revenue for trustees and other stakeholders.
- The DNR have been planting red alder as an alternate species and in the last full calendar year planted more than 100 acres to this species.
- The DNR have an in-house tree genetics program which has been outplanting various seed types to observe response to climate change. DNR have worked with other landowners to do the same on their properties, if they are willing to participate in the study.
- In the Pacific Crest Recreation District, staff have developed a tool within Survey 1,2,3 which will allow recreation officers to track public interactions with user groups and includes a live dashboard feature for Supervisors.
- The road abandonment project and fish restoration projects on the Amicable and Abernathy rivers were examples of good stewardship and cooperative working relationships with other stakeholders across the DNR landbase.
- The bridge installation on one isolated road shows a good working relationship with an adjacent landowner and helped to achieve efficient outcomes for a previously inaccessible timber sale.
- On a number of timber sale units and restoration activities, the level of cooperation between agency specialists (biologists, engineers, recreation officers) at the DNR was apparent and led to positive outcomes on the ground.
- DNR staff efforts to understand and document land use history in the Hood Canal District help to direct efforts to identify and protect resource features in the area.

Conclusion

The Company has maintained conformance with the requirements of the Sustainable Forestry Initiative Forest Management Standard [2015-2019]. The Certificate can be obtained by contacting Nicole Jacobsen of Washington's Department of Natural Resources at (360) 902-1788. More information on the DNR's sustainable forestry program can be found at: <https://www.dnr.wa.gov/> or <https://www.dnr.wa.gov/programs-and-services/product-sales-and-leasing/timber-sales/forest-certification>.

The next SFI Assessment will be a Maintenance Assessment and is planned for October, 2022. The registration expires on September 13, 2023.