Bureau Veritas Certification
North America, Inc.
SFI Forest Management Audit Report

16800 Greenspoint Park Dr., Suite 300 S
Houston, TX 77060
Phone (281) 986-1300: Toll Free (800) 937-9311

Company Name	Washington State Department of Natural Resources
Contact Person	Tracy Petroske
Address	1111 Washington St. SE, P.O. Box 47014, Olympia, WA 98504-7016
Phone / Fax	360-280-3820
PQC Code	E01E
Contract Number	18650854

Certification Audit:		Re-Certification Audit:		Surveillance Audit:	2	Scope extension audit:	

Audit Summary

Introduction

This report documents the 2025 surveillance audit of Washington State Department of Natural Resources (DNR) forest management program to the requirements of the SFI® 2022 Forest Management Standard – Section 2. The audit was undertaken May 12th-15th, 2025.

The audit evaluated performance against the requirements in the SFI 2022 Forest Management Standard – Section 2. Of note, the South Puget Sound upland region is also certified to the FSC® Forest Management Standard.

The audit was led by Sarah Bros, R.P.F., a professional forester with over 40 years' experience working in the forest industry in Canada, including 10+ years as an FSC/SFI Lead Auditor. She was accompanied by Brian Callaghan, a professional forester with more than 40 years of forestry experience working for government and forest industry in Canada including more than 25 years as an FSC/SFI Lead auditor.

Audit Scope, Objectives, and Process

The scope is Forest Management in Washington, for this surveillance audit the focus was on DNR's forest management program in the Southeast and Northeast Regions. The objective of the audit is to verify Washington DNR's conformance to the requirements of the SFI® 2022 Forest Management Standard – Section 2. All objectives and performance measures were audited as part of the surveillance audit as this is a multi-site audit.

Standard protocols and forms as found in the Bureau Veritas Certification SFI Auditor Handbook were applied throughout the verification. Prior to the audit, the auditor selected sites in both regions to be sampled based on management activities.

The opening meeting of the audit was held at the Washington Department of Natural Resources Forest Resources Division, Natural Resource Building (NRB) office in Olympia, WA on Monday, May 12th, at 8:30 am. Representatives from DNR attended the meeting in-person and virtually. The scope of the audit and logistics of the audit plan were discussed as well as the schedule for the audit. Field sites to be visited during the audit were confirmed. The closing meeting time and location was confirmed for May 15th, 2025 at 11:30 am at the DNR Region office in Ellensburg, WA.

Upland Regions

Audit Plan

An audit plan was prepared and submitted to DNR in advance of the audit. One half-day with two auditors (equivalent to 1 person-day) was spent on document review and 3 days (two audit tours each day, equivalent to 7 person-days) were spent visiting field sites. A copy of the audit plan is retained on file at Bureau Veritas office in Houston, Texas.

Documents reviewed during the audit included:

- Forest management plan
- Reforestation plans and monitoring reports/assessments.
- Herbicide use (previous audit year or this year prior to audit)
- Pest management
- Consultation/communication/complaint logs with stakeholders, Indigenous peoples, and communities
- Forest management contracts (e.g., logging, planting, spray, survey)
- Policies and procedures (e.g., health & safety, SOPs)
- Science programs/research and community outreach
- Harvest records (average size of clearcut)
- Training records
- Management review

Company Information

The Washington State Department of Natural Resources manages 5.6 million acres of forest, range, agricultural, aquatic, and commercial lands; 2.4 million acres are forested state trust lands or state forest lands. To manage this work effectively, DNR has 11 divisions, each focused on a specific business area, and 6 management regions (see map below), all located in the state of Washington. Per the DNR 2023 Annual Report, the forest lands, through direct sales, leases and other revenue generate more than $474,312 million a year, much of it to support public schools, state institutions, and county services.

Multi-Site Requirements

DNR is a multi-site organization headquartered in Olympia, WA where program policies and procedures are drafted and conformance is monitored and reported. In addition, there are six region offices which implement and manage upland forest activities as guided by DNR's Policy for Sustainable Forests, the State Forest Practices Act, the State Environmental Policy Act, and other guiding policies and procedures. Other documents that guide forest management on the certified lands include the Trust Lands Habitat Conservation Plan, Forest Land Plans, and the Sustainable Harvest Calculations for the east and west sides of the Cascade Mountains.

For multi-site certifications, a site sampling method is generally used. The number of sites to be audited is equal to the square root of the number of sites x 0.8. Based on this sampling method, two of the six regions (sites; see below) are audited each year, on a three-year rotation. The surveillance audit plan for 2024 included field tours of the Pacific Cascade and South Puget Sound regions. Each region or site is audited on a three-year basis and these two regions were last audited in 2022. DNR is in conformance with all multi-site requirements.

Multi-Site	X	Group Certification	

Sites	Sites Audited During this Event
Olympia, WA (Central Office)	X
Northeast Region	X
Northwest Region	
Olympic Region	
Pacific-Cascade Region	
Southeast Region	X
South Puget Sound Region	

Audit Results

Objective 1- Forest Management Planning: Management of DNR forested trust lands are guided by DNR's Policy for Sustainable Forests, the Washington Forest Practices Act, the State Environmental Policy Act, and other guiding policies and procedures where applicable, such as the State Trust Lands Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) and Sustainable Harvest Calculations.

These policies, regulations, and planning documents include objectives and/or consideration for habitat, RTE species management, water and wetland protection, forest conditions, riparian, roads, recreation, cultural values, fish, aesthetics, adaptive management, air quality, and carbon sequestration while recognizing DNR has a fiduciary duty to generate revenue from these lands. DNR-managed state trust lands provide revenue to support public institutions such as construction of public K-12 schools and state universities. In addition, DNR-managed state forest lands provide funding services in many counties and contribute to the state General Fund.

The HCP is a multi-decade landscape-level plan specifically developed to protect habitat for at-risk species, such as the northern spotted owl and other plants and animals, while carrying out forest management and other revenue-producing activities.

Long-term sustainable harvest levels are required to be calculated every 10 years as per DNR policy PO-14-004. However, the last east side SHL was 1996-2006. Auditors could not find evidence that DNR had Board of Natural Resources approval to continue using the 1996 SHL for the interim. A **minor non-conformance** issued in 2024, under Indicator 1.1.4, was closed during the audit. Both the eastern and western side of the Cascades are currently revising their sustainable harvest level (SHL) with a completion date of early 2027. Future audits will check in on the status of the SHL. The Remote Sensing-Forest Resource Inventory System (RS-FRIS) is used in the calculation of the sustainable harvest level, is updated annually with forest inventory information, and is also updated at least every 2 years with forest change data (e.g., reforestation). Growth and yield data and analysis is updated prior to sustainable harvest calculations.

DNR maintains a database of all timber harvest activities and silvicultural activities, including seed orchards. The database, the Land Resource Manager (LRM), allows the user to query information for reporting or follow-up. The LRM also populates, and schedules future or follow-up work based on a "timer" field in the database. Timber sales documentation and regulatory compliance is stored electronically on DNR's intranet site, the Timber Sales Document Center (TSDC). This has become an effective tool for Contract Administrators while in the field. The TSDC tracks planned, sold, and completed timber sale documents since 2009. It also includes a forest management document library and functions as a central clearing house for all timber sale related documents.

DNR occasionally converts small areas for communication leases. These leases bring additional revenue to the trusts and comprise less than 1% of the certified forest.

Objective 2 - Forest Health and Productivity: DNR uses a variety of silvicultural systems to manage Trust lands. The systems used include Variable Retention Harvest (VRH), shelterwood, thinning, and even-aged harvest systems. All harvest areas are regenerated within 2 years of harvest completion. Per Washington Forest Practices Rules, reforestation of westside harvest area

is required to have 190 trees per acre within 1 growing season. Currently, DNR plants at 300-400 trees/acre. Species planted include Douglas fir, Western Larch, Western White Pine, Spruce, Ponderosa Pine, Western Red Cedar and recently, Red Alder. Stock survival surveys are conducted the year after planting, and vegetation competition surveys are 2 years post-plant. When reforestation efforts do not meet the minimum stocking levels, the site is replanted. DNR has a procedure (GL 14-006-010) for surveying young stands that is aligned with the Forest Practices Act procedures for reforestation. Free to grow surveys are conducted at year five post plant. All survey results are recorded in the LRM, and the new information is updated in RS-FRIS.

DNR pesticide application records provide evidence that the applications were completed in compliance with label and legal requirements. No overspray or drift was observed.

Where herbicides are required to achieve management objectives, hand backpack spraying of site preparation and release herbicide mixes are used. DNR's policy is to use the minimum amount of chemical necessary to accomplish control objectives. The least toxic and lowest application rate required to control target species is used. Spray work is conducted by licensed contractors under the supervision of DNR foresters that are licensed applicators. All chemicals applied are registered and labeled for use in the State of Washington. DNR does not use chemicals on the WHO list of prohibited chemicals. All BMP's associated with chemical use were implemented in both regions audited. DNR implements IPM (Integrated Pest Management) strategies. Examples include hand-slashing in lieu of chemical application in select areas and hand-pulling of invasive weed species.

DNR has detailed soils maps that identify soil types and unstable soils and have procedures to minimize impacts to soils during harvest activities. Skid trails viewed during the audit were consistent with direction to maintain soil productivity and health. DNR is required to leave 8 trees/acre for retention during harvesting. Observations during the audit found this requirement was met.

DNR's Forest Resilience Division "*works across all lands to ensure forested ecosystems retain their resilience against disturbance mechanisms such as fire, insects, and diseases. Forest Resilience also monitors Washington forests to see how they are adapting to climate change, increasing drought severity, and more severe heat waves*." Since 2021, DNR has been conducting prescribed burns as a critical silvicultural tool in forest restoration and reducing wildfire risk. The audit observed 2 prescribed burns (see pic below) on different sites that were conducted to meet the goals of the DNR Prescribed Fire Program.

DNR manages 2 seed orchards and operates a nursery which supplies nearly all the trees planted on state forest trust lands. This supply is considered improved stock.

Objective 3 - Protection and Maintenance of Water Resources: Forest management activities in Washington state are subject to the state Forest Practices Act and associated rules including harvesting, roads, water protection and best management practices. The DNR Forestry Handbook outlines all procedures, processes, guidelines and supporting documents related to forest management activities. As an example, there are procedures for protecting water courses during harvesting or road building and rules around operating in wet weather on slopes. Timber sales and silviculture contracts include applicable procedures or processes from the Forestry Handbook including the use of best management practices (BMPs). Auditors observed adherence to BMPs on all sites visited during the audit.

DNR has more than 14,000 miles of road on state lands and these roads are inspected regularly for issues and integrity/condition of road surface and water crossings. Most of these roads are permanent and most are open to the public. Some roads are gated where there are issues or where stakeholders have requested the road be closed to the public. Some roads get decommissioned under the road deactivation and abandonment mandate, when it has been determined the road is not needed for many years or where maintaining the road may be unstable in the long-term. Auditors observed an excellent example of a bridge replacement on Bird Creek. DNR worked with the local Tribe to move the position of the bridge abutments to prevent future log jams and improve the habitat for fish species.

Objective 4 - Conservation of Biological Diversity: The HCP provides a long-term strategy for protecting and enhancing rare, threatened, and endangered (RTE) species habitat. Specifically, DNR has conservation strategies for Marbled murrelet, northern spotted owl, and old growth forest. Other RTE species include northern goshawk, bald eagle, Taylor's checkerspot butterfly, and Quinault fawn-lily. The Forestry Handbook contains procedures and policies for the identification of RTE species habitat, and old growth characteristics.

The RS-FRIS contains data on forest cover based on LiDAR, and air photos supplemented with ground-based plot data. DNR uses this data to manage habitat types used by RTE species. DNR has set aside special management zones, removing these areas from timber sales to meet habitat objective strategies. All proposed timber harvests are reviewed by regional wildlife biologists prior to going up for auction. All foresters and/or contract administrators interviewed by the auditors were well versed in, for example, identification of old growth characteristics. Regional biologists will, when required or requested, assess timber sale areas for special habitat types. In the Northeast Region, DNR does not have a policy or procedure to protect northern goshawk. On one audit site, DNR biologists worked with DNR forestry staff to design a timber sale to protect the northern goshawks fledglings and to improve their habitat.

DNR works actively to control the spread of invasive species through silvicultural practices and also through public education. DNR uses a combination of herbicides and manual hand pulling to control invasive species.

Assessments in riparian areas are also conducted during the planning phase and results are used to update the GIS database with ecological significance and riparian features. DNR has a program to restore and enhance riparian reserves.

The Natural Areas Preserves and Natural Resource Conservation Areas protect "outstanding examples" of RTE species habitats and threatened native ecosystems. These areas provide educational and research opportunities for the public. Auditors observed one example of a Natural Resource Conservation Area protecting a significant forested wetland.

Objective 5 - Management of Visual Quality and Recreational: The Forestry Handbook has a Visual Impacts Policy and Visual Management Procedure that is used when stakeholder

consultation has identified a concern. The requirements for visual aesthetics are included in the Timber sale contract in the placement of landings, harvest layout, and roads. DNR employs a variety of methods to achieve visual aesthetics including in-block retention patches or single tree retention, leave strips, variable block boundaries that enhance visual aesthetics.

The maximum harvest block size is 100 acres (40 ha) for even-aged forest management. This size limit can be exceeded for fire salvage or forest health concerns. There are no block size limits for shelterwood or thinning harvest prescriptions. The audit did not view any salvage operations or blocks larger than 100 acres.

DNR has a well-organized and diverse recreation program to satisfy the variety of outdoor enthusiasts. DNR has a public Interactive Recreation Map (IRM) that allows users to explore recreation areas (see pic below). Currently, the recreation program manages 180 sites, including 80 campgrounds, and manages more than 1200 miles and 32,000 acres of designated recreation areas. DNR's recreation managers and staff work with several recreation groups (e.g., ATV clubs) to maintain and assist with the construction of trails. DNR partners with programs such as youth corps to build new recreation trails. Auditors viewed both motorized ATC, dirt bike and 4X4 trails bike trails, and non-motorized mountain bike, horseback riding and hiking trails during the audit. DNR also manages primitive campsites on state trust forest lands. Many DNR roads and recreation trails are freely accessible, but some parking areas require the daily or annual purchase of a Discover Pass. Auditors noted DNR signage at recreational areas that explain the link between sustainable forest management, revenue for the community, and wildlife management. Many recreational trails provide opportunities for bird watchers as well.

Objective 6 - Protection of Special Sites: The Natural Heritage Program provides a link between science and conservation in the state. DNR recently launched a public GIS map information portal, Washington Natural Heritage Program Data Explorer, with the listing and location of rare species and ecosystems found in the state.

DNR is responsible for the consultation with local tribes and the protection of cultural values. The Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation (DAHP) is the state regulatory agency to guarantee those consultations and protections occur. DNR has policies and procedures around protection of cultural values and recently updated the procedure (PR14-004-010) on Discovery of Skeletal Remains or Cultural Resources. DNR maintains a confidential GIS layer of historic, archaeologic, and cultural sites. All new sites are verified, catalogued, mapped, and included in the GIS layer. During planning, these areas are flagged in the GIS layer. As per state law, these sites are protected by preventing the disclosure of their location. In each upland region, there is at least one trained and certified Cultural Resource Technician (CRT) who reviews timber sales and plans prior to approval. These sites are also reviewed by the state lands archeologist. The CRT and staff archeologists are available to verify a cultural resource if previously unidentified sites are found on a

timber sale. Proposed timber sales are also reviewed by the Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation prior to posting the sale for auction.

Objective 7 - Efficient Use of Fiber Resources: Timber sale contracts include clauses to ensure utilization targets are met. DNR conducts slash pile burning and mastication to manage harvest residue. Auditor observations included examples of successful slash pile burning and forest abatement treatments using a masticator and saws to remove woody ground vegetation and reduce vertical fuels as a requirement to reduce wildfire risk on State lands. DNR's Forest Resilience Division works to ensure healthy forests and forest resilience to disease, insects, fire, and climate change. The Division is also tasked with putting prescribed burning back into the silvicultural toolbox. Observations included 2 prescribed burn sites to restore native tree species and control noxious weeds and other vegetative competition.

Objective 8 - Recognize and Respect Indigenous People's Rights: The Washington state Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation is responsible for implementing Executive Order 2102, which emphasizes tribal consultation. DNR meets regularly with Tribes in the state to discuss issues and concerns. DNR has a comprehensive program related to tribal relations, including multiple policies and procedures; these are publicly available on DNR's external facing Tribal Relations website. Staff are offered regular training in tribal relations. There are 3 archeologists on staff and approximately 50 certified Cultural Resource Technicians (CRTs). All timber sales reviewed during the audit contained correspondence with affected tribes. Auditors heard that staff are encouraged to reach out to tribes early in the timber sale planning process. Documentation provided to the auditors demonstrates that, during planning for the HCP EIS, tribes were provided opportunities to review the EIS. Formal opportunities are provided through the SEPA process. Auditors heard prior to a bridge replacement on Bird Creek, DNR staff reached out to the local Tribe for any comments/concerns that resulted in repositioning the bridge abutments farther back from the creek edge to avoid future log jams and improve fish passage.

Objective 9 - Climate Smart Forestry: DNR has a well thought out climate strategy that was adopted in 2020. The 20-Year Forest Health Strategic Plan is DNR's strategy for improving forest health and reducing wildfire risk in central and eastern Washington. The Climate Resilience Plan highlights actions DNR can take in response to projections that suggest Washington will experience increased temperatures and decreased precipitation during the growing season. The development of the 2020 Forest Action Plan involved the collaboration of multiple agencies and organizations. The 2020 Forest Action Plan details the analysis conducted on DNR lands and lays out the strategic action for each discipline. DNR reports annually to SFI on their climate change actions and the reports are also publicly available on their website.

Objective 10 - Fire Resilience and Awareness: DNR launched its prescribed fire program in 2021 aimed at creating a more resilient future forest. The prescribed fire program falls under DNR's Forest Resilience Division. DNR views prescribed fire as a critical tool in achieving objectives in the Forest Health Strategic Plan: Eastern Washington. The prescribed fire program includes training to increase the number of prescribed burn fire managers. Observations on 2 prescribed burns conducted in Southeast Region showed excellent results in reducing harvest slash, woody vegetation and promoting native tree species regeneration.

DNR's Wildland Fire Management Division is the state's wildfire fighting force, responding to fires on more than 13 million acres of private and state-owned forest lands. Wildland Fire Management is responsible for interagency fire training. They also provide fire prevention and education programs aimed at the public, including community awareness about the risks of wildfires. Observations during the audit noted cell towers on State lands are equipped with advanced AI driven detection cameras. The cameras have significantly improved fire detection capabilities and brings the technology to the practitioner and, for this reason, a **notable practice** is issued.

Objective 11- Legal and Regulatory Compliance: As a state agency, DNR must comply with all relevant laws and regulations. DNR has a strong system to achieve compliance with all laws and

regulations that impact forest management. DNR staff interviewed during the audit were aware of these laws and regulations, especially the Forest Practices Act and rules. DNR staff receive training related to state legislation. DNR uses SEPA and the Forest Practices Application Review system (FPARS) as a public review process. DNR carries out compliance monitoring on all forest management activities and reports annually in the Forest Regulation Compliance Monitoring Report.

Timber sale and silviculture contracts contain language requiring conformance to state laws and regulations. For example, timber sale contracts require all bidders to be qualified under the Washington State Master Logger Program. Additionally, in 2015 the Washington State Logger Safety Initiative (LSI) was formed which promotes occupational safety in the logging industry. Logging contractors interviewed were members of LSI and had completed the Master Logger program, as required. Contracts also include a clause regarding no harassment. Washington state has equal pay and opportunities legislation. Additionally, Washington state has a Human Rights Commission that enforces the state law against discrimination. DNR has an equal opportunity and non-discrimination policy (PO 01-001) that delineates workers' rights.

Objective 12 - Forestry Research, Science and Technology: The Olympic State Experimental Forest (OESF) is a "working forest and living laboratory". DNR and a variety of agencies, universities, scientific partners, and external organizations carry out operational research trials in the OESF. DNR uses the OESF in an integrated approach of revenue generation, from timber sales, and research, to achieve the objectives in the HCP. Results of research are shared through newsletters, presentations, online videos, conferences and the OESF website.

DNR is an active member (participant) of the Washington SFI Implementation Committee (WASIC). DNR participates in regular meetings. WASIC partners have developed a fact sheet on species and communities of special concern, a landowner's guide to sustainable forestry practices in Washington, and the Master Logger Program. DNR programs (e.g., Natural heritage program) and information are cited on the WASIC website.

DNR has policies and procedures for regeneration assessments, growth and drain assessments, best management practices, and compliance regulations under the Forest Practices Rules. DNR has a Landowner Assistance tab on their website and programs to assist family forest owners. DNR reports annually to the Board of Trustees on the social, cultural, and economic benefits of the state trust lands. Under the HCP, DNR undertakes monitoring of landscape-level biodiversity assessments to meet objectives in the HCP. Auditors were impressed that DNR has adopted the use of drone technology in the Pacific Cascade Region to monitor activities such as silviculture treatments, recreation trails and illegal activities.

Objective 13 - Training and Education: DNR's commitment to SFI can be found on DNR's website on their certification page. Currently, there are 2.450 million acres (991,507 ha) of state-managed trust lands certified to SFI. One part-time position manages DNR's forest management certification program.

DNR has comprehensive and accessible online and in-person training opportunities for all staff. Some DNR training videos are publicly available on YouTube. DNR also uses promotional videos to encourage participation in training sessions for the public or staff, such as Prescribed Burn Manager training. Newly hired staff are required to take health and safety training in addition to DNR background training. Some training requirements are repeated annually. DNR staff have individual learning plans commensurate with their roles and responsibilities. Training records are tracked in the DNR Learning Management System.

DNR requires qualified logging professionals accredited through the Master Logger Program (MLP). This program is administered through the Washington State Contract Loggers Association. The program includes 4 days of coursework including silviculture, ecology, health and safety, and compensation. Master Loggers must maintain valid first aid certification and complete continuing education credits annually.

Timber sale contracts 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 Standard.”

DNR is an active participant in WASIC contributing to brochures and technical papers related to forest management. WASIC offers college scholarships and works with the Washington State Contract Loggers Association on the Master Logger program.

Objective 14 - Community Involvement and Landowner Outreach: As a member of WASIC, DNR contributes financially and with in-kind support through sharing DNR programs and technical advice to WASIC participants. DNR works collaboratively with the science community on a variety of research and conservation programs, such as the Natural Heritage Program. Many of these research projects and conservation programs have helped further conservation funding and funding for other programs.

DNR maintains a landowner assistance program that provides landowners with valuable information such as financial and technical assistance for fuels reduction, wildlife stewardship, and wildfire preparedness. DNR has a Small Forest Landowner office that aids small landowners to “protect and promote ecological and economic viability” of their forest. There is a financial assistance program available depending upon the landowner’s needs.

The DNR website main page has a “Contact Us” tab that allows the public to comment or submit a complaint to DNR.

Objective 15 - Public Land Management Responsibilities: All DNR state trust lands and state forest lands are public. The public has several opportunities for involvement at the planning stage and before forest management activities take place. The HCP includes a summary of the comments from the public and how those comments were incorporated into the final EIS. Prior to a timber sale, DNR staff reach out to adjacent landowners and communities in the vicinity of the timber sale. Other formal methods to gain public feedback prior to a timber sale is through SEPA process and the Forest Land Planning Public Process. The Forest Land Planning Process reaches out to a wide selection of stakeholders and incorporates any feedback into management. Also, some Boards and Committees include public members (e.g., Forest Practices Board, Board of Natural Resources).

Objective 16 - Communications and Public Reporting: Audit observations found all past SFI public summary reports, dating back to 2005, can be found on DNR’s website on the forest certification page (Forest Certification | WA - DNR). The current SFI summary report is also posted on the SFI website. DNR responds to the annual SFI survey and maintains and publishes copies of past surveys and reports as a demonstration of conformance to the 2022 SFI Forest Management Standard.

Objective 17- Management Review and Continual Improvement: DNR has a robust system for reviewing commitments and monitoring programs as well as procedures to evaluate the effectiveness of these programs. DNR reports annually to the Board of Trustees on each of the programs in terms of revenues, costs, and activities. DNR conducts effectiveness monitoring through the HCP, silvicultural monitoring, and northern spotted owl effectiveness monitoring. DNR also reports annually on timber regulation compliance monitoring. Internal reviews are conducted through the Forest Practices Board on proposed timber sales.

Outcomes of monitoring programs that result in changes to programs or procedures are communicated to staff through training and meetings. Meetings include regular staff meetings, “all hands” meetings, Manager-level meetings, Division meetings, State Lands Operations team meetings, and various specialist team meetings. Also, there are monthly Board of Natural Resources meetings, Trustee meetings, and annual Tribal summits.

Auditors found DNR's staff to be creative and innovative; willing to explore new avenues to achieve a better result or more cost-effective result. DNR, as an organization, seeks staff input and uses it to make improvements to their management systems.

Findings

Previous non-conformances: NC01, 1.1.4 was closed May 15, 2025. Both the eastern and western side of the Cascades are currently revising their sustainable harvest level (SHL) with a completion date of early 2027.

Non-conformances: There were no non-conformances issued this audit.

Opportunities for Improvement: There were no opportunities for improvement issued in the audit.

Notable Practices:

1) 1. ***10.1.2*** *Use of stand and landscape level management techniques, actions and/or policies to promote forest health and resilience, and to mitigate the likelihood of undesirable impacts of wildfire, such as, prescribed fire, cultural burning, thinning, or hazardous fuel reduction where appropriate based on risk.*
   Cell towers on the forest have been equipped with advanced AI driven detection cameras. This significantly improves fire detection capabilities and brings the technology to the practitioners. A Notable Practice is awarded.

Logo/label use:
Auditors reviewed logo and label use as DNR utilizes the SFI logo, words, and the abbreviation. All complied.

SFI reporting:
Auditors checked the SFI website to verify the previous audit report was submitted and posted. Auditors found the previous 2 audit reports are available on the SFI website. DNR has all SFI audit reports since 2005 on their website Forest Certification | WA - DNR.

Conclusions

A closing meeting was held on May 15th at 11:30 am in person and virtually with key DNR staff, including the Division Manager - Forest Resources, in the NE Region office, Ellensburg, WA. Auditors thanked DNR staff for their efforts on the audit. The Lead auditor gave an overview of the audit week specifically what audit work was completed to date. Each auditor spoke to their observations during the audit and presented any non-conformances, OFIs or notable practices. There were no non-conformances or OFIs issued in this audit and all findings from 2024 were closed during the audit. One notable practice was issued regarding the use of AI driven cameras on cell towers within DNR State lands, for early detection of wildfires.

The Lead auditor concluded the meeting with a recommendation for continued certification.

SEE SF61(s) FOR AUDIT NOTES

Summary of Audit Findings:									
Audit Date(s):	From: May 12, 2025					To: May 15, 2025			
Number of SF02's Raised:			Major:		0	Minor:	0		
Is a follow up visit required:	Yes		No	X	Date(s) of follow up visit:				
Follow-up visit remarks:									
Team Leader Recommendation:									
Corrective Action Plan(s) Accepted	Yes		No		N/A	X	Date:		
Proceed to/Continue Certification	Yes	X	No		N/A		Date:	15 May 2025	
All NCR's Closed	Yes		No		N/A	X	Date:		
Standard audit conducted against:									
1) SFIS 2022, Section 2		2)							
Team Leader (1):	Team Members (2,3,4…)								
Sarah Bros	2) Brian Callaghan								
Scope of Supply: (scope statement must be verified and appear in the space below)									
Forest Management in Washington									
Accreditation's	ANAB								
Number of Certificates									
Proposed Date for Next Audit Event									
Date	May 2026								
Audit Report Distribution									
WDNR: Tracy.Petroske@dnr.wa.gov									
Bureau Veritas Certification: lynda.lawler@.bureauveritas.com									

Clause	Audit Report
Opening Meeting	Participants: Tracy Petroske, Certification Manager and designated staff, Sarah Bros, Lead Auditor, Brian Callaghan, auditor Discussions: ➢ Introductions ➢ Scope of the audit ➢ Audit schedule/plan ➢ Nonconformance types – Major / Minor ➢ Review of previous nonconformances - 1 ➢ Process approach to auditing and audit sampling ➢ Confidentiality agreement ➢ Termination of the audit ➢ Appeals process ➢ Closing meeting timing
Closing Meeting	Participants: Tracy Petroske, Certification Manager and designated staff, Sarah Bros, Lead Auditor, Brian Callaghan, auditor Discussions: ➢ Introductions and appreciation for selecting Bureau Veritas Certification. ➢ Review of audit process - process approach and sampling. ➢ Review of OFIs and System Strengths ➢ Nonconformances - 0 ➢ Date for next audit. ➢ Reporting protocol and timing