

Sustainable Forestry Initiative® Forest Management Audit Report

Missouri Department of Conservation

Certificate #SCS-SFI/FM-010232

*SFI 2022 Standards and Rules®, Forest Management
3rd Surveillance Audit*

Audit Dates: 22 – 25 September 2025

Client Address	<u>2901 West Truman Blvd.; Jefferson City, MO 65109</u>
Client Contact	<u>Marty Calvert</u>
Client Website	<u>https://mdc.mo.gov/</u>

SCS Contact:

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Public Summary Report

SFI® Forest Management Standard

SECTION A – PUBLIC SUMMARY

Foreword

Organization of the Report

This report of the results of your audit assessment is divided into two sections. Section A provides the public summary and background information that is required by the Sustainable Forestry Initiative®. Section A is made available to the public and is intended to provide an overview of the audit process, the management programs and policies applied to the forest, and the results of the audit. Section A will be posted on the SFI website and Section B contains more detailed results and information for required SFI record-keeping or for use by the Certified Organization.

Principles of SFI Forest Management

The SFI 2022 Standards and Rules® Part 2 for Forest Management promotes sustainable forestry and includes measures to *protect water quality, biodiversity, wildlife habitat, species at risk and Forests with Exceptional Conservation Value.*

The 17 SFI Principles for Forest Management are:

Objective 1. Forest Management Planning.

To ensure forest management plans include long-term sustainable harvest levels and measures to avoid forest conversion or afforestation of ecologically important areas.

Objective 2. Forest Health and Productivity. T

To ensure long-term forest productivity and conservation of forest resources through prompt reforestation, afforestation, deploying integrated pest management strategies, minimized chemical use, soil conservation, and protecting forests from damaging agents.

Objective 3. Protection and Maintenance of Water Resources.

To protect the water quality and water quantity of rivers, streams, lakes, wetlands, and other water bodies.

Objective 4. Conservation of Biological Diversity

To maintain or advance the conservation of biological diversity at the stand- and landscape- level and across a diversity of forest and vegetation cover types and successional stages including the conservation of forest plants and animals, aquatic species, threatened and endangered species, Forests with Exceptional Conservation Value, old-growth forests and ecologically important sites.

Objective 5. Management of Visual Quality and Recreational Benefits.

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

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.

Objective 7. Efficient Use of Fiber Resources.

To minimize waste and ensure the efficient use of fiber resources.

Objective 8. Recognize and Respect Indigenous Peoples' Rights.

To recognize and respect Indigenous Peoples' rights and traditional knowledge.

Objective 9: Climate Smart Forestry

To ensure forest management activities address climate change adaptation and mitigation measures.

Objective 10. Fire Resilience and Awareness

To limit susceptibility of forests to undesirable impacts of wildfire and to raise community awareness of fire benefits, risks, and minimization measures.

Objective 11. Legal and Regulatory Compliance

To comply with all applicable laws and regulations including, international, federal, provincial, state, and local.

Objective 12. Forestry Research, Science and Technology.

To invest in research, science, and technology, upon which sustainable forest management decisions are based.

Objective 13. Training and Education.

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

Objective 14. Community Involvement and Landowner Outreach.

To broaden the practice of sustainable forestry through public outreach, education, and involvement, and to support the efforts of SFI Implementation Committees.

Objective 15. Public Land Management Responsibilities.

To participate and implement sustainable forest management on public lands.

Objective 16. Communications and Public Reporting

To increase transparency and to annually report progress on conformance with the SFI Forest Management Standard.

Objective 17. Management Review and Continual Improvement:

To promote continual improvement in the practice of sustainable forestry by conducting a management review and monitoring performance.

1. General Information

1.1 Name, Contact, and Certificate Information

Organization Name	Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC)
Certification Representative	Marty Calvert
Phone Number	(573) 208-3068 marty.calvert@mdc.mo.gov
Address	2901 West Truman Blvd.; Jefferson City, MO 65109
Audit Dates	22 – 25 September 2025
SFI Certificate Type	<input type="checkbox"/> Single <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Multi-site. This Audit covered the requirements of the central organization and a subset of sites. These sites were selected based on proximity and length of time since previous audits. See Summary of Audit Itinerary for details of sampling.

2. Summary Description of the Management Unit(s)

Description of Ownership	<p><input type="checkbox"/> SFI: List of all sites/FMUs under scope of the certificate, including certified acres.</p> <p>The Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC) holds a centralized certification that covers eight geographic regions, with management headquarters located in Jefferson City, Missouri. The Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI) manager at MDC is in charge of a robust internal audit program.</p> <p>The Missouri Conservation Commission, as established within the Missouri Constitution, is comprised of 4 citizen volunteers appointed by the Governor and confirmed by the Senate. The Conservation Commission is vested with control, management, restoration, conservation, and regulation of fish, forest, and wildlife resources of Missouri by the Missouri Constitution. The commission appoints the director of MDC and serves as MDC's policy makers, approving wildlife code regulations, strategic planning, budget development, and major expenditure decisions. They fulfill this responsibility through selection of a director who organizes and administers the Missouri Department of Conservation under Conservation Commission policy and oversight.</p> <p>As of July 1, 2020, the Conservation Department has reorganized to a new structure. The previous structure consisted of disciplinary divisions (e.g., Forestry, Fisheries, Wildlife, etc.). The new structure created Regional Units focusing on either state land or private land natural resources work. Each of the eight Regions now have a Regional Administrator who is responsible for all management on that region. A Statewide Resource Management Branch has oversight responsibility for all regional natural resource management. This branch includes Forestry, Wildlife and Fisheries disciplines.</p> <p>One of several administrative units within the Conservation Department is the Forestry Section led by the Missouri State Forester. The State Forester reports to the Deputy Director through the Statewide Resource Management Branch Chief. The Forestry Section has specific oversight of the George O. White State Forest Nursery, Fire Program, Rural Forest Fire Equipment Center, Forest Products and Utilization, and Forest Systems. Each Region is under the direction of a Regional Administrator who is assigned varying number of staff depending on the Region's workload. Each Region is further divided into Districts. (Source, Agency Overview and Background - Lands to be Certified)</p>
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	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Sites</th> <th>Sites Audited 2024</th> <th>Sites Audited 2025</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Jefferson City</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Northeast Region</td> <td></td> <td>X</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Southeast Region</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Ozark Region</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>St. Louis Region</td> <td></td> <td>X</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Central Region</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Southwest Region</td> <td>X</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Kansas City Region</td> <td>X</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Northwest Region</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Sites	Sites Audited 2024	Sites Audited 2025	Jefferson City			Northeast Region		X	Southeast Region			Ozark Region			St. Louis Region		X	Central Region			Southwest Region	X		Kansas City Region	X		Northwest Region		
	Sites	Sites Audited 2024	Sites Audited 2025																												
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	Central Region																														
	Southwest Region	X																													
Kansas City Region	X																														
Northwest Region																															
Total Forest Area (Acres)	For purposes of SFI certification, approximately 697,408 acres are considered within the scope of compliance with the SFI Forest Management Standard.																														
Description of Sites and Group Membership under Scope	<input type="checkbox"/> Single site description <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SFI: List of all sites/FMUs under scope of the certificate, including certified acres. <input type="checkbox"/> ATFS: Summary of Sites/FMUs under scope of certificate, including acres. <input type="checkbox"/> Group: Description of group structure.																														
Management Unit Maps	<p>Provide a link to any public maps. Missouri Department of Conservation - Natural Areas Map (arcgis.com)</p>																														

<p>Forest Types and Key Ecological Features</p>	<p>The Forest and Woodland Program includes:</p> <p>LANDSCAPE LEVEL</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Landscape Design with Priority Lands • Natural Community Restoration on Priority Lands • Conservation Area Planning Coordination • Terrestrial Habitat for Public Use Management • Ecological Health <p>AQUATIC</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wetlands • Aquatic Habitat Management for Priority Species • Habitat Management for Streams • Sport Fish Management • Other Harvestable Fish Species • Commercial Fishing • CAP Lakes • Aquatic Species Production <p>OPENLAND</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grasslands • Ag Crop <p>FOREST</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Forest and Woodland • Forest Health Management • Fire Detection and Suppression • State Forest Nursery • Forest Products Industry • Missouri Forest Ecosystem Project - MOFEP <p>INVASIVE SPECIES</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Feral Hogs • Invasive Species Management <p>WILDLIFE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deer • Turkey • Furbearers • Migratory Birds • Small Game • Bear • Elk • Bird Conservation • Commercial / Confined Wildlife • Wildlife Damage and Wildlife Human Interaction • Wildlife Diversity and Endangered Species <p>OTHER</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Natural Resource Management Planning Training Program • SRM Branch Information Management Program • Statewide Resource Management Branch Public Contact & Response program • Federal Aid Program - Wildlife and Sportfish Restoration Program • Statewide Resource Management Branch Contracts, Grants and Agreements
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<p>Forest Management Planning</p>	<p>The management plan outlining forest management policies and objectives: The management plan outlines forest management policies and objectives: The MDC links Strategic Priorities, Budgets, Work Plans, and Accomplishments to Deliver Priority-based Conservation. Strategic plan, https://mdc.mo.gov/sites/default/files/2023-04/CCS.pdf. The state conservation lands are organized under areas guided by Finalized Area Plans Missouri Department of Conservation (mo.gov). Resources (compendium) for planning include: Atlas of Missouri Ecoregions (this publication can also be found here); MDC Conservation Opportunity Areas; MDC Continuous Forest Inventory; Conservation Commission Policy - Area Planning; MFMG - 11 - Missouri Forest Management Guidelines - Chapter 11: Generally Accepted Principles for Silviculture; MDC Vegetative Management Scheduling and Documentation. Restoration goals are prioritized by areas classified using a Tiered system, described and available here, Missouri Comprehensive Conservation Strategy - MDC Tiered Approach to Natural Community and Habitat Management (arctgis.com)</p>
<p>Sustainable Harvest Level Assessment</p>	<p>Sustainable Harvest Levels are maintained through use of:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <i>Inventory and Planning:</i> Area Managers use multiple data sources like Ecological Land Classification System, Web Soil Survey, GIS data, Natural Heritage Database, and more forest inventory. They work under the guidance of the Forestry Field Programs Supervisor and follow an inventory schedule. 2. <i>Reentry Periods:</i> Harvesting cycles are between 10 and 20 years depending on site quality and overall objectives. 3. <i>No Fixed Cut:</i> Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC) doesn't set a fixed allowable cut but focuses on natural community restoration. 4. <i>Research and Modeling:</i> Ongoing research using LANDIS and MOFEP data for growth and yield modeling. 5. <i>Area Control Method:</i> Previously used to calculate sustainable harvest levels to address neighbor concerns. 6. <i>Continuous Forest Inventory (CFI):</i> Implemented in 2010, it involves 462 plots across 8 regions. One-fifth of these are measured annually to calculate sustainable harvest levels. <p>References:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CFI Summary Report - 2024.pdf • Atlas of Missouri Ecoregions • MDC Conservation Opportunity Areas • MDC Continuous Forest Inventory • Conservation Commission Policy - Area Planning • Missouri Forest Management Guidelines - Chapter 11 • MDC Vegetative Management Scheduling and Documentation • FY'25 State Land Accomplishments
<p>Monitoring Program Description</p>	<p>Metrics</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Current Harvest Trends:</i> Fall within long-term sustainable levels identified in the forest management plan. • <i>Inventory Systems:</i> CFI started in 2010, used for annual or periodic harvest level determination. • <i>Periodic Updates:</i> Inventory and harvest plans are updated to account for environmental changes like drought, climate change, etc. • <i>Documentation:</i> All practices and treatments are recorded in Forestry E-GIS and MOFITS. • <i>Social, Environmental, Economic Impacts:</i> Management considers local and regional impacts. • <i>Additional Tools:</i> Various guidelines and policies provide the framework for management practices. <p>Technologies and Systems Used</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MOFITS: Data collection system for timber sale documentation and forest inventory. • Forestry E-GIS: Geographical Information System for forest management. • Survey 123: New reporting system in development. • Public Lands Performance Reporting Tool: Used by field staff to report accomplishments. <p>References above.</p>
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3. Audit Process

3.1 Applicable Standards and Audit Objectives

Certificate Code	SCS-SFI/FM-010232 Valid from 5 October 2023 Expiry Date 18 October 2027	
Audit Type	<input type="checkbox"/> Stage 1, Preliminary Review Audit	<input type="checkbox"/> Stage 2, Certification Audit
	<input type="checkbox"/> Re-Certification	<input type="checkbox"/> COVID-19 Additional Surveillance
	<input type="checkbox"/> 1 st , <input type="checkbox"/> 2 nd , <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 3 rd or <input type="checkbox"/> 4 th Surveillance	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Transfer	<input type="checkbox"/> Expansion of Scope
	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (<i>describe</i>):	
Applicable Standards	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SFI: 2022 Forest Management. <i>Objectives 1-17. Objectives 2, 5, 13, 15, 16, 17</i> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SFI: Rules for Use of SFI On-Product Labels and Off-Product Marks	
Multiple Standards	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A, this is not a multi-standard nor a multi-CB audit. List/Describe other schemes	
SFI Substitute or Modified Indicators	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> None, <input type="checkbox"/> Yes, Substitute or Modified Indicators used and justification:	
Certificate Scope/ Statement	This certificate covers forest management activities for lands owned by the Missouri Department of Conservation.	
Description of Sampling Approach	<p>The lead auditor pre-selected field sites to meet sampling requirements of the Standard. For random site/forest selection, the lead auditor used a list of harvest sites done for the prior year to sample a range of conditions and common forest management activities. The preliminary list of sites was submitted to the lead auditor by the certified organization. Alternate sites were selected by the lead auditor to substitute if needed. Forestry environmental risk categories included FORI; RT&E; road infrastructure such as road construction and maintenance; stream crossings; BMP or remediation work; riparian areas; planting; chemical/herbicide applications; recreation; and other unique/special sites. The lead auditor adjusted the sampling and itinerary in the following: additional sites were added during the audit within compartments with active and closed timber sales.</p>	
Deviations from the Audit Plan	Were there any significant deviations from the Audit Plan? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes. If yes, provide a description and explanation.	

3.2 Audit Team

Auditor name:	Tom Harlan	Auditor role:	Lead Auditor
Qualifications:	Tom Harlan graduated from North Carolina State University in 1983 with a BS in Forestry. He has over 40 years' experience in the forestry profession including experience in timber procurement, timber sale administration, forestry consulting and TIMO land management. Tom was a water		

	quality engineer with the Virginia Department of Forestry where he worked with loggers and landowners to protect water quality and enforce the Chesapeake Bay Act provisions concerning forest operations. Tom managed land that was certified to SFI and FSC forest management standards and was audited to those standards. He was a FSC COC administrator for a small timber company on the Eastern Shore of Maryland. Tom joined SCS Global Services in October 2023 as a Technical Specialist. Tom is certified as a Lead Auditor for FSC COC, SFIFM, SFIFS, ATFS, and SBP.
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3.3 Total Time Spent on Audit

A. Number of days spent on-site for the Audit	4
B. Number of auditors participating in on-site audit	1
C. Number of days spent by any technical experts (in addition to amount in line A)	0
D. Additional days spent on preparation, stakeholder consultation, and follow-up	1
E. Total number of person days used in audit	5

3.4 Summary of Audit Itinerary and Site Visits

Location(s) sampled	St. Louis and Northeast Regions
Number of field sites	6 Conservation Areas (CA) with multiple sites at each CA.
Summary of Cover Types visited	Central hardwoods. Noting that MDC managed based on eco-types and ecosystem restoration goals drives all management, not timber production. As such standard cover types are gradually being converged with ecological plant/wildlife community units over time.
Summary Description /Number of Silviculture Activities inspected	The audit reviewed some standard MDC management of silviculture activities including harvests from single-tree and group selection, timber stand improvement, prescribed burning, and invasive species control designed to restore, maintain, and enhance native plant communities and ecosystems. Also reviewed Natural Heritage projects to protect and enhance species of concern habitat. Reviewed recreation opportunities offered by the MDC on the CA's.
Summary Description /Number of Harvest Areas inspected	The audit included 7 closed timber sales used to achieve restoration goals to examine BMPs, potential environmental impacts, and review documentation and process aspects.
Summary Description of Road infrastructure inspections	Roads were examined throughout the audit, with evidence of recent maintenance and in good overall condition. The road projects were primarily maintenance and culvert replacement work. One armored crossing that was installed several years ago was examined.

3.5 Evaluation of Management Systems

SCS deploys teams with expertise in forestry and other relevant fields to assess the certified organization's conformance to SFI standards and policies. Audit methods include reviewing documents and records, interviewing personnel and contractors, implementing sampling strategies to visit a broad number of forest cover and harvest prescription types, observing implementation of management plans and policies in the field, and collecting and analyzing relevant stakeholder input. When there is more than one team member, each member may review parts of the standards based on their background and expertise. Applicable aspects of the Management System under evaluation, such as Management System Review and other relevant Objectives, Performance Measures, and Indicators will also inform the audit team. On the final day of an evaluation, team members convene to deliberate the findings of the audit jointly. This involves an analysis of all relevant field observations, interviews, reviewed documents and records, and relevant stakeholder input. Where consensus among team members cannot be achieved due to lack of

evidence, conflicting evidence or differences of interpretation of the standards, the team is instructed to report these in the certification decision section and/or in observations.

3.6. Changes to Management System

- There were no significant changes in the management and/or harvesting methods that affect the FME's conformance to the SFI standards, rules, and policies.
- Significant changes that affect the management system occurred since the last audit described as follows (describe):

3.7 Confirmation of Meeting Audit Objectives

- Determination of the conformity of the client's management system, or parts of it, with audit criteria (Selected Objectives, Performance Measures, and/or Indicators).
- Determination of the ability of the management system to ensure the client meets applicable statutory, regulatory and contractual requirements.
- Determination of the effectiveness of the management system to ensure the client can reasonably expect to achieve specified objectives.
- As applicable, identification of areas for potential improvement of the management system.

The objectives for this audit included:

Audit Objectives were met	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> If no, provide an explanation:
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4. Results of Audit

4.1 Grading of Possible Findings

Once a consensus is reached by the audit team, determinations of grading are made as to the level of findings. Grading of findings may occur as follows:

- *Major CARs:* Major Corrective Action Requests (CARs) occur when one or more of the SFI 2022 Standard(s) performance measures or indicators has not been addressed or has not been implemented to the extent that a systematic failure of a Certified Organization's SFI system to meet an SFI objective, performance measure or indicator occurs.
- *Minor CARs:* An isolated lapse in SFI 2022 Standard(s) implementation which does not indicate a systematic failure to consistently meet an SFI objective, performance measure or indicator.
- *Opportunities for Improvement:* Opportunities for Improvement (OFIs) are identified by audit team members where the client is in conformance, but there is a risk to conformance in the future. Nonconformance with the standard requirements cannot be recorded as OFIs.
- *Exceeds:* Practices that exceed the basic requirements of the SFI 2022 Standards and Rules for Forest Management or Fiber Sourcing.

4.2 Table of Audit Results and History of Findings for Certificate Period

This table lists Findings to the Performance Measure and/or Indicator level for each year of the certificate period and is updated annually.

SFI Objective	Cert/Re-cert Evaluation 2022	1 st Annual Evaluation 2023	2 nd Annual Evaluation 2024	3 rd Annual Evaluation 2025	4 th Annual Evaluation 2026
No findings	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
1					
2					
3				Minor 3.1.2	
4					
5					
6					
7					
8					
9					
10			Exceeds 10.1.2		
11					
12					
13					
14					
15					
16					
17					
COC					
Trademark					
Group					
Other					

4.3 General Description of Evidence of Conformity

This section summarizes the general evidence found to verify conformity that is detailed in Appendix 5.

SFI Objective	Summary of Evidence
Objective 1. Forest Management Planning. To ensure forest management plans include long-term sustainable harvest levels and measures to avoid forest conversion or afforestation of ecologically important areas.	Not evaluated in 2025.
Objective 2. Forest Health and Productivity. To ensure long-term forest productivity and conservation of forest resources through prompt reforestation, afforestation, deploying integrated pest management strategies, minimized chemical use, soil conservation, and protecting forests from damaging agents.	MDC has the Missouri Forest Management Guidelines publication that guides the forest management to ensure long-term forest productivity. All harvested sites inspected had a regeneration plan and method to ensure proper stocking was obtained. Sites visited also included

	integrated pest management examples that were being used to address any invasive species issues.
Objective 3. Protection and Maintenance of Water Resources. To protect the water quality and water quantity of rivers, streams, lakes, wetlands, and other water bodies.	Not evaluated in 2025. Contracts reviewed as part of forest management reviews. Timber sale contracts include conformance to BMPs in the contract. Minor NC 2025.1: Objective 3.1.2 Contract provisions that specify conformance to best management activities.
Objective 4. Conservation of Biological Diversity To maintain or advance the conservation of biological diversity at the stand- and landscape- level and across a diversity of forest and vegetation cover types and successional stages including the conservation of forest plants and animals, aquatic species, threatened and endangered species, Forests with Exceptional Conservation Value, old-growth forests and ecologically important sites.	Not evaluated in 2025.
Objective 5. Management of Visual Quality and Recreational Benefits. To manage the visual impact of forest operations and provide recreational opportunities for the public.	Missouri Forest Management Guidelines publication and the 25-Year Area Management Plan for the Conservation Areas address visual considerations for forest management activities. Interviews with staff indicate aesthetic considerations are incorporated into timber harvest planning. MDC is a public agency and the CA's are open for public use. There are ample opportunities for public recreation such as: hunting, bird watching, hiking, camping, fishing, horseback riding and boating. The properties provide areas for a shooting ranges, scenic overlooks and educational signs to explain forest management.
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.	Not evaluated in 2025.
Objective 7. Efficient Use of Fiber Resources. To minimize waste and ensure the efficient use of fiber resources.	Not evaluated in 2025.
Objective 8. Recognize and Respect Indigenous Peoples' Rights. To recognize and respect Indigenous Peoples' rights and traditional knowledge.	Not evaluated in 2025.
Objective 9: Climate Smart Forestry To ensure forest management activities address climate change adaptation and mitigation measures.	Not evaluated in 2025.
Objective 10. Fire Resilience and Awareness	Not evaluated in 2025.

To limit susceptibility of forests to undesirable impacts of wildfire and to raise community awareness of fire benefits, risks, and minimization measures.	
Objective 11. Legal and Regulatory Compliance To comply with all applicable laws and regulations including, international, federal, provincial, state, and local.	Not evaluated in 2025.
Objective 12. Forestry Research, Science and Technology. To invest in research, science, and technology, upon which sustainable forest management decisions are based.	Not evaluated in 2025.
Objective 13. Training and Education. To improve the implementation of sustainable forestry through appropriate training and education programs.	All new employees are required to receive SFI training. Other training, such as BMPs, T&E species, aesthetics, etc., is conducted as needed. Interviews with staff indicated that there is ample training available to successfully complete their responsibilities. Loggers are PTH trained that includes a session on timber management and proper BMPs.
Objective 14. Community Involvement and Landowner Outreach. To broaden the practice of sustainable forestry through public outreach, education, and involvement, and to support the efforts of SFI Implementation Committees.	Not evaluated in 2025.
Objective 15. Public Land Management Responsibilities. To participate and implement sustainable forest management on public lands.	The agency is required to get input from the public and adjoining landowners as part of its area planning process. This is a formal process, but also includes opportunities during public outreach efforts.
Objective 16. Communications and Public Reporting To increase transparency and to annually report progress on conformance with the SFI Forest Management Standard.	MDC's public summary reports 2022-2024 were found on the SFI; Inc. website as required for public review. MDC also provides copies of past reports publicly online.
Objective 17. Management Review and Continual Improvement: To promote continual improvement in the practice of sustainable forestry by conducting a management review and monitoring performance.	MDC has instituted a structured data collection framework aimed at assessing the agency's adherence to the SFI standards. Internal audits are routinely conducted to evaluate this conformance, and the findings are then relayed to senior management. Progress toward SFI objectives is consistently reviewed in both monthly staff meetings and quarterly managerial sessions.

4.4 Existing Corrective Action Requests, OFIs, and Exceeds

Finding Number: 2024.1

Evidence and Actions Implemented by Organization	
SCS Review of Implemented Actions	
Status of Finding:	<input type="checkbox"/> Closed <input type="checkbox"/> Upgraded to Major <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Other decision (refer to description above)</i>

5. Certification Decision

The certificate holder has demonstrated continued overall conformance to the applicable Sustainable Forestry Initiative standards. The SCS annual audit team recommends that the certificate be sustained, subject to subsequent annual audits and the Certified Organization's response to any open CARs.	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
Comments:	