



# CFWC

Center for Forest & Wood Certification

## Family Forest Standards Monitoring Checklist

(CWFC-FM-04)

Group Member Name \_\_\_\_\_ Group Member Number (if applicable) \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Assessment \_\_\_\_\_

Lead Center Assessor \_\_\_\_\_ Center Assessor \_\_\_\_\_ Center Assessor \_\_\_\_\_

Cooperating Forester \_\_\_\_\_

For each indicator presented below, the assessment team's determination of conformance and relevant findings are presented. Where applicable, observations are referenced under the indicator and detailed on the Observation Form (CFWC-FM-04).

<b>PRINCIPLE 1. <u>COMPLIANCE WITH LAWS AND FSC PRINCIPLES</u> - Forest management shall respect all applicable laws of the country in which they occur and international treaties and agreements to which the country is a signatory, and comply with all FSC Principles and Criteria.</b>	
<b><u>Criteria and Indicators</u></b>	<b><u>Findings</u></b>
<b>1.1 Forest management shall respect all national and local laws and administrative requirements</b>	
<b>Criterion Level Remarks:</b>	
1.1.a. Forest management plans and operations demonstrate compliance with all applicable federal, state, county, municipal, and tribal laws and administrative requirements. Violations, outstanding complaints, or investigations are provided to the Center during an assessment.	Compliance with Indicator: Full <input type="checkbox"/> Partial <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input type="checkbox"/> Deferred <input type="checkbox"/>
1.1.b. To facilitate legal compliance, the forest owner or manager ensures that employees and contractors, commensurate with their responsibilities, are duly informed about applicable laws and regulations.	Compliance with Indicator: Full <input type="checkbox"/> Partial <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input type="checkbox"/> Deferred <input type="checkbox"/>
NOTES:	
<b>1.2 Conflicts between laws, regulations and the FSC Principles and Criteria shall be evaluated for the purposes of certification, on a case-by-case basis, by the certifiers and the involved or affected parties.</b>	
<b>Criterion Level Remarks:</b>	
1.2.a. Situations in which compliance with laws or regulations conflicts with compliance with stated principles, criteria, or indicators are documented and referred to the Center.	Compliance with Indicator: Full <input type="checkbox"/> Partial <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input type="checkbox"/> Deferred <input type="checkbox"/>
NOTES:	
<b>1.3 Forest management areas should be protected from illegal harvesting, settlement, and other unauthorized activities.</b>	
<b>Criterion Level Remarks:</b>	
1.3.a. Forest owners or managers supports or implements measures intended to prevent illegal and unauthorized activities on the Forest Management Unit.	Compliance with Indicator: Full <input type="checkbox"/> Partial <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input type="checkbox"/> Deferred <input type="checkbox"/>
1.3. b. If illegal or unauthorized activities occur, the forest owner or manager implements actions	Compliance with Indicator: Full <input type="checkbox"/> Partial <input type="checkbox"/>

designed to curtail such activities and correct the situation to the extent possible for meeting all land management objectives with consideration of available resources.	No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input type="checkbox"/> Deferred <input type="checkbox"/>
NOTES:	
<b>1.4 Forest managers shall demonstrate a long-term commitment to adhere to the FSC Principles and Criteria.</b>	
<b>Criterion Level Remarks:</b>	
1.4.a. The forest owner or manager demonstrates a long-term commitment to adhere to the principles and criteria and the ATFS, FSC, and FSC-US policies, including the FSC-US Land Sales Policy.	Compliance with Indicator: Full <input type="checkbox"/> Partial <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input type="checkbox"/> Deferred <input type="checkbox"/>
1.4.b. If the certificate holder does not certify their entire holdings, then they document, in brief, the reasons for seeking partial certification referencing FSC-POL-20-002 (or subsequent policy revisions), the location of other managed forest units, the natural resources found on the holdings being excluded from certification, and the management activities planned for the holdings being excluded from certification.	Compliance with Indicator: Full <input type="checkbox"/> Partial <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input type="checkbox"/> Deferred <input type="checkbox"/>
1.4.c. The woodland owner or Cooperating Forester informs the Center in significant changes in ownership, the certified land base and/or significant changes in management planning prior to the next scheduled audit, or within one year of such changes, whichever comes first.	Compliance with Indicator: Full <input type="checkbox"/> Partial <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input type="checkbox"/> Deferred <input type="checkbox"/>
NOTES:	

<b>PRINCIPLE 2. <u>TENURE AND USE RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES</u> - Long-term tenure and use rights to the land and forest resources shall be clearly defined documented and legally established.</b>	
<b><i>Criteria and Indicators</i></b>	<b><i>Findings</i></b>
<b>2.1 Clear evidence of long-term forest use rights to the land (e.g. land title, customary rights, or lease agreements) shall be demonstrated.</b>	
<b>Criterion Level Remarks:</b>	
2.1.a. The forest owner or manager provides clear evidence or long-term rights to use and manage the FMU for the purposes described in the management plan.	Compliance with Indicator: Full <input type="checkbox"/> Partial <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input type="checkbox"/> Deferred <input type="checkbox"/>
2.1. b. The forest owner or manager identifies and documents legally established use access rights associated with the FMU that are held by other parties. Documentation must be provided only in cases where the Center has concern about infringing on legally established use and access rights.	Compliance with Indicator: Full <input type="checkbox"/> Partial <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input type="checkbox"/> Deferred <input type="checkbox"/>
2.1.c. Boundaries of land ownership and use rights are clearly identified on the ground and on maps prior to commencing management activities in the vicinity of boundaries.	Compliance with Indicator: Full <input type="checkbox"/> Partial <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input type="checkbox"/> Deferred <input type="checkbox"/>
NOTES:	
<b>2.2 Local communities with legal or customary tenure or use rights shall maintain control, to the extent necessary to protect their rights or resources, over forest operations unless they delegate control with free and informed consent to other agencies.</b>	
<b>Criterion Level Remarks:</b>	
2.2.a. The forest owner or manager allows the exercise of tenure and use rights established by law or regulation.	Compliance with Indicator: Full <input type="checkbox"/> Partial <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input type="checkbox"/> Deferred <input type="checkbox"/>
2.2.b. In FMUs where tenure or use rights held by others exist, the forest owner or manager consults with groups that hold such rights so that management activities do not significantly impact the uses or benefits of such rights.	Compliance with Indicator: Full <input type="checkbox"/> Partial <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input type="checkbox"/> Deferred <input type="checkbox"/>

NOTES:

<b>PRINCIPLE 3. <i>INDIGENOUS PEOPLE'S RIGHTS</i> - The legal and customary rights of indigenous peoples to own, use and manage their lands, territories, and resources shall be recognized and respected.</b>	
<b><i>Criteria and Indicators</i></b>	<b><i>Findings</i></b>
<b>3.1 Sites of special cultural, ecological, economic or religious significance to indigenous peoples shall be clearly identified in cooperation with such peoples, and recognized and protected by forest managers.</b>	
<b>Criterion Level Remarks:</b>	
3.1.a. The forest owner or manager maintains a list of sites of current or traditional cultural, archeological, ecological, economic, or religious significance that have been identified by state conservation agencies and tribal governments on the FMU or that could be impacted by management activities.	Compliance with Indicator: Full <input type="checkbox"/> Partial <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input type="checkbox"/> Deferred <input type="checkbox"/>
3.1.b. Using information provided by the Center, the forest owner or manager develops measures to protect or enhance areas of special significance to Native Americans if present.	Compliance with Indicator: Full <input type="checkbox"/> Partial <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input type="checkbox"/> Deferred <input type="checkbox"/>
NOTES:	

<b>PRINCIPLE 4. <i>COMMUNITY RELATIONS AND WORKERS' RIGHTS</i> - Forest management operations shall maintain or enhance the long-term social and economic well being of forest workers and local communities.</b>	
<b><i>Criteria and Indicators</i></b>	<b><i>Findings</i></b>
<b>4.1 The communities within, or adjacent to, the forest management area should be given opportunities for employment, training, and other services.</b>	
<b>Criterion Level Remarks:</b>	
4.1.a. The forest owner or manager, as feasible, contributes to the local community.	Compliance with Indicator: Full <input type="checkbox"/> Partial <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input type="checkbox"/> Deferred <input type="checkbox"/>
NOTES:	
<b>4.2 Forest management should meet or exceed all applicable laws and/or regulations covering health and safety of employees and their families.</b>	
<b>Criterion Level Remarks:</b>	
4.2.a. The forest owner or manager and their employees and contractors demonstrate a safe work environment. Contracts or other written agreements include safety requirements.	Compliance with Indicator: Full <input type="checkbox"/> Partial <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input type="checkbox"/> Deferred <input type="checkbox"/>
4.2.b. The forest owner or manager hires well-qualified service providers to safely implement the management plan.	Compliance with Indicator: Full <input type="checkbox"/> Partial <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input type="checkbox"/> Deferred <input type="checkbox"/>
NOTES:	
<b>4.3 Management planning and operations shall incorporate the results of evaluations of social impact. Consultations shall be maintained with people and groups directly affected by management operations.</b>	
<b>Criterion Level Remarks:</b>	
4.3.a. The forest owner or manager understands the likely social impacts of management activities, and incorporates this understanding into management planning operations.	Compliance with Indicator: Full <input type="checkbox"/> Partial <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input type="checkbox"/> Deferred <input type="checkbox"/>

4.3.b. People who are subject to direct adverse effects of management operations are apprised of relevant activities in advance of the action that they may express concern.	Compliance with Indicator: Full <input type="checkbox"/> Partial <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input type="checkbox"/> Deferred <input type="checkbox"/>
NOTES:	
<b>4.4 Appropriate mechanisms shall be employed for resolving grievances and for providing fair compensation in the case of loss or damage affecting the legal or customary rights, property, resources, or livelihood of local peoples. Measures shall be undertaken to avoid such loss or damage.</b>	
<b>Criterion Level Remarks:</b>	
4.4.a. The forest owner or manager does not engage in negligent activities that cause damage to other people.	Compliance with Indicator: Full <input type="checkbox"/> Partial <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input type="checkbox"/> Deferred <input type="checkbox"/>
4.4.b. The forest owner or manager provides a known and accessible means for interested stakeholders to voice grievances and have them resolved. If significant disputes arise related to resolving grievances and/or providing fair compensation, the forest owner or manager follows appropriate dispute resolution procedures. At a minimum, the forest owner or manager maintains open communications, responds to grievances in a timely manner, demonstrates ongoing good faith efforts to resolve the grievances, and maintains records of legal suites and claims. Woodland owners can be compliant through informal communications with neighbors and in the absence of disputes.	Compliance with Indicator: Full <input type="checkbox"/> Partial <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input type="checkbox"/> Deferred <input type="checkbox"/>
NOTES:	

<b>PRINCIPLE 5. BENEFITS FROM THE FOREST - Forest management operations shall encourage the efficient use of the forest's multiple products and services to ensure economic viability and a wide range of environmental and social benefits.</b>	
<b><i>Criteria and Indicators</i></b>	<b><i>Findings</i></b>
<b>5.1 Forest management should strive toward economic viability, while taking into account the full environmental, social, and operational costs of production, and ensuring the investments necessary to maintain the ecological productivity of the forest.</b>	
<b>Criterion Level Remarks:</b>	
5.1.a. The forest owner or manager is financially able to implement core management activities, including all those environmental, social, and operating costs, required to meet this standard, and investment and reinvestment in forest management.	Compliance with Indicator: Full <input type="checkbox"/> Partial <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input type="checkbox"/> Deferred <input type="checkbox"/>
5.1.b. Responses to short-term financial factors are limited to levels that are consistent with this standard.	Compliance with Indicator: Full <input type="checkbox"/> Partial <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input type="checkbox"/> Deferred <input type="checkbox"/>
NOTES:	
<b>5.2 Forest management and marketing operations should encourage the optimal use and local processing of the forest's diversity of products.</b>	
<b>Criterion Level Remarks:</b>	
5.2.a. The forest owner or manager takes measures to optimize the use of harvest forest products and explores product diversification where appropriate and consistent with management objectives.	Compliance with Indicator: Full <input type="checkbox"/> Partial <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input type="checkbox"/> Deferred <input type="checkbox"/>
NOTES:	
<b>5.3 Forest management should minimize waste associated with harvesting and on-site processing operations and avoid damage to other forest resources.</b>	
<b>Criterion Level Remarks:</b>	

5.3.a. Management practices are employed to minimize the loss and/or waste of harvested forest products.	Compliance with Indicator: Full <input type="checkbox"/> Partial <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input type="checkbox"/> Deferred <input type="checkbox"/>
5.3.b. Timber Harvest Report Form completed for every harvesting operation.	Compliance with Indicator: Full <input type="checkbox"/> Partial <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input type="checkbox"/> Deferred <input type="checkbox"/>
NOTES:	
<b>5.4 Forest management should strive to strengthen and diversify the local economy, avoiding dependence on a single forest product.</b>	
<b>Criterion Level Remarks:</b>	
5.4.a. The forest owner or manager demonstrates knowledge of their operation's effect on the local economy as it relates to existing and potential markets for a wide variety of timber and non-timber forest products and services.	Compliance with Indicator: Full <input type="checkbox"/> Partial <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input type="checkbox"/> Deferred <input type="checkbox"/>
5.4.b. The forest owner or manager strives to diversify the economic use of the forest according to indicator 5.4.a.	Compliance with Indicator: Full <input type="checkbox"/> Partial <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input type="checkbox"/> Deferred <input type="checkbox"/>
NOTES:	
<b>5.5 Forest management operations shall recognize, maintain, and, where appropriate, enhance the value of forest services and resources such as watersheds and fisheries.</b>	
<b>Criterion Level Remarks:</b>	
5.5.a. In developing activities on the FMU, the forest owner or manager identifies and defines appropriate measures for maintaining and/or enhancing forest services and resources that serve public values, including municipal watersheds, fisheries, carbon storage and sequestration, recreation, and tourism.	Compliance with Indicator: Full <input type="checkbox"/> Partial <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input type="checkbox"/> Deferred <input type="checkbox"/>
5.5.b. The forest owner or manager uses the information from indicator 5.5.a to implement appropriate measures for maintaining and/or enhancing these services and resources.	Compliance with Indicator: Full <input type="checkbox"/> Partial <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input type="checkbox"/> Deferred <input type="checkbox"/>
NOTES:	
<b>5.6 The rate of harvest of forest products shall not exceed levels that can be permanently sustained.</b>	
<b>Criterion Level Remarks:</b>	
5.6.a. A sustained yield harvest level analysis shall be completed. At a minimum the analysis may include the use of the US Forest Service Regional Forest Inventory Analysis data provided by the Center. Other data used in the analysis may include but is not limited to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Regional growth data</li> <li>• Age-class and species distributions</li> <li>• Stocking rates required to meet management objectives</li> <li>• Ecological and legal constraints</li> <li>• Empirical growth and regeneration data</li> <li>• Validated forest productivity models</li> </ul>	Compliance with Indicator: Full <input type="checkbox"/> Partial <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input type="checkbox"/> Deferred <input type="checkbox"/>
5.6.b. Harvest levels and rates do not exceed growth rates over successive harvests, contribute directly to achieving desired future conditions as defined in the forest management plans, and do not diminish the long-term ecological integrity and productivity of the site.	Compliance with Indicator: Full <input type="checkbox"/> Partial <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input type="checkbox"/> Deferred <input type="checkbox"/>
5.6.c. Rates and methods of timber harvest lead to achieving desired conditions, and improve or maintain health and quality across the FMU. Overstocked stands and stands that have been depleted	Compliance with Indicator: Full <input type="checkbox"/> Partial <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input type="checkbox"/> Deferred <input type="checkbox"/>

or rendered to be below productive potential due to natural events, past management, or lack of management, are returned to desired stocking levels and composition at the earliest practicable time as justified in management objectives.	
5.6.d. For Non-Timber Forest Products, calculation of quantitative sustained yield harvest levels is required only in cases where products are harvested in significant commercial operations or where traditional or customary rights may be impacted by such harvests. In other situations, the forest owner or manager utilizes available information, and new information that can be reasonably gathered, to set harvesting levels that will not result in a depletion of the non-timber growing stocks or other adverse effects to the forest ecosystem.	Compliance with Indicator: Full <input type="checkbox"/> Partial <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input type="checkbox"/> Deferred <input type="checkbox"/>
NOTES:	

<b>PRINCIPLE 6. <u>ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT</u>- Forest management shall conserve biological diversity and its associated values, water resources, soils, and unique and fragile ecosystems and landscapes, and, by so doing, maintain the ecological functions and the integrity of the forest.</b>	
<b><u>Criteria and Indicators</u></b>	<b><u>Findings</u></b>
<b>6.1 Assessment of environmental impacts shall be completed -- appropriate to the scale, intensity of forest management and the uniqueness of the affected resources -- and adequately integrated into management systems. Assessments shall include landscape level considerations as well as the impacts of on-site processing facilities. Environmental impacts shall be assessed prior to commencement of site-disturbing operations.</b>	
<b>Criterion Level Remarks:</b>	
6.1.a. Using the results of credible scientific analysis, best available information (including relevant databases), and local knowledge and experience, an assessment of conditions on the FMU is completed and includes: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Forest community types and development, size class and/or successional stages, and associated natural disturbance regimes</li> <li>2. Rare, Threatened, and Endangered (RTE) species and rare ecological communities (including plant communities) report provided by the Center</li> <li>3. Other habitats and species of management concern</li> <li>4. Water resources and associated riparian habitats and hydrologic functions</li> <li>5. Soil resources</li> <li>6. Historic conditions on the FMU related to forest community types and development, size class, and/or successional stages, and a broad comparison of historic and current conditions.</li> </ol>	Compliance with Indicator: Full <input type="checkbox"/> Partial <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input type="checkbox"/> Deferred <input type="checkbox"/>
6.1.b. Prior to commencing site-disturbing activities, the forest owner or manager assesses and documents the potential short and long-term impacts of planned management activities on elements 1-5 listed in Indicator 6.1.a. The assessment must incorporate the best available information, drawing from scientific literature and experts. The impact assessment will at a minimum include identifying resources that may be impacted by management (e.g., streams, habitats of management concern, soil nutrients). Additional detail (i.e., detailed description or quantification of impacts) will vary depending on the uniqueness of the resource, potential risks, and steps that will be taken to avoid and minimize risks.	Compliance with Indicator: Full <input type="checkbox"/> Partial <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input type="checkbox"/> Deferred <input type="checkbox"/>

6.1.c. Using the findings of the impact assessment (Indicator 6.1.b), management approaches and field prescriptions are developed and implemented that: 1) avoid or minimize negative short-term and long-term impacts; and, 2) maintain and/or enhance the long-term ecological variability of the forest.	Compliance with Indicator: Full <input type="checkbox"/> Partial <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input type="checkbox"/> Deferred <input type="checkbox"/>
NOTES:	
<b>6.2. Safeguards shall exist which protect rare, threatened and endangered species and their habitats (e.g., nesting and feeding areas). Conservation zones and protection areas shall be established, appropriate to the scale and intensity of forest management and the uniqueness of the affected resources. Inappropriate hunting, fishing, trapping and collecting shall be controlled</b>	
<b>Criterion Level Remarks:</b>	
6.2.a. If there is a likely presence of RTE species as identified in Indicator 6.1.a then either a field survey to verify the species' presence or absence is conducted prior to site-disturbing management activities, or management occurs with the assumption that potential RTE species are present. Surveys are conducted by biologists with the appropriate expertise in the species of interest and with appropriate qualifications to conduct surveys. A secondary review of the survey does not need to be included in the process. If a species is determined to be present, its location should be reported to the Center so it can be relayed to the manager of the appropriate database.	Compliance with Indicator: Full <input type="checkbox"/> Partial <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input type="checkbox"/> Deferred <input type="checkbox"/>
6.2.b. When RTE species are present or assumed to be present, modifications in management are made in order to maintain, restore, or enhance the extent, quality, and viability of the species and their habitats. Conservation zones and/or protected areas are established for RTE species, including those S3 species that are considered rare, where they are necessary to maintain or improve the short and long-term viability of the species. Conservation measures are based upon relevant science, guidelines, and/or consultation with the relevant independent experts as necessary to achieve the conservation goal of the indicator.	Compliance with Indicator: Full <input type="checkbox"/> Partial <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input type="checkbox"/> Deferred <input type="checkbox"/>
6.2.c. Within the capacity of the forest owner or manager, hunting, fishing, trapping, collecting, and other activities are controlled to avoid the risk of impacts to vulnerable species communities (See Criterion 1.5)	Compliance with Indicator: Full <input type="checkbox"/> Partial <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input type="checkbox"/> Deferred <input type="checkbox"/>
NOTES:	
<b>6.3 Ecological functions and values shall be maintained intact, enhanced, or restored, including:</b> <b>a) Forest regeneration and succession.</b> <b>b) Genetic, species, and ecosystem diversity.</b> <b>c) Natural cycles that affect the productivity of the forest ecosystem.</b>	
<b>Criterion Level Remarks:</b>	
<b>6.3.a. Forest regeneration and succession</b>	
6.3.a.1. The forest owner or manager maintains, enhances, and/or restores under-represented successional stages in the FMU that would naturally occur on the types of sites found on the FMU. Where old growth of different community types that would naturally occur on the forest are under-represented in the landscape relative to natural conditions, a portion of the forest is managed to enhance and/or restore old growth characteristics.	Compliance with Indicator: Full <input type="checkbox"/> Partial <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input type="checkbox"/> Deferred <input type="checkbox"/>
6.3.a.2. When a rare ecological community is present, modifications are made in both the management plan and its implementation in order to maintain, restore, or enhance the viability of the community. Based on the vulnerability of the existing community, conservation zones, and/or protected areas are	Compliance with Indicator: Full <input type="checkbox"/> Partial <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input type="checkbox"/> Deferred <input type="checkbox"/>

established where warranted.	
6.3.a.3. When they are present, management maintains the area, structure, composition, and processes of all Type 1 and Type 2 old growth. Type 1 and 2 old growth are also protected and buffered as necessary with conservation zones, unless an alternative plan is developed that provides greater overall protection of old growth values.	Compliance with Indicator: Full <input type="checkbox"/> Partial <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input type="checkbox"/> Deferred <input type="checkbox"/>
6.3.b. To the extent feasible within the size of the ownership, particularly on larger ownerships, management maintains, enhances, or restores habitat conditions suitable for well-distributed populations of animal species that are characteristics of forest ecosystems within the landscapes.	Compliance with Indicator: Full <input type="checkbox"/> Partial <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input type="checkbox"/> Deferred <input type="checkbox"/>
6.3.c. Management maintains, enhances, and/or restores the plant and wildlife habitat of Riparian Management Zones (RMZs) to provide: a) Habitat for aquatic species that breed in surrounding uplands b) Habitat for predominantly terrestrial species that breed in adjacent aquatic habitats c) Habitat for species that use riparian areas for feeding, cover, and travel d) Habitat for plant species associated with riparian areas e) Stream shading and inputs of wood and leaf litter into the adjacent aquatic ecosystem	Compliance with Indicator: Full <input type="checkbox"/> Partial <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input type="checkbox"/> Deferred <input type="checkbox"/>
6.3.d. Management practices maintain or enhance plant species composition, distribution, and frequency of occurrence similar to those that would naturally occur on the site.	Compliance with Indicator: Full <input type="checkbox"/> Partial <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input type="checkbox"/> Deferred <input type="checkbox"/>
6.3.e. When planting is required, a local source of known provenance is used when available and when the local source is equivalent in terms of quality, price, and productivity. The use of non-local sources are justified, such as in situations where other management objectives (e.g. disease resistance or adapting to climate change) are best served by non-local sources. Native species suited to the site are normally selected for regeneration.	Compliance with Indicator: Full <input type="checkbox"/> Partial <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input type="checkbox"/> Deferred <input type="checkbox"/>
6.3.f. Management maintain, enhances, or restores habitat components and associated stand structures, in abundance and distribution that could be expected from naturally occurring processes. These components include: a) Large live trees, live trees with decay or declining health, snags, and well-distributed coarse down and dead woody material. Legacy trees where present are not harvested b) Vertical and horizontal complexity Trees selected for retention are generally representative of the dominant species naturally found on the site.	Compliance with Indicator: Full <input type="checkbox"/> Partial <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input type="checkbox"/> Deferred <input type="checkbox"/>
6.3.g.1.a. When even-aged silviculture (e.g., seed tree, regular or irregular shelterwood) or deferment cutting is employed, live trees and native vegetation are retained and opening sizes are created within the harvest unit in a proportion and configuration that is consistent with the characteristic natural disturbance regime in each community type, unless retention at a lower level is necessary for restoration or rehabilitation purposes. Harvest openings with no retention are limited to 10 acres.	Compliance with Indicator: Full <input type="checkbox"/> Partial <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input type="checkbox"/> Deferred <input type="checkbox"/>
6.3.g.1.b. When uneven aged silvicultural techniques are used (e.g., individual tree selection or group selection), canopy openings are less than 2.5 acres.	Compliance with Indicator: Full <input type="checkbox"/> Partial <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input type="checkbox"/> Deferred <input type="checkbox"/>
6.3.g.2. Under very limited situations, the landowner or manager has the option to develop a qualified plan to allow minor departure from the opening size limits described in indicator 6.3.g.1. A qualified plan:	Compliance with Indicator: Full <input type="checkbox"/> Partial <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input type="checkbox"/> Deferred <input type="checkbox"/>



<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Is developed by qualified experts in ecological and/or related fields (wildlife biology, hydrology, landscape ecology, forestry/silviculture)</li> <li>2. Is based on the totality of the best available information including peer-reviewed science regarding natural disturbance regimes for the FMU</li> <li>3. Is spatially and temporally explicit and includes maps of proposed openings or areas</li> <li>4. Demonstrates that the variations will result in equal or greater benefit to wildlife, water quality, and other values compared to the normal opening size limits, including for sensitive and rare species</li> <li>5. Is reviewed by independent experts in wildlife biology, hydrology, and landscape ecology, to confirm the preceding findings</li> </ol>	
<p>6.3.h. The forest owner or manager assesses the risk of, prioritizes, and, as warranted, develops, and implements a strategy to prevent or control invasive species, including:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. A method to determine the extent of invasive species and the degree of threat to native species and ecosystems</li> <li>2. Implementation of management practices that minimize the risk of invasive establishment, growth, and spread</li> <li>3. Eradication or control of established invasive populations when feasible</li> <li>4. Monitoring of control measures and management practices to assess their effectiveness in preventing or controlling invasive species</li> </ol>	<p>Compliance with Indicator: Full <input type="checkbox"/> Partial <input type="checkbox"/>  No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input type="checkbox"/> Deferred <input type="checkbox"/></p>
<p>6.3.i. In applicable situations, the forest owner or manager identifies and applies site-specific fuels management practices, based on: natural fire regimes, risk of wildfires, potential economic losses, public safety, and applicable laws and regulations</p>	<p>Compliance with Indicator: Full <input type="checkbox"/> Partial <input type="checkbox"/>  No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input type="checkbox"/> Deferred <input type="checkbox"/></p>
<p>NOTES:</p>	
<p><b>6.4 Representative samples of existing ecosystems within the landscape shall be protected in their natural state and recorded on maps, appropriate to the scale and intensity of operations and the uniqueness of the affected resources.</b></p>	
<p><b>Criterion Level Remarks:</b></p>	
<p>6.4.a. The forest owner or manager documents the ecosystems that would naturally exist on the FMU, and assesses the adequacy of their representation and protection in the landscape (see criterion 7.1). The consultation and assessment process may be more informal; however, on all FMUs, outstanding examples of common community types (e.g., identified rare plant community types on RTE reports) are identified in the assessment to be protected or managed to maintain their conservation value.</p>	<p>Compliance with Indicator: Full <input type="checkbox"/> Partial <input type="checkbox"/>  No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input type="checkbox"/> Deferred <input type="checkbox"/></p>
<p>6.4.b. Management activities within RSAs are limited to low impact activities compatible with the protected RSA objectives, except under the following circumstances:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Harvesting activities only where they are necessary to restore or create conditions to meet objectives of the protected RSA, or to mitigate conditions that interfere with achieving the RSA objectives; or</li> <li>b) Road-building only where it is documented that it will contribute to minimizing the overall environmental impacts within the FMU and will not jeopardize the purpose for which the RSA was designated.</li> </ol>	<p>Compliance with Indicator: Full <input type="checkbox"/> Partial <input type="checkbox"/>  No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input type="checkbox"/> Deferred <input type="checkbox"/></p>
<p>6.4.c. The RSA assessment (indicator 6.4.a) is periodically reviewed and if necessary updated (at a minimum every 10 years) in order to determine if the need for RSAs has changed; the designation of</p>	<p>Compliance with Indicator: Full <input type="checkbox"/> Partial <input type="checkbox"/></p>

RSAs (indicator 6.4.b) is revised accordingly.	No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input type="checkbox"/> Deferred <input type="checkbox"/>
NOTES:	
<b>6.5 Written guidelines shall be prepared and implemented to: control erosion; minimize forest damage during harvesting, road construction, and all other mechanical disturbances; and protect water resources.</b>	
<b>Criterion Level Remarks:</b>	
6.5.a. Forest operations meet or exceed Best Management Practices (BMPs) that address components of the criterion where the operation takes place.	Compliance with Indicator: Full <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Partial <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input type="checkbox"/> Deferred <input type="checkbox"/>
6.5.b. Management activities including site preparation, harvest prescriptions, techniques, timing, and equipment are selected and used to protect soil and water resources and to avoid erosion, landslides, and significant soil disturbance. Logging and other activities that significantly increase risk of landslides are excluded in areas where risk of landslides is high. The following actions are addressed: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Slash is concentrated only as much as necessary to achieve the goals of the site preparation and the reduction of fuels to moderate or low levels of fire hazard</li> <li>• Disturbance of topsoil is limited to the minimum necessary to achieve successful regeneration of species native to the site</li> <li>• Rutting is compaction is minimized</li> <li>• Soil erosion is not accelerated</li> <li>• Burning is only done consistent with natural disturbance regimes</li> <li>• Natural ground cover disturbance is minimized to the extent necessary to achieve regeneration objectives</li> <li>• Whole tree harvesting on any site over multiple rotations is only done when research indicates soil productivity will not be harmed</li> <li>• Low impact equipment and technologies is used where appropriate</li> </ul>	Compliance with Indicator: Full <input type="checkbox"/> Partial <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input type="checkbox"/> Deferred <input type="checkbox"/>
6.5.c. The transportation system, including design and placement of permanent and temporary haul roads, skid trails, recreation trails, water crossings and landings, is designed, constructed, maintained, and/or reconstructed to reduce short and long-term environmental impacts, habitat fragmentation, soil and water disturbance and cumulative adverse effects, while allowing customary uses and use rights. This includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Access to all roads and trails (temporary and permanent), including recreational trails, and off-road travel, is controlled, as possible, to minimize ecological impacts</li> <li>• Road density is minimized</li> <li>• Sediment discharge to streams is minimized</li> <li>• There is free upstream and downstream passage for aquatic organisms</li> <li>• Impacts of transportation systems on wildlife habitat and migration corridors are minimized</li> <li>• Area converted to roads, landings, and skid trails is minimized</li> <li>• Habitat fragmentation is minimized</li> <li>• Unneeded roads are closed and rehabilitated</li> </ul>	Compliance with Indicator: Full <input type="checkbox"/> Partial <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input type="checkbox"/> Deferred <input type="checkbox"/>
6.5.d.1.a. All perennial streams have buffers (streamside management zones, SMZs) that include an inner SMZ and an outer SMZ. SMZ sizes are minimum widths that are likely to provide adequate	Compliance with Indicator: Full <input type="checkbox"/> Partial <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input type="checkbox"/> Deferred <input type="checkbox"/>

riparian habitat to prevent siltation. If functional riparian habitat and minimal siltation are not achieved by SMZs of these dimensions, wider SMZs are needed.

Widths of inner and outer Streamside Management Zones					
Stream Zone Type	Slope Category				
	1-10%	11-20%	21-30%	31-40%	41%+
Inner Zone (perennial)	25'	25'	25'	25'	25'
Outer Zone (perennial)	55'	75'	105'	110'	140'
Total for Perennial	80'	100'	130'	135'	165'
Zone for Intermittent	40'	50'	60'	70'	80'

**\*All distances are in feet-slope distance and are measured from the high water mark**

6.5.d.1.b. The inner SMZ for *non-high-quality waters* (as designated by the Center's databases) extends 25 feet from the high water mark. Single-tree selection of small group selection (2-5 trees) is allowed in the inner SMZ, provided that the integrity of the stream bank is maintained and canopy reduction does not exceed 10 percent (90 percent canopy maintenance). Trees are directionally felled away from streams. Note: The inner SMZ is designed as a virtual no-harvest zone, while allowing the removal of selected high-value trees.

Compliance with Indicator: Full  Partial   
No  N/A  Deferred

6.5.d.1.c. Along perennial streams that are designated as *high-quality waters* (as designated by the Center's databases), no harvesting is allowed in the inner SMZ (25 feet from the high water mark), except for the removal of wind-thrown trees. Stream restoration is allowed if a written restoration plan provides a rational justification and if the plan follows local and regional plans.

Compliance with Indicator: Full  Partial   
No  N/A  Deferred

6.5.d.1.d. Outer SMZs, outside and in addition to inner SMZs, are established for all intermittent, and perennial streams, as well as other waters. When the necessary information is available, the width of a stream management zone is based on the landform, erodibility of the soil, stability of the slope, and stability of the stream channel necessary to protect water quality and repair habitat. When such specific information is not available, the width of streamside management zone is calculated according to the table for indicator 6.5.e.1.a.

Compliance with Indicator: Full  Partial   
No  N/A  Deferred

6.5.d.1.e. Harvesting in outer SMZs is limited to single-tree and group selection, while maintaining at least a 50 percent of the overstory. Roads, skid trails, landings, and other similar silviculturally disturbed areas are constructed or when placement of disturbance-prone activities outside the SMZ would result in more environmental disturbance than placing such activities within the SMZ. Exceptions may be made for stream restoration.

Compliance with Indicator: Full  Partial   
No  N/A  Deferred

6.5.d.1.f. The entire SMZ of intermittent streams is managed as an outer buffer zone.

Compliance with Indicator: Full  Partial   
No  N/A  Deferred

6.5.d.1.g. The activities of forest management do not result in observable siltation of intermittent

Compliance with Indicator: Full  Partial

streams.	No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input type="checkbox"/> Deferred <input type="checkbox"/>
6.5.d.2. Minor variations from the stated minimum SMZ widths and layout for specific stream segments, wetlands, and other water bodies are permitted in limited circumstances, provided the forest owner or manager demonstrates that the alternative configuration maintains the overall extent of the buffers and provides equivalent configuration or greater environmental protection than FSC-US regional requirements for those stream segments, water quality, and aquatic species, based on site-specific conditions and the best available information. The forest owner or manager develops a written set of supporting information including a description of the riparian habitats and species addressed in the alternative configuration. The Center must verify that the variations meet the requirements, based on the input of an independent expert in aquatic ecology or closely related field.	Compliance with Indicator: Full <input type="checkbox"/> Partial <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input type="checkbox"/> Deferred <input type="checkbox"/>
6.5.e. Stream and wetland crossings are avoided when possible. Unavoidable crossings are located and constructed to minimize impacts on water quality, hydrology, and fragmentation of aquatic habitat. Crossings do not impede movement of aquatic species. Temporary crossings are restored to original hydrological conditions when operations are finished.	Compliance with Indicator: Full <input type="checkbox"/> Partial <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input type="checkbox"/> Deferred <input type="checkbox"/>
6.5.f. Recreation use on the FMU is managed to avoid negative impacts to soils, water, plants, wildlife, and wildlife habitats.	Compliance with Indicator: Full <input type="checkbox"/> Partial <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input type="checkbox"/> Deferred <input type="checkbox"/>
6.5.g. Grazing by domesticated animals is controlled to protect in-stream habitats and water quality, the species composition and viability of the riparian vegetation, and the banks of the stream channel from erosion.	Compliance with Indicator: Full <input type="checkbox"/> Partial <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input type="checkbox"/> Deferred <input type="checkbox"/>
NOTES:	
<b>6.6 Management systems shall promote the development and adoption of environmentally friendly non-chemical methods of pest management and strive to avoid the use of chemical pesticides. World Health Organization Type 1A and 1B and chlorinated hydrocarbon pesticides; pesticides that are persistent, toxic or whose derivatives remain biologically active and accumulate in the food chain beyond their intended use; as well as any pesticides banned by international agreement, shall be prohibited. If chemicals are used, proper equipment and training shall be provided to minimize health and environmental risks.</b>	
<b>Criterion Level Remarks:</b>	
6.6.a. No products on the FSC list of Highly Hazardous Pesticides are used (see FSC-POL-30-001 EN FSC Pesticides policy 2005 and associated documents).	Compliance with Indicator: Full <input type="checkbox"/> Partial <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input type="checkbox"/> Deferred <input type="checkbox"/>
6.6.b. All toxicants used to control pests and competing vegetation, including rodenticides, insecticides, herbicides, and fungicides are used only when and where non-chemical management practices are: a)not available; b) prohibitively expensive, taking into account overall environmental and social costs, risks, and benefits; c) the only effective means for controlling invasive and exotic species; or d) result in less environmental damage than non-chemical alternatives (e.g., top soil disturbance, loss of soil litter, and down wood debris). If chemicals are used, the forest owner or manager uses the least environmentally damaging formulation and application method practical. Written strategies are developed and implemented that justify the use of chemical pesticides. Family forest owners/managers may use brief and less technical written procedures for applying common over-the-counter products. Any observed misuse of these chemicals may be considered as violation of requirements of this indicator. Whenever feasible, an eventual phase-out of chemical use is included in this strategy.	Compliance with Indicator: Full <input type="checkbox"/> Partial <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input type="checkbox"/> Deferred <input type="checkbox"/>

6.6.c. Chemicals and application methods are selected to minimize risk to non-target species and sites. When considering the choice between aerial and ground application, the forest owner or manager evaluates the comparative risk to non-target species and sites, the comparative risk of worker exposure, and the overall amount and type of chemicals required.	Compliance with Indicator: Full <input type="checkbox"/> Partial <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input type="checkbox"/> Deferred <input type="checkbox"/>
6.6.d. Whenever chemicals are used, a written prescription is prepared that describes the site specific hazards and risks, and includes a map of the treatment area and the Center's Chemical Usage Form (or similar document containing all relevant information) is completed.	Compliance with Indicator: Full <input type="checkbox"/> Partial <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input type="checkbox"/> Deferred <input type="checkbox"/>
6.6.e. Chemicals are applied only by workers who have received proper training in application methods and safety. They are made aware of the risks, wear proper safety equipment, and are trained to minimize environmental impacts on non-target species and sites.	Compliance with Indicator: Full <input type="checkbox"/> Partial <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input type="checkbox"/> Deferred <input type="checkbox"/>
6.6.f. If chemicals are used, and the effects are monitored and the results are used for adaptive management. Records are kept of pest occurrences, control measures, and incidences of worker exposure to chemicals.	Compliance with Indicator: Full <input type="checkbox"/> Partial <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input type="checkbox"/> Deferred <input type="checkbox"/>
NOTES:	
<b>6.7 Chemicals, containers, liquid and solid non-organic wastes including fuel and oil shall be disposed of in an environmentally appropriate manner at off-site locations.</b>	
<b>Criterion Level Remarks:</b>	
6.7.a. The forest owner or manager, and employees and contractors, have equipment and training necessary to respond to hazardous spills.	Compliance with Indicator: Full <input type="checkbox"/> Partial <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input type="checkbox"/> Deferred <input type="checkbox"/>
6.7.b. In the event of a hazardous material spill, the forest owner or manager immediately contains the material and engages qualified personnel to perform the appropriate removal and remediation, as required by applicable laws and regulations.	Compliance with Indicator: Full <input type="checkbox"/> Partial <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input type="checkbox"/> Deferred <input type="checkbox"/>
6.7.c. Hazardous materials and fuels are stored in leak-proof containers in designated storage areas, that are outside riparian management zones and away from other ecological sensitive features, until they are used or transported to an approved off-site location for disposal. There is no evidence of persistent fluid leaks from equipment or of recent groundwater or surface water contamination.	Compliance with Indicator: Full <input type="checkbox"/> Partial <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input type="checkbox"/> Deferred <input type="checkbox"/>
NOTES:	
<b>6.8. Use of biological control agents shall be documented, minimized, monitored, and strictly controlled in accordance with national laws and internationally accepted scientific protocols. Use of genetically modified organisms shall be prohibited.</b>	
<b>Criterion Level Remarks:</b>	
6.8.a. Biological control agents are used only as part of a pest management strategy for the control of invasive plants, pathogens, insects, or other animals when other pest control methods are ineffective, or are expected to be ineffective. Such use is contingent upon peer-reviewed scientific evidence that the agents in question are non-invasive and are safe native species.	Compliance with Indicator: Full <input type="checkbox"/> Partial <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input type="checkbox"/> Deferred <input type="checkbox"/>
6.8.b. If biological control agents are used, they are applied by trained workers using proper equipment.	Compliance with Indicator: Full <input type="checkbox"/> Partial <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input type="checkbox"/> Deferred <input type="checkbox"/>
6.8.c. If biological control agents are used, their use is documented, monitored and strictly controlled in accordance with state and national laws and internationally accepted scientific protocols. A written plan will be developed and implemented justifying such use, describing the risks, specifying the precautions workers will employ to avoid or minimize such risks, and describing how potential impacts will be	Compliance with Indicator: Full <input type="checkbox"/> Partial <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input type="checkbox"/> Deferred <input type="checkbox"/>

monitored.	
6.8.d. Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOs) are not used for any purposes.	Compliance with Indicator: Full <input type="checkbox"/> Partial <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input type="checkbox"/> Deferred <input type="checkbox"/>
NOTES:	
<b>6.9 The use of exotic species shall be carefully controlled and actively monitored to avoid adverse ecological impacts.</b>	
<b>Criterion Level Remarks:</b>	
6.9.a. The use of exotic species is contingent on the availability of credible scientific data indicating that any such species is non-invasive and its application does not pose a risk to natural biodiversity.	Compliance with Indicator: Full <input type="checkbox"/> Partial <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input type="checkbox"/> Deferred <input type="checkbox"/>
6.9.b. If exotic species are used, their provenance and the location of their use are documented, and their ecological effects are actively monitored.	Compliance with Indicator: Full <input type="checkbox"/> Partial <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input type="checkbox"/> Deferred <input type="checkbox"/>
6.9.c. The forest owner or manager takes timely action to curtail or significantly reduce any adverse impacts resulting from their use of exotic species.	Compliance with Indicator: Full <input type="checkbox"/> Partial <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input type="checkbox"/> Deferred <input type="checkbox"/>
NOTES:	
<b>6.10. Forest conversion to plantations or non-forest land uses shall not occur, except in circumstances where conversion:</b>	
<b>a) Entails a very limited portion of the forest management unit; and</b>	
<b>b) Does not occur on high conservation value forest areas; and</b>	
<b>c) Will enable clear, substantial, additional, secure, long term conservation benefits across the forest management unit.</b>	
<b>Criterion Level Remarks:</b>	
6.10.a. Forest conversion to non-forest land uses does not occur, except in circumstances where conversion entails a very limited portion of the forest management unit (note indicators 6.10.a, b, and c are related and all need to be conformed with or conversion to be allowed).	Compliance with Indicator: Full <input type="checkbox"/> Partial <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input type="checkbox"/> Deferred <input type="checkbox"/>
6.10.b. Forest conversion to non-forest land uses does not occur on high conservation value forest areas (note that indicators 6.10.a, b, and c are related and all need to be conformed with for conversion to be allowed).	Compliance with Indicator: Full <input type="checkbox"/> Partial <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input type="checkbox"/> Deferred <input type="checkbox"/>
6.10.c. Forest conversion to non-forest land uses does not occur, except in circumstances where conversion will enable clear, substantial, additional, secure, long term conservation benefits across the forest management unit (note that indicators 6.10.a, b, and c are related and all need to be conformed with for conversion to be allowed).	Compliance with Indicator: Full <input type="checkbox"/> Partial <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input type="checkbox"/> Deferred <input type="checkbox"/>
6.10.d. Natural or semi-natural stands are not converted to plantations. Degraded, semi-natural stands may be converted to restoration plantations.	Compliance with Indicator: Full <input type="checkbox"/> Partial <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input type="checkbox"/> Deferred <input type="checkbox"/>
6.10.e. Justification for land-use and stand-type conversions is fully described in the long-term management plan, and meets to biodiversity conservation requirements of criterion 6.3 (see also criterion 7.1.1).	Compliance with Indicator: Full <input type="checkbox"/> Partial <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input type="checkbox"/> Deferred <input type="checkbox"/>
6.10.f. Areas converted to non-forest use for facilities associated with subsurface mineral and gas rights transferred by prior owners, or other conversion outside the control of the certificate holder, are identified on maps. The forest owner or manager consults with the Center to determine of removal of these areas from the scope of the certificate is warranted. To the extent allowed by these transferred rights, the forest owner or manager exercises control over the location of the surface disturbances in a manner that minimizes adverse environmental and social impacts.	Compliance with Indicator: Full <input type="checkbox"/> Partial <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input type="checkbox"/> Deferred <input type="checkbox"/>

If the certificate holder at one point held these rights, and then sold them, then subsequent conversion of forest to non-forest use would be subject to indicator 6.10.a-d.	
NOTES:	

**PRINCIPLE 7. *MANAGEMENT PLAN* - A management plan -- appropriate to the scale and intensity of the operations -- shall be written, implemented, and kept up to date. The long-term objectives of management, and the means of achieving them, shall be clearly stated.**

<b><u>Criteria and Indicators</u></b>	<b><u>Findings</u></b>
<p><b>7.1. The management plan and supporting documents shall provide:</b></p> <p>a) Management objectives.  b) Description of the forest resources to be managed, environmental limitations, land use and ownership status, socio-economic conditions, and a profile of adjacent lands.  c) Description of silvicultural and/or other management system, based on the ecology of the forest in question and information gathered through resource inventories.  d) Rationale for rate of annual harvest and species selection.  e) Provisions for monitoring of forest growth and dynamics.  f) Environmental safeguards based on environmental assessments.  g) Plans for the identification and protection of rare, threatened and endangered species.  h) Maps describing the forest resource base including protected areas, planned management activities and land ownership.  i) Description and justification of harvesting techniques and equipment to be used.</p>	
<b>Criterion Level Remarks:</b>	
7.1.a.i. A written management plan exists for the property or properties for which certification is being sought. The management plan includes the following components: i. Management objectives (ecological, silvicultural, social, and economic) and duration of the plan	Compliance with Indicator: Full <input type="checkbox"/> Partial <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input type="checkbox"/> Deferred <input type="checkbox"/>
7.1.a.ii. Quantitative and qualitative description of the forest resources to be managed, including at a minimum stand-level descriptions of the land cover, including species and size/age class and referencing inventory information	Compliance with Indicator: Full <input type="checkbox"/> Partial <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input type="checkbox"/> Deferred <input type="checkbox"/>
7.1.a.iii. Description of silvicultural and/or other management system, prescriptions, rationale, and typical harvest systems (if applicable) that will be used	Compliance with Indicator: Full <input type="checkbox"/> Partial <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input type="checkbox"/> Deferred <input type="checkbox"/>
7.1.a.iv. Description of harvest limits and species selection. Also, description of the documentation considered from the sustained yield analysis options if the FMU does not have a calculated annual harvest rate	Compliance with Indicator: Full <input type="checkbox"/> Partial <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input type="checkbox"/> Deferred <input type="checkbox"/>
7.1.a.v. Description of environmental assessment and safeguards based on the assessment, including approaches to: (1) pest and weed management, (2) fire management, and (3) protection of riparian management zones; (4) protection of representative samples of existing ecosystems (see criterion 6.4) and management of High Conservation Value Forests (see principle 9)	Compliance with Indicator: Full <input type="checkbox"/> Partial <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input type="checkbox"/> Deferred <input type="checkbox"/>
7.1.a.vi. Description of location and protection of rare, threatened, and endangered species and plant community types	Compliance with Indicator: Full <input type="checkbox"/> Partial <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input type="checkbox"/> Deferred <input type="checkbox"/>
7.1.a.vii. Description of procedures to monitor the forest, including forest growth and dynamics, and other components as outlined in principle 8	Compliance with Indicator: Full <input type="checkbox"/> Partial <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input type="checkbox"/> Deferred <input type="checkbox"/>

7.1.a.viii. Maps represent property boundaries, use rights, land cover, types, significant hydrologic features, roads, adjoining land use, and protected areas in a manner that clearly relates to the forest description and management prescriptions	Compliance with Indicator: Full <input type="checkbox"/> Partial <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input type="checkbox"/> Deferred <input type="checkbox"/>
7.1.b. Actions undertaken on the FMU are consistent with the management plan and help achieve the stated goals and objectives of the plan.	Compliance with Indicator: Full <input type="checkbox"/> Partial <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input type="checkbox"/> Deferred <input type="checkbox"/>
NOTES:	
<b>7.2 The management plan shall be periodically revised to incorporate the results of monitoring or new scientific and technical information, as well as to respond to changing environmental, social and economic circumstances.</b>	
<b>Criterion Level Remarks:</b>	
7.2.a. The management plan is kept up to date. It is reviewed on an ongoing basis and is updated whenever necessary to incorporate the results of monitoring or new scientific and technical information, as well as to respond to changing environmental, social, and economic circumstances. At a minimum, a full revision occurs every 10 years.	Compliance with Indicator: Full <input type="checkbox"/> Partial <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input type="checkbox"/> Deferred <input type="checkbox"/>
NOTES:	
<b>7.3. Forest workers shall receive adequate training and supervision to ensure proper implementation of the management plan.</b>	
<b>Criterion Level Remarks:</b>	
7.3.a. Workers are qualified to properly implement the management plan; all forest workers are provided with sufficient guidance and supervision to adequately implement their respective components of the plan.	Compliance with Indicator: Full <input type="checkbox"/> Partial <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input type="checkbox"/> Deferred <input type="checkbox"/>
NOTES:	

<b>PRINCIPLE 8. <u>MONITORING AND ASSESSMENT</u> - Monitoring shall be conducted -- appropriate to the scale and intensity of forest management -- to assess the condition of the forest, yields of forest products, chain of custody, management activities and their social and environmental impacts.</b>	
<b><i>Criteria and Indicators</i></b>	<b><i>Findings</i></b>
<b>8.1 The frequency and intensity of monitoring should be determined by the scale and intensity of forest management operations as well as the relative complexity and fragility of the affected environment. Monitoring procedures should be consistent and replicable over time to allow comparison of results and assessment of change.</b>	
<b>Criterion Level Remarks:</b>	
8.1.a. The forest owner or manager develops and consistently implements a regular, comprehensive, and replicable written monitoring protocol. Monitoring may be scaled to the size and intensity of the management operations that affect the resources identified in criterion 8.2.	Compliance with Indicator: Full <input type="checkbox"/> Partial <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input type="checkbox"/> Deferred <input type="checkbox"/>
NOTES:	
<b>8.2. Forest management should include the research and data collection needed to monitor, at a minimum, the following indicators:</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) yield of all forest products harvested,</li> <li>b) growth rates, regeneration, and condition of the forest,</li> <li>c) composition and observed changes in the flora and fauna,</li> <li>d) environmental and social impacts of harvesting and other operations, and</li> <li>e) cost, productivity, and efficiency of forest management.</li> </ul>	



<b>Criterion Level Remarks:</b>	
8.2.a.1. For all commercially harvested products, an inventory system is maintained. The inventory system includes at a minimum: a) species, b) volumes, c) stocking, d) regeneration, e) stand and forest composition and structure; and f) timber quality.	Compliance with Indicator: Full <input type="checkbox"/> Partial <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input type="checkbox"/> Deferred <input type="checkbox"/>
8.2.a.2. Significant, unanticipated removal or loss or increased vulnerability of forest resources is monitored and recorded. Recorded information includes date and location of occurrence, description of disturbance, extent and severity of loss, and may be both qualitative and quantitative.	Compliance with Indicator: Full <input type="checkbox"/> Partial <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input type="checkbox"/> Deferred <input type="checkbox"/>
8.2.b. The forest owner or manager maintains records of harvested timber (including non-certified) and NTFPs (volume and product and/or grade). Records must be provided to the Center as well to comply with Group Certificate reporting requirements.	Compliance with Indicator: Full <input type="checkbox"/> Partial <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input type="checkbox"/> Deferred <input type="checkbox"/>
8.2.c. The forest owner or manager periodically obtains data needed to monitor presence on the FMU of : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rare, threatened, and endangered species and/or their habitats</li> <li>• Common and rare plant communities and/or habitat</li> <li>• Location, presences, and abundance of invasive species</li> <li>• Condition of protected areas, set-asides, and buffer zones</li> <li>• High Conservation Value Forests</li> </ul>	Compliance with Indicator: Full <input type="checkbox"/> Partial <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input type="checkbox"/> Deferred <input type="checkbox"/>
8.2.d.1. Monitoring is conducted to ensure their site specific plans and operations are properly implemented, environmental impacts of site disturbing operations are minimized, and that harvest level prescriptions are guidelines are effective.	Compliance with Indicator: Full <input type="checkbox"/> Partial <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input type="checkbox"/> Deferred <input type="checkbox"/>
8.2.d.2. A monitoring program is in place to assess the condition and environmental impacts of the forest-road system.	Compliance with Indicator: Full <input type="checkbox"/> Partial <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input type="checkbox"/> Deferred <input type="checkbox"/>
8.2.e. The forest owner or manager monitors the costs and revenues of management in order to assess productivity and efficiency.	Compliance with Indicator: Full <input type="checkbox"/> Partial <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input type="checkbox"/> Deferred <input type="checkbox"/>
NOTES:	
<b>8.3. Documentation shall be provided by the forest manager to enable monitoring and certifying organizations to trace each forest product from its origin, a process known as the "chain-of-custody."</b>	
<b>Criterion Level Remarks:</b>	
8.3.a. When forest products are being sold as FSC-certified, the forest owner or manager has a system that prevents mixing of FSC-certified and non-certified forest products prior to the point of sale.	Compliance with Indicator: Full <input type="checkbox"/> Partial <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input type="checkbox"/> Deferred <input type="checkbox"/>
8.3.b. The forest owner or manager maintains documentation to enable the tracing of the harvested material from each harvested products from its origin to the point of sale.	Compliance with Indicator: Full <input type="checkbox"/> Partial <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input type="checkbox"/> Deferred <input type="checkbox"/>
NOTES:	
<b>8.4. The results of monitoring shall be incorporated into the implementation and revision of the management plan.</b>	
<b>Criterion Level Remarks:</b>	
8.4.a. The forest owner or manager monitors and documents the degree to which the objectives stated in the management plan are being fulfilled, as well as significant deviations from the plan.	Compliance with Indicator: Full <input type="checkbox"/> Partial <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input type="checkbox"/> Deferred <input type="checkbox"/>
8.4.b. Where monitoring indicates that management objectives and guidelines, including those necessary for conformance with this standard, are not being met or if changing conditions indicate that	Compliance with Indicator: Full <input type="checkbox"/> Partial <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input type="checkbox"/> Deferred <input type="checkbox"/>

a change in management strategy is necessary, the management plan, operations plans, and/or other plan implementation measures are revised to ensure the objectives and guidelines will be met. If monitoring shows that the management objectives and guidelines themselves are not sufficient to ensure conformance with this standard, then the objectives and guidelines are modified.	
NOTES:	
<b>8.5. While respecting the confidentiality of information, forest managers shall make publicly available a summary of the results of monitoring indicators, including those listed in Criterion 8.2.</b>	
<b>Criterion Level Remarks:</b>	
8.5.a. While protecting landowner confidentiality, either full monitoring results or an up-to-date summary of the most recent monitoring information is maintained, covering the indicators listed in criterion 8.2, and is available to the public, upon request.	Compliance with Indicator: Full <input type="checkbox"/> Partial <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input type="checkbox"/> Deferred <input type="checkbox"/>
NOTES:	

<b>PRINCIPLE 9. MAINTENANCE OF HIGH CONSERVATION VALUE FORESTS - Management activities in high conservation value forests shall maintain or enhance the attributes which define such forests. Decisions regarding high conservation value forests shall always be considered in the context of a precautionary approach.</b>	
<b><i>Criteria and Indicators</i></b>	<b><i>Findings</i></b>
<b>9.1. Assessment to determine the presence of the attributes consistent with High Conservation Value Forests will be completed, appropriate to scale and intensity of forest management.</b>	
<b>Criterion Level Remarks:</b>	
9.1.a. The forest owner or manager identifies and maps the presence of High Conservation Value Forests (HCVF) within the FMU and, to the extent that data are available, adjacent to their FMU, in a manner consistent with the assessment process, definitions, data sources, and other guidance described using the Center's provided High Conservation Value Forests Guidance document.	Compliance with Indicator: Full <input type="checkbox"/> Partial <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input type="checkbox"/> Deferred <input type="checkbox"/>
9.1.b. In developing the assessment, the forest owner or manager consults with provided data from the Center, qualified experts, or best available research and literature.	Compliance with Indicator: Full <input type="checkbox"/> Partial <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input type="checkbox"/> Deferred <input type="checkbox"/>
9.1.c. A summary of the assessment results and management strategies is included in the management plan summary that is made available to the public.	Compliance with Indicator: Full <input type="checkbox"/> Partial <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input type="checkbox"/> Deferred <input type="checkbox"/>
NOTES:	
<b>9.2 The management plan shall include and implement specific measures that ensure the maintenance and/or enhancement of the applicable conservation attributes consistent with the precautionary approach. These measures shall be specifically included in the publicly available management plan summary.</b>	
<b>Criterion Level Remarks:</b>	
9.2.a. The management plan and relevant operational plans describe the measures necessary to ensure the maintenance and/or enhancement of all high conservation values present in all identified HCVF areas, including the precautions required to avoid risks or impacts to such values (see principle 7). These measures are implemented.	Compliance with Indicator: Full <input type="checkbox"/> Partial <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input type="checkbox"/> Deferred <input type="checkbox"/>
9.2.b. All management activities in the HCVFs must maintain or enhance the high conservation values and the extent of the HCVF.	Compliance with Indicator: Full <input type="checkbox"/> Partial <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input type="checkbox"/> Deferred <input type="checkbox"/>

9.2.c. If HCVF attributes cross ownership boundaries and where maintenance of the HCV attributes would be improved by coordinated management, then the forest owner or manager attempts to coordinate conservation efforts with adjacent landowners.	Compliance with Indicator: Full <input type="checkbox"/> Partial <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input type="checkbox"/> Deferred <input type="checkbox"/>
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NOTES:  
**9.3. Annual monitoring shall be conducted to assess the effectiveness of the measures employed to maintain and enhance the applicable conservation attributes.**

**Criterion Level Remarks:**

9.3.a. The forest owner or manager monitors, or participates in a program to annually monitor, the status of the specific HCV attributes, including the effectiveness of the measures employed for their maintenance or enhancement. The monitoring program is designed and implemented consistent with the requirements of principle 8.	Compliance with Indicator: Full <input type="checkbox"/> Partial <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input type="checkbox"/> Deferred <input type="checkbox"/>
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9.3.b. When monitoring results indicate increasing risk to a specific HCV attribute, the forest owner/manager re-evaluates the measures taken to maintain or enhance that attribute, and adjusts the management measures in an effort to reverse the trend.	Compliance with Indicator: Full <input type="checkbox"/> Partial <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input type="checkbox"/> Deferred <input type="checkbox"/>
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NOTES:

**PRINCIPLE 10. PLANTATIONS - Plantations shall be planned and managed in accordance with Principles and Criteria 1 - 9, and Principle 10 and its Criteria. While plantations can provide an array of social and economic benefits, and can contribute to satisfying the world's needs for forest products, they should complement the management of, reduce pressures on, and promote the restoration and conservation of natural forests.**

<b><i>Criteria and Indicators</i></b>	<b><i>Findings</i></b>
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**10.1 The management objectives of the plantation, including natural forest conservation and restoration objectives shall explicitly stated in the management plan, and clearly demonstrated in the implementation of the management plan.**

**Criterion Level Remarks:**

10.1.a. Consistent with all indicators within principle 10 and requirements of principle 7, the management plan contains clear descriptions of the management goals and prescriptions for plantations on the FMU, of the rationale for plantation management within the FMU, and the relationship between the plantations and natural forest conservation and restoration objectives within the unit.	Compliance with Indicator: Full <input type="checkbox"/> Partial <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input type="checkbox"/> Deferred <input type="checkbox"/>
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10.1.b. The forest owner or manager demonstrates clear progress in implementation of the components of the management plan addressing natural forest conservation and restoration objectives as they pertain to plantation management	Compliance with Indicator: Full <input type="checkbox"/> Partial <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input type="checkbox"/> Deferred <input type="checkbox"/>
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NOTES:

**10.2 The design and layout of plantations should promote the protection, restoration, and conservation of natural forests, and not increase pressures on natural forests. Wildlife corridors, streamside zones, and a mosaic of stands of different ages and rotation periods shall be used in the layout of the plantation, consistent with the scale of the operation. The scale and layout of plantation blocks shall be consistent with the patterns of forest stands found within the natural landscape.**

**Criterion Level Remarks:**

10.2.a. For plantations established on soils capable of supporting natural forests, harvest units shall be	Compliance with Indicator: Full <input type="checkbox"/> Partial <input type="checkbox"/>
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<p>arranged to provide or maintain areas of vegetative cover that allows populations of mid to late successional and sedentary native plant and animal species to survive or be reestablished within the plantation.</p>	<p>No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input type="checkbox"/> Deferred <input type="checkbox"/></p>
<p>10.2.b. New plantation establishment does not replace, endanger, or otherwise diminish the ecological integrity of any existing ecosystems won the FMU, including primary, natural, or semi-natural forests on the FMU. Note that restoration plantations may be established on degraded, semi-natural forests (see criterion 6.10). Plantations can be established on the following sites: former plantations; agricultural lands; and non-forested lands; and non-forested lands that were historically naturally forested but have been used for non-forest purposes since before 1994 (see additional conditions in criterion 10.9). New plantations are not established on rare or threatened non-forest habitats or ecosystems.</p>	<p>Compliance with Indicator: Full <input type="checkbox"/> Partial <input type="checkbox"/>  No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input type="checkbox"/> Deferred <input type="checkbox"/></p>
<p>10.2.c. Openings lacking within-stand retention are limited to a 40 acre average and an 80 acre maximum. Harvest openings larger than 80 acres must have retention as required in indicator 10.2.d and be justified by credible scientific analysis. The average for all openings (with and without retention) does not exceed 100 acres. Departures from these limits for restoration purposes are permissible but also must be justified by credible scientific analysis.</p>	<p>Compliance with Indicator: Full <input type="checkbox"/> Partial <input type="checkbox"/>  No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input type="checkbox"/> Deferred <input type="checkbox"/></p>
<p>10.2.d. On openings larger than 80 acres that are justified by credible scientific analysis, live trees, and native vegetation are retained in a proportion and configuration that are consistent with the characteristic natural disturbance regime in each community type, unless retention at a lower level in necessary for restoration purposes.</p>	<p>Compliance with Indicator: Full <input type="checkbox"/> Partial <input type="checkbox"/>  No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input type="checkbox"/> Deferred <input type="checkbox"/></p>
<p>10.2.e. In all regions except the Southeast, before an area is harvested, regeneration in adjacent forest areas (either natural forest or plantation) on the FMU must be of the subsequent advanced successional habitat stage, or exceed ten feet in height, or achieve canopy closure along at least 50% of its perimeter.  In the Southeast Region, harvest units are arranged to support viable populations of native species of flora and fauna. For hardwood ecosystems, regeneration in previously harvested areas reaches a mean height of at least ten feet or achieves canopy closure before adjacent areas are harvested. For southern pine ecosystems, (e.g. upland pine forests, pine flatwoods forests, sand pine scrub), harvest areas are located, if possible, adjacent to the next youngest stand to enable early successional or groundcover-adapted species to migrate across the early successional continuum.</p>	<p>Compliance with Indicator: Full <input type="checkbox"/> Partial <input type="checkbox"/>  No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input type="checkbox"/> Deferred <input type="checkbox"/></p>
<p>NOTES:</p>	
<p><b>10.3 Diversity in the composition of plantations is preferred, so as th enhance economic, ecological, and social stability. Such diversity may include the size and spatial distribution of management units within the landscape, number and genetic composition of species, age classes, and structures.</b></p>	
<p><b>Criterion Level Remarks:</b></p>	
<p>10.3.a. Plantation management alone or in combination with natural forest management contributes to the economic stability of the local community, or helps the owner maintain the property as a working forest.</p>	<p>Compliance with Indicator: Full <input type="checkbox"/> Partial <input type="checkbox"/>  No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input type="checkbox"/> Deferred <input type="checkbox"/></p>
<p>10.3.b. On plantations established on soils capable of supporting natural forests, the forest owner or manager maintains, conserves, and/or restores forest health and diversity, including wildlife habitat and soil productivity, by maintaining appropriate diversity of size, structures, age classes, species, and genetics across the plantation FMU.</p>	<p>Compliance with Indicator: Full <input type="checkbox"/> Partial <input type="checkbox"/>  No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input type="checkbox"/> Deferred <input type="checkbox"/></p>

NOTES:	
<b>10.4 The selection of species for planting shall be based on their overall suitability for the site and their appropriateness to the management objectives. In order to enhance the conservation of biological diversity, native species are preferred over exotic species in the establishment of plantations and the restoration of degraded ecosystems. Exotic species, which shall be used only when their performance is greater than that of native species, shall be carefully monitored to detect unusual mortality, disease, or insect outbreaks and adverse ecological impacts.</b>	
<b>Criterion Level Remarks:</b>	
10.4.a. Species shall be used for planting that are suitable and appropriate to the site and are consistent with maintaining FMU health and productivity. Species native to the region are preferred to other species (not native to the region).	Compliance with Indicator: Full <input type="checkbox"/> Partial <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input type="checkbox"/> Deferred <input type="checkbox"/>
10.4.b. For Ouachita/Ozark region the uses of exotic species (i.e. species not native to the region) is contingent on credible scientific analysis confirming that the species in question is non-invasive, will not create significant risk to forest health, and performs better than species native to the region. If exotic plants are used, their provenance and the location of their use are documented and their ecological effects are monitored. In the Mississippi Alluvial Valley, Appalachian, and Southeast regions, the planting of exotic species is used only for site remediation. Justification for such plantings is provided. The species in question shall be non-invasive, shall not create significant risk to forest health, and shall perform better than native species. Their provenance and the location of their use are documented and their ecological effects are monitored.	Compliance with Indicator: Full <input type="checkbox"/> Partial <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input type="checkbox"/> Deferred <input type="checkbox"/>
NOTES:	
<b>10.5. A proportion of the overall forest management area, appropriate to the scale of the plantation, and to be determined in regional standards, shall be managed so as to restore the site to natural cover.</b>	
<b>Criterion Level Remarks:</b>	
10.5.a. Areas of forest and/or plantation to be restored to natural conditions are chosen through a landscape analysis that focuses on enhancing principle characteristics of the native ecosystem or providing important ecological benefits at the stand or landscape level.	Compliance with Indicator: Full <input type="checkbox"/> Partial <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input type="checkbox"/> Deferred <input type="checkbox"/>
10.5.b. Areas to be restored to natural conditions are prioritized where the analysis indicates the greatest conservation gain and are designed for long-term restoration.	Compliance with Indicator: Full <input type="checkbox"/> Partial <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input type="checkbox"/> Deferred <input type="checkbox"/>
10.5.c. Management plans should clearly state the extent and location of areas selected for such restoration, as well as the rationale for their selection.	Compliance with Indicator: Full <input type="checkbox"/> Partial <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input type="checkbox"/> Deferred <input type="checkbox"/>
10.5.d. Areas of forest and/or plantation to be restored or maintained as natural forests are managed to provide a diversity of community types, wildlife habitats, and ecological functions native to the site.	Compliance with Indicator: Full <input type="checkbox"/> Partial <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input type="checkbox"/> Deferred <input type="checkbox"/>
10.5.e. Where natural ecosystems were previously converted to plantations, a percentage of the total area of the FMU must be maintained and/or restored to natural or semi-natural cover. The minimum percentage area that is maintained and/or restored in natural or semi-natural state is: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• For 100 acres or less, at least 10 percent</li> <li>• For 101-1,000 acres, at least 15 percent</li> <li>• For 1,001-10,000 acres, at least 20 percent</li> </ul>	Compliance with Indicator: Full <input type="checkbox"/> Partial <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input type="checkbox"/> Deferred <input type="checkbox"/>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>For &gt;10,000 acres, at least 25 percent</li> </ul> <p>In limited situations where restoration on an FMU is not ecologically achievable (e.g. cases of irreversibly altered geophysical conditions such as former flood plains where rivers have been dammed), restoration efforts may be allocated to areas outside the FMU. Forest managers may secure cooperative conservation agreements for those areas, and count them towards the requirements of 10.5.f. To be eligible, the areas outside the FMU must be of equal or higher priority for conservation and/or restoration than are areas within the FMU.</p>	
NOTES:	
<p><b>10.6 Measures shall be taken to maintain or improve soil structure, fertility, and biological activity. The techniques and rate of harvesting, road and trail construction and maintenance, and the choice of species shall not result in long term soil degradation or adverse impacts on water quality, quantity or substantial deviation from stream course drainage patterns.</b></p>	
<p><b>Criterion Level Remarks:</b></p>	
<p>10.6.a. Forest operations do not result in long-term adverse impacts to soil productivity, water resources, and hydrology. Soil disturbance is minimized during road/trail work and site preparation, and site preparation is done in accordance with BMPs.</p>	<p>Compliance with Indicator: Full <input type="checkbox"/> Partial <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input type="checkbox"/> Deferred <input type="checkbox"/></p>
<p>10.6.b. Tree seedlings are planted in a way that minimizes damage to the soil, while facilitating seedling survival. Tree seedling species are selected appropriate for maintaining long-term productivity.</p>	<p>Compliance with Indicator: Full <input type="checkbox"/> Partial <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input type="checkbox"/> Deferred <input type="checkbox"/></p>
<p>10.6.c. Thinning is implemented in a manner that minimizes site disturbance and damage to the residual stand of crop trees and other desired vegetation (see criterion 6.5).</p>	<p>Compliance with Indicator: Full <input type="checkbox"/> Partial <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input type="checkbox"/> Deferred <input type="checkbox"/></p>
<p>10.6.d. Fertilizer is applied only when all the following conditions are met:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Soil classification or foliar analysis indicates one or more nutrients are a limiting factor for forest productivity</li> <li>Data and/or scientific literature suggest that the response to fertilization is economically justified</li> <li>Where necessary due to topography, soils, or other conditions, measures are taken to prevent damage from fertilizer runoff or leaching. This includes preventing influences on native low-nutrient ecological systems, such as pitcher plant bogs, or on ground and surface water quality</li> <li>Fertilizer application maintains or enhances soil condition and site productivity</li> </ul>	<p>Compliance with Indicator: Full <input type="checkbox"/> Partial <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input type="checkbox"/> Deferred <input type="checkbox"/></p>
<p>10.6.e. Sufficient woody debris and other organic matter is retained within plantation stands to ensure adequate soil structure and nutrient recycling.</p>	<p>Compliance with Indicator: Full <input type="checkbox"/> Partial <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input type="checkbox"/> Deferred <input type="checkbox"/></p>
NOTES:	
<p><b>10.7 Measures shall be taken to prevent and minimize outbreaks or pests, diseases, fire, and invasive plant introductions. Integrated pest management shall form an essential part of the management plan, with primary reliance on prevention and biological control methods rather than chemical pesticides and fertilizers, including their use in nurseries. The use of chemicals is also covered in criteria 6.6 and 6.7.</b></p>	
<p><b>Criterion Level Remarks:</b></p>	
<p>10.7.a. Outbreaks of pests and disease are controlled by maintaining plantation vigor. Management regimes in plantation areas are designed to minimize forest damage from fire, pests, disease, wind, and other factors. Where applicable:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Periodic thinning are scheduled and conducted to reduce competition for light, water, and</li> </ul>	<p>Compliance with Indicator: Full <input type="checkbox"/> Partial <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input type="checkbox"/> Deferred <input type="checkbox"/></p>

<p>nutrients</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The forest owner or manager is aware of the potential pest problems associated with the tree species in the plantation and region, and has some knowledge of control procedures</li> <li>• Habitat for predators of plantation pests is maintained within or adjacent to the plantation</li> <li>• Diversity of tree species is encouraged in the stand</li> <li>• Management techniques are used that minimize reliance on chemicals</li> </ul>	
<p>10.7.b. A strategy is in place to control fire damage. Where applicable, prescribed burns are conducted according to BMPs and with adequate planning, equipment, training, and weather conditions to maintain control of the burn within the burn plan area.</p>	<p>Compliance with Indicator: Full <input type="checkbox"/> Partial <input type="checkbox"/>  No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input type="checkbox"/> Deferred <input type="checkbox"/></p>
<p>10.7.c. The forest owner implements a strategy to prevent or control invasive species, as noted in indicator 6.3.h.</p>	<p>Compliance with Indicator: Full <input type="checkbox"/> Partial <input type="checkbox"/>  No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input type="checkbox"/> Deferred <input type="checkbox"/></p>
<p>NOTES:</p>	
<p><b>10.8 Appropriate to the scale and diversity of the operation, monitoring of plantations shall include regular assessment of potential on-site ecological and social impacts, (e.g. natural regeneration, effects on water resources and soil fertility, and impacts on local welfare and social well-being), in addition to those elements addressed in principles 8, 6, and 4. No species should be planted on a large scale until local trials and/or experience have shown that are ecologically well-adapted to the site, are not invasive, and do not have significant negative ecological impacts on other ecosystems. Special attention will be paid to social issues of land acquisition for plantations, especially the protection of local rights of ownership, use, or access.</b></p>	
<p><b>Criterion Level Remarks:</b></p>	
<p>10.8.a. Monitoring of the impacts of plantations, both on and off-site, is conducted in the same manner as the monitoring of natural forests, in accordance with principles 4, 6, and 8.</p>	<p>Compliance with Indicator: Full <input type="checkbox"/> Partial <input type="checkbox"/>  No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input type="checkbox"/> Deferred <input type="checkbox"/></p>
<p>NOTES:</p>	
<p><b>10.9 Plantations established in areas converted from natural forests after November 1994 normally shall not qualify for certification. Certification may be allowed in circumstances where sufficient evidence is submitted to the Center that the manager/owner is not responsible directly or indirectly of such conversion.</b></p>	
<p><b>Criterion Level Remarks:</b></p>	
<p>10.9.a. For plantations established in areas converted after 1994, the forest owner or manager demonstrates to the Center that the manager/owner was not directly or indirectly responsible for the conversion of the natural forest to the plantation.</p>	<p>Compliance with Indicator: Full <input type="checkbox"/> Partial <input type="checkbox"/>  No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input type="checkbox"/> Deferred <input type="checkbox"/></p>
<p>10.9.b. For plantations established in areas converted after 1994, the forest owner or manager develops and implements a plan to restore the plantation stands to conditions characteristic of natural forests and to manage those stands in compliance with indicators of principles 1-9 as quickly as feasible.</p>	<p>Compliance with Indicator: Full <input type="checkbox"/> Partial <input type="checkbox"/>  No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input type="checkbox"/> Deferred <input type="checkbox"/></p>
<p>NOTES:</p>	