



December 16, 2022

2022 SFI Public Summary Report

Washington State Department of Natural Resources
Sustainable Forestry Initiative® (SFI) 2022 Forest Management Standard

Project Scope and Objectives

PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP (“PwC”) completed a multi-site Maintenance (A4) Assessment on Washington State Department of Natural Resources’ (the Organization) SFI Forest Management activities in the South Puget Sound, Pacific Cascade, Northwest, Olympic, Northeast and Southeast Regional Units. The SFI Forest Management activities are managed by the Forest Resources Division (the Central Office) in Olympia. The Lead Assessor was Jenny Knoth, Ph.D., CF. The assessment team member was James Lucas, EMS (LA), RFP BC, MF. The assessment team was accompanied by Washington State Department of Natural Resources’ SFI Representative, Nicole Jacobsen.

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

Indicators

All of the indicators in the Sustainable Forestry Initiative® (SFI) 2022 Forest Management Standard were within the scope of the assessment.

Assessment Process

Between October 11th-13th, the assessment team conducted interviews and reviewed appropriate documentation to assess policies and procedures and tested the implementation of SFI program requirements of the Forest Resources Division. The team conducted field assessments in Klickitat and Okanogan Counties. In total, the assessment team spent one half day of Forest Resources Division document review and three days on-site for field assessments. Field sites included: four variable retention harvest (“VRH”) timber sales, two shaded fuel breaks, one active timber harvest, two bridge maintenance sites, several decommissioned roads, one prescribed fire treatment, one replanted unit, one fire salvage unit, one natural regeneration site, two campgrounds, and one day-use recreation site. In addition, two habitat enhancement and Natural Resources Conservation Areas were observed: one in each county. The assessment report was dated **December 16, 2022**.

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PwC uses a rotational assessment approach where the Central Office is assessed annually, and six Regional Units are sampled on a five-year rotating schedule that conforms to the International Accreditation Forum Inc.’s Mandatory Document 1.

Client Profile

The Washington State Department of Natural Resources (“DNR”) employs approximately 2,100 full-time, part-time, seasonal, and temporary employees. DNR manages 5.6 million acres of public lands including approximately 2.4 million acres of forestlands and natural areas. Most of these lands are managed for trust beneficiaries to produce revenue in support of public schools, state institutions, and county services. DNR-managed Natural Resources Conservation Areas (“NRCAs”) and Natural Area Preserves (“NAPs”) protect unique and threatened native ecosystems and provide educational and research opportunities.

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

Summary of Conformance, Findings, and Good Management Practices

SFI Forest Management Objective	Evidence of Conformity
<p>Objective 1. Forest Management Planning To ensure forest management plans include long-term sustainable harvest levels and measures to avoid forest conversion</p>	<p><i>The current review focused on the new Indicator 1.1.6 of the 2022 Standard. Information below is based on the in-depth Management Planning conducted in 2020.</i></p> <p>Evidence: Interviews with DNR staff (2022 and 2020), <i>SFI_Indicators_20221010.pdf, FPA Packages, Field Reviews & Inspection Reports, HCP Environmental Impact Statement (“EIS”), Policy for Sustainable Forests, Timber Sales Contract Manual SEPA guidance, OESF EIS, SPS EIS, MMLTCS EIS, WSHC EIS, PSF EIS, HCP: Riparian Forest Restoration Strategy</i></p> <p>Summary: DNR manages 5.6 million acres of public lands including approximately 2.4 million acres of forestlands and natural areas. The forested lands included state trust lands, state forest lands, and community forest trust lands. These forestlands are managed for the trust beneficiaries which include K-12 grade schools statewide, state universities and other educational institutions, prisons, counties and junior tax districts, and communities. State trust lands are managed to generate revenue for the trustees through long-term timber production. The management planning includes specific habitat objectives, and protection of water quality and quantity. Economics and social policies are embedded in the program. Desired environmental outcomes are met through adherence to the State</p>

	<p>Environmental Policy Act, Forest Practices Rules (Title 222 WAC) and the Washington State Forest Practices Habitat Conservation Plan (“HCP”). Community forest trust lands are managed to meet the unique goals of the associated beneficiaries.</p> <p>Forest inventory is continually updated using DNR’s Remote Sensing-Forest Resource Inventory System (RS-FRIS). Ground plots are sampled to collect more detailed data at the smaller plot sizes. This data is then correlated to the remote sensing (LiDAR and PhoDAR) information to generate stand-level inventory approximations. Air photos are captured on a 2-year interval to supplement LiDAR and plot data for inventory updates. Growth and Yield analysis is updated at least every 10 years to support the sustainable harvest level calculation. This process incorporates cruise data along with inventory plot data collected based on federal Forest Inventory Analysis sampling methodologies.</p> <p>DNR has a sophisticated land classification system incorporating over 80 GIS layers. The Forest Practices Habitat Conservation Plan is one example of their landscape-level biodiversity plans.</p> <p>Indicator 1.1.6 is well covered. The DNR program is run for the stakeholders which include school boards and counties across the states and economics and social policies are embedded in the program and environmental outcomes are adhered to/met by the SEPA and other processes.</p>
<p><i>No Nonconformities or Opportunities for Improvement were identified related to this performance measure.</i></p>	
<p>Objective 2. Forest Health and Productivity To ensure long-term forest productivity, carbon storage and conservation of forest resources through prompt reforestation, afforestation, minimized chemical use, soil conservation, and protecting forests from damaging agents.</p>	<p>Evidence: Interviews with DNR staff, <i>SFI_Indicators_20221010.pdf</i>, <i>Silviculture Reports</i>, <i>WAC Reforestation Regulations</i>, <i>Research and Monitoring Program</i>, <i>Various Procedures from DNR Forestry Handbook - Young Stand Surveys</i>, <i>IPM Procedures</i>, <i>field observations of units demonstrating variable retention and clear-cut harvest</i>, <i>salvage logging</i>, <i>replanting and natural regeneration post fire</i>. <i>Examples of road building and maintenance and water crossings were also observed.</i></p> <p>Summary: The Forest Resources Division uses a variety of silviculture systems in the management of state trust lands. These include variable retention harvests, shelterwood, and even-aged harvests. All proposed forestry activities are available for public review and completed projects are well documented at the regional level.</p> <p>All forestry harvest activities are well documented. The legal minimum is 190 trees per acre (“tpa”) at 5 years across all regions but DNR currently plants at 400 tpa or more. Each stand has a silviculture prescription that is part of the timber sale file. The prescription describes current stand and physical site characteristics and the future management steps (planting, spray, surveys). The overall stand history and treatments are also captured in Land Resource Manager (“LRM”). Another tool, Datacubes, pulls data from LRM and can be used to run a variety of reports for the land base, such as yearly harvest treatments at the county level. Species planted include: Ponderosa pine, lodgepole pine, Douglas fir, western larch, white pine, spruce and western red cedar. Planting generally occurs the year after harvest and all lands are restocked within 2 years if planted.</p> <p>Each stand is surveyed for 1-year survival survey which documents regeneration quantity and quality. Procedures for surveying young stands are documented in DNR Guideline 14-006-010. The results of surveys are documented in LRM. Currently, LRM requires the user to record species, natural and planted trees per</p>

	<p>acre, survival, and additional notes (competition and damage) for "Survival Surveys". This is the case for other Free Growing ("FG") surveys.</p> <p>DNR uses Integrated Pest Management ("IPM") including a variety of ground and aerial herbicide applications plus mechanical treatment of brush in some cases. Each unit is reviewed on a case-by-case basis and prescriptions are created to control competition and minimize cost. Other manual techniques are used when appropriate, including hand slashing.</p> <p>DNR has soils maps and processes to identify soil types in the field.</p> <p>DNR has its own seed orchard and tree nursery. Researchers are undertaking progeny trials across the land base and are members of a variety of seed and tree improvement research cooperatives.</p> <p>The DNR conducts and supports many forest health programs within the state, including using prescribed burning and thinning to increase fire resilience within forests where there are frequent fires.</p>
<p><i>No Nonconformities or Opportunities for Improvement were identified related to this performance measure.</i></p>	
<p>Objective 3. Protection and Maintenance of Water Resources To protect the water quality and water quantity of rivers, streams, lakes, wetlands, and other water bodies.</p>	<p>Evidence: Interviews with DNR Division staff, and district level foresters, document review of <i>SFI Indicators_20221010.pdf</i>, planning documents and Departmental procedures, Unit maps and contract packages.</p> <p>Summary: DNR is subject to the Washington State Forest Practices Rules that cover harvesting, road management and BMPs, including audits by DNR Forest Practices compliance foresters. In addition, all DNR timber sales are conducted via contracts that specify legal compliance and are closely supervised by DNR State Lands contract administrators. To ensure contract compliance, all sales include: pre-work start up reviews, ongoing active harvest inspections, and final close out inspections.</p> <p>Road construction procedures are documented in the Forest Roads Guidebook, a technical guide to road construction and maintenance on state-managed land. Most road building is conducted in conjunction with timber sale activities. District engineers help design and implement roads activities for all timber sales. Additionally, roads engineers carry out maintenance activities, bridge and culvert inspections and support larger projects where they can. The DNR also has a roads crew at each region (2-5 staff) who carry out road maintenance activities across the land base. In total, DNR has 14,000 miles of road on State Lands and all roads are inspected to determine condition of fish crossings and other structures. In addition to road building and maintenance, DNR has a roads "deactivation and abandonment" mandate which is carried out in areas where activities will not be scheduled for many years or in the case of non-compliant roads (stream adjacent or unstable roads).</p>
<p><i>No Nonconformities or Opportunities for Improvement were identified related to this performance measure.</i></p>	
<p>Objective 4. Conservation of Biological Diversity To maintain or</p>	<p>Evidence: Interviews with DNR Division staff, Region Biologists and District level foresters, document review of <i>SFI Indicators_20221010.pdf</i>, planning documents and Departmental procedures, Unit maps and contract packages.</p> <p>Summary: The DNR's HCP is an extensive plan to conserve and enhance</p>

<p>advance the conservation of biological diversity at the stand- and landscape-level and across a diversity of forest and vegetation cover types and successional stages including the conservation of forest plants and animals, aquatic species, threatened and endangered species, Forests with Exceptional Conservation Value, old-growth forests, and ecologically important sites.</p>	<p>biodiversity and threatened & endangered (“T&E”) species. Focal species are marbled murrelet and northern spotted owl but other T&E species include: the tailored checker spot butterfly, northern goshawk, and bald eagles. Species and habitat specific plans are in place regionally across the state.</p> <p>DNR has forest cover and inventory data based on LiDAR, air photo and ground plot information. In response to listed or priority species, DNR manages habitat types to ensure no net loss of suitable habitat. For threatened and endangered species (e.g., Canada lynx), DNR has established special management zones. In these areas, DNR personnel communicate with neighbors to ensure habitat is maintained, replaced, or enhanced.</p> <p>During timber sale planning, foresters communicate with region wildlife biologists to determine if any additional assessments or management constraints are required for an area. Foresters and biologists will assess areas on the ground when there is a chance of certain priority species being identified. Riparian assessments are conducted in the unit planning phase and DNR has a comprehensive GIS database which lists areas of ecological significance and riparian features.</p> <p>DNR managed Natural Resource Conservation Areas and Natural Areas Program protect unique and threatened native ecosystems and provide educational and research opportunities. DNR is continuously updating the information contained in the Natural Heritage Program GIS layer and documenting occurrences of noxious weeds on state lands in the LRM database.</p> <p>Additionally, DNR wildlife biologists are involved in research projects which individually and collaboratively support habitat protection and enhancement in conjunction with harvest operations.</p>
<p><i>No Nonconformities or Opportunities for Improvement were identified related to this performance measure.</i></p>	
<p>Objective 5. Management of Visual Quality and Recreational Benefits To manage the visual impact of forest operations and provide recreational opportunities for the public.</p>	<p>Evidence: Interviews with DNR Division staff, District level foresters, Recreation Manager, review of documents listed in the <i>SFI_Indicators_20221010.pdf</i>, planning documents and Departmental procedures, and Unit maps and contract packages.</p> <p>Summary: Reviewed in the field in 2022. Washington State has specific scenic corridors, typically around main highways and cities. DNR has a Visual Impacts Policy and Visual Management Procedure which are incorporated into their Forestry Handbook. These require that aesthetics be considered and managed for when relevant. Visual quality is considered in the early stages of harvest unit planning. When there are potential concerns along highway corridors, efforts are made to retain a visual screen in front of the unit. For areas with local residence or stakeholders, consultations take place to determine what concerns (if any) they have pertaining to visual management. To lessen the visual impact of harvest units, the DNR implements a number of possible approaches including leave strip buffers, strategically designed unit boundaries, in-block retention patches, and/or scattered single stem retention.</p> <p>The DNR has procedures in place limiting their maximum harvest unit size to 100 acres when the resulting plantation will be an even aged stand. This can be exceeded in exceptional circumstances such as forest health concerns or salvage. There is no unit-size limitation for thinning/shelterwood style harvests. If a proposed regeneration harvest will exceed 100 acres, additional reviews and approvals must take place.</p>

	<p>The state lands recreation program has continued to grow. More people visiting areas that have been previously considered more difficult to reach. The recreation managers conduct community engagement through outreach programs, collaborations with local trail user groups including mountain bikers, hikers, and motorized users (e.g., 4x4, quads, and dirt bikes). DNR manages primitive campsites and approximately 1,100 miles of trails. DNR has created information and educational signs for display at trail heads and popular campsites. These signs explain the link between forest practices and the economy, sustainable forestry, and various topics that touch on the local wildlife, history, and general DNR practices.</p>
<p><i>No Nonconformities or Opportunities for Improvement were identified related to this performance measure.</i></p>	
<p>Objective 6. Protection of Special Sites To manage lands that are geologically or culturally important in a manner that takes into account their unique qualities.</p>	<p>Evidence: Interviews with DNR Division staff, District level foresters, state Archeologist, review of cultural resource policy documents listed in the <i>SFI_Indicators_20221010.pdf</i>, planning documents and Departmental procedures, and Unit maps and contract packages.</p> <p>Summary: The DNR maintains a “Special Concerns Tool” which queries approximately 80 GIS layers including Natural Heritage Data. Meetings take place annually with tribes to identify sacred sites that may be present in the annual harvest plan. Special sites on DNR land primarily consist of cultural and archeological sites. Some historic sites are present, mainly associated with past logging. These features include abandoned steam donkeys, railroad beds and trestles. All existing and newly discovered special sites are mapped and incorporated in their GIS system and flagged in the development of management plans in accordance with state law that prevents the disclosure of archaeological site locations. These features are protected when identified. DNR has several cultural resource policies in place, and at each district one or more foresters are trained and certified as cultural resource technicians (“CRTs”). This role involves reviewing management plan proposals and providing direction regarding protection specifications.</p>
<p><i>No Nonconformities or Opportunities for Improvement were identified related to this performance measure.</i></p>	
<p>Objective 7. Efficient Use of Fiber Resources To minimize waste and ensure the efficient use of fiber resources.</p>	<p><i>Not reviewed in 2022. Information below based on 2021 assessment</i></p> <p>Evidence: Interviews with DNR staff. Review of Forestry Handbook, Timber Sale Contract Handbook, and site visit and file review for various timber sales.</p> <p>Summary: The DNR’s contracts for timber sales include clauses to ensure utilization targets are met. These include rights of contract administrators to halt operations if they deem utilization is insufficient. Utilization is discussed during pre-work meetings and specified in clauses of timber sale contracts.</p>
<p><i>No Nonconformities or Opportunities for Improvement were identified related to this performance measure.</i></p>	
<p>Objective 8. Recognize and Respect Indigenous Peoples’ Rights To recognize and respect Indigenous Peoples’ rights and traditional</p>	<p>Evidence: Interviews with DNR staff. Review of Statutory requirements, Commissioner’s order, Cultural resource and indigenous people Policies, and review of cultural resource policy documents listed in the <i>SFI_Indicators_20221010.pdf</i></p> <p>Summary: DNR has a well-developed program regarding tribal treaty rights. Additionally, staff receive training on tribal issues and relations. The Organization has two staff Archeologist and approximately 50 trained CRTs. Regions are</p>

<p>knowledge.</p>	<p>encouraged to contact tribes early and often during the harvest planning process to head off any potential issues. Formal referrals are conducted during the SEPA announcement process. Formal referrals are conducted during the SEPA announcement process. Communication takes place at the government-to-government level between the Commissioner for Public Lands along with the Tribal Relations Director and tribal leaders when necessary.</p> <p>Specialists regularly confer with tribes to understand their interests, concerns and needs. The DNR cultural program is closely linked with Washington State Department of Archeological and Historic preservation who maintains a database of these features, including some with cultural interest to tribes.</p> <p>DNR’s Olympic Experimental State Forest (“OESF”) is currently supporting a research project with the aim of promoting the growth of culturally significant plants, including bear grass and black berries. Annual meetings are held with tribes to go over plans for the upcoming year to identify any concerns or areas to avoid. DNR also collaborates with the tribes on a bark stripping program.</p>
<p><i>No Nonconformities or Opportunities for Improvement were identified related to this performance measure.</i></p>	
<p>Objective 9. Climate Smart Forestry To ensure forest management activities address climate change adaptation and mitigation measures.</p>	<p>Evidence: Interviews with DNR staff. Review of climate risk assessment documents, forest health program documentation, and the documents listed in the <i>SFI_Indicators_20221010.pdf</i>. Field inspections.</p> <p>Summary: Climate risk and resilience has been a long-term mission and focus of operations across the organization. The programs that DNR has been carrying out for years are best practices for the sector. They are highly aware of climate change and have been managing from a forest health and fire management regime, particularly in Eastern Washington, with research conducted by the OESF and elsewhere to address climate change issues.</p> <p>DNR is constantly reviewing and adapting to best science, leadership and staff worked with nine climate and natural resource experts to conduct an assessment of climate risks to major resource divisions and programs at the DNR including Forest Resources, Forest Health and Wildfire, Aquatic Resources, Agriculture, Rangeland and Water, Washington Geological Survey, and Natural heritage and Natural Areas.</p>
<p><i>No Nonconformities were identified related to this performance measure. One Opportunity for Improvement was identified related to this performance measure.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>DNR has a good understanding of the GHG emissions within their operational control and are currently collating the data and compiling a list to create the program. At the time of the Assessment, DNR had not completed this project.</i> 	
<p>Objective 10. Fire Resilience and Awareness To limit susceptibility of forests to undesirable impacts of wildfire and to raise community awareness of fire benefits, risks, and minimization</p>	<p>Evidence: Interviews with DNR staff. Review wildland fire prevention and fighting documentation, <i>The Burn Portal</i>, and the documents listed in the <i>SFI_Indicators_20221010.pdf</i>. Field inspections.</p> <p>Summary: DNR has a division dedicated to fire management and several programs aimed at creating resilience to fire and community awareness of the risk for loss as well as health hazards. Wildfire preparedness programs include: Firewise – preparing homes with defensible space; Emergency Preparedness tools via website links with the Washington Emergency Management division; and the Wildland Fire Protection 10-Year Strategic Plan.</p> <p>Efforts to limit the forest susceptibility to fire are captured in the “All Lands, All</p>

<p>measures.</p>	<p>Hands” efforts of forest health treatments, planned controlled burns, and execution of Good Neighbor Authority and Shared Stewardship agreements for fuels reduction practices.</p> <p>DNR has been calculating carbon emission from wildfire for many years and working to understand the dynamics and implications of the issue.</p>
<p><i>No Nonconformities or Opportunities for Improvement were identified related to this performance measure.</i></p>	
<p>Objective 11. Legal and Regulatory Compliance To comply with all applicable laws and regulations including, international, federal, provincial, state, and local.</p>	<p>Evidence: Interviews with DNR Division staff, and district level foresters, document review of <i>SFI_Indicators_20221010.pdf</i>, planning documents and Departmental procedures, Unit maps and contract packages, and field inspections.</p> <p>Summary: All forest operations staff are aware of Washington State Forest Practices Rules and frequently attend training. DNR’s State Lands management staff frequently help draft proposed state legislation. The Organization has a strong system to achieve compliance with all laws and regulations. Staff are well trained and educated to carry out compliant management activities. All activities are underwritten by strong legal contracts. Contracts require all bidders to be qualified under the Washington State Contract Logger Association (“WCLA”) training for on-site crew supervision, and all activities are closely monitored by DNR foresters who conduct pre-work meetings, active inspections and close out inspections to ensure compliance with forest practices rules. Additionally, DNR Forest Practices compliance officers conduct spot checks during operations and close out inspections on State lands timber sales as they would any other forestland manager in the state.</p> <p>Washington State uses the Forest Practices Application Review System (“FPARS”) for public review of forest practices. State lands are subject to compliance monitoring per the HCP. Monthly reports are available to those who subscribe to receive email notifications through FPARS. A biennial statewide compliance report indicates that the overall rates of compliance are good.</p> <p>DNR has a policy in place to comply with all applicable social laws at all levels (PO01-001 equal opportunity and non-discrimination addresses workers’ rights). International Labour Organization (“ILO”) Core Conventions are addressed in policies that cover collective bargaining, trafficking and the elimination of all forms of forced or compulsory labor, wages and working conditions of minors and equal opportunity/non-discrimination with respect to employment and occupation.</p>
<p><i>No Nonconformities or Opportunities for Improvement were identified related to this performance measure.</i></p>	
<p>Objective 12. Forestry Research, Science and Technology To broaden the practice of sustainable forestry through public outreach, education, and involvement, and to support the efforts of SFI Implementation</p>	<p><i>Not reviewed in 2022. Information below based on 2021 assessment</i></p> <p>Evidence: Review of DNR membership in research cooperatives includes vegetation management (OSU), stand management (UW) tree improvement (OSU, UI), center for intensive planted-forest silviculture, Intermountain forestry cooperative (UI), Hardwood silviculture (OSU), Inland NW Growth and Yield (U MT) and Adaptive Management Database.</p> <p>Summary: The Olympic Experimental State Forest is a research forest for in-house DNR projects as well as outside researchers from University of Washington and other organizations. The mission is to conduct research and monitoring to balance revenue and economic values. Findings are communicated through newsletters, conferences and the OESF website.</p>

<p>Committees.</p>	<p>DNR is an active member of the Washington SFI Implementation Committee (“SIC”) and provides administrative support for the organization. DNR Forest Practices also provides a forest practices compliance monitoring report for the SIC. The SIC provides financial support for the Washington Tree Farm Program, administrators of the American Tree Farm System certification for small family-owned forests. DNR supports small forestland owners through the Small Forest Landowner Office (“SFLO”) which assists landowners with cost sharing and education programs aimed to protect the ecological and economic viability of small forestland owners.</p> <p>DNR has numerous natural resource specialists who maintain current information and report on forest health, risk analyses, HCP implications, and sustainable harvest analyses. Forest health specialists and climate change scientists monitor and participate in climate change research.</p> <p>DNR recently (February 2020) released a Climate Resiliency strategy which has been informed by both internal and external research. DNR’s forest health programs include pathology and entomology specialists who consider effects of climate change as it relates to these problem areas. Consequences of climate change are part of the HCP and sustainable harvest calculations statewide. A climate change resilience process is ongoing to develop a long-term climate change strategy.</p> <p>DNR has designated staff to maintain current information on climate change effects relative to state lands and has produced or contributed to a number of peer-reviewed papers on effects of climate change relative to wildfire, wildlife habitat, and sustainable management in NW forests. Climate change implications are being built into the developing marbled murrelet strategy.</p>
<p><i>No Nonconformities or Opportunities for Improvement were identified related to this performance measure.</i></p>	
<p>Objective 13. Training and Education To improve the implementation of sustainable forestry through appropriate training and education programs.</p>	<p>Evidence: <i>Interviews with DNR Division staff, and district level foresters, document review of SFI_Indicators_20221010.pdf, planning documents and Departmental procedures, DNR’s Learning Management System, Forestry Handbook, Timber Sale Contract Handbook, Master Logger website (http://loggers.com/master-logger-program/), and site visit and file review for various timber sales.</i></p> <p>Summary: DNR has committed to maintaining third party certification for all of the forestland under their management. This commitment can be found in the 2018-2021 Strategic Plan as well as on the DNR website. Currently, there are 2.4 million acres certified to SFI. DNR has one full-time position responsible for maintaining the forest management certifications.</p> <p>DNR has implemented an adaptive and comprehensive training program in recent years, that supports continuing education for staff throughout their careers. They continue to develop training videos for internal and public audiences (e.g., available through YouTube). The courses are designed to ensure participants are engaged through videos and interactive participation. Basic courses are required for new hires. Some courses require annual attendance. Each employee has an individual learning plan consisting of topics related to an individual’s role and responsibilities. These additional courses are tracked through the Learning Management System</p> <p>The WCLA administers the Master Logger Program (MLP), a voluntary education program that accredits individual loggers and the company they represent. The program is designed to exceed the training requirements set out by the Washington</p>

	<p>State SIC and requires 4 days of coursework in silviculture and ecology, safety and compensation, forest practices act and regulations, and business management. In addition, Master Loggers must maintain valid first aid certification and complete continuing education requirements.</p> <p>All DNR timber sales require proof of Master Logger or Onsite Supervisor Certification for a company to work as a prime harvesting contractor. Contract requirements state that a "Purchaser shall have at least one person on-site during active operations that have completed training according to the requirements outlined within the SFI program Standard."</p> <p>DNR staff are active participants in the Washington SIC which publishes brochures and white papers on a range of topics impacting forest management. Educational efforts include offering college scholarships and working with the Washington Contract Loggers Association on the Master Logger Program.</p> <p>To maintain Master Logger certification, participants are required to complete 8 hours of qualifying continuing education training per year.</p>
<p><i>No Nonconformities or Opportunities for Improvement were identified related to this performance measure.</i></p>	
<p>Objective 14. Community Involvement and Landowner Outreach To broaden the practice of sustainable forestry through public outreach, education, and involvement, and to support the efforts of SFI Implementation Committees.</p>	<p><i>Not reviewed in 2022. Information below based on 2021 assessment</i></p> <p>Evidence: Interviews with DNR staff, DNR SFI compliance matrix, past SFI annual reports</p> <p>Summary: DNR supports the WA State SFI SIC through in-kind donations. DNR’s Forest Certification Program Lead is the SIC Secretary and Webmaster and DNR pays for the web domain for the WA SIC.</p> <p>DNR support a large variety of conservation planning efforts within the state including the following: WA State Natural Heritage Plan - 2007 Plan, 2009 & 2011 updates, and 2018 plan, Managing Wetlands on State Forest Lands in Washington (June 2000), Recognizing Wetlands and Wetland Indicator Plants on Forests in Washington (June 2000), Identifying Mature and Old Forests in Western Washington by Robert Van Pelt, June 2007 (old growth) (Linked to on DNR’s external “Identifying Mature and Old Forests in Washington webpage), Identifying Old Trees and Forests in Eastern Washington by Robert Van Pelt, September 2008 (old growth) (Linked to on DNR’s external “Identifying Mature and Old Forests in Washington webpage), WA Tree Seed Transfer Zones (Summer 2002), Field Guide for Identifying Stream Channel Types and Habitat Units in Western Washington (2015).</p> <p>The DNR Forest Certification Program Lead is the Secretary and Webmaster for the WASIC. Examples of support are: documenting inconsistent practices; co-developing and distributing SIC agendas and meeting highlights; developing and posting SIC brochures regarding inconsistent practices; a white paper on a verifiable auditing / monitoring program; a WA SIC resources list; WCLA Master Logger Program training curriculum, and WA SIC Annual Reports.</p>
<p><i>No Nonconformities or Opportunities for Improvement were identified related to this performance measure.</i></p>	
<p>Objective 15. Public Land</p>	<p>Evidence: Interviews with DNR Division staff and district level foresters, document review of <i>SFI_Indicators_20221010.pdf</i>, planning documents and Departmental</p>

<p>Management Responsibilities To participate and implement sustainable forest management on public lands.</p>	<p><i>procedures, Unit maps and contract packages, and field inspections.</i></p> <p>Summary: All DNR state lands are public lands and the public has a variety of means to be involved in the development of plans. All major planning documents go through a public consultation process. There are many procedures/methods for soliciting public feedback on state lands activities which include soliciting public comment on timber sales through the SEPA process and the Forest Land Planning Public Process that conducts outreach with a wide variety of stakeholders and incorporates stakeholder feedback into management approaches.</p>
<p>Objective 16. Communications and Public Reporting To increase transparency and to annually report progress on conformance with the SFI Forest Management Standard.</p>	<p>Evidence: <i>Interviews with DNR staff, review of documents listed in the SFI_Indicators_20221010.pdf, past SFI annual reports</i></p> <p>Summary: All past SFI public summary reports are posted on DNR’s public website (https://www.dnr.wa.gov/programs-and-services/product-sales-and-leasing/timber-sales/forest-certification) and on the SFI website.</p>
<p><i>No Nonconformities or Opportunities for Improvement were identified related to this performance measure.</i></p>	
<p>Objective 17. Management Review and Continual Improvement To promote continual improvement in the practice of sustainable forestry by conducting a management review and monitoring performance.</p>	<p>Evidence: <i>Interviews with DNR staff, review of documents listed in the SFI_Indicators_20221010.pdf,</i></p> <p>Summary: Systems review of DNR state lands management occurs through the HCP effectiveness monitoring, riparian silviculture monitoring, and the northern spotted owl effectiveness monitoring. Reports are provided to the public. Internal review occurs regularly through pre-sale and post-sale review. Ultimately, the Forest Practices Board reviews proposed sales following a thorough review conducted at multiple stages prior to offering timber sales. Management continually solicits and gathers information from staff and then makes improvements to DNR’s management systems. Meetings include: regular internal staff meetings, senior leadership meetings, forest resource division leadership team meetings and All-Hands meetings, state lands operational team meetings, regional management/division management meetings and various specialists’ meetings. Regular public input meetings (in addition to project-specific meetings) include: monthly Board of Natural Resources meetings and Annual Tribal Summits.</p>
<p><i>No Nonconformities or Opportunities for Improvement were identified related to this performance measure.</i></p>	

Good Management Practices

- The prescriptive thinning prescription implemented on one site allowed for financial gain while encouraging multi-story forest structure that is favorable for flying squirrels, the food of Northern Spotted Owls (NSO). The biologist and unit forester collaborated in the field, recognizing the available forest inventory GIS layers were not accurately identifying NSO habitat and were able to create with gaps transforming an even-aged stand where snags, skips, and gaps are all habitat features.
- Climate Risk and Resilience has been a long-term mission and focus of operations across the organization. The programs that DNR has been carrying out for years are best practices for the sector. One of the timber sales reviewed is an example of a forest health treatment that contributes to risk mitigation.
- DNR have been calculating carbon emissions from wildfire for many years and understands well the dynamics and implications of the issue.
- Creation and posting of educational signage for the Capitol State Forest. Signage is visually appealing while providing information covering working forests, forest products and sustainability. The signage has been sent to SFI for approval.
- Collaborative Projects in the Klickitat (planned) and Sinlahekin Valley (ongoing) are examples of DNRs efforts to reintroduce fire to the Eastern Washington landscape.
- DNR demonstrated strong community engagement and responsiveness to the concerns of neighbours during the pre-work and post-fire activities associated with the Virginia Ridge timber sale. DNR communications team members engaged the public through frequent newsletters and ultimately was able to facilitate an hour-long news special focused on the DNR's response to fire and forest health.
- The response of DNR personnel to the Chickadee fire was exemplary. They leveraged the equipment and efforts of the logging crew onsite to contain the fire and limit the loss of standing live trees, thereby protecting the available harvest volume and area, while working within the constraints of the Canadian lynx management plan.

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Conclusion

The Company has maintained conformance with the requirements of the Sustainable Forestry Initiative® (SFI) 2022 Forest Management Standard. The Certificate can be obtained by contacting Washington’s Department of Natural Resources at (360) 902-1788. More information on the DNR’s sustainable forestry program can be found at: <https://www.dnr.wa.gov/> or <https://www.dnr.wa.gov/programs-and-services/product-sales-and-leasing/timber-sales/forest-certification>.

The next SFI assessment will be a Re-certification assessment in 2023. The registration expires on September 13, 2023.



