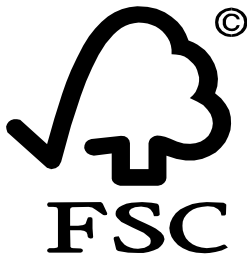




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FM-02 January 2011



Forest Management Certification Assessment Report for:

Federation of Nova Scotia Woodland
Owners
In
Nova Scotia, Canada

Report Finalized: December 16, 2011
Audit Dates: October 18-20, 2011
Audit Team: Bruce Byford R.P.F.

Certificate code(s): SW-FM/COC-005735
Certificate issued: January 4, 2012
Certificate expiration: January 3, 2017

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INTRODUCTION

This report presents the findings of an independent certification assessment conducted by a team of specialists representing the SmartWood Program of the Rainforest Alliance. The purpose of the assessment was to evaluate the ecological, economic and social performance of the Federation of Nova Scotia Woodland Owners (FNSWO) forest management as defined by the Forest Stewardship Council.

This report contains four main sections of information and findings and several appendixes. The whole report plus appendixes I and IV-a will become public information about the forest management operation that may be distributed by SmartWood or the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) to interested parties. The remainder of the appendixes are confidential, to be reviewed only by authorized SmartWood and FSC staff and reviewers bound by confidentiality agreements.

The purpose of the SmartWood program is to recognize conscientious land stewardship through independent evaluation and certification of forestry practices. Forestry operations that attain SmartWood certification may use the SmartWood and FSC labels for public marketing and advertising.

Standard Conversions

1 mbf = 5.1 m³
1 cord = 2.55 m³
1 gallon (US) = 3.78541 liters

1 inch = 2.54 cm
1 foot = 0.3048 m
1 yard = 0.9144 m
1 mile = 1.60934 km
1 acre = 0.404687 hectares

1 pound = 0.4536 kg
1 US ton = 907.185 kg
1 UK ton = 1016.047 kg

1. SCOPE OF THE CERTIFICATE

1.1. Scope of the certificate

Forest management enterprise (FME) information:		
FME legal name:	Federation of Nova Scotia Woodland Owners	
FME legal jurisdiction:	Canada	
Contact person (public):	Andrew Fedora, Executive Director	
Address:	285 George Street, PO Box 208, Stewiacke, NS B0N 2J0	
Tel/FAX/email:	Office: 639-2041 Fax: 639-2981 Email: afedora@fnswo.ca	
Website:	www.fnswo.ca	
Reporting period:	Previous 12 month period	Dates

A. Scope of Forest Area			
Type of certificate: group		SLIMF Certificate Small SLIMF	
Group or Multiple FMU	Number of group members (if applicable):		17
	Total number of Forest Management Units FMUs: (if applicable, list each below):		19
	FMU size classification within the scope:		
		# of FMUs	total forest area of FMU's
	< 100 ha	13	718 ha
	100 – 1000 ha	6	1287.4 ha
	1000 – 10 000 ha	0	0 ha
	> 10000 ha	0	0 ha
	SLIMF FMUs	19	2005.4 ha
Group Certificate: List of FMUs included in the certificate scope provided in Appendix IV-a:			
Single/Multi-FMU Certificate: List of each FMU included in the certificate scope:			
FMU Name/Description	Area	Forest Type	Location Latitude/Longitude
	ha		
	ha		
	ha		

B. FSC Product categories included in the FM/CoC scope			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Main Class	Sub Class 1	Species
√	Logs/Wood in the rough	0312 - Logs of non-coniferous wood	Red maple, sugar maple, white birch, yellow birch, white ash, red oak, poplar
√	Logs/Wood in the rough	0311-Logs of coniferous wood	Red spruce, white spruce, black spruce, red pine, white pine, balsam fir, eastern hemlock, tamarack
<input type="checkbox"/>	3451 - Wood charcoal	34510 - Wood charcoal	
<input type="checkbox"/>	311 - Wood, sawn or chipped	3110 - Wood, sawn or chipped lengthwise,	

<input type="checkbox"/>	lengthwise, sliced or peeled, of a thickness exceeding 6 mm; railway or tramway sleepers (cross-ties) of wood, not impregnated	sliced or peeled, of a thickness exceeding 6 mm; railway or tramway sleepers (cross-ties) of wood, not impregnated	
<input type="checkbox"/>	312 - Wood continuously shaped along any of its edges or faces; wood wool; wood flour; wood in chips or particles	3123 - Wood in chips or particles	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Non Wood Forest Products	0392 - Plant parts/not flower-ornamental purpose	
<input type="checkbox"/>	other		

C. Species and Sustainable Rate of Harvest (AAC)				
Latin name	Common trade name	Annual allowable cut	Actual harvest (2010)	Projected harvest for next year
		m3	m3	m3
		m3	m3	m3
		m3	m3	m3
		m3	m3	m3
Total AAC		m3	m3	m3
NOTE: Program AAC not broken down by species				
Total annual estimated log production:			depends on markets	
Total annual estimates production of certified NTFP: (list all certified NTFP by product type):			-	
			m3 m3 m3	

D. FMU Info	
Forest zone	Temperate
Certified Area under Forest Type	
- Natural	2005.4 ha
- Plantation	
Stream sides and water bodies	unknown

E. Forest Area Classification	
Total certified area	2005.4ha
Total forest area in scope of certificate	2005.4 ha
Ownership Tenure	Private
Management tenure:	Private
Forest area that is:	
Privately managed	2005.4 ha
State/Public managed	0 ha
Community managed	0 ha
Area of production forests (areas where timber may be harvested)	2005.4 ha
Area without <u>any</u> harvesting or management activities: strict forest reserves	0 ha

Area without timber harvesting and managed only for production of non-timber forest products or services	0 ha
F. Forest Regeneration	
Area or share of the total production forest area regenerated naturally	1975 ha
Area or share of the total production forest area regenerated by planting or seeding (includes fill planting)	30.5 ha, or about 1.5%
Area or share of the total production forest area regenerated by other or mixed methods (describe)	0 ha

G. High Conservation Values identified via formal HCV assessment by the FME and respective areas			
Code	HCV TYPES ¹	Description:	Area
HCV1	Forest areas containing globally, regionally or nationally significant concentrations of biodiversity values (e.g. endemism, endangered species, refugia).	Areas containing habitat suitable for use by Blanding Turtle and/or Eastern Ribbonsnake (WMP # 1037)	16.5 ha
		Areas containing habitat suitable for use by Blanding Turtle and/or Eastern Ribbonsnake (WMP # 1105)	47.8 ha
HCV2	Forest areas containing globally, regionally or nationally significant large landscape level forests, contained within, or containing the management unit, where viable populations of most if not all naturally occurring species exist in natural patterns of distribution and abundance.		ha
HCV3	Forest areas that are in or contain rare, threatened or endangered ecosystems.	Old growth red spruce and yellow birch stand, adjacent to lakeshore (WMP # 1103)	1.67 ha
HCV4	Forest areas that provide basic services of nature in critical situations (e.g. watershed protection, erosion control).		ha
HCV5	Forest areas fundamental to meeting basic needs of local communities (e.g. subsistence, health).		ha
HCV6	Forest areas critical to local communities' traditional cultural identity (areas of cultural, ecological, economic or religious significance identified in cooperation with such local communities).		
TOTAL HCVF AREA			66 ha
Number of sites significant to indigenous people and communities			0

H. Pesticide Use		
FME has a valid FSC derogation for use of a highly hazardous pesticide	<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO	
FSC highly hazardous pesticides used in last calendar year = 0		
Name	Quantity	# of Hectares Treated
NA	NA	NA

¹ The HCV classification and numbering follows the ProForest HCVF toolkit. The toolkit also provides additional explanation regarding the categories. Toolkit is available at <http://hcvnetwork.org/library/global-hcv-toolkits>.

		ha
		ha
Non FSC highly hazardous pesticides used in last calendar year = 0		

1.2. Exclusion of areas from the scope of certificate

X	Applicability of FSC partial certification and excision policy	
<input type="checkbox"/>	All forest land owned or managed by the FME is included in the scope of this evaluation.	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	FME owns and/or has management involvement in other forest land/properties (forest management units) not being evaluated. If yes, complete all sections below.	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Is any portion of the forest management unit (s) under evaluation for certification being excised from the scope of the evaluation? If yes, complete all sections below. Conformance with FSC-POL-20-003 The excision of areas from the scope of certification shall be documented.	
Comments / Explanation for exclusion/excision:	The FNSWO is structured so that its membership may seek sustainable forest management certification under the FSC Maritime SLIMF Standard or under the Canadian Standards Association CSA-Z804-08 Standard. At the time of the certification assessment 19 private landowners elected to participate in the FSC pool of properties. It is expected that membership in the FSC pool will increase over time.	
Control measures to prevent contamination		
Other Forest area	Location	Size (ha)

2. ASSESSMENT PROCESS

2.1. Certification Standard Used

Forest Stewardship standard Used for assessment:	FSC-STD-CAN-Maritimes-SLIMF-2008
Local Adaptation: (if applicable)	N/A

2.2. Assessment team and qualifications

Auditor Name	Bruce Byford	Auditor role	Lead
Qualifications:	Bruce Byford R.P.F. – Bruce Byford is a Licensed Professional Forester (Ontario) and the President of Arbex Forest Resource Consultants Ltd. He has 32 years of experience as a consulting forester and project manager. Bruce has been Lead Auditor on twenty-two Independent Forest Audits in Ontario. As a consultant to SmartWood he has participated as a Lead Assessor, Forest Management Specialist and/or First Nations and Socioeconomic assessor on numerous certification, re-certification and annual assessments. These assessments have taken place in Ontario, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia and Quebec. He has completed ISO 14001 Lead Auditor Training and has completed the Forest Assessor Training delivered by SmartWood.		

2.3. Assessment schedule (including pre-assessment and stakeholder consultation)

Date	Location /main sites	Main activities
September 2011	SmartWood Headquarters	Public Notice, Compilation of lists of interested stakeholders
October 2011	Consultant Office	Interviews with Public Interest Groups and First Nations
October 18-20, 2011	Mersey Tobeatic Research Institute	Field site assessments, Document and record reviews, Interviews
November 21-25 th	Consultant Office	Interviews & Preparation of the Audit Report.
December 9 th	SmartWood Headquarters	Draft report delivered to FNSWO
December 16 th	SmartWood Headquarters	Report finalized
Total number of person days used for the assessment:10 = number of auditors participating 1 X 10 number of days spent in preparation, on site and post site visit follow-up including stakeholder consultation.		

2.4. Evaluation strategy

The sampling requirements for this assessment were determined based on the following calculation:

Sampling (X) for small size FMUs (< 1000 ha) = $0.8 \cdot \sqrt{y}$
 where y = number of group members in a 'like FMU' subset

$$X = 0.8 \cdot \sqrt{19} \quad X = 3.48 \text{ (round up to 4) sites}$$

Therefore, the minimum number of sites that require sampling is 4 sites.

With the economic downturn very few landowners are actively harvesting on their properties so the focus of the assessment strategy was to visit geographically dispersed properties on which there had been active operations during 2010-2011. The number of sites sampled conformed with the FSC formula to determine the sample size.

Field work was conducted between October 18 and 20th, 2011. Four properties were selected for inspection, all of which had recent harvesting operations (salvage cutting for insect damage) and historic cutting. Other activities inspected included pre-commercial thinning and forest trail, road and water crossing construction. The woodlot management plans (WMP) for each property were also reviewed and other management documents maintained by the FNSWO were inspected. Interviews were conducted with the property owners, the consultant who produced the WMPs, the FNSWO Projects Coordinator, a Director of the FNSWO and a staff representative from Mersey Tobeatic Research Institute (MTRI).

2.4.1 List of FMUs selected for evaluation

FMU Name	Rationale for Selection
Bob Barteaux Property	Recent forest management activity including salvage (group selection) and improvement cutting. Past harvesting operations, pre-commercial & commercial thinning and an area renewed by artificial renewal were also inspected.
James Thibault Property	Recent forest management activity including salvage harvest (group selection), skid trail construction, and pre-commercial thinning.
Jim Cooker Property	Recent forest management activity including salvage harvest (group selection), skid trail construction, and pre-commercial thinning.
Les Harlow Property	Recent forest management activity including salvage harvest (group selection), skid trail construction, and pre-commercial thinning.

2.4.2 List of management aspects reviewed by assessment team

Type of site	Sites visited	Type of site	Sites visited
Road construction	x	Illegal settlement	
Soil drainage		Bridges/stream crossing	x
Workshop		Chemical storage	
Tree nursery		Wetland	
Planned Harvest site	x	Steep slope/erosion	
Ongoing Harvest site	x	Riparian zone	x
Completed logging	x	Planting	x
Soil scarification		Direct seeding	x
Planting site	x	Weed control	x
Felling by harvester		Natural regeneration	x
Felling by forest worker		Endangered species	
Skidding/Forwarding	x	Wildlife management	
Clearfelling/Clearcut		Nature Reserve	
Shelterwood management	x	Key Biotope	

Selective felling		Special management area	
Sanitation cutting		Historical site	
Pre-commercial thinning	x	Recreational site	
Commercial thinning	x	Buffer zone	x
Logging camp		Local community	

2.4.3 Summary of pre-assessment findings

No pre-assessment was completed as FNSWO does not meet the requirements for having one completed. They do not have plantations greater than 10,000ha; are not greater than 50,000 ha large and they qualify as a small forest under the SLIMF guidelines.

2.5. Stakeholder consultation process

The purpose of the stakeholder consultation strategy for this assessment was threefold:

- 1) To ensure that the public is aware of and informed about the assessment process and its objectives;
- 2) To assist the field assessment team in identifying potential issues; and,
- 3) To provide diverse opportunities for the public to discuss and act upon the findings of the assessment.

This process is not just stakeholder notification, but wherever possible, detailed and meaningful stakeholder interaction. The process of stakeholder interaction does not stop after the field visits, or for that matter, after even a certification decision is made. SmartWood welcomes, at any time, comments on certified operations and such comments often provide a basis for field assessment.

In the case of FNSWO prior to the actual assessment process, a public consultation stakeholder document was developed. This list was used identify stakeholders who would be notified of the pending assessment who were emailed a notification of the assessment. A web notice of the assessment was also placed on the SmartWood and FSC Canada websites. This list also provided a basis for the assessment team to select people for interviews (in person or by telephone or through email).

Landowners, the FNSWO Project Coordinator and a Board member and a representative of the MTRI accompanied the assessor during the field assessment.

Stakeholder Type (NGO, government bodies, local inhabitant, contractor etc.)	Stakeholders Notified (#)	Stakeholders consulted directly or provided input (#)
National/International NGOs	46	0
First Nation	2	1
Local/Regional NGOs	1	1
Local Community members	7	5
Govt Agency	5	2
Academic	1	0
Other	69	

3. ASSESSMENT FINDINGS AND OBSERVATIONS

3.1. Stakeholder comments received

No stakeholder comments were received.

3.2. Summary of Evaluation Findings for FSC Forest Criteria

PRINCIPLE 1: Compliance with law and FSC Principles					
Criterion 1.1 Respect for national and local laws and administrative requirements					
Conformance	X	Non conformance		NCR #(s)	
Finding (strength/weakness)	This criterion is met. The FNSWO and its membership are aware of applicable laws and legislation and a process is in place to assist landowners through training opportunities with respect to legal requirements and obligations. A note (NOTE 01/11) is provided to verify compliance inspections and records in the next annual audit. This requirement is made as the FSC pool has not been in existence for a year. No weaknesses were identified.				
Criterion 1.2 Payment of legally prescribed fees, royalties, taxes and other charges					
Conformance	X	Non conformance		NCR #(s)	
Finding (strength/weakness)	To enter the program woodlot owners must sign an endorsement of the FSC Principles and Standards and more specifically the Maritime SLIMF Standard. This criterion is met. No weaknesses were identified				
Criterion 1.3 Respect for provisions of international agreements					
Conformance	X	Non conformance		NCR #(s)	
Finding (strength/weakness)	This criterion is met. The FNSWO has a system in place to track international agreements as they relate to forestry and the environment. No weaknesses were identified				
Criterion 1.4 Conflicts between laws and regulations, and the FSC P&C					
Conformance	X	Non conformance		NCR #(s)	
Finding (strength/weakness)	This criterion is met. There were no conflicts identified at the time of the assessment. A complaint and appeal process is identified in the Systems Manual (Revision 3, September 2011). No weaknesses were identified				
Criterion 1.5 Protection of forests from illegal activities					
Conformance	X	Non conformance		NCR #(s)	
Finding (strength/weakness)	This criterion is met. Most landowners regularly monitor their holdings for trespass and illegal use. The Systems Manual requires that property boundaries be marked and maintained. No weaknesses were identified				
Criterion 1.6 Demonstration of a long-term commitment to the FSC P&C					
Conformance	X	Non conformance		NCR #(s)	
Finding (strength/weakness)	This criterion is met. The WMPs (Woodlot Management Plan) requires a commitment to FSC sustainable management for a 100 year period which is endorsed with the signature of the landowner. No weaknesses were identified				

PRINCIPLE 2: Tenure and use rights and responsibilities				
Criterion 2.1 Demonstration of land tenure and forest use rights				
Conformance	X	Non conformance		NCR #(s)
Finding (strength/weakness)	This criterion is met. A copy of the deed is required in the Appendix of the WMP. Although all properties are private land, interviewed landowners allowed others to use their properties. No weaknesses were identified.			
Criterion 2.2 Local communities' legal or customary tenure or use rights				
Conformance	x	Non conformance		NCR #(s)
Finding (strength/weakness)	This criterion is met. Nova Scotia has a strong long standing tradition of private land rights so issues of legal or customary tenure rights of others are rare. In the preparation of the plans properties are checked against a provincial database to determine if there are recognized rights (i.e. Aboriginal rights) associated with the holding. No weaknesses were identified.			
Criterion 2.3 Disputes over tenure claims and use rights				
Conformance	X	Non conformance		NCR #(s)
Finding (strength/weakness)	This criterion is met. A dispute resolution process has been developed. No weaknesses were identified.			
PRINCIPLE 3: Indigenous peoples' rights				
Criterion 3.1 Indigenous peoples' control of forest management				
Conformance	X	Non conformance		NCR #(s)
Finding (strength/weakness)	This criterion is met. WMPs are prepared for private land holdings where there is traditionally a long standing tradition of private tenure. The FNSWO/MTRI have long standing relationships with local Aboriginal communities and organizations. No weaknesses were identified.			
Criterion 3.2 Maintenance of indigenous peoples' resources or tenure rights				
Conformance	X	Non conformance		NCR #(s)
Finding (strength/weakness)	The Systems Manual requires that woodlot owners respect Aboriginal rights and in instances where property boundaries abut areas of Aboriginal concern or communities, landowners are required to consider the cultural concerns with respect to forest management activities. The Federation deals exclusively with private land and matters related to Aboriginal Tenure and Rights are almost exclusively related to Crown lands so the issues identified by this criterion are uncommon. No weaknesses were identified.			
Criterion 3.3 Protection of sites of special cultural, ecological, economic or religious significance to indigenous peoples				
Conformance	X	Non conformance		NCR #(s)
Finding (strength/weakness)	Sites of significance to Aboriginal peoples are identified in provincial database where consent has been provided to disclose the information. This database is consulted during the preparation of the WMPs. The FNSWO and MTRI maintain communications with Aboriginal communities and organizations on behalf of the FSC property pool. This relationship should assist in the meeting of this criterion. No weaknesses are identified.			
Criterion 3.4 Compensation of indigenous peoples for the application of their traditional knowledge				
Conformance	X	Non conformance		NCR #(s)
Finding	This requirement is met. Due to the long history of private ownership there has not			

(strength/weakness)	been a requirement to solicit input or compensate indigenous peoples. No weaknesses are identified				
PRINCIPLE 4: Community relations and workers rights					
Criterion 4.1 Employment, training, and other services for local communities					
Conformance	X	Non conformance		NCR #(s)	
Finding (strength/weakness)	This criterion is met. Landowners are selling wood locally or regionally, and hiring local people to assist with their forest management activities when required. FNSWO and MTRI have shown strong leadership with respect to delivery of training programs. No weaknesses are identified.				
Criterion 4.2 Compliance with health and safety regulations					
Conformance	X	Non conformance		NCR #(s)	
Finding (strength/weakness)	Thus criterion is met. There is strong documentation and a documented compliance program for health and safety in the woodlot. A note is provided to ensure that monitoring is occurring when operations are active in order that health and safety requirements can be audited. No weaknesses were identified.				
Criterion 4.3 Workers' rights to organize and negotiate with employers					
Conformance		Non conformance		NCR #(s)	
Finding (strength/weakness)	This criterion is not applicable.				
Criterion 4.4 Social impact evaluations and consultation					
Conformance		Non conformance		NCR #(s)	
Finding (strength/weakness)	This criterion is met where applicable. The Systems Manual requires that landowners consult with parties which may be affected by operations. The MTRI has a impressive record of support for sustainable forest management in the region and support for FSC. No weaknesses are identified.				
Criterion 4.5 Resolution of grievances and settlement of compensation claims					
Conformance	X	Non conformance		NCR #(s)	
Finding (strength/weakness)	This criterion is met. A process is prescribed in the Systems Manual. No weaknesses are identified.				
PRINCIPLE 5: Benefits from the forest					
Criterion 5.1 Economic viability taking full environmental, social, and operational costs into account					
Conformance	X	Non conformance		NCR #(s)	
Finding (strength/weakness)	This criterion is met. All woodlots are privately-owned and there was clear evidence that woodlot owners are making investments in their woodlots. Wood is marketed locally or regionally as markets permit. No weaknesses are identified.				
Criterion 5.2 Optimal use and local processing of forest products					
Conformance	X	Non conformance		NCR #(s)	
Finding (strength/weakness)	This criterion is met. Management plan strategies included an objective to utilize all forest products to their full potential". No weaknesses were identified.				
Criterion 5.3 Waste minimization and avoidance of damage to forest resources					
Conformance	X	Non conformance		NCR #(s)	
Finding (strength/weakness)	This criterion was met. Landowners seek to maximize the return from logging operations and exercise care in the operations to avoid damaging the residual stand.				

	No weaknesses were identified.				
Criterion 5.4 Forest management and the local economy					
Conformance	X	Non conformance		NCR #(s)	
Finding (strength/weakness)	This criterion is met. Timber is marketed locally or regionally as markets permit. Management practices adopted were consistent with the provision of other forest values and landowners interviewed allowed other non-timber uses to occur on their holdings. No weaknesses were identified.				
Criterion 5.5 Maintenance of the value of forest services and resources					
Conformance	X	Non conformance		NCR #(s)	
Finding (strength/weakness)	This criterion is met. Forest management practices were conducive to the maintenance of other forest values and forest ecosystem function. No weaknesses were identified.				
Criterion 5.6 Harvest levels					
Conformance	X	Non conformance		NCR #(s)	
Finding (strength/weakness)	This criterion is met. The AAC is based on a volume control method which utilizes normal growth increment in the determination of yields. Volumes are based on the provincial inventory system which is supported by PSP growth and yield data. A weakness is that the current calculation assumes that every hectare of the woodlot is accessible and eligible for harvest. The calculated volume should be reduced by a reduction factor which reflects the inoperable area on the property, non-productive forest land in landings, trails and roads and the volume removed from harvest in reserves, riparian buffers etc.				
PRINCIPLE 6: Environmental impact					
Criterion 6.1 Environmental impacts evaluation					
Conformance	X	Non conformance		NCR #(s)	
Finding (strength/weakness)	This criterion is met. The WMPs are prepared on the basis of a plotless inventory and stand reconnaissance by a forester or forest technician. Management prescriptions are prepared incorporating forest ecosystem classification data which provide guidance on stand treatment and stand responses. No weaknesses were identified.				
Criterion 6.2 Protection of rare, threatened and endangered species					
Conformance	X	Non conformance		NCR #(s)	
Finding (strength/weakness)	This criterion is met. Planners are required to consult provincial databases with respect to the occurrence of rare, threatened or endangered species and their habitats. SAR information is provided to woodlot owners. No weaknesses were identified.				
Criterion 6.3 Maintenance of ecological functions and values					
Conformance	x	Non conformance		NCR #(s)	
Finding (strength/weakness)	This criterion is met. Stand prescriptions are conducive to the maintenance of ecological functions and values and areas of concern are identified and protected/maintained during operations. The use of Forest Ecosystem Classification information provides guidance to planners with respect to the appropriateness of a stand treatment and possible stand responses. No weaknesses are identified.				
Criterion 6.4 Protection of representative samples of existing ecosystems					
Conformance	x	Non conformance		NCR #(s)	
Finding (strength/weakness)	This criterion is met. HCVFs are identified and protected in the planning process. No weaknesses are identified.				

Criterion 6.5 Protection against damage to soils, residual forest and water resources during operations					
Conformance	X	Non conformance		NCR #(s)	
Finding (strength/weakness)	This criterion is met. The use of the Forest Ecosystem Classification (FEC) in stand management prescriptions and Best Management Practices during operations provides protection for the forest resources. Activities are monitored to ensure compliance with prescriptions and the implementation of sound forest management practices. No weaknesses are identified.				
Criterion 6.6 Chemical pest management					
Conformance	X	Non conformance		NCR #(s)	
Finding (strength/weakness)	This criterion is met. No chemicals are used and there is a policy with respect to the use of chemicals on FSC pool properties. No weaknesses are identified.				
Criterion 6.7 Use and disposal of chemicals, containers, liquid and solid non-organic wastes					
Conformance	X	Non conformance		NCR #(s)	
Finding (strength/weakness)	This criterion is met. Landowners indicated that recycling occurs where it is available. A Note (NOTE 02/11) is provided to ensure that the Systems Manual provides some guidance with respect to this criterion.				
Criterion 6.8 Use of biological control agents and genetically modified organisms					
Conformance	X	Non conformance		NCR #(s)	
Finding (strength/weakness)	This criterion is met. No biological control agents or genetically modified organisms are used. No weaknesses are identified.				
Criterion 6.9 The use of exotic species					
Conformance	X	Non conformance		NCR #(s)	
Finding (strength/weakness)	This criterion is met. Exotic species are not used as an objective of the FNSWO/MTRI is the restoration of the Acadian Forest. No weaknesses are identified.				
Criterion 6.10 Forest conversion to plantations or non-forest land uses					
Conformance	X	Non conformance		NCR #(s)	
Finding (strength/weakness)	This criterion is met. No forest land conversions are occurring. No weaknesses are identified.				
PRINCIPLE 7: Management plan					
Criterion 7.1 Management plan requirements					
Conformance		Non conformance	X	NCR #(s)	01/11 & 02/11
Finding (strength/weakness)	This criterion is generally met. WMP conform to a standardized template which generally meets SLIMF requirements. The plans are adequate given the cost constraints associated with the program which funds their developments and the technical capacity of landowners etc. The use of a volume control method to determine the annual allowable harvest is appropriate as the harvest is based on incremental growth rates. Volumes used in the calculation are based on provincial data which is derived from permanent growth plots distributed throughout the province. NCR 01/11 and NCR 02/11 are issued to address the requirement that the AAC be reduced to reflect volume reductions which arise from the influence of pests and pathogens on growing stock and to reflect the reality that not all area within a stand is operable or available for harvest.				

Criterion 7.2 Management plan revision					
Conformance	X	Non conformance		NCR #(s)	03/11
Finding (strength/weakness)	Woodlot Management Plans are current with a 10 year plan term and a five year review. NCR 03/11 is issued to reflect the requirement that plans include indicators of progress relative to plan objectives. No weaknesses are identified.				
Criterion 7.3 Training and supervision of forest workers					
Conformance	X	Non conformance		NCR #(s)	
Finding (strength/weakness)	This criterion is met. The FNSWO and MTRI have collaborated for the delivery of a number of relevant training programs for private woodlot owners. No weaknesses are identified.				
Criterion 7.4 Public availability of the management plan elements					
Conformance		Non conformance	X	NCR #(s)	04/11
Finding (strength/weakness)	Public summaries are not currently available. NCR 04/11 is issued to reflect the requirement that summaries of the woodlot management plans be available to the public.				
PRINCIPLE 8: Monitoring and evaluation					
Criterion 8.1 Frequency, intensity and consistency of monitoring					
Conformance	X	Non conformance		NCR #(s)	
Finding (strength/weakness)	This criterion is met. The Systems Manual outlines the monitoring program to be implemented. Monitoring intensity is based on a risk assessment which makes effective use of resources. Comprehensive monitoring check sheets have been developed. No weaknesses are identified.				
Criterion 8.2 Research and data collection for monitoring					
Conformance	X	Non conformance		NCR #(s)	
Finding (strength/weakness)	This criterion is met. Stand level information is compiled during the initial forest inventory for the preparation of the WMP and during follow-up monitoring processes. Use is made of the provincial Forest Ecosystem Classification which provides guidance with respect to stand treatments and responses. The MTRI conducts Species at Risk (SAR) research in western Nova Scotia and all woodlot owners are provided with SAR information. No weaknesses are identified.				
Criterion 8.3 Chain of custody					
Conformance	X	Non conformance		NCR #(s)	
Finding (strength/weakness)	This criterion is met. Woodlot owners are required to maintain a woodlot management journal which provides information on woodlot management activities and timber sales. The procedure manual details the chain of custody procedures to be followed. No weaknesses are identified.				
Criterion 8.4 Incorporation of monitoring results into the management plan					
Conformance	X	Non conformance		NCR #(s)	
Finding (strength/weakness)	This criterion is met. Monitoring results are to be incorporated into plans at the time of the 5 year review. Annual update forms have been designed to facilitate the plan revisions. No weaknesses are identified.				
Criterion 8.5 Publicly available summary of monitoring					
Conformance	X	Non conformance		NCR #(s)	
Finding (strength/weakness)	This criterion is met. At the time of the assessment a summary had not been compiled as the program is less than a year old. Information will be reported in the				

	Annual Report prepared by the FNSWO. NOTE 04/11 is provided to assess this criterion in the next annual audit.				
PRINCIPLE 9: High Conservation Value Forests					
Criterion 9.1 Evaluation to determine high conservation value attributes					
Conformance	x	Non conformance		NCR #(s)	
Finding (strength/weakness)	This criterion is met. There are a number of procedures which are utilized during the preparation of the WMPs to identify HCVF, including consultation of provincial databases and maps, field work etc. The Systems Manual requires the use of the HCVF assessment tool in the planning process. No weaknesses are identified.				
Criterion 9.2 Consultation process					
Conformance	x	Non conformance		NCR #(s)	
Finding (strength/weakness)	This criterion is met where applicable for SLIMF. HCVFs are identified and maintained on properties should they occur. These sites contribute to the maintenance of biological diversity at the landscape scale. No weaknesses are identified.				
Criterion 9.3 Measures to maintain and enhance high conservation value attributes					
Conformance	x	Non conformance		NCR #(s)	
Finding (strength/weakness)	This criterion is met. The WMP provides management strategies for identified HCVFs. All HCVFs are reserved from harvesting. No weaknesses are identified.				
Criterion 9.4 Monitoring to assess effectiveness					
Conformance	x	Non conformance		NCR #(s)	
Finding (strength/weakness)	This criterion is met. An annual monitoring program is documented in the Systems Manual. Monitoring has yet to occur due to the infancy of the FSC program. A note is provided to ensure that monitoring occurs and results are made publically available.				
PRINCIPLE 10: Plantations					
Conformance	X	Non conformance		NCR #(s)	
Finding (strength/weakness)	This criterion is met. There are no recent plantations in the FSC pool of properties. The Systems Manual provides guidance with respect to the management of plantations. NOTE 07/11 is provided to the next audit team to review the status of 14 hectares Norway Spruce on the FSC pool properties to verify the designation of this land as non-plantation area.				

3.3. Identified non-conformances and Non Conformity Reports (NCRs)

A non-conformance is a discrepancy or gap identified during the assessment between some aspect of the FME's management system and one or more of the requirements of the forest stewardship standard. Depending on the severity of the non-conformance the assessment team differentiates between major and minor non conformances.

- **Major non-conformance** results where there is a fundamental failure to achieve the objective of the relevant FSC criterion. A number of minor non-conformances against one requirement may be considered to have a cumulative effect, and therefore be considered a major nonconformance.
- **Minor non-conformance** is a temporary, unusual or non-systematic non-conformance, for which the effects are limited.

Major non conformances must be corrected **before** the certificate can be issued. While minor non-conformances do not prohibit issuing the certificate, they must be addressed within the given timeframe to maintain the certificate.

Each non-conformance is addressed by the audit team by issuing a non conformity report (NCR). NCRs are requirements that candidate operations must agree to, and which must be addressed, within the given timeframe of a maximum of one year period.

NCR#:	01/11	NC Classification:	Major	Minor X
Standard & Requirement:	FSC-STD-CAN-Maritimes-SLIMF-2008 7.1.9. The management plan shall include the assumptions and rationale for the harvest level determinations made in accordance with the requirements of Criterion 5.6, incorporating historical information, research findings and traditional wisdom as appropriate.			
Report Section:	Appendix II.			
Description of Non-conformance and Related Evidence:				
The methodology for the determination of the annual allowable cut (AAC) is provided in the WMP template (Section 4.2.). While the methodology indicates that reductions should be made in the AAC to account for the percentage of inoperable area within stands the plans reviewed did not show such reductions or indicate that reductions were not required and therefore applied. Additionally a reduction in volume should be applied for timber in areas removed from timber production by riparian zones, etc. where all timber is not available for harvest.				
Corrective Action Request:	Organization shall implement corrective actions to demonstrate conformance with the requirement(s) referenced above. Note: Effective corrective actions focus on addressing the specific occurrence described in evidence above, as well as the root cause to eliminate and prevent recurrence of the non-conformance.			
Timeline for Conformance:	By the next annual audit.			
Evidence Provided by Organization:	PENDING			
Findings for Evaluation of Evidence:	PENDING			
NCR Status:	OPEN			
Comments (optional):				

NCR#:	02/11	NC Classification:	Major	Minor X
Standard & Requirement:	FSC-STD-CAN-Maritimes-SLIMF-2008 7.1.10: The predictable future influence of pests, pathogens and non-commercial species on allowable harvests, timber values, stocking etc. shall be taken into account and prepared for in the management plan.			
Report Section:	Appendix II Page 49 of 78.			
Description of Non-conformance and Related Evidence:				
Volume reductions should be applied to account for the predictable influence of pests etc. The plans reviewed did not have any reduction factors applied or alternatively did not indicate that a reduction for pests or pathogens was not necessary.				
Corrective Action Request:	Organization shall implement corrective actions to demonstrate conformance with the requirement(s) referenced above. Note: Effective corrective actions focus on addressing the specific occurrence described in evidence above, as well as the root cause to eliminate and prevent recurrence of the non-conformance.			
Timeline for Conformance:	By the next annual audit			
Evidence Provided by Organization:	PENDING			
Findings for Evaluation of Evidence:	PENDING			
NCR Status:	OPEN			
Comments (optional):				

NCR#:	03/11	NC Classification:	Major	Minor X
Standard & Requirement:	FSC-STD-CAN-Maritimes-SLIMF-2008 7.2.1: Indicators of progress relative to objectives shall be identified and an effective and thorough plan for monitoring these indicators shall be in place.			
Report Section:	Appendix II			
Description of Non-conformance and Related Evidence:				
Indicators of the progress relative to objectives are not explicitly identified in the woodlot management plans and a plan for monitoring the specific objectives is not articulated.				
Corrective Action Request:	Organization shall implement corrective actions to demonstrate conformance with the requirement(s) referenced above. Note: Effective corrective actions focus on addressing the specific occurrence described in evidence above, as well as the root cause to eliminate and prevent recurrence of the non-conformance.			
Timeline for Conformance:	By the next annual audit			
Evidence Provided by Organization:	PENDING			
Findings for Evaluation of Evidence:	PENDING			
NCR Status:	OPEN			
Comments (optional):				

NCR#:	04/11	NC Classification:	Major	Minor X
Standard & Requirement:	FSC-STD-CAN-Maritimes-SLIMF-2008 7.4.1. A summary of the management plan, including all elements in 7.1. shall be made available to the public			
Report Section:	Appendix II.			
Description of Non-conformance and Related Evidence:				
Plan summaries are not available to the public.				
Corrective Action Request:	Organization shall implement corrective actions to demonstrate conformance with the requirement(s) referenced above. Note: Effective corrective actions focus on addressing the specific occurrence described in evidence above, as well as the root cause to eliminate and prevent recurrence of the non-conformance.			
Timeline for Conformance:	By the next annual audit.			
Evidence Provided by Organization:	PENDING			
Findings for Evaluation of Evidence:	PENDING			
NCR Status:	OPEN			
Comments (optional):				

NCR#:	05/11	NC Classification:	Major	Minor X
Standard & Requirement:	Group Certification Checklist 6.2. The Group entity shall specify in their procedures the maximum number of members that can be supported by the management system and the human and technical capacities of the Group entity.			
Report Section:	Appendix IX			
Description of Non-conformance and Related Evidence:				
The requirement that the Group entity specify the maximum number of members that can be supported by the management system and human and technical capacities is not met.				
Corrective Action Request:	Organization shall implement corrective actions to demonstrate conformance with the requirement(s) referenced above. Note: Effective corrective actions focus on addressing the specific occurrence described in evidence above, as well as the root cause to eliminate and prevent recurrence of the non-conformance.			
Timeline for Conformance:	By the next annual audit			
Evidence Provided by Organization:	PENDING			
Findings for Evaluation of Evidence:	PENDING			
NCR Status:	OPEN			
Comments (optional):				

3.4. Observations

Observations are very minor problems or the early stages of a problem which does not of itself constitute a nonconformance, but which the auditor considers may lead to a future

nonconformance if not addressed by the client. An observation may be a warning signal on a particular issue that, if not addressed, could turn into a NCR in the future (or a pre-condition or NCR during a 5 year re-assessment).

OBS 01/11	Reference Standard & Requirement: FSC-STD-CAN-Maritimes-SLIMF-2008 4.2.1. The owner/manager ensures that all forest workers comply with all relevant provincial occupational health and safety requirements.
Worker safety and occupational health is addressed through the legal compliance check list and Section 8.6 of the Systems Manual. Active operations will need to be monitored to ensure that health and safety requirements and standards are met.	
Observation: FNSWO staff should ensure that health and safety inspections are conducted during active operations in order to ensure that compliance with requirements and standards can be confirmed.	

OBS 02/11	Reference Standard & Requirement: FSC-STD-CAN-Maritimes-SLIMF-2008 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.
The Systems Manual does not explicitly provide guidance to landowners on the use of biodegradable products and recycling.	
Observation: The FNSWO Systems Manual should be amended to provide guidance to landowners on the use of biodegradable products and recycling.	

OBS 03/11	Reference Standard & Requirement: FM-35 SmartWood Chain-of-Custody Standard for Forest Management Enterprises (FMEs) 5.3: FME shall have procedures in place and demonstrates that all trademark review and approval correspondence with SmartWood is kept on file for a minimum of 5 years (40-201, 1.10; 50-201, 2.4):
The Systems Manual does not outline a procedure that indicates that approval correspondence with SmartWood will be kept on file for a minimum of 5 years.	
Observation: Since FSC certification has not yet been issued, an observation is made to ensure that the Systems Manual is amended to provide for trademark review and to indicate that correspondence with SmartWood will be retained for 5 years.	

3.5. Notes for future audit teams

Notes are recorded for the benefit of future audit teams. They are items that were not fully addressed in this audit/assessment and do not constitute non-conformance. They warrant monitoring by future audit teams.

NOTE 01/11	Reference Standard and Requirement: FSC-STD-CAN-Maritimes-SLIMF-2008 1.1.5. Where non-compliances are identified and recorded, corrective actions are implemented.
Note for Future Annual Audits: FNSWO had not completed annual inspections or other inspections at the time of the assessment due to the infancy of the FSC program. Indicator 1.1.5 should be assessed during the next annual audit.	

<input type="checkbox"/> Closed	<input type="checkbox"/> Followed-up but still open	<input type="checkbox"/> Not followed-up this year
2012 audit team response:		

NOTE 02/11	Reference Standard and Requirement: FSC-STD-CAN-Maritimes-SLIMF-2008 6.6.1. A summary of the program, including the targets and objectives is included in the public summary.	
Note for Future Annual Audits: A public summary of the program, including targets and objectives does not exist as this was to be completed in conjunction with the preparation of the FNSWO Annual Report in June 2012. Criterion 6.6.1 should be assessed during the next annual audit.		
<input type="checkbox"/> Closed	<input type="checkbox"/> Followed-up but still open	<input type="checkbox"/> Not followed-up this year
2012 audit team response:		

NOTE 03/11	Reference Standard and Requirement: FSC-STD-CAN-Maritimes-SLIMF-2008 6.6.5. The manager makes publically available detailed and timely information about the total amount of pesticide use each year on the management unit, including data on at least one year prior to initial certification.	
Note for Future Annual Audits: Information on the amount of pesticide use is to be included in the FNSWO Annual Report (June 2012). Criterion 6.6.5 should be assessed during the next annual audit.		
<input type="checkbox"/> Closed	<input type="checkbox"/> Followed-up but still open	<input type="checkbox"/> Not followed-up this year
2012 audit team response:		

NOTE 04/11	Reference Standard and Requirement: FSC-STD-CAN-Maritimes-SLIMF-2008 8.5.1. A regular summary is compiled of the results of monitoring activities on the indicators listed in 8.2, and is made publicly available.	
Note for Future Annual Audits: The 2012 annual audit team should verify that a summary of monitoring activities was compiled and made publically available during the next annual audit.		
<input type="checkbox"/> Closed	<input type="checkbox"/> Followed-up but still open	<input type="checkbox"/> Not followed-up this year
2012 audit team response:		

NOTE 05/11	Reference Standard and Requirement: FSC-STD-CAN-Maritimes-SLIMF-2008 9.1.4. The owner/manager shall make the assessment documents, associated maps and external review report available.	
Note for Future Annual Audits: Assessment documents will be part of the Annual Report which has yet to be produced due to the infancy of the FSC program. Criterion 9.1.4 should be assessed during the next annual audit.		
<input type="checkbox"/> Closed	<input type="checkbox"/> Followed-up but still open	<input type="checkbox"/> Not followed-up this year
2012 audit team response:		

NOTE 06/11	Reference Standard and Requirement: FSC-STD-CAN-Maritimes-SLIMF-2008 9.4.1. Annual monitoring shall be conducted to assess the effectiveness of the measures employed to maintain or enhance the applicable conservation attributes.	
Note for Future Annual Audits: Annual monitoring had not been undertaken as the program was less than a year old at the time of the audit. A monitoring schedule was developed. Criterion 9.1.4. should be assessed during the next annual audit.		
<input type="checkbox"/> Closed	<input type="checkbox"/> Followed-up but still open	<input type="checkbox"/> Not followed-up this year
2012 audit team response:		

NOTE 07/11	Reference Standard and Requirement: FSC-STD-CAN-Maritimes-SLIMF-2008 10.1. The management objectives of the plantation, including natural forest conservation and restoration objectives, shall be explicitly stated in the management plan, and clearly demonstrated in the implementation of the plan.	
Note for Future Annual Audits: The non-plantation designation of 14 hectares Norway Spruce on FSC pool properties needs to be confirmed during the 2012 annual audit.		
<input type="checkbox"/> Closed	<input type="checkbox"/> Followed-up but still open	<input type="checkbox"/> Not followed-up this year
2012 audit team response:		

3.6. Certification Recommendation

Based on a thorough review of FME performance in the field, consultation with stakeholders, analysis of management documentation or other audit evidence the SmartWood assessment team recommends the following:

Certification requirements met; Upon acceptance of NCR(s) issued above	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Certification requirements not met	<input type="checkbox"/>
Subject to conformance with minor NCRs (if applicable), the FME has demonstrated that their described system of management is being implemented consistently over the whole forest areas covered by the scope of the evaluation	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
Comments:	
FME's management system, if implemented as described and subject to conformance with minor NCRs (if applicable), is capable of ensuring that all the requirements of the certification standards are met across the scope of the certificate	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
Comments:	
Issues identified as controversial or hard to evaluate.	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
Comments: Given that the FSC property pool is less than a year old, several reporting requirements had yet to be addressed as these were to be completed in conjunction with the preparation of the FNSWO Annual Report (June 2012).	
Description of activities taken by the FME prior to the certification decision to correct major or minor nonconformity(s) identified during the assessment.	
Certificate type recommended:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Forest management and Chain of custody <input type="checkbox"/> Forest management only (no CoC)

Once certified, the FME will be audited annually on-site and required to remain in conformance with the FSC principles and criteria as further defined by regional guidelines developed by SmartWood or the FSC in order to maintain certification. The FME will also be required to fulfill the corrective actions as described below. Experts from SmartWood will review continued forest management performance and conformance with the corrective action requests described in this report, annually during scheduled and/or random audits.

4. CLIENT SPECIFIC BACKGROUND INFORMATION

4.1 Ownership and land tenure description (legal and customary)

The Federation of Nova Scotia Woodland Owners (FNSWO) is an association of some 1,200 private land woodlot owners within the Province of Nova Scotia. Property owners have an option to have their properties certified and managed under either the Canadian Standards Association (CSA-Z804-08) Standard or under the FSC Maritime SLIMF Standard. At the time of the certification assessment 19 property owners were in the FSC property pool. The FNSWO seeks to assist small private woodlot owners achieve forest management certification and realize the full potential of their woodlot property holdings by providing unbiased forest management advice and assistance, by exploring new markets and promoting the use of best management practices

There is an agreement between the FNSWO and the Mersey Tobeatic Research Institute (MTRI) which facilitates collaboration between the organizations with respect to the delivery of the FSC program. Each organization manages their own pool of participating landowners but will share one FSC certificate with the FNSWO as the umbrella organization and certificate holder. This approach was adopted so that the organizations could realize financial savings with respect to auditing fees and also to enable a collaborative approach for program delivery in order to avoid redundancies in administration, training, outreach and education for program participants..

4.2 Legislative and government regulatory context

All land is privately-owned. Federal and provincial regulations with respect to environmental protection applicable to private ownership apply (i.e. protection of water quality, protection of SAR species and their habitats etc.).

4.3 Environmental Context

The FNSWO seek to restore the Acadian Forest type. Forest management practices adopted by pool members are conducive to the achievement of that objective. There is a strong commitment and recognition amongst landowners of the environmental and social benefits derived from sustainable forest management. The recognition of HCVF, the establishment and maintenance of reserves (i.e. riparian buffers) and the adoption of best forest management practices by landowners serve to maintain habitats and there connectivity, biological diversity and ecosystem process and function at local and regional scales.

4.4 Socioeconomic Context

Private woodlot owners account for approximately 50% of the forested land in Nova Scotia and as such the contribution of private woodlots to the provincial forest economy is significant. Timber harvested from private woodlots is also an important contributor of income-in-kind when harvested material is not marketed but used domestically (i.e. fence posts, firewood, building material).

4.5 Workers

Number of workers including employees, part-time and seasonal workers:

Total workers	3 workers (provide detail below)	
- Local Full time employees (a:b)	2 Male	1 Female
- Non - Local Full time employees (c:d)	Male	Female
- Local Part time workers (e:f)	Male	Female
- Non- local part time workers (g:h)	Male	Female
Worker access to potable water on the work site	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES	<input type="checkbox"/> NO
Full time employees making more than \$2 a day	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES	<input type="checkbox"/> NO
Number of serious accidents (past 12 month period)	0	
Number of fatalities (past 12 month period)	0	

APPENDIX I: Public summary of the management plan

(NOTE: To be prepared by the client prior to assessment, Information verified by assessment team)

1. Main objectives of the forest management are:	
Primary priority:	Foster and promote forest management practices that contribute to long-term health and productivity of NS woodlands
Secondary priority:	Help private woodlot owners balance the ecological and economic potential of their land.
Other priorities:	Encourage multiple use of woodland, protect areas of cultural, historical, geological, ecological and archaeological significance.
Forest composition:	
Acadian forest, mainly within Western, Valley/Central Lowlands and Eastern Ecoregions of NS. Tenure class in mainly small-private. First Nations (Mi'Kmaq) of NS will participate by eventually adding 13 First Nations woodlots to the program.	
Description of Silvicultural system(s) used:	
Many program participants practice small-scale, low-impact forestry. This includes various types of partial harvesting that aims to provide natural regeneration. This can be classed as either small-scale even-aged management, or woodlot-scale uneven-aged management. Within the NS Registry of Buyers Program, there are many funded treatments that can be used by landowners to achieve desired results. The most commonly used treatments on private woodlots within the program are: fill planting, manual competition control, PCT, commercial thinning, crop tree release, crop tree pruning and selection management (single & group selection harvesting).	
2. Silvicultural System (Merchantable Treatments only) (percentages and areas quoted are based only on recommended treatments between 2011-2021) as of October 6, 2011, including 19 woodlots.	% of forest under this management
Even aged management	20%, 168 ha
Clearcut (clearcut size range 1-16 ha)	10%, 83ha
Shelterwood and/or Commercial Thinning	10%, 85 ha
Uneven aged management	80%, 630 ha
Individual tree selection (includes categories 607,608,1907,1908)	16%, 128 ha
Group selection (group harvested of less than 1 ha in size)	64%, 501 ha
* Please note: Total forested area of the 19 participating woodlots is 2005 ha. Total area with prescribed merchantable silviculture/harvesting treatments is 798ha. The remaining 1,207 ha is either inoperable forested areas, younger ages classes with non-merchantable silviculture treatments prescribed (i.e. PCT) or areas that are simply being left untreated.	
3. Forest Operations	
3.1 Harvest methods and equipment used:	Vary from single-grip harvesters and forwarders (mechanical short wood system) to landowner's personal gear which may include small skidders, tractors with winches or tractors with wagons.
3.2 Estimate of maximum sustainable yield for main commercial species:	Cumulative AAC for main commercial species on the 19 woodlots currently enrolled in the program is 1650 cords (3830 m3). The AAC calculation was based on Von Mantel's formula, sustaining current

Findings: Corrective Action Request Forms have been developed and procedures are in place for follow-up monitoring.

8.8 Additional monitoring visits shall be scheduled when potential problems arise or the Group entity receives information from stakeholders about alleged violations of the FSC requirements by Group members.

Yes No
NA

Findings: Procedures are documented in the Systems Manual.

Group Assessment Requirements: (Completed by SW Task Manager/Lead Auditor)

Group member size restriction:

SW Certificate auditing strategy:

APPENDIX IV-a: Certified Pool Participation List

(Insert additional rows as necessary for groups with more than 15 members).

1. Total # members in the certified pool: 19

2. Total area in Current Pool (ha. or acres): 2005

Name of Member/ Contact Details	Assigned Sub Code	Management Tenure	Property Location (e.g. town, county)	Latitude/ Longitude ³	Total area (ha)	Main Products
James Thibault 769-2026	1019	Small-Private	99 Thibault Road, St.Joseph, Digby County	N 44 15.802 E 65 58.834	112	SPF, firewood
Kevin Clattenburg (403) 343-1562	1031	Small-Private	16852 Highway # 7, Pleasant Harbour, Halifax County	N 44 48.233 E 62 43.334	81	SPF, firewood
Dick Anthony 682-2646	1107	Small-Private	Mill Lake Road, Northfield, Annapolis County	N 44 27.736 E 65 07.664	57	SPF, firewood
Leslie Harlow 682-2783	1037	Small-Private	293 Harlow Road, North Brookfield, Queens County	N 44 26.353 E 64 58.554	165	SPF, firewood
Paul and Dorothy McDonald 532-2975	1048	Small-Private	1778 Perotte Road, Annapolis County	N 44 39.932 E 65 22.439	40	SPF, firewood
Robert Barteaux 532-2951	1049	Small-Private	806 Hwy#201, Moschelle, Annapolis County	N 44 44.687 E 65 26.480	73	SPF, firewood
Terry Smith 568-2938	1065	Small-Private	838 Woodside Road, Chaplin, Halifax County	N 45 11.671 E 62 49.560	80	SPF, firewood
Elma Dickie and Karen Miller 893-2791	1066	Small-Private	"Home Lot" HWY # 336, Eastville, Colchester County	N 45 15.962 E 62 52.713	57	SPF, firewood

³ The center point of a contiguous FMU or group of dispersed properties that together comprise a FMU in latitude and longitude decimal degrees with a maximum of 5 decimals.

Ted McFetridge (352) 213-4760	1067	Small-Private	Fraser Back Road, Fraser Settlement, Halifax County	N 45 05.588 E 63 00.099	83	SPF, firewood
Thomas and Sandra Miller 873-4721	1068	Small-Private	12 Miller Road, Devon, Halifax County	N 44 54.336 E 63 24.246	224	SPF, firewood
Jack Redden 384-2836	1069	Small-Private	Lindsay Lake, Halifax County	N 45 01.970 E 63 00.779	258	SPF, firewood
Virginia "Gini" Proulx 638-8353	1073	Small-Private	Grand Lake Road, Princedale, Annapolis County	N 44 39.556 E 65 29.962	36	SPF, firewood
Albert Higgins 384-2945	1078	Small-Private	Brookvale, Halifax County	N 45 02.338 E 63 04.389	211	SPF, firewood
Elma Dickie and Karen Miller 893-2791	1080	Small-Private	Harrison Road, Eastville, Colchester County	N 45 16.280 E 62 51.877	40	SPF, firewood
Helen and George Uhlman 682-2819	1101	Small-Private	66 Chute Rd. West Caledonia, Queens Co.	N 44 22.404 E 65 03.003	39	SPF, firewood
Stewart Fotheringham 532-0484	1102	Small-Private	HWY # 201, Round Hill, Annapolis Co.	N 44 45.667 E 65 24.894	22	SPF, firewood
	1103	Small-Private	186 Beach Point Rd., Newburne, Lunenburg Co.	N 44 37.994 E 64 35.258	72	SPF, firewood
Peter Van Dyk 682-3116	1104	Small-Private	Milford, Annapolis Co.	N 44 35.913 E 65 24.773	37	SPF, firewood
L.J. Crooker Farm & Forest 682- 2211	1105	Small-Private	le	N 44 23.545 E 64 57.680	317	SPF, firewood
Totals	19	All Small Private			2005 ha	

Non-pool forestlands

1. Total number of forestlands for which the candidate group manager has some management responsibilities or ownership:
2. Total area of that those forestlands represent (ha):