2015 to 2020 Standards of Sustainability

**Standard 1: Commitment to Practicing Sustainable Forestry.** Landowner demonstrates commitment to forest health and sustainability by developing a forest management plan and implementing sustainable practices.

**Performance Measure 1.1** - Landowner shall have and implement a written forest management plan consistent with the size of the forest and the scale and intensity of the forest activities.

**Indicator 1.1.1** - Management plan shall be active, adaptive and embody the landowner’s current objectives, remain appropriate for the land certified and reflect the current state of knowledge about natural resources and sustainable forest management.

**Indicator 1.1.2** - Management plans shall describe current forest conditions, landowner’s objectives, management activities aimed at achieving landowner’s objectives, document a feasible strategy for activity implementation and include a map accurately depicting significant forest-related resources.

The forest management plan shall demonstrate consideration of the following resource elements: forest health, soil, water, wood and fiber production, threatened and endangered species, special sites, invasive species and forests of recognized importance. Where present and relevant to the property, the plan shall describe management activities related to these resource elements.

Where present, relevant to the property and consistent with landowner’s objectives, the plan preparer should consider, describe and evaluate the following resource elements: fire, wetlands, desired species, recreation, forest aesthetics, biomass and carbon.

[**Update all required components from Indicator 1.1.2 in the forest management plan as needed.**]

**Indicator 1.1.3** - The Landowner should monitor for changes that could interfere with the management objectives as stated in management plan. When problems are found, reasonable actions are taken.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Resource</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Water</td>
<td><a href="http://www.mcgi.state.mi.us/wetlands">www.mcgi.state.mi.us/wetlands</a></td>
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<td>Wood and Fiber Production</td>
<td><a href="http://www.michigan.gov/forestry">www.michigan.gov/forestry</a></td>
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<td>Threatened and Endangered Species</td>
<td><a href="http://mnfi.anr.msu.edu">http://mnfi.anr.msu.edu</a></td>
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<td>Special Sites</td>
<td><a href="http://www.michigan.gov/archaeology">www.michigan.gov/archaeology</a></td>
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<td>Invasive Species</td>
<td><a href="http://www.michigan.gov/invasivespecies">www.michigan.gov/invasivespecies</a></td>
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<td>Forests of Recognized Importance</td>
<td><a href="http://www.michigan.gov/forestcertification">www.michigan.gov/forestcertification</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Monitoring</td>
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<tr>
<td>Optional - Fire, Wetlands, Desired Species, Recreation, Forest Aesthetics, Biomass and Carbon</td>
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**Standard 2: Compliance with Laws.** Forest management activities comply with all relevant federal, state and local laws, regulations and ordinances.

*Performance Measure 2.1* - Landowner shall comply with all relevant federal, state, county and municipal laws, regulations and ordinances governing forest management activities.

*Indicator 2.1.1* - Landowner shall comply with all relevant laws, regulations and ordinances and will correct conditions that led to adverse regulatory actions, if any.

*Indicator 2.1.2* - Landowner should obtain advice from appropriate qualified natural resource professionals or qualified contractors who are trained in, and familiar with, relevant laws, regulations and ordinances.

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<tr>
<th>Update Plan as Needed to Comply with Standard Two</th>
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See [www.michigan.gov/forestry](http://www.michigan.gov/forestry) and [www.mcgi.state.mi.us/wetlands/](http://www.mcgi.state.mi.us/wetlands/) for regulatory information.

**Standard 3: Reforestation and Afforestation.** Landowner completes timely restocking of desired species of trees on harvested sites and non-stocked areas where tree growing is consistent with land use practices and the landowner’s objectives.

*Performance Measure 3.1* - Reforestation or afforestation shall be achieved by a suitable process that ensures adequate stocking levels.

*Indicator 3.1.1* - Harvested forest land shall achieve adequate stocking of desired species reflecting the landowner’s objectives, within five years after harvest, or within a time interval as specified by applicable regulation.

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<th>Update Plan as Needed to Comply with Standard Three</th>
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See [www.michigan.gov/privateforestland](http://www.michigan.gov/privateforestland) for a list of seedling nurseries in Michigan.
Standard 4: Air, Water and Soil Protection. Forest management practices maintain or enhance the environment and ecosystems, including air, water, soil and site quality.

Performance Measure 4.1 - Landowner shall meet or exceed practices prescribed by state forestry Best Management Practices (BMPs) that are applicable to the property.

Indicator 4.1.1 - Landowner shall implement specific state forestry BMPs that are applicable to the property.

Indicator 4.1.2 - Landowner shall minimize road construction and other disturbances within riparian zones and wetlands.

Performance Measure 4.2 - Landowner shall consider a range of forest management activities to control pests, pathogens and unwanted vegetation.

Indicator 4.2.1 - Landowner should evaluate alternatives to pesticides for the prevention or control of pests, pathogens and unwanted vegetation to achieve specific management objectives.

Indicator 4.2.2 - Pesticides used shall be EPA-approved and applied, stored and disposed of in accordance with EPA-approved labels and by persons appropriately trained, licensed and supervised.

Performance Measure 4.3 - When used, prescribed fire shall conform with landowner’s objectives and pre-fire planning.

Indicator 4.3.1 - Prescribed fire shall conform with the landowner’s objectives and state and local laws and regulations.

Update Plan as Needed to Comply with Standard Four

See www.michigan.gov/privateforestland for BMPs and www.michigan.gov/burnpermit for prescribed burn information.

Standard 5: Fish, Wildlife, Biodiversity and Forest Health. Forest management activities contribute to the conservation of biodiversity.

Performance Measure 5.1 - Forest management activities shall protect habitats and communities occupied by threatened or endangered species as required by law.

Indicator 5.1.1 - Landowner shall confer with natural resource agencies, state natural resource heritage programs, qualified natural resource professionals or review other sources of information to determine occurrences of threatened or endangered species on the property and their habitat requirements.

Indicator 5.1.2 - Forest management activities shall incorporate measures to protect identified threatened or endangered species on the property.
Performance Measure 5.2 - Landowner should address the desired species and/or desired forest communities when conducting forest management activities, if consistent with landowner’s objectives.

Indicator 5.2.1 - Landowner should consult available and accessible information on management of the forest for desired species and/or forest communities and integrate it into forest management.

Performance Measure 5.3 - Landowner should make practical efforts to promote forest health.

Indicator 5.3.1 - Landowner should make practical efforts to promote forest health, including prevention, control or response to disturbances such as wildland fire, invasive species and other pests, pathogens or unwanted vegetation, to achieve specific management objectives.

Performance Measure 5.4 - Where present, forest management activities should maintain or enhance forests of recognized importance.

Indicator 5.4.1 - Appropriate to the scale and intensity of the situation, forest management activities should incorporate measures to contribute to the conservation of identified forests of recognized importance.

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See [www.michigan.gov/wildlife](http://www.michigan.gov/wildlife) for wildlife habitat management and [http://mnfi.anr.msu.edu](http://mnfi.anr.msu.edu) for T&E species.

Standard 6: Forest Aesthetics. Forest management activities recognize the value of forest aesthetics.

Performance Measure 6.1 - Landowner should manage the visual impacts of forest management activities consistent with the size of the forest, the scale and intensity of forest management activities and the location of the property.

Indicator 6.1.1 - Forest management activities should apply visual quality measures compatible with appropriate silvicultural practices.

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Standard 7: Protect Special Sites. Special sites are managed in ways that recognize their unique historical, archeological, cultural, geological, biological or ecological characteristics.

Performance Measure 7.1 - Forest management activities shall consider and maintain any special sites relevant on the property.

Indicator 7.1.1 - Landowner shall make a reasonable effort to locate and protect special sites appropriate for the size of the forest and the scale and intensity of forest management activities.

Update Plan as Needed to Comply with Standard Seven

See www.michigan.gov/archaeology for information about special sites.

Standard 8: Forest Product Harvests and Other Activities. Forest product harvests and other management activities are conducted in accordance with the landowner’s objectives and consider other forest values.

Performance Measure 8.1 - Landowner should use qualified natural resource professionals and qualified contractors when contracting for services.

Indicator 8.1.1 - Landowner should seek qualified natural resource professionals and qualified contractors.

Indicator 8.1.2 - Landowner should engage qualified contractors who carry appropriate insurance and comply with appropriate federal, state and local safety and fair labor rules, regulations and standard practices.

Indicator 8.1.3 - Landowners should retain appropriate contracts or records for forest product harvests and other management activities to demonstrate conformance to the Standards.

Performance Measure 8.2 - Landowner shall monitor forest product harvests and other management activities to ensure they conform to their objectives.

Indicator 8.2.1 - Harvest, utilization, removal and other management activities shall be conducted in compliance with the landowner’s objectives and to maintain the potential of the property to produce forest products and other benefits sustainably.

Update Plan as Needed to Comply with Standard Eight

See www.Michigan.gov/ForestStewardship for a listing of more than 130 professional foresters.