



Forest, Wetlands and Habitat Verification Checklist

A boxed risk level indicates the level required for environmental assurance verification.

Bold black print indicates a violation of state or federal regulation.

Bold blue italic print indicates a management practice consistent with specified 2020 Right to Forest Generally Accepted Forest Management Practices (GAFMPs)

(Revised Date: 12/7/20)

Sustainable Non-Agriculture Land Management

RISK QUESTION	Low Risk – 3 (RECOMMENDED)	MEDIUM RISK – 2 (POTENTIAL HAZARD)	HIGH RISK – 1 (SIGNIFICANT HAZARD)	REFERENCE INFORMATION	MEETS CRITERIA
SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT					
1.00) Has there ever been a formal Right to Farm or Right to Forest complaint at this property?	There has never been a Right to Farm or Right to Forest complaint or the complaint was not verified or the concern was resolved.		There was a formal Right to Farm or Right to Forest complaint and the concern was not resolved. ^{12,20}	Producer's verbal indication of complaint history.	YES NO N/A
1.01) Is the landowner implementing a Land Management Plan (LMP)?	Landowner has an up-to-date LMP and is making a reasonable effort to follow the implementation schedule.	Landowner has an up-to-date LMP but has not implemented the plan.	Landowner does not have an up-to-date LMP.		YES NO N/A
1.02) Does the Land Management Plan (LMP) adequately address the landowner's objectives and priorities relating to forests and wetlands, as well as wildlife and associated habitats?	Landowner objectives are in writing and outlined in the LMP.	Landowner has objectives, but not in writing.	Landowner has not considered objectives.		YES NO N/A
1.03) Does the Land Management Plan (LMP) address specific desired future conditions, and is it adaptive in response to future events or changing objectives?	LMP addresses specific desired future conditions and is adaptive in response to future events or changing objectives.	LMP addresses active and adaptive management and/or general guidance about desired future conditions but they are not specific to each management unit.	No information about desired future conditions is in the LMP.		YES NO N/A
1.04) Is the Land Management Plan (LMP) based on professional guidance and science?	Yes, LMP is based on professional guidance and science.		Landowner does not have an LMP.	Table 2: W	YES NO N/A

Sustainable Non-Agriculture Land Management (continued)

RISK QUESTION	LOW RISK – 3 (RECOMMENDED)	MEDIUM RISK – 2 (POTENTIAL HAZARD)	HIGH RISK – 1 (SIGNIFICANT HAZARD)	REFERENCE INFORMATION	MEETS CRITERIA
AIR, WATER AND SOIL PROTECTION (CONTINUED)					
1.11) Have designated trout streams, natural rivers, wild and scenic rivers discussed and mapped in the Land Management Plan (LMP)?	If present, designated trout streams, natural rivers, and wild and scenic rivers have been discussed and mapped in the LMP. Riparian Management Zones (RMZs) are discussed and/or mapped in the LMP. RMZ's have been implemented.	Landowner is aware that designated trout streams, natural rivers, wild and scenic rivers exist on the property, but no management plan has been developed or implemented.	Designated trout streams, natural rivers, and wild and scenic rivers exist on the property, but landowner was not aware of the designation. ^{7, 13, 14}	Documentation and map in LMP. Table 2: B, G, and H	YES NO N/A
1.12) Is there an unused well located on the property?	No unused well or abandoned well properly sealed.	-Unused well temporarily abandoned properly: Meets minimum isolation distances. -Is disconnected from any water distribution piping. -Has the top of the casing securely capped.	Unused, unsealed well located on site. ²¹	Unused well(s) properly sealed.	YES NO N/A
1.13) If required, have soil erosion and sedimentation control permits been obtained?	Required permits have been obtained. No erosion or sedimentation is apparent.	Required permits have been obtained. Minimal erosion or sedimentation is apparent.	Required permits have not been obtained, or there is evidence of significant erosion or sedimentation. ¹⁵		YES NO N/A
1.14) Are roads and trails established and maintained to avoid soil erosion?	Roads show minimal gulying or resulting sedimentation. Construction and maintenance has been done in accordance with Michigan Forestry Best Management for Soil and Water Quality.	Some construction and maintenance have been done in accordance with some Michigan Forestry Best Management Practices for Soil and Water Quality.	Soil erosion, gulying or sedimentation is occurring, and road needs to be relocated.	Table 2: B and C	YES NO N/A

Comments:

Sustainable Non-Agriculture Land Management (continued)

RISK QUESTION	LOW RISK – 3 (RECOMMENDED)	MEDIUM RISK – 2 (POTENTIAL HAZARD)	HIGH RISK – 1 (SIGNIFICANT HAZARD)	REFERENCE INFORMATION	MEETS CRITERIA
AIR, WATER AND SOIL PROTECTION (CONTINUED)					
1.15) If used on the property, how is prescribed burning performed?	Prescribed burning is done according to the approved Land Management Plan (LMP) and with pre-fire planning, which conforms to the Michigan Forestry Best Management Practices for Soil and Water Quality and a burning permit is obtained if required.	Prescribed burning is done with pre-fire planning but does not conform to the Michigan Forestry Best Management Practices for Soil and Water Quality and no burning permit was obtained if required.	Prescribed burning is done without an approved LMP or pre-fire planning and does not conform to the Michigan Forestry Best Management Practices for Soil and Water Quality and no burning permit was obtained. ¹⁶	Table 2: C and H	YES
					NO
					N/A
1.16) If used on the property, how are pesticides applied?	Pesticides are applied in accordance with Michigan Forest Best Management Practices for Soil and Water Quality and with Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)-approved labels and by persons appropriately trained, certified, licensed and supervised, etc. Accurate records are maintained of all applicable applications of pesticides for at least three years.	Pesticides are EPA-approved, but not used in accordance to Michigan Forest Best Management Practices for Soil and Water Quality or State Law.	Pesticides are not applied in accordance with EPA or State regulations and Michigan Forestry Best Management Practices for Soil and Water Quality. ⁵	Pesticide records for the past three years on file (or plans for records). -Date of application -Time of application -Pesticide brand/product name -Pesticide formulation -EPA registration number -Active ingredient(s) -Restricted-entry interval (REI) -Rate per acre or unit -Crop, commodity, stored product, or site that received the application -Total amount of pesticide applied -Size of area treated -Applicator's name -Applicator's certification number -Location of the application -Method of application -Target pest -Carrier volume per acre MDARD Pesticide Certification and Licensing Requirements MDARD pesticide Laws and Regulations Table 2: J and K	YES
					NO
					N/A

Comments:

Sustainable Non-Agriculture Land Management (continued)

RISK QUESTION	LOW RISK – 3 (RECOMMENDED)	MEDIUM RISK – 2 (POTENTIAL HAZARD)	HIGH RISK – 1 (SIGNIFICANT HAZARD)	REFERENCE INFORMATION	MEETS CRITERIA
AIR, WATER AND SOIL PROTECTION (CONTINUED)					
1.17) If fertilizer or other nutrients are applied, what soil nutrient management records are kept?	Records of soil test reports and quantities of nutrients applied to individual areas are maintained.	Partial nutrient management records are kept. Complete nutrient management records will be kept in the future, for review at the time of reverification.	Minimal or no nutrient management records kept.	Three years of records – or five years, if applying manure – or plans to begin keeping records. Soil fertility tests and/or plant analysis results. Date(s) of application(s). Nutrient composition of fertilizer or other material used. Amount of nutrient-supplying material applied per acre. Method of application and placement of applied nutrients. Vegetative growth and cropping history of perennial crops.	YES NO N/A
1.18) Have soil types been identified and mapped for the property covered under this land management plan (LMP)?	Yes, they have been identified and mapped.		No, they have not been identified or mapped.	Table 2: MM	YES NO N/A
1.19) Have resource concerns been identified in the Land Management Plan (LMP)?	A site assessment occurred, and no resource concerns were found, or resource concerns and actions are being taken according to LMP recommendations.	Yes, resource concerns have been identified and there is intention to follow up.	A site assessment has not been conducted to search for resource concerns OR Yes, resource concerns have been identified, but there is no intention to follow up.		YES NO N/A
1.20) How are habitat priorities determined?	Within the context of federal and state law, landowner's interest in and goals for specific wildlife species are outlined in a Land Management Plan (LMP) and actions are included in the plan to achieve those goals.	The landowner's species and/or habitat priorities are identified but are not addressed or not fully addressed in an LMP.	Species and habitat priorities are not identified.		YES NO N/A

Comments:

Sustainable Non-Agriculture Land Management (continued)

RISK QUESTION	LOW RISK – 3 (RECOMMENDED)	MEDIUM RISK – 2 (POTENTIAL HAZARD)	HIGH RISK – 1 (SIGNIFICANT HAZARD)	REFERENCE INFORMATION	MEETS CRITERIA
AIR, WATER AND SOIL PROTECTION (CONTINUED)					
1.21) Does the land management plan (LMP) provide management strategies for addressing unwanted pests, pathogens and vegetation?	Management strategies for integrated pest management to address unwanted pests, pathogens and vegetation is addressed in the LMP and is being implemented.	Management strategies for integrated pest management to address unwanted pests, pathogens and vegetation is addressed in the LMP but not yet being implemented.	The LMP does not provide management strategies for addressing unwanted pests, pathogens and vegetation.	Table 2: L, D and NN	YES NO N/A
HABITAT RESTORATION AND DEVELOPMENT					
1.22) How are adverse impacts to federal- or state-listed threatened and endangered species avoided?	A database assessment and/or on-site inventory are completed. If listed species are thought to be present, then Best Management Practices (BMPs) are included in a Land Management Plan (LMP) and are properly implemented on the property.	A database assessment and/or on-site inventory are completed. If listed species are thought to be present, then BMPs are included in an LMP. At a minimum, no action is taken that will adversely impact the species or habitat.	No assessment has been completed, potential status of listed species on the property is unknown and no consideration of listed species is made when habitat is altered on the property. OR Action is knowingly being taken that adversely impacts listed species. ^{2, 3}	Table 2: A, D, N, LL & NN	YES NO N/A
1.23) How are rare or sensitive habitats addressed on the property?	A database assessment and/or on-site inventory are complete. If rare or sensitive habitats are thought to be present, especially Michigan Natural Features Inventory S1 and S2 types, then applicable management practices are included in a Land Management Plan (LMP) and are properly implemented on the property.	A database assessment and/or on-site inventory are complete. If rare or sensitive habitats are thought to be present, then Best Management Practices are included in an LMP. At a minimum, no action is taken that will adversely impact the habitat.	No assessment exists, potential status rare or sensitive habitats on the property are unknown and no consideration of these habitats are made when habitat is altered on the property. OR Action is knowingly being taken that adversely impacts the habitats.	Table 2: A, D, N, LL & NN	YES NO N/A
1.24) Is the land managed with consideration for migratory birds?	Land is managed to maintain and enhance migratory bird populations and habitat.	Land is managed without harm to migratory bird populations and habitat.	Land is managed in a manner that is detrimental to migratory bird populations and habitat. ⁴	Table 2: A, D, N, LL & NN	YES NO N/A

Sustainable Non-Agriculture Land Management (continued)

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HABITAT RESTORATION AND DEVELOPMENT (CONTINUED)					
1.25) How are nuisance non-native and invasive terrestrial and aquatic species on forestlands, wetlands, and other non-agricultural areas addressed on the property?	Nuisance non-native and invasive terrestrial and aquatic species are identified, mapped, or described for each cover type or management unit on the property. All areas are actively being treated as described in the Land Management Plan (LMP). Invasive terrestrial and aquatic species occurrence and location is being reported to the Midwest Invasive Species Information Network (MISIN). Nuisance non-native and invasive terrestrial and aquatic species are not being moved in violation of State law.	Nuisance non-native and invasive terrestrial and aquatic species are identified, mapped, or described for each cover type or management unit. Treatment activities outlined in the LMP are being appropriately implemented. Nuisance non-native and invasive terrestrial and aquatic species are not being moved in violation of State law.	No effort has been made to identify and map invasive species and no treatment action is being taken. Nuisance non-native and invasive terrestrial and aquatic species are being moved in violation of State law. ^{11, 17}	Table 2: O and P	YES NO N/A
1.27) Have all cover types/ecosystems/habitat types (lakes, streams, wetlands, grasslands, shrubland, forestland, etc.) been correctly identified and mapped as part of the Land Management Plan?	Yes, all have been identified and mapped.		No, they have not been correctly identified.	Map in Land Management Plan. Table 2: B, R, S, T, U & V	YES NO N/A

Comments:

Sustainable Non-Agriculture Land Management (continued)

RISK QUESTION	LOW RISK – 3 (RECOMMENDED)	MEDIUM RISK – 2 (POTENTIAL HAZARD)	HIGH RISK – 1 (SIGNIFICANT HAZARD)	REFERENCE INFORMATION	MEETS CRITERIA
CONTRACTING					
1.29) Does landowner engage qualified natural resource professionals and qualified contractors that carry appropriate insurance and comply with appropriate federal, state, and local regulations?	Landowner engages qualified natural resource professionals and qualified contractors that carry appropriate insurance and comply with appropriate federal, state and local regulations.		Landowner does not engage qualified natural resource professionals and qualified contractors that carry appropriate insurance and comply with appropriate federal, state and local regulations.	Table 2: W	YES NO N/A
1.30) Does the landowner retain appropriate records for forest product harvests and other management activities?	Landowner retains appropriate records for forest product harvests and other management activities.	Landowner has no records but plans to retain appropriate records for future activities.	Landowner retains no records for forest product harvests and other management activities.		YES NO N/A
1.31) Does landowner or a designated qualified natural resource professional ensure that forest product harvests and other management activities conform to the management plan?	Landowner or a designated qualified natural resource professional ensures that forest product harvests and other management activities conform to the management plan objectives.		Landowner does not ensure that forest product harvests and other management activities conform to the management plan objectives.		YES NO N/A
Forestry					
REFORESTATION AND AFFORESTATION					
2.04) Is reforestation or afforestation achieved by a suitable process that ensures desired future conditions?	Forestland or potential forestland has achieved a planned, adequate stocking of desired species reflecting the landowner's objectives and appropriate to the site and resource conditions.	Forestland or potential forestland is in the process of achieving adequate stocking of desired species that reflect the landowner's objectives, and are appropriate to the site and resource conditions.	No plan is in place to achieve desired future conditions. AND There is inadequate stocking.	Table 2: DD	YES NO N/A
OTHER FORESTRY					
2.07) Is timber harvesting conducted in compliance with Forest Management Plan and does it maintain the potential of the property to produce forest products and other benefits sustainably?	Yes.		No.		YES NO N/A

