

FSC Forest Management Audit

Public Summary Report

Audit Conducted By	SCS Global Services 2000 Powell Street Ste. 600 Emeryville CA 94608 United States of America www.scsglobalservices.com
Contact Person	Brendan Grady
Report last updated on	03 January 2024
Certificate Holder	Irving Woodlands, LLC (IWLLC) PO Box 240 Fort Kent ME 04743 United States of America www.jdirving.com
Contact Person	Scott MacDougall
Certified Forest Areas	0
FSC certificate registration code	SCS-FM/COC-00121N
Certificate issue date	08 December 2019
Certificate expiry date	07 December 2024
Audit Sequence	0
No certificate granted	

Certificate Holder and Certification Body Details

Question	Inputs
Certificate Holder	
1.01 Certificate holder name *	Irving Woodlands, LLC (IWLLC)
1.02.1 Street Address *	PO Box 240
1.02.2 Address Line 2	
1.02.3 City *	Fort Kent
1.02.4 State or Province	ME
1.02.5 Postal Code	04743
1.03 Country *	United States of America
1.04 Contact person full name *	Scott MacDougall
1.05 Email *	macdougall.scott@jdirving.com
1.06 Telephone	
1.07 Website *	www.jdirving.com
Certificate Parameters	
1.08 FSC licence code *	FSC-C041515
1.09 Certificate code *	SCS-FM/COC-00121N
1.10 Former certificate code (if any)	
1.11 Certificate type *	FM/COC
1.12 Group certificate *	No
1.13.1 Initial certification date *	2009-12-08
1.13.2 Most recent certification date *	2019-12-08
1.13.3 Certificate expiry date *	2024-12-07
1.14 Total number of MUs in the scope of certificate *	1
1.15 Total area certified *	519,572.0 ha
1.16 Change of scope since previous audit *	No
1.16.1 Nature of scope change	
1.17 Ecosystem services (ES) in the scope *	No
1.25 Name and/or location of the certified forest area(s)	
Certification Body	
1.18 Certification body name *	SCS Global Services
1.19.1 Street Address *	2000 Powell Street Ste. 600
1.19.2 Address Line 2	
1.19.3 City *	Emeryville
1.19.4 State	CA
1.19.5 Postal Code	94608
1.20 Country *	United States of America
1.21 Contact person full name *	Brendan Grady
1.22 Email *	bgrady@scsglobalservices.com
1.23 Telephone	+1.510.452.8000
1.24 Website *	www.scsglobalservices.com

The evaluation process

Question	Inputs
Audit Parameters	
2.01 Audit type *	Surveillance
2.01.1 Audit sequence	
2.02 Audit start date *	2023-10-17
2.16 First stakeholder consultation date for this audit	
2.03 Audit finish date *	2023-10-19
2.04 Total person days *	7.5
2.05 Date of report *	2024-01-03
2.06 Total area under evaluation *	519,572.0 ha
Normative Documents	
2.07 Evaluated international normative document(s)	
2.07.1 Trademark standard FSC-STD-50-001 *	Yes
2.07.2 Group standard FSC-STD-30-005 *	No
2.07.3 CoC standard FSC-STD-40-004 *	No
2.07.4 ES procedure FSC-PRO-30-006 *	No
2.07.5 Excision Policy FSC-POL-20-003 *	No
2.07.6 Pesticides Policy FSC-POL-30-001 *	Yes
2.07.7 Applicable NTFP Standard *	No
2.07.8 CIP FSC PRO 30-011 *	No
2.08 Code(s) of NFSS or INS used *	FSC-STD-USA-01-2010
2.09 Web link to the standard used	https://connect.fsc.org/document-centre/documents/resource/234
2.10 If applicable, the adaptation process of CB interim standard	

The evaluation process

Question	Inputs
Certification Decision	
2.20 Conditions (corrections of minor non-conformities) or pre-conditions (corrections of major non-conformities) associated with the certification decision	
2.20.1 No specific condition *	Yes
2.20.2 Correction of minor NCRs issued within required timelines *	Yes
2.20.3 Correction of major NCRs issued within required timelines *	Yes
2.20.4 Correction of the pre-conditions to certification identified *	Yes
2.20.5 Other	No Conditions or NCRs were issued as a result of this evaluation.
2.21 Lead auditor opinion	
2.21.1 The certificate holder's system of management, if implemented as described, is capable of ensuring that all of the requirements of the applicable standard(s) are met over the whole forest area covered by the scope of the evaluation. *	Yes
2.21.2 The certificate holder has demonstrated, subject to correction of the identified non-conformities, that the described system of management is being implemented consistently over the whole forest area covered by the scope of the certificate. *	Yes
2.22 Auditor recommendation for the certificate holder's management system and performance	
2.22.1 A certificate can only be issued/reissued/maintained when all identified Major CARs are closed *	Yes
2.22.2 The FM system of the evaluated enterprise does not comply with the provisions and standards of FSC. Due to the number of identified major non-compliances the auditors recommend the immediate suspension of the certificate *	No
2.23 Certification decision *	Maintain
2.24 Decision detail	No Conditions or NCRs were issued as a result of this evaluation. The certificate is maintained in good standing.
2.25 Decision date *	2024-01-03
2.26 Decision making entity *	SCS Global Services

Personnel / audit team

		Person Days		Expertise						
3.01 Name *	3.02 Role *	3.03 Prep / pre-evaluation *	3.04 On-site *	3.05.1 Forestry	3.05.2 Ecology	3.05.3 Sociology	3.05.4 Environment	3.05.5 Economics	3.06 Auditor UAN (enter 0 if none) *	3.07 Profile

Audit itinerary

4.01 Audit Itinerary					
Item	Start Date	4.02 Hours	4.03 MUs or members	4.04 Activities	4.05 Site detail
2023-10-17	2.00	Irving Woodlands, LLC	Opening meeting	Introductions, client update, review scope of evaluation, audit plan, intro/update to FSC and SCS standards, confidentiality and public summary, conformance evaluation methods and tools, review of open CARs/OBS, emergency and security procedures for evaluation team, final site selection.	
2023-10-17	7.00	Irving Woodlands, LLC	Field visits (Meister)	<p>Route South, Kyle Meister</p> <p>*Unless stated otherwise: All FMPs examined and up to date. Site-level plans examined and all completed as approved. All implementation records examined in the field were consistent with the Forest Management Plan (FMP) and site-level plan. Records of harvest monitoring completed and acceptable for all harvest inspections. All RTE, Natural Heritage, RTE, wildlife, RMZ/water, arch checks completed for all sites inspected. Any cultural sites, such as those designated in cooperation with indigenous peoples, are confidential and not listed in site notes.</p> <p>Stops:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1.Unit 7329D6: road construction and new stream crossing over Tracey Brook. Inspection of stream crossing with 6-ft diameter pipe installed. Drainage features also installed on approaches to crossing to remove water from road prior to reaching crossing. Observation of GIS infrastructure mapping system. 2.Unit 7325R9: Active clearcut operation using the feller-processor-forwarder method. Site is a mixed hardwood-softwood site and will be naturally regenerated. Stocking will be checked post-harvest as part of regular CFI and LIDAR data. When trees are of a certain height, stocking may be checked prior to doing pre-commercial thinning. Interview with logging contractor and inspection of equipment. Confirmation of presence of fire extinguisher and suppression system, first aid kit, communications equipment, and spill kit. Logger is trained, certified logging profession (CLP), and insured. Rates comparable or better to other local forestry companies. 3.Unit 7325JX: Active clearcut operation as part of feller-processor-forwarder method. Interview with employee of logging contractor. Wages comparable or better than other local contracting companies. Interviewee has state-recognize logging professional training (CLP). Inspection of logging equipment. Confirmation of spill kit, fire extinguisher and suppression, and communications equipment. First aid kit located on truck, but not on machinery. 4.Unit 7325T1: Observation of forwarder operation in clearcut. Interview with forwarder operator (employee of contractor) and inspection of machinery. Confirmation of first aid kit, spill kit, fire extinguisher/suppression, and communications equipment. Pay is comparable to other logging jobs. 5.Unit 7325YH: Inspection of temporary stream crossing to access 4-ac clearcut site. Channel was free flowing and temporary bridge is secure and higher than adjacent landscape to control potential damage from drainage effects. Riparian area buffer harvested, maintaining minimum of 60% of pre-harvest basal area and avoiding sensitive sites. Clearcut area will receive site preparation and be replanted with white spruce over 2-3-year regimen (chop/disk, trench and optional chemical treatment one year post-harvest, and replanting year after site preparation). 6.Unit 7313U7: completed 52-ac. clearcut and removed and rehabilitated temporary stream crossing to control access and reduce environmental risk to stream. Corduroy left on skid trail approaches to stream and waterbars installed 50-100 feet from stream. No bare soil exposed in stream crossing zone. Site will receive soil preparation and replanting regimen starting next year, for which a new temporary crossing will be installed. 7.Dudley Township Late Successional site (Dudley Twp.): review of late successional objectives from FMP: maintain 10% of FMU to be old or become old. 56,000 acres of FMU is in this classification. Inspection of area, which has several older red spruce, sugar maple, yellow birch, and northern white-cedar. 8.Confidential site. 9.Unit 7227: Inspection of <1-year old replanting site (white spruce). Site was clearcut in 2021, prepped in 2022 (disk, trench, and spray), and planted in 2023 at 1500 trees/ha. Discussion on chemical mix used to control multiple competing types of herbaceous and woody vegetation (imazapyr, sulfometuron, and metsulfuron). 	
2023-10-17	7.00	Irving Woodlands, LLC	Field visits (Johnson)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1.Tracy Brook (Block 7329D6) – Observed a reconstructed logging road, approximately 2 years old. Well-graveled road, about 5 miles long to replace an older, retired road with many curves and out-dated water crossings. Viewed a 6 ft. steel/aluminized culvert to replace a 3 ft. diameter culvert. Inflow and outflow riprapped and disturbed soil seeded with a roadside seed mix. Forest Management Entity (FME) is upsizing its culverts due to larger, more frequent storm events. Retired roadbed is blocked off with soil and vegetation and is reclassified as a forest trail. Returns the road area into the general forest area. FME has purchased and is in the process of implementing Survey 123, an ESRI software app that enables the FME to track its engineering assets like bridges and culverts. Each asset is graded for quality, enabling the lower grade assets to be repaired or replaced. FME has engaged with the University of Maine Cooperative Forest Research Unit (CFRU) on a watershed study to investigate peak flows and water quality in various watersheds on its ownership. 2.Tracy Brook (Block 7325R9) – Observed a northern hardwood (beech/birch/maple) reserve area in an active clearcut. The surrounding area of mixedwood and softwood is being clearcut. Reserve area is art of an island (FME policy calls for leaving “islands” of 0.5 acre per 25 acres of clearcut). Conducted an interview with a logging contractor with Timberline Logging, running a processor. Logger has been working for FME for 30 years. Very satisfied with his contract, although wood prices are lower than other companies, the bonuses are better and that makes up the difference. Logger carries his own health and liability insurance, and has not had a lots time accident in 30 years of logging. Runs two shifts, one 10 hour shift and one 12 hour shift. Observed hard hat, high visibility vest, fire extinguisher, first aid kit, and spill pads. Logger has a cell phone with booster and a two-way radio. Logger holds a Certified Logging Professional card and is recertified every two years. This credential helps to keep insurance rates lower. 3.Tracy Brook (Block 7325X) – Interviewed a logger running a feller-buncher. Allagash Enterprises. Logging for 3 years. Logger satisfied with the logging company. Wages are good. Does not earn health insurance or retirement benefits. Has a cell phone and a radio system. Observed hard hat and boots. No first aid kit on the machine, but logger indicated he had one in his work trailer a short distance away. Observed spill rags for oil spills. Logger holds a Certified Professional Logger card, and was recertified in the spring of 2023. Received first aid, CPR and Best Management Practices (BMP) training. 4.Tracy Brook (Block 7325T1) – Interviewed a forwarder operator with TJD Logging. New to logging, with one year of experience. Older employee, retired from a career in automotive sales. Does not hold a Certified Professional Logger card, but has received training from FME. Has received first aid training. Observed a fire extinguisher, two-way radio, (Multi-Use Radio System – MURS), and cell phone. Has not had any lost time accidents. Logging contractor runs two 12 hour shifts per day. FME Logging Supervisor described its logger development program in which the FME identifies and recruits young equipment operators who have an interest in logging. They provide professional, third party training and have partnered with Maine Farm Credit to guarantee loans for equipment purchases. Logging equipment can cost \$500,000 to \$700,000 for new equipment. The guarantee eliminates the need for a 20% down payment, which is most often a barrier to young loggers getting into the trade. FME calculates a proforma (a full accounting of all costs of a logging operation to break even status) and makes up the difference between what a logger earns and the proforma for the first 12 weeks. FME also guarantees enough work for 24 hour shifts for the new loggers. The new logging equipment is placed on a five year depreciation cycle, and after full depreciation the logger can purchase a new piece of equipment. This program has been very successful. 5.Lane Brook (Block 72781P, 7TR6) – Observed a riparian area in a clearcut. The riparian area prescription allows a removal of up to 40% of the volume in the area, with a 100 ft. buffer from the high water mark on either side of the stream, and a 25 ft. no-track zone from the high water mark on either side of the stream. Logging equipment can reach into the no-track zone, but cannot enter it. The order in which species are removed in a riparian area is as follows: softwoods, especially balsam fir first, followed by mixed hardwoods, with tolerant hardwoods like sugar maple last. The idea is that the softwoods are shorter lived and more prone to windthrow. The tolerant hardwoods are better rooted, more windfirm, and longer lived, providing streamside protection for a longer period of time. 6.Grand Lake Road (Block 7186AV, 7TR6) – Observed a mixed red spruce and white spruce plantation established in 2003. Stand was commercially thinned to 700 - 800 trees per ha. Small trees and unmerchantable trees were targeted for removal, and more dominant trees were selected as crop trees. Logger attempts to provide three or four-sided release on the crop trees. Interviewed a logger with Theriault Processing operating a wheeled processor. Logger has worked for the FME for three years. Logger feels safe and supported by FME, has never had a lost time injury. Satisfied with the pay and job security. Runs two 8 hour shifts and one 5 hour shift per day. Three loggers in the company, and all three hold the Certified Professional Logger credential. Has a cell phone with booster and MURS. Observed fire extinguisher, first aid kit, and logger confirmed that lock out tag out and spill kit were in the equipment tool box, though not observed directly. Has had first aid and CPR training. 7.Grand Lake Road (Block 7186AV, 7TR6) – Observed a vernal pool that was identified by an FME forester during harvest area layout. Identified as a potential unique area and if confirmed will be added to the unique area GIS overlay. FME has established a 100 ft. buffer zone around the high water mark of the pool, and a 25 ft. no-track zone. In the spring, FME foresters will return and conduct an egg mass survey (frogs and salamanders). If the pool has 20 or more egg masses the pool will be classified as vernal, and will be added permanently to the unique areas overlay. Each spring the FME Naturalist conducts training for forestry staff, including RTE species, special areas and unique habits, and rare plant identification. This pool was identified by an FME forester following that training. FME has 2,100 unique areas identified across its ownership in Maine, New Brunswick, and Nova Scotia, encompassing 87,000 ha. An additional 69,000 ha are in late successional reserves. 8.Grand Lake Road (Block 7185ZC) – Observed a late successional reserve, consisting mainly of red spruce, northern whitecedar, and eastern white pine. The area ties into a bog and a pond, and provides for a unique wildlife corridor. FME aims to maintain 10% of the forest area in either old or very old status. The late successional types are northern whitecedar, pine/hemlock, mixedwood, and mixed softwood. 	
2023-10-18	10.00	Irving Woodlands, LLC	Field visits (Meister)	<p>Route North, Kyle Meister</p> <p>*Unless stated otherwise: All FMPs examined and up to date. Site-level plans examined and all completed as approved. All implementation records examined in the field were consistent with the Forest Management Plan (FMP) and site-level plan. Records of harvest monitoring completed and acceptable for all harvest inspections. All RTE, Natural Heritage, RTE, wildlife, RMZ/water, arch checks completed for all sites inspected. Any cultural sites, such as those designated in cooperation with indigenous peoples, are confidential and not listed in site notes.</p> <p>Stops:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1.Eort Kent office: overview of district, safety precautions, recent activities, and final site selection. 2.Unit 6326A1 (101 ac.): active clearcut harvest on steep slopes using tracked equipment. Overview of site and inspection of skid trails and site. Interview with logging contractor and verification of first aid kit, spill kit, fire extinguisher/suppression, and communications equipment. Logger believes rates are fair and finds ways to handle own machine maintenance. Interview with forwarder contractor and verification of fire extinguisher/ suppression, first aid kit, spill kit, and communications equipment. Contractor finds rates comparable to other local land managers. Working during down times is a benefit of working for the FME. Reviewed location map and GIS layers for potential sensitive sites. Reviewed contract for forwarder contractor for safety requirements. 3.Unit 6207A1 (15 ac.): aspen regeneration harvest for deer yard management. Site receives high recreation use, including ATVs, snowmobiles, hunting, and fishing at a nearby lake and stream. The riparian management zone was left unharvested to protect fishing values. Reviewed PFW section 6 agreement supplement for deer wintering areas, which is a notification process to F&W so that a joint site visit could be conducted to review the impacts of the prescription on deer. Reviewed Activities Plan Agreement. 4.Unit 6311A2 (56 ac.): recently completed clearcut of naturally established mixed wood stand that will be prepped and planted with white spruce in a similar fashion to sites visited on previous day. Observation of island retention block. Ridge with mixed wood was left outside of harvest unit and contains species mix similar to harvested site. Review of GIS information, including past and current treatments (origin 1984, PCT in 1996, final harvest in 2023). 5.Unit 6311B4 (78 ac.): recently completed clearcut of naturally established spruce stand that received precommercial thinning in the mid-1990s, which reduced density of suppressed spruce. Site will be prepped and planted with white spruce. Observation of two island retention blocks, and unharvested ridge from adjacent stand also enters this unit. Review of GIS layers, including stand origin, past treatments, and current treatment. Retention island mapped in GIS. 6.Unit 6326B4 (57 ac.): northern hardwood shelterwood completed in winter of 2022-23. Basal area target of 80 sq. ft. for retention. Next entry will likely be a single-tree selection to convert from an even- to uneven-aged stand. Inspection of quality of residual stand. Some poorly formed trees had to be left to meet stocking level targets, but will likely be targeted during conversion to multi-aged management. 7.Third Lake Wallagrass: recreational trail adjacent to northern hardwood shelterwood harvest and site of recent RTE species discovery that was entered into the protected areas program. Reviewed GIS layer demonstrating that the site was included in the unique features layer along with management recommendation. 8.Unit 64905 (37 ac): northern hardwood single-tree selection site with raptor nest. Harvest completed in June 2023. Raptor nest was provided with 100m buffer during the nesting season, although it was still outside of the active harvest unit. Selection unit was targeted for 80 BA of residual stand. Main difference between this site and the other northern hardwood site was that it was already meeting uneven-aged management stocking objectives, which allowed for greater retention of higher quality trees. Reviewed map of location and GIS layers demonstrating stick-nest buffer and notes on buffer area treatment (no-harvest). 9.Carter Brook Road: permanently closed road to address safety and legacy road issues. A new road was constructed that is straighter and thus more direct for transport and recreation. The older road was a greater distance due to curviness and thus allows for net recovery of productive forestland. Logging slash and root masses installed over the road to control access and encourage rehabilitation. 10.Black Brook: removal of temporary bridge and installation of permanent bridge. New bridge allows for freer flow of stream and will allow for more efficient transport. Evidence of recent beaver activity at bridge site, so new bridge helps to avoid human-beaver conflict since installation of a dam will be more difficult. Verification of installation of dips and culverts 50-100-ft from new bridge and seeding of exposed soil. 	

Audit itinerary

4.01 Audit Itinerary

Item Start Date 4.02 Hours 4.03 MUs or members 4.04 Activities 4.05 Site detail

			<p>1.Violet Pond Road (T17R3) – Observed logging road maintenance conducted in 2023. A 2 ft. diameter metal culvert was replaced with a 3 ft. diameter plastic culvert. Ripped inflow and outflow. Moves water from a non-fish bearing intermittent stream across the road. This new culvert was placed into the Survey 123 system, along with specs and up to 8 photos. FME conducts some road maintenance in-house and contracts some out. Also viewed replacement of 18 inch cross drains. Exposed soil areas seeded with a roadside seed mix, yielding a heavy stand of new grass.</p> <p>2.T17R3 – Observed a commercially thinned, 20 year old Norway spruce plantation, with a target of 700 trees per ha. Over time, FME has reduced the planting density, providing more room to grow for each seedling. Attempting to reduce the need for precommercial thinning. In 2012, the FME entered into the Outcome Based Forestry program with the Maine Forest Service. This Program allows some variances from the state's Forest Practices Act (FPA), with the idea that overall the company will adhere to sustainable forestry practices and will achieve its landscape management and biodiversity goals. For example, FME is allowed clearcuts up to 250 acre, and beyond with special permission. Also, separation zone requirements between cuts are relaxed. FME gets observed by Outcome Based Forestry inspectors and must submit a public report on progress toward outcomes each year. FME has an average block size (management unit) of 16 acres, and currently the average clearcut size is 41 acres. Expected rotation age is 40-45 years for sawtimber. FME intends to, over time, increase the block size to achieve efficiencies and practice more landscape scale forestry.</p> <p>3.Van Buren Cove Road (Block 6368A, T17R3) – Observed a young spruce stand that was naturally regenerated following a clearcut in 2009. Original stand was natural forest, with advanced spruce regeneration, hence the reliance on natural regen. Stand was precommercially thinned at age 14 to a residual of 1500 trees per ha. FME manages natural softwood stands. Species priority in natural stands is (1) eastern white pine, (2) spruce, (3) balsam fir, and (4) northern whitecedar. At present, there are not major insect or disease problems in softwood stands. The spruce budworm is the biggest threat to balsam fir and the spruces, and white pine weevil causes problems with leader growth of Norway spruce.</p> <p>4.Van Buren Cove Road (Block 6368A, T17R3) – Observed road maintenance on a main haul road that also provides access for the public. Observed ditching and culvert replacements for cross drains. Four years ago a 10 ft. diameter steel/aluminized culvert was placed in a perennial, fish-bearing stream (Sanford Brook) to replace an old fuel oil tank that had been used as a culvert for many years. The new culvert was sized to handle runoff from a 100 year storm + 20%. In recent years FME has added a 20% additional to stream crossing sizes to account for more frequent, larger storms, a climate change adaptation. Observed the new culvert, well ripped on the inflow and outflow, culvert was functioning well.</p> <p>5.Van Buren Cove Road (Block 6367) – Observed a 44 acre white spruce plantation. Original stand was harvested in 2017, site was mechanically prepared by chaining, with planting in 2018. The site was chemically released in 2019 using a mixture of Glyphosate and Sulfometeron methyl. Due to heavy competition, the site received a second chemical release in 2022. FME is trying to reduce the number of chemical applications due to costs and environmental concerns. FME strives to have any chemical treatments (site preparation and/or release treatments) completed within a five year window following planting. The stand has 1800 trees per ha and is fully stocked. It may receive a cleaning if necessary, and will be commercially thinned in 12 years.</p> <p>6.Long Lake – Long Lake is a large, natural lake that is very popular with the public for recreation, and has a large number of leased sites upon which cabins/houses have been built. FME has about 600 leased lots. The lots are on an annual lease basis, but have been in effect continuously for many years. FME owns all the land around the lake, but the water body itself is owned by the State of Maine. FME maintains a beach area that is open to the public and also provides access to ATV/snowmobile trails. FME has 500 to 600 miles of ATV and snowmobile trails on its property. FME provides access permits to ATV and snowmobile clubs and has the clubs post signs and police the trails. The Maine Warden Service is responsible for providing law enforcement for ATVs and snowmobiles. Permits to individuals are not provided. FME attends club meetings as part of its stakeholder outreach. The State of Maine has landowner liability laws that protect the landowners. Risk is assumed by the individuals recreating on the property owned by another. FME uses its Mobile Incident Management System (MIMS) to report and track incidents like accidents, spills, trespass, official complaints, etc. MIMS is used to handle issues related to recreational use on its property. FME maintains two unique protected areas around Long Lake. These are High Conservation Value (HCV) areas and are layers in the GIS. They are designated as HCV 4 – water quality protection. They protect springs that feed water into the lake, buffer water features and streams, and also provide visual/aesthetic protection.</p> <p>7.37 Mile Branch Road (Block 6357, T17R4) – Observed a 12 acre Norway spruce plantation established in 1996. Stand was fully stocked and is growing well, with many sawtimber trees. The stand was commercially thinned in 2015. It will be harvested in 13 to 18 years. Across the road was another Norway spruce plantation, this one planted in 2007 and cleaned in 2019. This stand is fully stocked, 20 acres in size, and will be commercially thinned in 2 – 3 years.</p> <p>8.Barn Brook (Block 6353, T17R4) – Observed a 452 acre High Conservation Value area, set aside to provide protection for two fish-bearing streams feeding into Long Lake. Both streams support strong annual spawning runs of smelt, preferred food for the Atlantic salmon in Long Lake. HCV area is a late successional mixedwood forest. Species observed include: red spruce, eastern hemlock, American beech, yellow birch, balsam fir, and sugar maple. Management in the HCV must be done to maintain the late successional values. FME monitors all HCVs annually, mostly by aerial observation, but also ground checking at times.</p> <p>9.Blackstone Road (Block 6387, T16R4) – Observed a 20 acre clearcut. Harvesting was completed in 2019, mechanical site preparation by chaining in 2020, followed by a chemical site preparation (Imazapyr + Sulfometeron methyl) in 2020, planted with Norway spruce in 2021. The site was then chemically released using Glyphosate + Sulfometeron methyl in 2023. FME notifies neighbors of chemical applications, and also places public notifications in local newspapers. FME also notifies stakeholders that may be affected by the applications, such as guides and leaseholders.</p> <p>10.Blackstone Road (Block 6387, T16R4) – Observed a unique area that was protected during a harvest layout. Special mid-slope habitat with wet seeps, calcareous soils, and larger natural northern whitecedar. Recognized as habitat for the rare S2 plant – giant rattlesnake plantain. Foresters observed the plants and confirmed their field identification with the company Naturalist. The area was placed into the GIS, and received a no harvest buffer of 300 ft. This site was identified by FME foresters one week after attending annual training provided by the FME Naturalist. Auditor observed several of the rare plants in the protected area.</p>
2023-10-18	10.00 Irving Woodlands, LLC	Field visits (Johnson)	
2023-10-19	5.00 Irving Woodlands, LLC	Office (Meister)	Document review and staff interviews related to 1.5, 2.3, 3.2, 3.3, 5.6, 6.2, 6.3, 8.2, and 9.4; GIS and management plans; monitoring reports; and demonstration of new road monitoring system.
2023-10-19	5.00 Irving Woodlands, LLC	Office (Johnson)	Document review and staff interviews related to P4, 7.2, 7.3, and 8.4.
2023-10-19	2.00 Irving Woodlands, LLC	Closing meeting	Closing Meeting Preparation: Auditor(s) take time to consolidate notes and confirm evaluation findings Closing Meeting: Brief summary of audit activities, present preliminary findings, confidentiality, SCS/FSC dispute policy, timeline for report, and discuss next steps.

Forest management enterprise information

Question	Inputs

Environmental Values

5.19 Environmental safeguards relevant to forest operations	
5.19.1 buffer zone *	Yes
5.19.2 chemical use control *	Yes
5.19.3 conservation area set aside *	Yes
5.19.4 erosion control *	Yes
5.19.5 other, please specify	Standard Operating Procedures, Best Management Practices, Policies & Procedures and Annual Training are conducted annually for the gamit of environmental safeguarding.
5.20 Description of environmental safeguards	

Management Units

Area Units: ha

7.01 MU name *	7.02 Forest zone *	7.03 SLIMF type *	7.04 Tenure-ownership *	7.05 Tenure-management *	7.06 Centroid Latitude *	7.07 Centroid Longitude *	7.08 Total production forest area *	7.09 Total non-production forest area *	7.10 Total area of MU *	
Number of Valid Entries:		1				Area Totals		489,989.00	29,583.00	519,572.00
Irving Woodlands, LLC (IWLLC)	Temperate	Non-SLIMF	Private	Private	47.22154100	-68.75569700	489,989.00	29,583.00	519,572.00	

Main commercial timber species included in scope of the certificate

8.01 Species *	8.02 Product code *	8.03 Trade name	8.05 Remarks
Acer spp.	W1 Rough wood	Mixed Hardwood (All)	Red & Sugar Maple
Acer spp.	W1.1 Roundwood (logs)	Mixed Hardwood (All)	Red & Sugar Maple
Fraxinus spp.	W1 Rough wood	Mixed Hardwood (All)	White & Black Ash
Fraxinus spp.	W1.1 Roundwood (logs)	Mixed Hardwood (All)	White & Black Ash
Betula spp.	W1 Rough wood	Mixed Hardwood (All)	White & Yellow Birch
Betula spp.	W1.1 Roundwood (logs)	Mixed Hardwood (All)	White & Yellow Birch
Fagus grandifolia	W1 Rough wood	Mixed Hardwood (All)	American Beech
Fagus grandifolia	W1.1 Roundwood (logs)	Mixed Hardwood (All)	American Beech
Quercus rubra	W1 Rough wood	Mixed Hardwood (All)	Northern Red Oak
Quercus rubra	W1.1 Roundwood (logs)	Mixed Hardwood (All)	Northern Red Oak
Populus spp.	W1 Rough wood	Mixed Hardwood (All)	Big Leaf & Trembling Aspen
Populus spp.	W1.1 Roundwood (logs)	Mixed Hardwood (All)	Big Leaf & Trembling Aspen
Picea spp.	W1 Rough wood	Spruce	White, Red, Black & Norway Spruce
Picea spp.	W1.1 Roundwood (logs)	Spruce	White, Red, Black & Norway Spruce
Abies balsamea	W1 Rough wood	Fir	Balsam Fir
Abies balsamea	W1.1 Roundwood (logs)	Fir	Balsam Fir
Thuja occidentalis	W1.1 Roundwood (logs)	Cedar	Northern White Cedar
Pinus strobus	W1.1 Roundwood (logs)	White Pine	Eastern White Pine
Pinus resinosa	W1 Rough wood	Red Pine	Red Pine
Tsuga canadensis (L.) Carr.	W1 Rough wood	Hemlock	Eastern Hemlock

Pesticide use since previous audit/year

10.01 Active ingredient *	10.02 Restriction	10.03 Applied area *	10.04 Reason for use *	10.05 Quantity of ingredient *	10.06 Summary of ESRA *
glyphosate	Restricted	2,715.8 ha	Primarily for control of pests such as raspberry & shrubs and some woodies like poplar and pin cherry. Primarily used in follow up conifer release applications but may also be used for site preparation.	12,594.1 litres	<p>General mitigation strategies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •The use of compatible, label approved, tank mixes is utilized to efficiently reduce the risk of frequent applications and excessive pesticide use. •Tank mixing follows label pre-cautions to always adopt the most stringent guidance based on the chemicals involved. •Compatible surfactants are utilized as per label to efficiently reduce the risk of frequent applications and excessive pesticide use on the landscape. <p>Mitigation strategies for herbicide spills on soil and water:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Herbicide mixing, loading, and application do not occur within 100 feet of watercourses and wetlands. •Environmental Management System in place that is certified to ISO 14001. The Pesticide Use program is evaluated against a maximum target of internal non conformances and tracked continuously. •Standard Operating Procedures (SOP's) have been developed and are implemented to meet or exceed all federal and state guidelines concerning buffering, spills, safety etc. <p>Mitigation strategies for non-target species protection:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Detailed Maps, AGNAV job polygons are for monitoring by staff on the ground and in the application equipment. •Plans and maps are provided to appropriate regulatory agencies for screening, approval, and review. •Detailed session reports are maintained daily for label and regulatory compliance and kept for future reference and inspection. •AGNAV files are reviewed daily for variance and maintained for future reference. •EMS variances are reported and actioned. •Master Licensed Applicators contracted to execute operations on the ground. •Calibration of equipment is performed, and records are maintained by applicator. •AGNAV GPS and files insure specific targeting. •AUTOCAL calibrated to insure precise volume control for air operations. •ACCUFLOW nozzles ensure droplets get on target quickly and minimize risk of off target deposition. •Radar equipped aerial application to view weather anomalies. •Direct contact for area specific weather forecasting with NOAA.
imazapyr	Unrestricted	2,386.0 ha	Primarily for control of a broad range of herbaceous, ruderals up through woody competition from poplar to maple during site preparation prior to planting or at very low doses during conifer release.	2,797.4 litres	Onsite Process Review. Follow label recommendations. Pesticides are applied by licensed contractors. Written prescriptions are part of each contract. Organization has a documented IPM strategy that includes review of chemical and non-chemical options.
sulfometuron	Unrestricted	4,829.9 ha	Primarily for control of grass and ruderal competition either during site preparation or conifer release operations.	1.0 metric tonnes	Onsite Process Review. Follow label recommendations. Pesticides are applied by licensed contractors. Written prescriptions are part of each contract. Organization has a documented IPM strategy that includes review of chemical and non-chemical options.
metsulfuron	Unrestricted	2,386.0 ha	Primarily for control of herbaceous, ruderal and raspberry types of competition during site preparation.	0.3 metric tonnes	Onsite Process Review. Follow label recommendations. Pesticides are applied by licensed contractors. Written prescriptions are part of each contract. Organization has a documented IPM strategy that includes review of chemical and non-chemical options.
2,4-D	Restricted	4.0 ha	Control of annual and perennial broadleaves, woodies and grass competing with softwoods.	18.9 litres	<p>2,4-D is a highly hazardous pesticide (HHP) based on its classification in the Acute Toxicity hazard group and demonstration of the potential for acute toxicity to mammals and birds (Criterion 2) per the FSC Pesticides Policy (FSC-POL- 30-001 V3-0 EN) and the FSC Lists of Highly Hazardous Pesticides (FSC-POL- 30-001a EN). However, risks from other FSC hazard groups and toxicity categories were not precluded from this assessment.</p> <p>Follow all pesticide label application instructions. Follow applicable criterion and indicators from the FSC US FM Standard V1.0 (e.g., Criterion 4.3 for worker safety, Criterion 7.3 for worker training, Criterion 6.5 for protecting water resources, and Criteria 8.1 and 8.2 for Monitoring). Applicators or persons supervising application of restricted use pesticides are required to be certified in accordance with EPA regulations and state, territorial and tribal laws. Additional risk mitigation strategies are provided below. Organizations should take reasonable steps to avoiding environmental and social impacts by considering the mitigation strategies provided below, as well as application-, Organization-, or location-specific strategies.</p>
clopyralid	Unrestricted	12.9 ha	Control of broadleaf weeds including annual and perennial thistle competing with softwoods.	18.9 litres	Onsite Process Review. Follow label recommendations. Pesticides are applied by licensed contractors. Written prescriptions are part of each contract. Organization has a documented IPM strategy that includes review of chemical and non-chemical options.