

Certification and LSOG

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My Role in Certification

- Forestry, Land Management, & Silviculture Background
- Special Projects throughout US
- Various Certification Programs



Purposes

- Overview of certification requirements relating to LSOG
- Set the stage for further discussion, tapping into experience of entire group

Three Factors to Consider

1. Standards in forestry are new
2. Professional judgment and interpretation
3. Context sensitive

3 Standards



- Tree Farm



- Sustainable Forestry Initiative



- Forest Stewardship Council

Tree Farm



- Standard 6:
Fish, Wildlife and Biodiversity
- Standard 8:
Protect Special Sites

Standard 6:

Fish, Wildlife and Biodiversity

- Forest management activities **contribute to the conservation of biodiversity** and maintain or enhance habitat for native fish, wildlife, and plant species, with emphasis on natural plant and animal communities and rare plants and animals.



Indicator 6.1.1

- **Where practical**, management plans consider and address opportunities to protect rare species and special habitat features.



Standard 8:

Protect Special Sites

- Special sites **are managed** in a way that recognizes their unique characteristics.
- Indicator 8.1.1 –
Management plan and forest operations **identify and manage for special sites** in a manner consistent with forest owner's objectives, the unique features of the site, and the size and scale of the property



Sustainable Forestry Initiative

- Objective 4: Wildlife and Biodiversity
- Objective 6: Special Sites



Objective 4

- To manage the quality and distribution of wildlife habitats and contribute to the conservation of biological diversity by developing and implementing stand- and landscape-level measures that promote habitat diversity and the conservation of forest plants and animals, including aquatic fauna.



4.1.6

- Support of and participation in plans or *programs* for the *conservation* of *old-growth forests* in the region of ownership.



Objective 6

- To manage ... lands that are ecologically, geologically, historically, or culturally important in a manner that recognizes their special qualities.



Special Site Indicators:

1. Use of existing natural heritage data and expert advice in identifying or selecting sites for protection because of their ecologically, geologically, historically, or culturally important qualities.
2. Appropriate mapping, cataloging, and management of identified special sites.



Forest Stewardship Council

- Many FSC requirements relate to HCVPFs:
6.1a, 6.2, 8.2, 9.1
- Old-growth protected as HCVPF 6.3
- Also protected as representative sample area under 6.4
 - 6.4 a
 - 6.4 b
 - 6.4 c



6.4

- Representative samples of existing ecosystems within the landscape shall be protected in their natural state and recorded on maps, appropriate to the scale and intensity of operations and the uniqueness of the affected resources.



Representative Samples to:

- 1. Establish and/or maintain an ecological reference condition;*
- 2. Create or maintain an under-represented ecological condition (e.g., successional phases of a forest type or natural community)*
- 3. Protect a feature that is sensitive, rare, or unique in the landscape*



Applicability Notes

*“For managed forest communities in the Northeast, **ecologically mature or late-successional phases** (not including old growth) are generally under-represented and would qualify as representative sample areas under purposes 1 and 2.”*



In most cases, intact old-growth forests will qualify as representative sample areas under purpose 3 due to their rarity in the Northeast Region. Unentered old-growth stands are also prime candidates for designation as representative sample areas under purpose 3. In both cases, the burden is on the landowner/manager to demonstrate that these areas should NOT qualify as representative sample areas under purpose 3.



“Other very old stands (over 150 years old) that do not meet the Northeast Standard’s strict definition of “old growth” (e.g., there is some evidence of past harvesting) should also be considered as potential representative sample areas under purpose 3”



Intact old-growth forest

A forest that is unroaded or lightly roaded, with no evidence of previous logging, and of sufficient size and configuration to maintain ecological integrity—500 acres or larger in size. Such forests differ from old-growth stands in that they are not only rare but are also large enough to maintain significant biological diversity, genetic diversity, and a broad array of ecological functions on given acres through long periods of time.

Unentered old-growth stand

- A stand of trees that is unroaded or lightly roaded, with no evidence of previous logging, ranging in size from 15-500 acres, and of sufficient size and configuration to maintain specific ecological functions.



- Such stands differ from intact old-growth forests in that they are too small to maintain significant biological diversity and/or genetic diversity on given acres through long periods of time; but as a collective of variously sized acreages, contribute to a landscape-scale safety net in which a mosaic of biological diversity, genetic diversity, and ecological functions are maintained in space through various scales of time.



Northeast Regional Standard

- 6.4.f. Managers of large, contiguous public forests (>50,000 acres) create & maintain representative protected areas within the forest area, sufficient in size to encompass the scale & pattern of expected natural disturbances while maintaining the full range of forest types & successional stages resulting from the natural disturbance regime.



Appalachian Regional Standard

- 6.4.e. Large, contiguous public forests create and maintain representative protected areas sufficient in size to allow natural disturbances to occur in their natural state.



For Plantation situations:

- 10.5.b. Consistent with conversion restrictions in 6.10, a percentage of the total forest management area shall be maintained as and/or restored to natural and semi-natural forest cover.



Natural & Semi-natural Forest Cover

The minimum required percentage is:

- for 100 acres or less, at least 10 percent.
- for 101 - 1,000 acres, at least 15 percent.
- for 1,001 to 10,000 acres, at least 20 percent.
- for > 10,000 acres, at least 25 percent

