



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 2016 Right to Forest Generally Accepted Forest Management Practices (GAFMPs)

(Revised Date: 9/28/16)

Sustainable Non-Agriculture Land Management

RISK QUESTION	LOW RISK - 3 (RECOMMENDED)	MEDIUM RISK - 2 (POTENTIAL HAZARD)	HIGH RISK - 1 (SIGNIFICANT HAZARD)	RECORDS OR EVIDENCE FOR MAEAP VERIFICATION	MEETS CRITERIA
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) Are landowner objectives identified?	Landowner objectives are in writing and outlined in the Land Management Plan.	Landowner has objectives, but not in writing.	Landowner has not considered objectives.		YES NO N/A
1.03) Is the Land Management Plan (LMP) active and adaptive (e.g. responding to natural events, change in objectives or in resource conditions)?	LMP is active and adaptive in case goals or resource conditions change.	LMP allows no active and adaptive management.			YES NO N/A
1.04) Is the Land Management Plan (LMP) based on professional guidance and science?	LMP was prepared by a natural resource professional such as a forester certified by the Society of American Foresters, a Forest Stewardship plan writer, a technical service provider as registered by the USDA-NRCS, a registered forester, wildlife biologist, or an individual recognized by MDARD to write land management plans.	LMP was prepared by a non-professional.	Landowner does not have a LMP.		YES NO N/A
1.05) Does the Land Management Plan (LMP) address specific, desired future conditions?	Details of desired future conditions are included in the LMP for each management unit.	General information about desired future conditions is included in the LMP, but they are not specific to each management unit.	No information about desired future conditions is in the LMP.		YES NO N/A

Comments:

Protect Special Sites

RISK QUESTION	LOW RISK - 3 (RECOMMENDED)	MEDIUM RISK - 2 (POTENTIAL HAZARD)	HIGH RISK - 1 (SIGNIFICANT HAZARD)	RECORDS OR EVIDENCE FOR MAEAP VERIFICATION	MEETS CRITERIA
3.01) Has the landowner made a reasonable effort to locate and protect special sites?	If special sites are thought to be present, then best management practices are included in forest management plan and are properly implemented on the property.		No effort was made to determine if there were special sites on the property.		YES NO N/A
3.02) How are special sites identified and treated on the property?	The management plan identifies special sites and the forest management plan contains activities to maintain special sites.	The management plan identifies special sites.	Treatment of special sites is not contained in the management plan.		YES NO N/A
3.03) Are historical or archaeological artifacts or areas located on the site?	Landowner minimizes impact to sites and, if applicable, contacts the State Historic Preservation Office for technical assistance in historic site preservation.	Landowner minimizes impact to site.	Landowner does not minimize impact to site.		YES NO N/A

Reforestation and Afforestation

4.02) 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.		YES NO N/A
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Comments:

Air, Water and Soil Protection (cont.)

RISK QUESTION	LOW RISK - 3 (RECOMMENDED)	MEDIUM RISK - 2 (POTENTIAL HAZARD)	HIGH RISK - 1 (SIGNIFICANT HAZARD)	RECORDS OR EVIDENCE FOR MAEAP VERIFICATION	MEETS CRITERIA
5.04) Have all wetlands including, but not limited to: bogs, fens, swamps, marsh, or vernal pools been identified?	Wetlands including, but not limited to: bogs, fens, swamps, marsh, or vernal pools have been identified and Riparian Management Zones (RMZs) established in the LMP. Prior to any management activities, a plan addressing soil erosion and sedimentation that follows Sustainable Soil and Water Quality Practices (SSWQP) for forestland and/or Soil and Sedimentation Manual is developed and communicated. Plan is developed by appropriate resource professional.	Wetlands including, but not limited to: bogs, fens, swamps, marsh, or vernal pools have been identified. No Land Management Plan has been developed. Qualified Logging Professionals are used for timber harvests, if timber harvesting occurred.	Wetlands including, but not limited to: bogs, fens, swamps, marsh, or vernal pools have not been identified. Untrained contractors/property owners conduct activities in or around these features.		YES NO N/A
5.05) Are roads and trails established and maintained to avoid soil erosion?	Roads show minimal gullyng or resulting sedimentation. Construction and maintenance has been done in accordance with Sustainable Soil and Water Quality Practices (SSWQP).	Some construction and maintenance has been done in accordance with some SSWQP.	Soil erosion, gullyng or sedimentation is occurring and road needs to be relocated.		YES NO N/A
5.06) If used on the property, how is prescribed burning performed?	Prescribed fire done according to the approved forest management plan and with pre-fire planning which conform to the Sustainable Soil and Water Quality Practices (SSWQP) and a burning permit obtained.	Prescribed fire is done with pre-fire planning, but does not conform to the SSWQP.	Prescribed fire is done without an approved forest management plan or pre-fire planning and does not conform to the SSWQP.		YES NO N/A
5.07) How is management to control pests, pathogens and unwanted vegetation taking place?	Integrated pest management to control pests, pathogens and unwanted vegetation is in place.	Integrated pest management to control pests, pathogens and unwanted vegetation is planned, but not yet implemented.	No pest management is conducted.		YES NO N/A

Comments:

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Air, Water and Soil Protection (cont.)

RISK QUESTION	LOW RISK - 3 (RECOMMENDED)	MEDIUM RISK - 2 (POTENTIAL HAZARD)	HIGH RISK - 1 (SIGNIFICANT HAZARD)	RECORDS OR EVIDENCE FOR MAEAP VERIFICATION	MEETS CRITERIA
5.08) If used on the property, how are pesticides applied?	Pesticides are applied in accordance with Sustainable Soil and Water Quality Practices (SSWQP) and with EPA approved labels and by persons appropriately trained, certified, licensed and supervised, etc.	Pesticides are EPA-approved, but not used in accordance to SSWQP.	Pesticides are not applied in accordance with EPA regulations and SSWQP.		YES NO N/A

Habitat Restoration and Development

6.01) 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 are included in a forest/habitat management plan 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 best management practices are included in a forest/habitat management plan. 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.		YES NO N/A
6.02) How is management of habitat, including forestlands, wetlands and other non-agricultural areas addressed on the property?	A forest/habitat management plan that adequately addresses all habitat types has been completed and is being implemented on the property.	A forest/habitat management plan that adequately addresses all habitat types has been completed, but is yet to be fully implemented on the property.	No management plan that adequately addresses all habitat types has been completed for the property. Management actions, if taken at all, are done without an overall plan and may be adversely impacting habitat and wildlife.		YES NO N/A

Comments:

Habitat Restoration and Development (cont.)

RISK QUESTION	LOW RISK - 3 (RECOMMENDED)	MEDIUM RISK - 2 (POTENTIAL HAZARD)	HIGH RISK - 1 (SIGNIFICANT HAZARD)	RECORDS OR EVIDENCE FOR MAEAP VERIFICATION	MEETS CRITERIA
6.03) How are rare or sensitive species or habitats addressed on the property?	A database assessment and/or on-site inventory are complete. If rare or sensitive species or habitats are thought to be present, then best management practices are included in a forest/habitat management plan and are properly implemented on the property.	A database assessment and/or on-site inventory are complete. If rare or sensitive species or habitats are thought to be present, then best management practices are included in a forest/habitat management plan. At a minimum, no action is taken that will adversely impact the species or habitat.	No assessment exists, potential status rare or sensitive species or habitats on the property are unknown and no consideration of these species or habitats are made when habitat is altered on the property. OR Action is knowingly being taken that adversely impacts the species or habitats.		YES NO N/A
6.04) How are invasive species on forestlands, wetlands and other non-agricultural areas addressed on the property?	Invasive species are identified and mapped on the property and all areas are actively being treated.	Invasive species are identified and mapped on the property and a portion of the area is actively being treated.	No effort has been made to identify and map invasive species and no treatment action is being taken. OR Invasive species are actively spreading on the property.		YES NO N/A
6.05) How are potential conflicts between timber management and desired habitat development resolved?	A management plan clearly identifies landowner's goals <u>and</u> addresses both resources and is being implemented on the property.	A management plan clearly identifies landowner's goals and addresses both resources, but is yet to be fully implemented on the property.	No management plan that adequately addresses the landowner's goals has been completed for the property. OR A management plan exists but it addresses only timber management or habitat management and not both.		YES NO N/A

Comments:

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Habitat Restoration and Development (cont.)

RISK QUESTION	LOW RISK - 3 (RECOMMENDED)	MEDIUM RISK - 2 (POTENTIAL HAZARD)	HIGH RISK - 1 (SIGNIFICANT HAZARD)	RECORDS OR EVIDENCE FOR MAEAP VERIFICATION	MEETS CRITERIA
6.06) 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 forest/habitat management plan 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 a forest/habitat management plan.	Species and habitat priorities are not identified.		YES NO N/A
6.07) Are all 'natural', degraded and drained wetlands (and other water bodies) on the property correctly identified and mapped in a plan?	Yes.	Partially.	No.		YES NO N/A
6.09) Are altered wetlands (hydrologically, vegetatively) assessed for restoration potential by agency personnel or others trained in wetland restoration?	Restoration potential is assessed on all altered wetland basins. OR A wetland survey has been completed and no altered wetlands exist on the property.	Restoration potential is assessed for some altered wetland basins.	No assessment of altered wetland basins has been started.		YES NO N/A
6.12) Are all other natural or degraded habitats (e.g. grasslands, old fields, shrublands, stream, riparian areas) as determined in the forest/habitat plan, correctly identified and mapped?	Yes.	Partially.	No.		YES NO N/A

Comments:

Habitat Restoration and Development (cont.)

RISK QUESTION	LOW RISK - 3 (RECOMMENDED)	MEDIUM RISK - 2 (POTENTIAL HAZARD)	HIGH RISK - 1 (SIGNIFICANT HAZARD)	RECORDS OR EVIDENCE FOR MAEAP VERIFICATION	MEETS CRITERIA
6.13) Are these habitats being assessed for restoration potential by agency personnel or others trained in habitat restoration or improvement?	Restoration potential is assessed for all other (non-forested/non-wetland) habitats on the property.	Restoration potential is assessed for some other habitats on the property.	No assessment of other habitat has been started.		YES NO N/A

Forest Product Harvesting and Other Management Activities

8.01) Is timber harvesting conducted in compliance with forest management plan and maintains the potential of the property to produce forest products and other benefits sustainably?	Yes.		No.		YES NO N/A
8.02) Does forest owner use qualified natural resource professionals and qualified contractors when contracting for services?	Yes.		No.		YES NO N/A
8.03) Is a timber sale contract used when harvesting timber?	A timber sale contract was prepared by a professional forester.	A timber buyer or the forest owner prepared a timber sale contract.	Timber harvests are conducted without a written timber sale contract.		YES NO N/A
8.04) If timber harvesting is done, is a harvest plan map prepared that details harvest boundaries, exclusion areas, sensitive sites, roads, and landings?	A harvest plan map is prepared that contains all pertinent information.	Written plan not in place. Oral harvesting plan discussed with contractor.	Harvests are done without a harvest plan map.		YES NO N/A

Comments:

Forest Product Harvesting and Other Management Activities (cont.)

RISK QUESTION	LOW RISK - 3 (RECOMMENDED)	MEDIUM RISK - 2 (POTENTIAL HAZARD)	HIGH RISK - 1 (SIGNIFICANT HAZARD)	RECORDS OR EVIDENCE FOR MAEAP VERIFICATION	MEETS CRITERIA
8.07) Do all management activities, including timber harvesting conform to all applicable Michigan Forest Land Best Management Practices (BMPs)?	All management is done in accordance to Forest Land BMPs.	Some, but not all, BMPs are addressed.	Management activities are conducted without regard to BMPs.		YES NO N/A
8.08) Do all management activities conform to Michigan's Right to Forest Generally Accepted Forest Management Practices (GAFMPs)?	<i>All management activities conform to GAFMPs.</i>	Some, but not all management activities conform to GAFMPs.	Management is done without regard to GAFMPs.		YES NO N/A
8.09) Does forest owner retain appropriate records for forest product harvests and other management activities?	Forest owner retains appropriate records for forest product harvests and other management activities.	Forest owner retains some appropriate records for forest product harvests and other management activities.	Forest owner retains no records for forest product harvests and other management activities.		YES NO N/A
8.10) Are silviculturally appropriate techniques used for the removal of vegetation or timber?	<i>Adheres to Right to Forest Act GAFMPs or other system as recommended by forester.</i>		Silviculture is not considered when harvesting.		YES NO N/A
8.11) Does forest owner monitor forest product harvests and other management activities to ensure they conform to the management plan objectives?	Forest owner or a designated qualified natural resource professional monitors forest product harvests and other management activities to ensure they conform to the management plan objectives.		Forest owner does not monitor forest product harvests and other management activities.		YES NO N/A

Comments:

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