



SmartWood

Practical conservation through certified forestry

Forest Management Public Summary

for

Nova Scotia Landowners and Forest Fiber Producers Association

Certification Code: SW-FM/COC-1753

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This document was produced according to the guidelines of the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) and the SmartWood Program. No part of the report should be published separately.

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¹ SmartWood is implemented worldwide by the nonprofit members of the SmartWood Network. The Network is coordinated by the Rainforest Alliance, an international nonprofit conservation organization. The Rainforest Alliance is the legally registered owner of the SmartWood certification mark and label. All uses of the SmartWood label for promotion must be authorized by SmartWood headquarters. SmartWood certification applies to forest management practices only and does not represent endorsement of other product qualities (e.g., financial performance to investors, product function, etc.). SmartWood is accredited by the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) for the certification of natural forest management, tree plantations and chain-of-custody.

ACRONYMS

AAC	Annual Allowable Cut
CBM	Cubic Meter
CITES	Convention on Trade in Endangered Species
FMO	Forest Management Organization
FMP	Forest Management Plan
FMU	Forest Management Unit
FSC	Forest Stewardship Council
HCVF	High Conservation Value Forest
HP	Harvest Plan
H&S	Health and Safety
ILO	International Labour Organization
P&C	Principles and Criteria of the FSC
NSLFFPA	Nova Scotia Landowners & Forest Fibre Producers Association

INTRODUCTION

This report presents the findings of an independent certification assessment conducted by a forestry specialist representing the SmartWood Program of the Rainforest Alliance. The purpose of the assessment was to evaluate the ecological, economic and social sustainability of Nova Scotia Landowners and Forest Fiber Producers Association for the Forest Stewardship Council. This operation meets the qualifications for small and low intensity managed forest (SLIMF) as defined by the FSC and was evaluated using the streamlined FSC SLIMF procedures.

To earn SmartWood certification, a forest management operation must undergo an on-site field assessment. This Public Summary Report summarizes information contained in the initial assessment report, which is produced based on information collected during the field assessment. Annual audits are conducted to monitor the forest management operation's activities, to review the operation's progress toward meeting their certification conditions (corrective action requests), and to verify compliance with the SmartWood standards. Addenda providing the updated information obtained during these annual audits are included as attachments to the Public Summary Report.

The purpose of the SmartWood program is to recognize conscientious land stewardship through independent evaluation and certification of forestry practices. Forestry operations that attain SmartWood certification may use the SmartWood and FSC labels for public marketing and advertising.

1. SCOPE OF THE CERTIFICATE

1.1. Scope of the certificate

The Nova Scotia Landowners and Forest Fibre Producers Association (NSLFFPA) is pursuing FSC certification for the lands managed by their members and non-members in the seven Eastern Counties of Nova Scotia. It is an association registered in Nova Scotia representing small private landowners and managers who seek income from their forestry activities.

More detailed information about the FMO and areas covered by the certificate is provided in Appendix I and II.

1.2. Exclusion of areas from the scope of certificate

The NSLFFPA has a membership of approximately 2,000. Approximately, 70 landowners including many members of the association applied to be part of a pool of candidate operations for FSC certification assessment. Following an assessment of the outcome of a SmartWood Pre-Assessment in June 2005, the Group Entity (GE) identified five properties as candidate holdings for FSC certification.

Table 1 presents details for the candidate operations.

Landowner	Name of Forest Management Unit	Location	Size (Acres)
Francis MacNeal	(Askilton)	Cape Breton	100
Ken MacRury	Baker McKay Forest	Cape Breton	215
John & Linda Moloney	(Blackstone Road)	Cape Breton	400
Philip & Sally Clark	(Brophy Road)	Antigonish County	332
James Anderson	(Cluney Hill)	Guysborough County	82

2. ASSESSMENT PROCESS

2.1. Certification Standard Used

The certification standard utilized for this assessment was: *Canadian Forest Stewardship Council Certification Standards for Best Forestry Practices in the Maritime Forest Region (March 2003)*.

This standard may be obtained from the FSC Canada Website at the following site address:
<http://www.fsccanada.org/maritimes/index.shtml>.

2.2. Assessment team and qualifications

Bruce Byford R.P.F.

Bruce Byford is a Licensed Professional Forester (Ontario)². He has twenty-six years of forestry consulting experience. He has completed several forest audits for SmartWood and a conducted Independent Forest Audits (IFA) in Ontario. Mr. Byford has completed SmartWood Assessor Training and ISO 14001 Lead Auditor training.

2.3. Assessment schedule (including pre-assessment and stakeholder consultation)

Date	General Location* (main sites)	Main activities
June 8, 2005	Lakevale, Guysborough County	Pre-Assessment Audit
Sept. 12, 2005		Public Notice for Certification Assessment Posted
Sept. 20-21, 2005	Cape Breton	Certification Assessment
Total number of person-days used for the assessment: 8.75		
* Detail on sites visited provided in Appendix VI.		

2.4. Evaluation strategy

This evaluation follows the FSC streamlined evaluation procedures documented in the following FSC document:

- FSC-POL-20-101 SLIMF Streamlined Certification Procedures: summary
- FSC-POL-20-100 SLIMF Eligibility Criteria.

A pre-assessment visit was conducted in June 2005 which examined two candidate properties (i.e.. Clark and Hart). The GE identified the properties for pre-assessment order to provide a benchmark of the certification process and requirements which could be adopted to determine

² Membership # 1162

which holdings in the membership pool could be considered for future membership in the certified pool. As a result of this benchmarking exercise five properties were brought forward for assessment in the certification assessment. The Clark property was included as a candidate property in the certification pool as an outcome of the pre-assessment.

The certification assessment was conducted over the period of September 20-21. Two properties in the candidate pool were visited during the assessment (Baker McKay Forest and Moloney Property). The landowner from a third property was interviewed and his forest management plan reviewed (i.e. James Anderson). A site visit was also made to an additional candidate property currently not in the proposed pool to provide a rapid assessment of the eligibility of this property for inclusion in the certified pool. Table 2 lists the properties visited during the pre-assessment and certification assessments (e.g. 60% of the candidate property pool).

Landowner	Name of Forest Management Unit	Location	Size (Acres)
Ken MacRury	Baker McKay Forest	Cape Breton	215
John & Linda Moloney	(Blackstone Road)	Cape Breton	400
Philip & Sally Clark	(Brophy Road)	Antigonish County	332

A review of the management plans, the NSLFFPA Policies and Procedures Manual and other relevant documentation and records was undertaken. Interviews were conducted with NSLFFPA representatives and the Association's Certification Consultant, a forest management planning consultant, logging contractors and the landowners selected for site assessments.

2.5. Stakeholder consultation process

Although FSC policy does not require a public notice for SLIMF assessments, SmartWood believed it might help the assessor with valuable input from stakeholders.

A public notice for the assessment was prepared for posting on the SmartWood website (September 12, 2005). SmartWood's Canada Coordinator circulated the public notice via email to several agencies and organizations requesting a cross posting of the notice.

No stakeholder comments were received by the assessor during the consultation period.

3. ASSESSMENT FINDINGS AND OBSERVATIONS

3.1. Stakeholder comments received

The stakeholder consultation activities are organized to give participants the opportunity to provide comments according to general categories of interest based upon the assessment criteria. No stakeholder comments were received.

3.2. Main strengths and weaknesses

Principle	Strengths	Weaknesses
P1: FSC Commitment and Legal Compliance	<p>The NSLFFPA was established in 1984 and has a total membership of approximately 2000. The Association is active promoting sustainable forest management.</p> <p>The Policy and Procedures Manual, Standard Operation Procedures and management plans prepared by the Association's consultants are of high quality.</p>	<p>The organizational structure of the Association is flat. The auditor was unable to fully ascertain if the Association Directors fully understand and are cognizant of the long-term commitment and associated workload related to maintaining FSC certification. A Certification Consultant has been retained to assist the association in obtaining certification. This individual is retired and has not been retained by the Association on a long term basis. Training and successional planning must occur in order to ensure a smooth transition from the consultant to the Association or another delivery model.</p> <p>The GE will also need to maintain on-going efforts to educate its membership on the implications of FSC certification and ensure through monitoring, educational programs etc. that its membership are implementing forest management activities that reflect FSC standards.</p>
P2: Tenure & Use Rights & Responsibilities	Policy and Procedures Manual provides clear direction.	No major weakness is identified
P3 – Indigenous Peoples' Rights	Policy and Procedures Manual provides clear direction.	No major weakness is identified
P4: Community Relations & Workers' Rights	Policy and Procedures Manual provides clear direction.	No major weakness is identified
P5: Benefits from the Forest	Policy and Procedures Manual provides clear direction.	No major weakness is identified
P6: Environmental	Policy and Procedures Manual provides clear direction. Holdings are	The Policy and Procedures Manual must clearly indicate that the Maritime

Impact	small size, small scale and low intensity of operations, which should imply that negative environmental impacts at the landscape level are minimized.	Standard prohibits the use of biocides as a tool for competition control in forest management. Many of the sites within the jurisdictional area of the Association are productive and site competition following harvesting or disturbance is a problem for forest managers. In some areas harvested sites have not reverted back to forest cover due to significant and prolonged competition from grasses and other vegetation. This is often a legacy of past clearcutting practices. The strict requirement that landowners not use chemicals as a silvicultural tool to regenerate such sites may have a significant negative impact on the ability of forest landowners to return these areas to productive forest land. The viability of implementing forest management on small scale holdings is strongly influenced by the available capital, time, equipment and labour. Manual vegetation control methods can require significant inputs (i.e. labour, money, time). The Maritime Standard, with regard to biocide use, may preclude the ability of the Association to continue to attract membership to the certified pool, as the majority of the Association's membership manage their holdings to derive income from their woodlots.
P7: Management Plan	Management Plans prepared by the Forestry Consultant are of high quality.	<p>The current relative high cost of management plan preparation may be prohibitive for some landowners who would otherwise be interested in obtaining FSC certification.</p> <p>Plans would benefit with the inclusion of elements identified in section 3.5. (i.e. plan summaries, reference to treatment guides provided within individual stand descriptions etc.)</p>
P8: Monitoring & Assessment	Comprehensive monitoring program is documented in the Policy and Procedures Manual	The Association currently does not have an established mechanism to transfer knowledge amongst its membership which may result from adaptive management and monitoring over time of forest management activities. The use of regular newsletters, workshops or seminars should be considered.
P9: Maintenance of High	Policy and Procedures Manual and Management plans address	The Association may benefit from a broader consultation with respect to the

Conservation Value Forest	maintenance of HCVF.	identification and management of HCVF.
P10 - Plantations	Management Plans demonstrate a movement to restoration of the Acadian Forest and more species diversity through mixed plantings were artificial regeneration is proposed.	Historic plantations exist within many private woodlots.
Chain of custody	Policy and Procedures Manual provides clear direction.	It is not certain as to whether or not mixed wood will be hauled.
Group Certification Requirements	A comprehensive Policy and Procedures Manual has been developed to guide management of the Group.	Process has been largely driven and delivered by a consultant. The Association as it is currently structured lacks in-house expertise.

3.3. Identified non-compliances and corrective actions

A non-compliance is a discrepancy or gap identified during the assessment between some aspect of the FMO's management system and one or more of the requirements of the forest stewardship standard. Depending on the severity of the non-compliance the assessment team differentiates between major and minor non compliances.

- **Major non-compliance** results where there is a fundamental failure to achieve the objective of the relevant FSC criterion. A number of minor non-compliances against one requirement may be considered to have a cumulative effect, and therefore be considered a major noncompliance.
- **Minor non-compliance** is a temporary, unusual or non-systematic non-compliance, for which the effects are limited.

Major non compliances must be corrected **before** the certificate can be issued. While minor non-compliances do not prohibit issuing the certificate, they must be addressed within the given timeframe to maintain the certificate.

Each non-compliance is addressed by the audit team by issuing a corrective action request (CAR) CARs are requirements that candidate operations must agree to, and which must be addressed, within the given timeframe of a maximum of one year period.

Summary:

# CAR or Precondition	CAR	Time Limit	Reference to Standard
1	The Association shall develop a strategy (i.e. formal business plan) based on an assessment of workload requirements, cost, and human resource requirements related to its	1Year	1.6

	roles and responsibilities as FSC Resource Manager to determine annual entry levels to the certified pool.		
2	The Association must be explicit in its requirements for inclusion in the certified pool that no biocides are to be used in the forest management activities of its certified pool membership.	2 Years	6.6.1
3	The Policy and Procedures Manual must be updated to reference the preferred use of biodegradable oil and other biodegradable products when available.	3 Months	6.7.1.
4	Summaries of forest management plans must be prepared and kept on file at the NSLFFPA office and be available for public review.	1 Year	7.4.1.
5	The Association must provide a public summary of the results of its monitoring activities on certified properties.	1 Year	8.5
6	The policy and procedures manual will include a description of the procedures for the notification of SW of changes in membership	1 Month	
7	The policy and procedures manual will include procedures (i.e. minimum thresholds and record keeping procedures) for the sale of mixed products that combine certified and non certified wood	1 Month	

Details:

CAR #: 1/05	Reference Standard #: 1.6
Non-compliance: Major <input type="checkbox"/> Minor <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NSLFFPA currently has approximately 70 woodlot owners whom have expressed interest in FSC Certification. Given the current flat management structure and business model of the Association some risk is associated with a rapid expansion to that level of membership.
Corrective Action Request: The Association shall develop a strategy (i.e. formal business plan) based on an assessment of workload requirements, cost, and human resource requirements related to its roles and responsibilities as FSC Resource Manager to determine annual entry levels to the certified pool.	
Timeline for Compliance: 1 Year	

CAR #: 2/05	Reference Standard #: 6.6.1.
Non-compliance: Major <input type="checkbox"/> Minor <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	The Association has not explicitly committed to using no biocides in its forestry practices.
Corrective Action Request: The Association must be explicit in its requirements for inclusion in the certified pool that no biocides are to be used in the forest management activities of its certified pool membership.	
Timeline for Compliance: 2 Years	

CAR #: 3/05	Reference Standard #: 6.7.1.
Non-compliance: Major <input type="checkbox"/> Minor <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Policy Manual does not reference preferred use of biodegradable oil and other biodegradable products
Corrective Action Request: The Policy and Procedures Manual must be updated to reference the preferred use of biodegradable oil and other biodegradable products when available.	
Timeline for Compliance: 3 Months	

CAR #: 4/05	Reference Standard #: 7.4.1.
Non-compliance: Major <input type="checkbox"/> Minor <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Summaries of the management plans are not available to the public.
Corrective Action Request: Summaries of forest management plans must be prepared and kept on file at the NSLFFPA office and be available for public review.	
Timeline for Compliance: 1 Year	

CAR #: 5/05	Reference Standard #: 8.5
Non-compliance: Major <input type="checkbox"/> Minor <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	A policy and procedures to provide a public summary of the results of monitoring has not been developed by the Association.
Corrective Action Request: The Association must provide a public summary of the results of its monitoring activities on certified properties.	
Timeline for Compliance: 1 Year	

CAR #: 6/05	Reference to standard: GC 5	Major: <input type="checkbox"/>	Minor: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Non Compliance: Procedures for the notification of SmartWood of changes in membership are not included in the Policy and Procedures Manual.			
Corrective Action: The policy and procedures manual will include a description of the procedures for the notification of SW of changes in membership			

Deadline for completion of corrective action: Within three months of certification

CAR #: 7/05	Reference to standard: CoC 6	Major: <input type="checkbox"/>	Minor: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Non Compliance: Procedures for sale of mixed products are not included in the Policy and Procedures Manual.			
Corrective Action: The policy and procedures manual will include procedures (i.e. minimum thresholds and record keeping procedures) for the sale of mixed products that combine certified and non certified wood			
Deadline for completion of corrective action: Within one month of certification			

3.4. Follow-up actions by client to meet certification

No pre-conditions to certification are identified.

3.5. Observations

Observations are voluntary actions suggested by the assessment team, but are not mandated or required.

The table below presents the observations of the assessor.

Observations	Standard Reference
The Policy Manual should reference improving fuel efficiency in operations and conformity of contractors with Criteria 5.1.3.	5.1.2 & 5.1.3.
Stand descriptions in plan should reference treatment guides in plan appendices and reference unique features (e.g. rare or threatened species) Area of concern requirements (e.g. buffers) and watercrossing requirements. Management Plans should contain a brief description of the socio-economic context for the plan (i.e. significance of woodlot to landowner & local and regional economy).	7.1
Management Plans should clearly indicate the plan term and revision date	7.2.2
The Management Plan text should contain a brief summary outlining plan term, property ownership and area, major plan activities and the identification of any special or unique attributes or features on the holding.	7.4.1
Plan should include instructions for forest management record keeping and contain table(s) to facilitate landowner tracking of harvesting & silviculture activities over the plan term.	8.1

3.6. Certification Recommendation

Based on a thorough field review, analysis and compilation of findings the FMO has demonstrated that their described system of management is being implemented consistently over the whole forest areas covered by the scope of the evaluation. SmartWood concludes that FMO's management system, if implemented as described, is capable of ensuring that all the requirements of the certification standards are met across the scope of the certificate.

The issue of biocide use by landowners will require that the GE ensure that its membership move towards zero use of biocide as required by the Maritime Standard. Currently, the Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for the Association indicate that ;

- Alternatives to pesticides should be considered
- That pesticides be used as little as possible
- A decision-making protocol for justification the use of pesticides (when required) be established.

A FSC/SmartWood Forest Management and Chain of Custody (FM/COC) Certification will be issued based upon agreement to the stipulated corrective action requests.

In order to maintain certification, the FMO will be audited annually on-site and required to remain in compliance with the FSC principles and criteria as further defined by regional guidelines developed by SmartWood or the FSC. The FMO will also be required to fulfil the corrective actions as described below. Experts from SmartWood will review continued forest management performance and compliance with the corrective action requests described in this report, annually during scheduled and random audits.

4. CLIENT SPECIFIC BACKGROUND INFORMATION

4.1. Ownership and land tenure description

The Nova Scotia Landowners and Forest Fibre Producers Association (NSLFFPA) is the oldest and continuously active woodlot owner organization in the Province of Nova Scotia. The Association has approximately 2,000 members. Members of the NSLFFPA are small private woodlot owners who seek income from their forestry activities.

Antigonish and Port Hawkesbury are approximately at the centre of the region from which the NSLFFPA draws its membership (e.g. seven eastern counties of Nova Scotia).

Private landowners are stewards of approximately 70% of the forested land in Nova Scotia. Many of the forests in the area are small and fragmented since they are located near populated regions with many roads, waterways, farms and residential developments.

Very few natural stands exist in the eastern counties of Nova Scotia due to prior human disturbances, settlement and other activities from the past.

The woodlots of the association typically include the following characteristics;

- Significant areas of old field pasture which were regenerated to spruce
- Areas of past harvest with various stages of regeneration
- Insect damaged (mainly spruce budworm) stands from the 1970
- Wind and ice damage can be significant limiting factors for tree growth

4.2. Socioeconomic Context

As noted above, approximately 70% of the land in Nova Scotia is privately held. Harvest of wood products from private lands in the Province is therefore significant to the viability of the provinces forest industry. The NSLFFPA represents under collective agreement with Stora Enso in Port Hawkesbury all pulpwood producers in the seven eastern counties of the province.

Due to the scale of their operations, private woodlot managers are faced with significant challenges to implement sustainable forest management on their holdings. For woodlot owners the decision to introduce or increase forest management on their lands is an investment decision, dependent on the availability of inputs (i.e. time, labour, capital) and on the anticipated rate of return. At the same time woodlots provide other forest uses (e.g. recreation) are significant as wildlife, and are important on the landscape for the maintenance of ecological processes.

APPENDIX I: FSC Reporting Form: Detailed FMO information

SCOPE OF CERTIFICATE

Type of certificate:	Group Manager		
SLIMF status:	SLIMF		
Number of group members (if applicable): 5 Total number of Forest Management Units FMUs: 5 (if applicable, list each below):			
Division of the FMUs within the scope:			
	# of FMU-s	total forest area FMU group	
< 100 ha	3	156.18 ha	
100 – 1000 ha	2	327.53 ha	
1000 – 10 000 ha			
> 10 000 ha			
SLIMF FMUs			
List of each FMU included in the certificate:			
FMU	FMU Owner	Area	Forest Type
Brophy	Phillip & Sally Clark	130.00 ha.	Mixed Acadian
Blackstone	John & Linda Molony	197.53 ha.	Mixed Acadian
Cluney Hill	James Anderson	37.65 ha.	Mixed Acadian
Askilton	Francis MacNeil	31.71 ha.	Mixed Acadian
Rear Baddeck	Ken MacRury	86.82 ha.	Mixed Acadian
Product categories included in the scope (note: use FSC product category classification system):			
Type of product:	Description		
Pulpwood & Saw logs	Primarily to Stora Enso Port Hawkesbury Ltd.		
Other: Hardwood	Various products, May be sold or used by the owner		

FMO INFO

Location of certified forests	Eastern Counties, Nova Scotia, Canada
Forest zone	Acadian
Management tenure:	Private
Number of FMO employees:	1
Number of forest workers (including contractors) working in forest within the scope of certificate:	8

***Species and annual allowable cut**

Botanical name	Common trade name	Annual allowable cut (m3 Solid)	**Actual harvest in last year	Projected harvest for next year
Picea (glauca, rubens sarg., mariana)	Spruce (white, red, black)	277 m3	N/A m3	277 m3
Picea abies	Norway Spruce, not native to certified area	0 m3	N/A m3	0 m3
Abies balsamea	Balsam Fir	131 m3	N/A m3	131 m3
Pinus strobus	Pine (Eastern white)	6 m3	N/A m3	6 m3
Pinus resinosa	Pine (Red), (generally not native to certified area)	1 m3	N/A m3	1 m3
Larix laricin	Eastern Larch (Tamarack)	8 m3	N/A m3	8 m3
Tsuga canadensis	Eastern Hemlock	2 m3	N/A m3	2 m3
***Misc. Softwood		27 m3	N/A m3	27 m3
Acer (saccharum narsg., rubrum)	Maple (sugar, red)	100 m3	N/A m3	100 m3
Betula ((papyriferea Marsh, alleghaniensis Britt.)	Birch(white, yellow)	32 m3	N/A m3	32 m3
Fraxinus (Americana L.)	Ash (white)	0 m3	N/A m3	0 m3
Fagus grandifolia Ehrh.	American beech	3 m3	N/A m3	3 m3
Quercus	Oak	9 m3	N/A m3	9 m3
Populus (balsamifera L., tremuloides)	Poplar/Aspen (balsam poplar, trembling aspen)	0 m3	N/A m3	0 m3
***Misc. Hardwood		41 m3	N/A m3	41 m3
Total		638 m3		638 m3
<p>* Estimates only ** N/A as only FSC registered in 2006 ***Includes those species listed (species shows "0" if volumes to be harvested are in low volumes on any specific woodlot, ie there is limited production of most species such as aspen) Other species not listed may be found in small quantities</p>				
Total annual estimated log production:		275 m3 Softwood 20 m3 Hardwood		
Total annual estimates production of NTFP: (list all NTFP by product type)		0 m3 (0 At this time, however woodlots will be used for recreation and other NTFP uses)		

FOREST AREA CLASSIFICATION

Total certified area	483.71 ha
Total forest area in scope of certificate	483.71 ha
Forest area that is: Privately managed 100% ha State managed Community managed	
Area of production forests (areas where timber may be harvested)	311.26 ha
Area without any harvesting or management activities (strict reserves)	29.87 ha
Area without timber harvesting and managed only for production of non-timber forest products or services	68.97ha
Area classified as plantations ³	0 ha

Area or share of the total production forest area regenerated naturally	70% ha (estimate)
Area or share of the total production forest area regenerated by planting or seeding	25% ha (estimate)
Area or share of the total production forest are regenerated by other or mixed methods (describe)	5% ha (These areas are fill planted to stock stands with desired species without planting the entire area)

Conservation values present in the forest (High Conservation Value Forests or HCVF) and respective areas

HCVF Attributes	Description: Location on FMU	Area (ha)
A forest contains globally, regionally or nationally significant: concentrations of biodiversity values (e.g. endemism, endangered species, refugia)	The FMO checks provincial significant habitat database to see if any concerns are on or near the property and if so addressed through DNR direction	
A forest contains globally, regionally or nationally significant: large landscape level forests, contained within, or containing the management unit, where viable populations of most if not all naturally occurring species exist in natural patterns of distribution and abundance	N/A	

³ According to FSC definition “plantations” in this context should be understood as forest areas lacking most of the principal characteristics and key elements of native ecosystems as defined by FSC-approved national and regional standards of forest stewardship, which result from the human activities of either planting, sowing or intensive silvicultural treatments.

They are in, or contain rare, threatened or endangered ecosystems	N/A	
They provide basic services of nature in critical or unique situations (e.g. watershed protection, erosion control);	N/A	
They are fundamental to meeting basic needs of local communities (e.g. subsistence, health) and/or critical to local communities' traditional cultural identity (areas of cultural, ecological, economic or religious significance identified in cooperation with such local communities).	N/A	

APPENDIX II: Public summary of the management plan

Main objectives of the forest management are:

To ensure forests are managed in a sustainable manner to FSC requirements

Main priority:

To ensure forests are managed to FSC requirements restoring attributes of the natural Acadian forests

Secondary priority:

Manage forests and harvest products in a sustainable manner

Other priorities:

Dependent on the landowner objectives and can include: Residence, Income, recreation etc.

Forest composition:

There are several main forest characteristics in the Management units. Very few natural stands exist due to prior human disturbances, settlement and other activities from the past. Forests include:

- Old field pasture spruce areas comprise a large portion of the areas
- Areas previously harvested with various stages of regeneration
- Areas that are in reserve such as forests relatively low disturbance
- Special management zones for water protection
- Insect damaged (mainly spruce budworm) stands from the 1970s

Description of Silvicultural system(s) used:

- Planting – Using local stock
 - Regular planting an area with little natural regeneration
 - “Infill” planting where natural regeneration is present , but not adequate
- Harvesting
 - Patch Cutting, where only portions of a stand is removed
 - Thinning, to release desired crop trees
 - Over-story removal, example is to release SWD regeneration
 - Under-story removal, to remove balsam fir from tolerant HWD
 - Commercial Thinning

Single tree selection

- Release spacing
- Site preparation to prepare planting sites

Silvicultural system (Estimate)	% of forest under this management
Even aged management	40 %
Clearfelling (clearcut size range 1-5 ha)	35 %
Shelterwood	10 %
Uneven aged management	60 %
Individual tree selection	5 %
Group selection (group harvested of less than 1 ha in size)	60 %
Other types of management (explain) All harvest systems described under silvicultural systems fall into the groups above.	0%

Harvest methods and equipment used: the FMUs in our group to date are all manual chainsaw operations. The extraction equipment is usually hired (although a small "DION" tracked forwarder and farm tractor is used by 2 of the woodlot owners.

Estimate of maximum sustainable yield for main commercial species: N/A

Explanation of the assumptions (e.g. silvicultural) upon which estimates are based and reference to the source of data (e.g. inventory data, permanent sample plots, yield tables) upon which estimates are based upon:
 These are all described in the management Plans, based on field reconnaissance and provincial growth and yield data

Forest management organizational structure and management responsibilities from senior management to operational level (how is management organized, who controls and takes decisions etc.)

- The **woodlot owner** requests acceptance into the group certification pool and agrees to meet FSC requirements
- **NSLFFPA** is the overall owner of the programs with responsibility for the certification program
- **The association** ensures each FMU has a forest management plan that meets FSC requirements
- The **woodlot owner** describes management objectives to be achieved
- The **forest Manager** that develops the plan and ensures the treatments are technically sound and meets landowner objectives
- **The woodlot owner** is responsible to ensure activities are conducted and reported as per program requirements. (the woodlot owner may provide work or contract for services)
- **NSLFFPA** accepts or rejects the plan and woodlot, monitors according to its procedures, ensures on-going compliance by all parties, and maintains registration

- **SMARTWOOD** provides auditing services based on FSC requirements and agreement(s) with NSLFFPA

Structure of forest management units (division of forest area into manageable units etc.)

Each FMU is divided into units or stands based on forest characteristics. Each stand will have a number, objective, recommended treatment etc.

Monitoring procedures (including yield of all forest products harvested, growth rates, regeneration, and forest condition, composition/changes in flora and fauna, environmental and social impacts of forest management, costs, productivity and efficiency of forest management)

Monitoring procedures are stated in the NSLFFPA policy and procedures manual

Environmental protection measures include buffer zones for streams, riparian areas, etc., and the protection of sites for Rare Threatened and Endangered Species and habitat