

A summary of the FSC Group certification
administered by the Nova Scotia
Association for Woodland Certification for
the year 2022-2023.

Nova Scotia Association for woodland Certification (NSAWC) FSC® Program Public Summary

November 2023

Produced by NSLFFPA

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Introduction

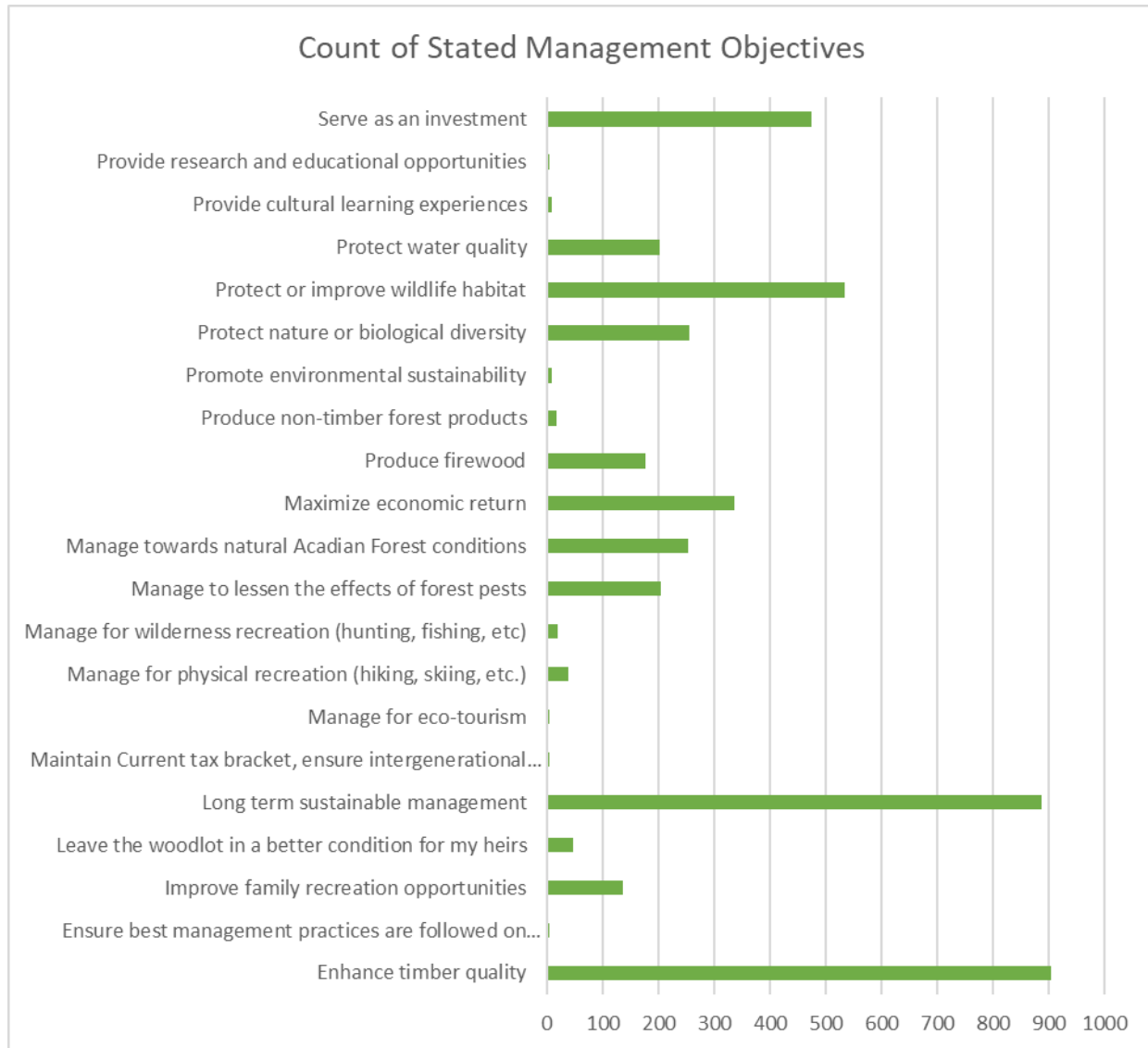
The following document provides a summary of the FSC Group certification program administered by the Nova Scotia Association for Woodland Certification (NSAWC) in Nova Scotia. The program is a voluntary program available to woodlot owners in Nova Scotia who are interested in managing their woodlots to high standards of environmental and social responsibility. The program has been in place since 2006. The overall program is administered by NSAWC with regional service providers performing extension work and treatment monitoring. The regional managers make up the board of the NSAWC.



These service providers are Cape Breton Privateland Partnership (CBPP); Nova Scotia Landowners and Forest Fibre Producers Association (NSLFFPA) on the Eastern Mainland (Antigonish, Guysborough, Pictou); Federation of Nova Scotia Woodland Owners (FNSWO) covering Central NS; and the Western Woodlot Services Coop (WWSC) in Western Nova Scotia.

Management Objectives

Woodlot owner objectives are developed for each woodlot management plan in consultation with the woodlot owner. A summary of the objectives by woodlot is presented below (each woodlot can have multiple objectives). Most woodlot mgmt. plans have approximately 4 primary general objectives.

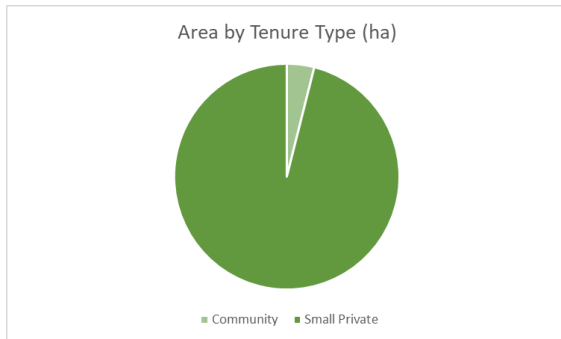
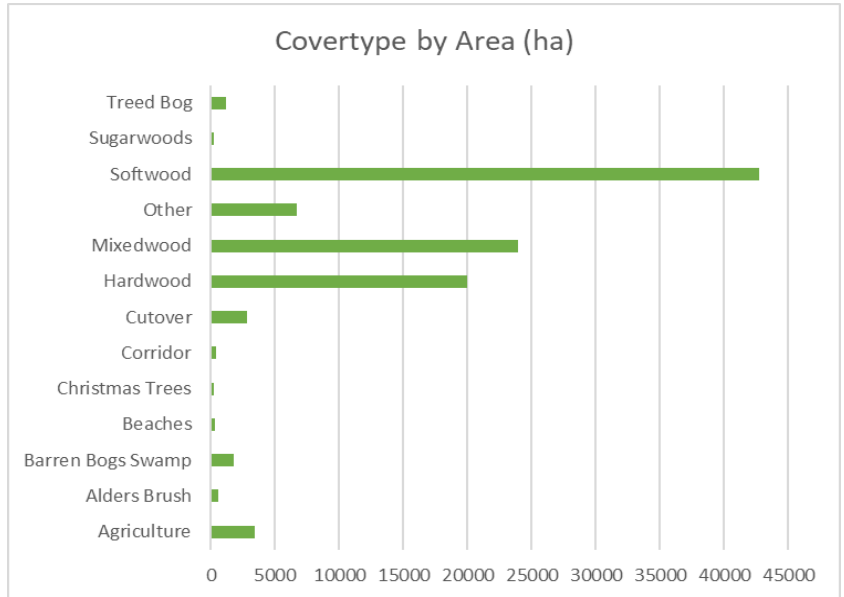


Landbase Description

The program currently contains a total of 54,329 ha of land within the scope of the 813 individual woodlot management plans. The program forest reflects the general forest characteristics of the area – largely softwood dominated, with a significant portion of mixedwood and hardwood forest.

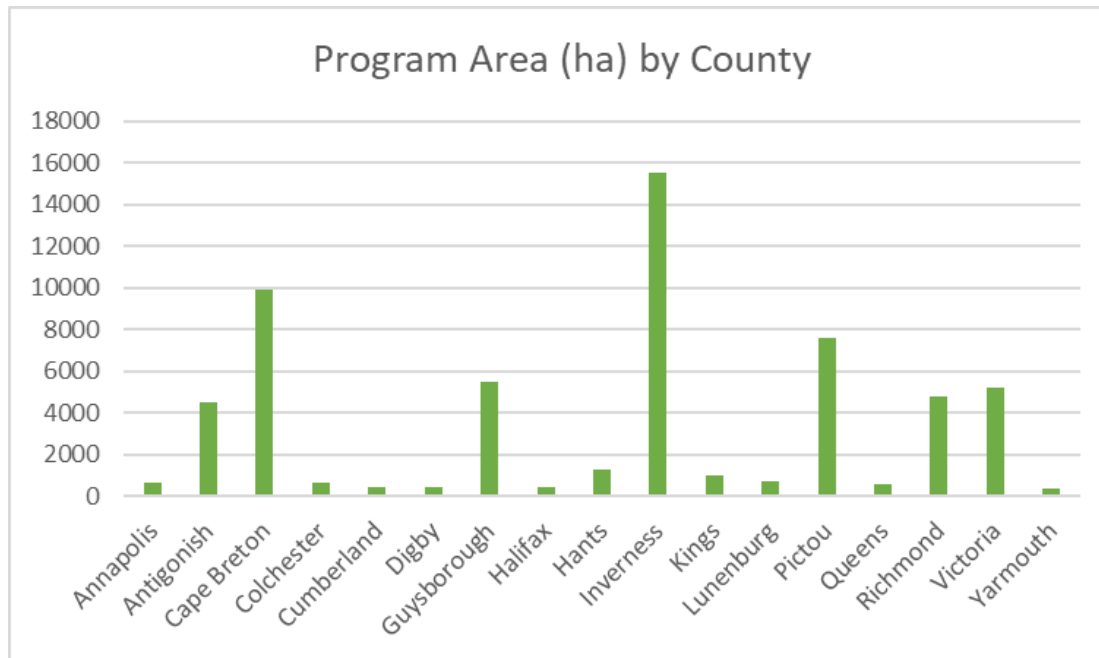
Most of the woodlots in the program are relatively small, with an average size of 67 ha. Most woodlot owners own and manage one woodlot, while a few of our members have several woodlots that they manage.

The program is made up primarily of individual woodlot owners, however there are also Community focused woodlots in the group (Pictou Landing First Nation, Town of New Glasgow, Cape Breton Regional Municipality, the Town of Trenton, and East Bay Area Community Council).



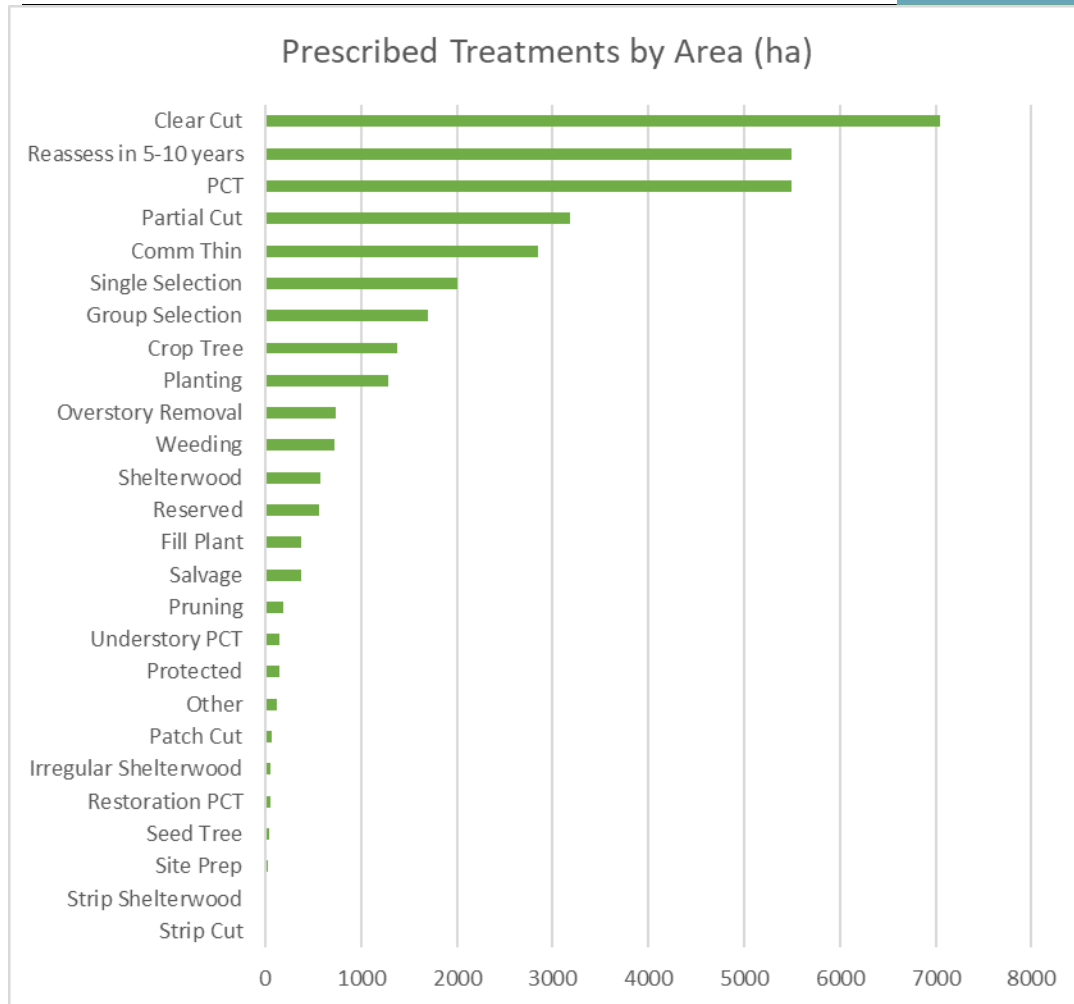
Program Distribution

The certificate has membership representation across the province with the bulk of active membership and treatment activity remaining in the East and Cape Breton especially. This can be attributed to the historical uptake in the East and the only active FSC sales market currently within the FSC chain of custody of the certificate through Port Hawkesbury Paper (PHP) for delivered primary pulpwood. Over 95% of delivered private FSC wood to PHP was sourced on Cape Breton woodlots, with the remainder close by on the Eastern Mainland.



Silviculture Systems

All silviculture prescriptions are based on restoration of the Acadian Forest, and meeting the individual woodlot owner’s objective for their forest. Management prescriptions are developed using the provincial Ecological Landscape Classification (ELC) system, and take into account the dominant Natural Disturbance Regime (NDR) for the site. A summary of prescribed treatments within the program is provided below.



Rate of Annual Harvest Rationale

All harvesting treatments have been cruised to determine the expected volume that will be removed, based on:

- a) Volume present today
- b) Operational reductions
- c) Prescribed removal percentage
- d) Expected losses to insect and disease mortality

Since the management plans developed are for a period of 10 years, an average annual removal amount is calculated by dividing the total prescribed removal for the woodlot by 10. The program total prescribed removal amounts are provided below.

	Softwood m3	Hardwood m3
Total Prescribed Harvest	975,225	347,027
Annual Allowable Cut	97,523	34,703

Monitoring Forest Growth and Dynamics

On a five year interval, NSAWC examines the growth, harvest rates, and standing volume of woodlots that are part of its FSC program. This information is examined in relation to changes over time, as well as compared to woodlots that are not part of the program to determine whether there are any trends that can be found.

Primarily, the provincial permanent sample plot (PSP) information will be used for this information. This is a system of randomly sampled, permanent plots that have been developed throughout the province. This system has been in place since 1965 and is very useful for examining long-term trends in tree growth.

This exercise was last completed in 2016, and no significant difference was found between growth and removal rates within the program compared to provincial averages. Since the program is very new relative to forest growth cycles, this result is not unexpected.

NSAWC is currently in the process of developing a wood supply model capable of calculating sustainable wood supply for all woodlots in the program. When completed this will be used to help ensure harvest levels at the program level are sustainable.

Environmental Assessments and Safeguards

Prior to any field surveys being carried out, provincial surveys of any known species at risk habitat, significant eco-sites and other areas of ecological significance are examined. This information is verified

during the field assessment, and the local DNR biologists is consulted to assist in the development of any treatment or protection recommendations

NSAWC FSC High Conservation Value Forest Framework Evaluation Summary

In 2018 NSAWC completed an evaluation of the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) High Conservation Value Forest (HCVF) Framework (FSC-STD-CAN-Maritimes-SLIMF-2008) for applying management strategies and monitoring procedures to enhance or maintain regionally significant ecological values across the scope of the certificate region (Nova Scotia).

Using accessible data inventories of known values for the region, each value (or attribute) is linked to the closest corresponding HCVF framework criterion. Most of these attributes are associated with actual spatial (mapped) information. These attributes are intersected with each new applicant woodlot property boundaries and adjacent lands to identify any HCVF values with which to apply appropriate management strategies and monitor over time. Unmapped values and mapped values requiring additional confirmation of values are explored at the time of field cruise by trained field staff.

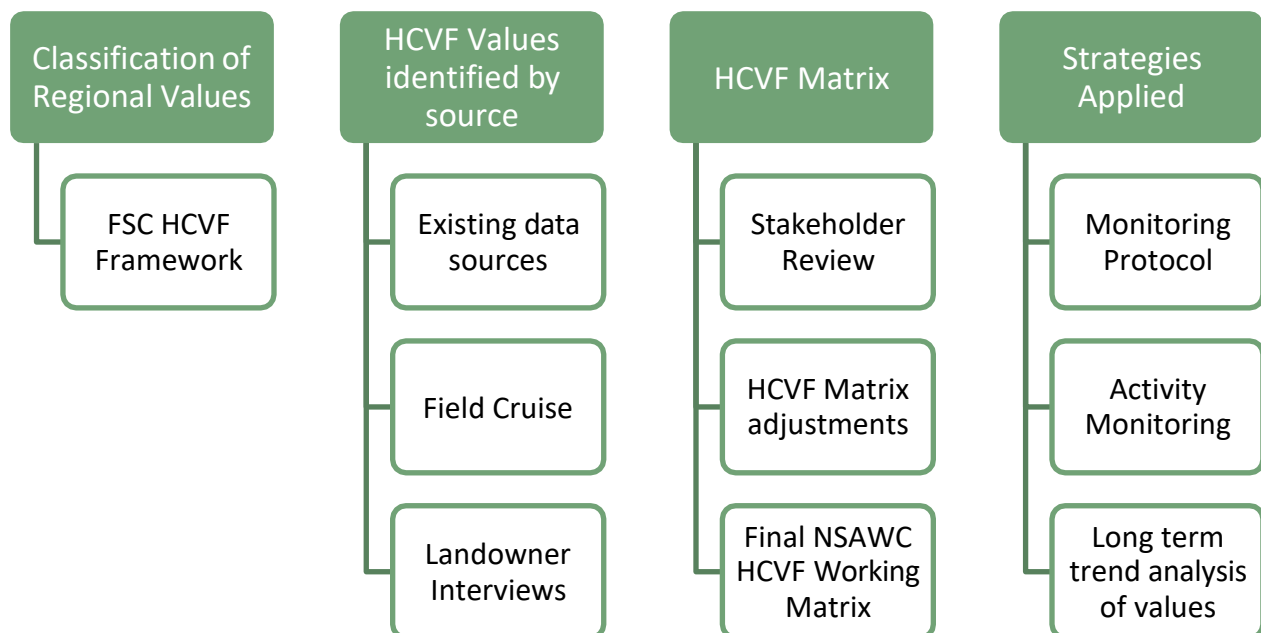
HCVF Framework Evaluation Summary

1. Reviewed available data sets which identify potential or actual ecological values.
 - a. Determined which FSC HCVF Framework value and criteria each attribute best fits.
 - b. Assigned HCVF = True to all attributes deemed to be hcvf
 - c. Assigned a strategy and monitoring procedure for each attribute. A 'comment' field is also included which is edited on a case by case basis.
 - d. GIS intersects of all demonstrated data sets are performed on each new applicant woodlot to identify hcvf and other significant ecological values and their associated attributes. Intersect results are linked to hcvf matrix strategies and monitoring procedures. Records are stored in a database for trend analysis, public summary reporting, long term monitoring and trend analysis.
 - e. Unmapped values are included in the HCVF Matrix as field cruise identification where the value can only be identified and verified through a field cruise (and landowner interviews).
2. Reviewed federal and provincial species at risk listings to determine if there are any values not currently identified through existing data inventories.
3. Stakeholder review. Evaluation was sent out to those representing authority on subject and / or primary stakeholder interest.
4. Training of field staff and management plan developers
5. Present evaluation results to membership and include in public summary.

NSAWC HCVF Framework evaluation source data.

Data Source	Description
<u>HCVF Matrix Definitions</u>	Definitions for main matrix fields.
<u>HCVF Matrix</u>	High Conservation Value Forest Assessment Framework Analysis, NSAWC September 15, 2014. Non -GIS identifiable values are listed here.
<u>HCVF GIS Master</u>	Final GIS intersect Table. Summary of all individual GIS matrix tables into one listing. Best place for summary of sigeco, sighab, rlul data sets.
<u>Unmapped Habitat Values</u>	Filtered from 'Flora and Fauna Matrix' representing Federal species with COSEWIC status which are not available on existing NSAWC GIS data sets.
<u>SigEco Matrix</u>	Significant Ecosites GIS attribute data (DNR download)
<u>Souf Matrix</u>	Significant Old or Unique Forests. Based on aerial photo analysis interpreted age class structure. Efficacy largely questioned by DNR staff but found to be effective as a potential flag for an area.
<u>SigHab SAR Matrix</u>	Significant Wildlife Habitat GIS attribute data (DNR download)
<u>RLUL Matrix</u>	Restricted and Limited Use Land Database. Land that is protected or limited in use for conservation, ecological, resource management or heritage purposes. (DNR download).
<u>NS matrix tier1</u>	Derived from the Matrix Forest Block GeoSpatial Data (Nature Conservancy download)
<u>Flora and Fauna Matrix</u>	Provincial and Federal SAR list comparison and sort. Purpose is to compare available GIS data used in NSAWC mgmt plan development system with provincial and federal lists to identify non-mapped, potentially influenced by forestry activities in Eastern Nova Scotia. (Federal SARA and COSEWIC listings)
<u>Matrix Forest Full</u>	Matrix Forest Block GeoSpatial Data (Nature Conservancy download)
<u>ACCDC Data</u>	

NSAWC HCVF Framework evaluation workflow.



Summary of Results

PotentialValue	Area (ha)	Strategy	Comment
Areas under the Special Places Act	109.7	Contact conservation area land manager to ensure property boundaries are accurate. If only mapped on crown then Requires Buffer for intersect on private (30m)	
AS06IH02OH02-16			Late successional wA/sM Floodplain with dynamic structure and old growth stems
Beach/dune			HCVF, should be protected
Beech forest	177.9	Protected or extremely light selection to maintain stand condition	Disease free (smooth) at the stand level (not individual stems)
BFL			Boreal felt lichen identified on the northern property line on stand 14.
Black Ash			1 Threatened Species – 1 Black Ash record near Little MacDonald Pool from the ACCDC data
Black Ash			Known black ash patch
BufferZone200		Follow DNR guidelines.	
Calcareous forest	5203.1	Assessment for machine operability and worker safety	under represented in the protected areas system. Primarily found on privateland.
Canadian Heritage River	1165.0	Ensure appropriate buffers are established for scheduled harvest	Follow SMZ guidelines
Deciduous bog			Part of the 'Black River Bog System. It is largely undisturbed and contains the largest treed deciduous bog in Nova Scotia. Recommend protection as HCVF strategy, including 20m buffer or slope banks around the area.
Designated Provincial Parks and Park Reserve	125.0	Contact conservation area land manager to ensure property boundaries are accurate. If only mapped on crown then Requires Buffer for intersect on private (30m)	Notification to property manager ahead of any activity.
Designated Water Supply Areas	15788.0	When harvest is scheduled, automatically triggers site inspection.	
Eagle Nest			Significant Habitat IN185 (Bald Eagle nest active from at least 1998, last surveyed 2013)
Eastern Habitat Joint Venture Lands	135.1	Contact conservation area land manager to ensure property boundaries are accurate. If only mapped on crown then Requires Buffer for intersect on private (30m)	
Erosional seabluff	35.0	Buffer appropriate to site conditions	Maintain any existing vegetation to prevent or prolong erosion
First Nations Reserve Lands	3941.8	Contact conservation area land manager to ensure property boundaries are accurate. If only mapped on crown then Requires Buffer for intersect on private (30m)	

<i>Hemlock floodplain</i>	763.0	<i>Protected or extremely light selection to maintain stand condition where appropriate</i>	<i>Floodplains can support particularly rich ecosystems, both in quantity and diversity. Significant for seasonal flooding and erosion control.</i>
<i>Hemlock forest</i>	1113.0	<i>Reserved with selection mgmt where appropriate</i>	<i>Late successional attributes; not on steep slopes</i>
<i>Historically significant site</i>			<i>Pioneer cemetery and marker signifying gathering point for first church services by pioneers</i>
<i>IFL Class500 - 1000 ha</i>		<i>Clearcut harvest scheduled for areas > than 10 ha will have a strategy for maintaining interconnectivity of the matrix forest. Prior to any new road construction, a needs assessment is carried out to ensure the road is required and impact is minimized.</i>	
<i>Large Intact Forest</i>	15748.0	<i>Any clearcut harvest scheduled for areas greater than 10 ha will have a strategy for maintaining interconnectivity of the matrix forest. Prior to any new road construction, a needs assessment is carried out to ensure the road is required and impact is mi</i>	<i>The property falls within a designated Large Intact Forest Zone. This is a landscape level conservation value targeted at maintaining forest connectivity.</i>
<i>Late successional tolerant hardwood component within vibrant stream zone. Steep slopes.</i>			<i>Stream draw with late successional tolerant hardwood attributes</i>
<i>Late Successional tolerant hardwood forest</i>			<i>Advanced late successional sugar maple (TH1) and yellow birch (TH1b) community on steep slopes</i>
<i>Lynx Buffer</i>	16563.1	<i>Follow appropriate DNR Guidelines</i>	<i>Consider SMP relative to total area of buffer zone</i>
<i>Lynx Buffer</i>	5251.1	<i>Intact travel corridors are retained on harvest clearcut areas >10ha.</i>	<i>Canada lynx (endangered) foraging habitat which cycles with Snowshoe hare populations (primary food source). The lynx roam off highland areas as the hares decline. If no foraging wetlands identified, no additional BMPs recommended</i>
<i>Mature hemlock slope</i>			<i>Significant concentration of mature hemlock on steep slope.</i>
<i>Mid - late successional tolerant hw</i>			<i>Patch extends to sw property. Strong tolerant hw composition.</i>
<i>migratory bird</i>			<i>Must be verified with regional wildlife biologist</i>
<i>migratory bird</i>	1372.0		<i>Seasonal restrictions on treatment activity within range of habitat. Confirmation of actual habitat and applicable special management practices must be verified with regional DNR wildlife biologist.</i>

<i>Moose Pellet sightings</i>	0.3	<i>Combine pellet sightings records with field verification of additional habitat features (wet features / mature sw cover) to implement bmp.</i>	<i>1km radius applied to known pellet and / or actual moose sighting</i>
<i>National Historic Sites and Parks</i>	112.1	<i>Contact conservation area land manager to ensure property boundaries are accurate.</i>	<i>Adjancey to value identified by appying 30m mapping buffer to intersect private woodlot(s).</i>
<i>Natural Watershed Municipal Surface Water Su</i>	60167.2	<i>When harvest is scheduled, automatically triggers site inspection.</i>	
<i>Nature Conservancy of Canada Lands</i>		<i>Identify and maintain protected status</i>	
<i>Nature Conservancy of Canada Lands</i>	52.2	<i>Identify and maintain protected status</i>	<i>Adjancey to value identified by appying 30m mapping buffer to intersect private woodlot(s).</i>
<i>of concern</i>			<i>Bald Eagle noted across the river from the lot. Attn to buffer zones on nest.</i>
<i>of concern</i>			<i>Classified as hcvf pending confirmation from regional biologist.</i>
<i>of concern</i>			<i>Not confirmed but likely hcvf attributes for wildlife habitat. Must be verified with regional DNR wildlife biologist for actual species and special management protocol.</i>
<i>of concern</i>			<i>Potential hcvf. Must be identified and verified through regional DNR wildlife biologist. Value abuts western end of property relating to the adjacent lake.</i>
<i>of concern</i>			<i>Protect: Terns – Common or Arctic – feed in the area and likely nest here as well. This area should be protected. No harvesting in this area.</i>
<i>of concern</i>	0.0	<i>Follow appropriate DNR Guidelines</i>	<i>Common Loon on Portage Creek. Nest near mouth of creek</i>
<i>of concern</i>	6.6	<i>Follow appropriate DNR Guidelines</i>	<i>Northern Goshawk. nest in yellow birch; tree 17m high; nest tree 32cm dbh; nest height 8m; hardwood stand; nest activity in 2015 unknown. Species of Concern</i>
<i>of concern</i>	4420.6	<i>Follow appropriate DNR Guidelines</i>	<i>Species and Strategy must be verified by regional DNR Wildlife biologist.</i>
<i>of concern</i>	0.0	<i>Follow appropriate DNR Guidelines</i>	<i>Wildlife management area. Apply adequate buffers and attention to seasonal restrictions</i>
<i>Old growth, late successional forest representation</i>			<i>Late successional TH8 with old growth yB and scattered sM stems. Stands 3,4,21</i>
<i>other habitat</i>			<i>Bald Eagle Nesting Area</i>
<i>other habitat</i>			<i>We would have to check with local wildlife Biologist to see what significant habitat exists and if there are any special management practices involved.</i>
<i>other habitat</i>	0.0	<i>Follow appropriate DNR Guidelines</i>	<i>Eagle habitat; See SMP</i>
<i>other habitat</i>	16.8	<i>Follow appropriate DNR Guidelines</i>	<i>Eagle habitat; See SMPEagle habitat; See</i>

			SMP
other habitat	0.1	Follow appropriate DNR Guidelines	Eagle's Nest. See SMP
other habitat	18.5	Follow appropriate DNR Guidelines	Seagle's Nest. See SMP
other habitat	0.0	Follow appropriate DNR Guidelines	Species and Strategy must be verified by regional DNR Wildlife biologist.
other habitat	237.1	Follow appropriate DNR Guidelines	Species and Strategy must be verified by regional DNR Wildlife biologist.
Protected Beaches under the Beaches Protecti	20.1		
Provincial Wildlife Management Areas			Adjacent protected Crown lands
Provincial Wildlife Management Areas	13.8	When harvest is scheduled, contact conservation area land manager to ensure property boundaries are accurate. -	Adjancey to value identified by appying 30m mapping buffer to intersect private woodlot(s).
red oak forest		Reserved with selection mgmt where appropriate	
Red pine forest		Reserved with mgmt strategy to move stand along successional pathway, possibly including underplanting with rP.	
Red pine forest	15.6	Reserved with mgmt strategy to move stand along successional pathway, possibly including underplanting with rP.	Natural (not planted)
Salt Marsh			At the edge of a ocean inlt, HCVF should be protected
Sensitive, Of Concern			Sensitive Species/Species of Conservation Concern = 4 plants, 1 mammal = (Orange-fruited Tinker's Weed, Meadow Horsetail, Canada Wood Nettle, Smooth Sweet Cicely, Long-tailed Shrew)
Significant unique / rare forest			Stand 1 offers unique pure sM mountain stream draw.
Sites of Ecological Significance / IBP sites	18.7	Contact conservation area land manager to ensure property boundaries are accurate. If only mapped on crown then Requires Buffer for intersect on private (30m)	
sM floodplain	719.0	Protected or extremely light selection to maintain stand condition where appropriate	Floodplains can support particularly rich ecosystems, both in quantity and diversity. Significant for seasonal flooding and erosion control.
Small rS community (seedling - mature / overmature) mixed across western ridge and slope			Mature rS rare in Eastern NS but important historical and future component. Protect rS content, managing for seed producing stems (40yrs+)
Souf			Stand 1 is extension of mature / all aged hemlock zone on steep slope.

<i>species at risk</i>			<i>Actual occurrence unknown. Must be verified by regional dnr wildlife biologist</i>
<i>species at risk</i>			<i>Confirmed Wood Turtle brook.</i>
<i>species at risk</i>			<i>Confirmed Wood Turtle habitat buffer zone</i>
<i>species at risk</i>			<i>Confirmed Wood Turtle habitat</i>
<i>species at risk</i>			<i>Follow the special management practices outlined in NS Wildlife guidelines. See copy in the management plan.</i>
<i>species at risk</i>			<i>Harvesting should be done between November and May. See attached smz guidelines</i>
<i>species at risk</i>			<i>Likely Wood Turtle habitat on River Inhabitants watershed. Must be verified with regional DNR wildlife biologist</i>
<i>species at risk</i>			<i>Likely wood turtle habitat, must be verified with local DNR wildlife biologist.</i>
<i>species at risk</i>			<i>Most of the eastern part of the woodlot is Deer wintering area. Special Management Practices for White-tailed Deer Wintering Areas should be followed. All waterways emptying into River Inhabitants require management practices to protect the wood turtle</i>
<i>species at risk</i>			<i>Olive-sided flycatcher sighting point extension of stand 5 riparian</i>
<i>species at risk</i>			<i>Potential or actual species at risk habitat; likely wood turtle habitat. Must be verified with regional DNR wildlife biologist.</i>
<i>species at risk</i>			<i>Potential or actual wood turtle habitat. See attached guidelines</i>
<i>species at risk</i>			<i>Special mgmt considerations around identified stream zones. Likely Wood Turtle habitat</i>
<i>species at risk</i>			<i>Species at risk Habitat identified and confirmed with DNR</i>
<i>species at risk</i>			<i>Species at Risk potential habitat along stream zones through stands 3-6. Verified with regional biologist and attached.</i>
<i>species at risk</i>			<i>Species at risk potential habitat verified by DNR. See Appendix 9 for confirmation.</i>
<i>species at risk</i>			<i>Stand 12 bird survey results.</i>
<i>species at risk</i>			<i>There is a species at risk identified in the brooks and ponds on the woodlot.</i>
<i>species at risk</i>			<i>This area is considered wood turtle habitat. All area within 200m of the stream entering the property from the west is considered HCVF. A 20 m buffer should be maintained on the stream, and</i>

			<i>no harvesting should occur within 200m between March and November</i>
<i>species at risk</i>			<i>Verified with regional DNR wildlife biologist. See attached correspondence and fact sheet(s).</i>
<i>species at risk</i>			<i>We contacted the local wildlife Biologist, the species at risk is wood turtle. Special management practices will be put in place to protect their habitat. See information attached to the management plan.</i>
<i>species at risk</i>			<i>Wood Turtle confirmed on southwest brook.</i>
<i>species at risk</i>			<i>Wood turtle habitat on River Inhabitants watershed. Special management practices in effect. Stands 10 and 11.</i>
<i>species at risk</i>			<i>Wood Turtle Habitat on the St Marys River</i>
<i>species at risk</i>			<i>Wood Turtle habitat. Follow attached guidelines.</i>
<i>species at risk</i>			<i>Wood turtle potential habitat</i>
<i>species at risk</i>			<i>Wood turtle, a threatened species, habitat within 200m of all streams. Under DNR guidelines, harvesting activities should only occur here between November and March.</i>
<i>species at risk</i>			<i>Yellow Lamp Mussel (Lampsilis cariosa), it will be protected by following the usual water course protection</i>
<i>Species at Risk</i>	<i>0.1</i>	<i>Follow appropriate DNR Guidelines</i>	<i>Bat</i>
<i>Species at Risk</i>	<i>0.0</i>	<i>Follow appropriate DNR Guidelines</i>	<i>Harlequin Duck</i>
<i>species at risk</i>	<i>9994.8</i>	<i>Follow appropriate DNR Guidelines</i>	<i>Species and Strategy must be verified by regional DNR Wildlife biologist.</i>
<i>Stand 4 represents an old growth stream buffer of sM/yB (TH1).</i>			<i>Old growth sugar maple stems along stream draw.</i>
<i>TH07BF02IH01-16</i>			<i>Stand 2 and portions of stand 1 have significant older growth sM,yB; Important to preserve legacy stems</i>
<i>TH10-16</i>			<i>Late successional attributes</i>
<i>Tolerant (hw or sw) late successional forest communities</i>			<i>Currently mid-late successional community with old growth attribute potential. Selection mgmt encouraged with great care to maintain or enhance value</i>
<i>Tolerant (hw or sw) late successional mature forest communities</i>			<i>Comments Large old hemlock. More Sugar maple on west side. Potential old growth.</i>

<i>Tolerant (hw or sw) late successional mature forest communities</i>			<i>Late successional forest stand 13</i>
<i>Tolerant (hw or sw) late successional mature forest communities</i>			<i>Late successional hw forest</i>
<i>Tolerant (hw or sw) late successional mature forest communities</i>			<i>Late successional tolerant hardwood forest found through stands 2, 8, 12, 16, 21, 24</i>
<i>Tolerant (hw or sw) late successional mature forest communities</i>			<i>Old growth TH1a in stand 2, Old growth hemlock in parts of stands 7,15,9</i>
<i>Tolerant (hw or sw) late successional mature forest communities</i>			<i>Potential late successional (old growth) value</i>
<i>Tolerant (hw or sw) late successional mature forest communities</i>			<i>Potential old growth stands 12 and 14</i>
<i>Tolerant (hw or sw) late successional mature forest communities</i>			<i>Small hemlock grove at the top of the slope; Significant size stems; all ages</i>
<i>Tolerant (hw or sw) late successional mature forest communities</i>			<i>Stand 25 identified as late successional forest.</i>
<i>Tolerant (hw or sw) late successional mature forest communities</i>			<i>Stand 12. Old growth wp and he on top of ridge.</i>
<i>Tolerant (hw or sw) late successional mature forest communities</i>			<i>Stand 5 is tolerant hardwood potential old growth.</i>
<i>Tolerant (hw or sw) late successional mature forest communities</i>			<i>Stand 6 Potential old growth</i>
<i>Vernal pond</i>			<i>Stand 1 has a vernal pond</i>
<i>Vernal pond</i>		<i>Appropriate buffer in event of operations</i>	
<i>Vernal pond</i>		<i>Appropriate buffer in event of operations</i>	<i>Vernal ponds or ephemeral pools, are temporary pools of water that provide habitat for distinctive plants and animals.</i>

<i>Vernal pond</i>		<i>Appropriate buffer in event of operations</i>	<i>Vernal pools are small, shallow wetlands that lack permanent inlet or outlet streams and often dry out in the summer. They provide critical breeding habitat for frogs, salamanders, insects and fairy shrimp, and feeding and drinking sites for birds, mammal</i>
<i>Vulnerable / Endangered and / or Species at risk habitat</i>			<i>Tributary stream within system identified as potential habitat for species at risk (Atlantic Salmon, Wood Turtle)</i>
<i>White spruce dune</i>			<i>HCVF, should be protected, along the beach on Janvrins Harbour-Chedabucto Bay.</i>
<i>Wilderness Area</i>		<i>Contact conservation area land manager to ensure property boundaries are accurate.</i>	<i>Adjancey to value identified by appying 30m mapping buffer to intersect private woodlot(s).</i>

Monitoring

The NSAWC implements active and forest treatment monitoring assessments to observe and ensure best forest management practices, health and safety practices and adherence to applicable regulations. Landowners are required to inform the group managers upon planned activity in order to schedule on-site monitoring assessments. Scheduling permitting, site visits are arranged for as many commercial harvesting operations as possible, with on-site inspections performed, including health and safety inspections when workers are on-site.

Each individual assessment is catalogued and tracked in the system database for identification of CARs, observations and a summary of the group totals. When workers are found on-site, health and safety inspections are also performed and tracked in the system database.

Frequency of occurrences are tracked to identify potential common deficiencies or infractions at any level for future education and prevention.

Monitoring results for 2022/2023 are presented in the tables below. Almost 1700 items were checked in total during this time period, with an overall harvest and silviculture compliance rate of 99% upon first inspection and 7 of 7 non-conformances remediated within the allotted time, not including 1 site where remediation is scheduled as of this writing.

Row Labels	Count of Status
FSCInternal	
Acceptable	144
NotApplicable	113
Observation	4
FSCInternal Total	261
Harvest	
Acceptable	680
NCRAddressed	6
NonConformance	1
NotApplicable	154
Observation	7
Harvest Total	848
Silviculture	
Acceptable	256
NCRAddressed	1
NotApplicable	315
Observation	2
Silviculture Total	574
Grand Total	1683

Harvest Monitoring

Row Labels	Acceptable	Non-Conformance Addressed	Non-Conformance	Not Applicable	Observation	Grand Total
-3--worker-dnr-regs-	14			1		15
-Back-up-alarm-	15					15
-Boundaries-as-per-plan-	16				2	18
-Brakes-	15					15
-Complaints-addressed-	1			17		18
-Culverts-ok-	15			3		18
-Escape-hatch-	15					15
-Fall-protection-	15					15
-First-aid-kit-	15					15
-First-aid-training-	15					15
-FSC Representative-Informed-	18					18
Fuel Hose and tank Properly secured	15			3		18
Fuel hose ok	15			3		18
Fueling Station not near watercouse	15			3		18
-Fuel-oil-approved-containers-	10					10
-Garbage-removed-	17			1		18
-Hardhats-	12	3				15
-HCVF-Strategy-effective-	2			16		18
-Housekeeping-	17			1		18
-Machine-guards-	15					15
-Merch-wood-utilized-	16			2		18
-Neighbors-informed-	18					18
-No-oil-spills-	18					18
Operator Aware of FSC status	16			2		18
-Previous-CARs-addressed-	3			15		18
-Protected-areas-not-disturbed-	4			14		18
Pump nozzle ok	15			3		18
-Raptor-Nests-not-disturbed-	3			15		18
-Rec-trails-ok-	13			5		18
-Remote-location-plan-	13	2				15
-Residual-trees-not-damaged-	17			1		18
-Riparian-zones-meet minimum standa	15			3		18
-Roads-ok-	18					18
-Rollover-requirements-	15					15
Rutting < 40cm avg over 40m	13	1	1		2	17
-Safe-piling-	14					14
-Safe-working-distance-	15					15
-Safe-work-technique-	15					15
-Shovels-	13			2		15
-Species-at-risk-checked-	9			9		18
Spill kit	11			3		14
-Spill-Kit-	13					13
-Stand-prescriptions-followed-	16				2	18
-Steps-and-hand-holds-	15					15
TDG Sticker clear and legible	15			3		18
-Temp-stream-xings-ok-	4			13	1	18
-Water-quality-maintained-No siltation	16			2		18
WCB Status ok	17			1		18
WHMIS Sticker clear and legible	15			3		18
Wildlife Clumps meet minimum standa	16			2		18
-Working-alone-procedure-	7			8		15
Harvest Total	680	6	1	154	7	848

Silviculture Monitoring

Row Labels	Acceptable	Non-Conformance Addressed	Non-Conformance	Not Applicable	Observation	Grand Total
-3--worker-dnr-regs	6			9		15
-Ansul-pack-	2			11		13
-Appropriate-trainin	13					13
-Back-up-alarm-				2		2
-Blade-guard-	2			11		13
-Boundaries-as-per-	16					16
-Brakes-				2		2
-Chain-catcher-				13		13
-Chainsaw-pants-	2			11		13
-CSA-Boots-	6			7		13
-Escape-hatch-				2		2
-Eye-protection-	4			9		13
-Fall-protection-				3		3
-Felling-procedures-	2			11		13
-First-aid-kit-	8			7		15
-First-aid-training-	15					15
-FSC Representative	16					16
-Fuel-oil-approved-c	3			11		14
-Garbage-removed-	15			1		16
-Hardhats-	6			9		15
-HCVF-Strategy-effe	1			15		16
-Hearing-protection	4			9		13
-Housekeeping-	11			5		16
-Machine-guards-	1			2		3
-Natural-species-sel	10			6		16
Operator Aware of F	11			4		15
-Pressure-bandage-	5			8		13
-Protected-areas-no	5			11		16
-Raptor-Nests-not-d	3			13		16
-Rec-trails-ok-	5			11		16
-Remote-location-pl	8			7		15
-Residual-trees-not-	8			8		16
-Rollover-requirements-				2		2
-Safe-piling-				2		2
-Safety-chain-				13		13
-Safety-harness-latc	2			11		13
-Safe-working-dista	5			10		15
-Safe-work-techniqu	7			7	1	15
-Shovels-	5			10		15
-Silv-guidelines-follc	13	1		1	1	16
-Spark-arrestor-				13		13
-Spill-Kit-	1			1		2
-Stand-prescriptions	16					16
-Steps-and-hand-holds-				2		2
-Throttle-lock-out-	1			12		13
WCB Status ok	14			2		16
-Working-alone-pro	4			11		15
Silviculture Total	256	1		315	2	574

Monitoring Trends Analysis

A trend on the uptick is rutting prevention. Great measures were taken by regional staff and great contractors to minimize or greatly avoid rutting on member properties. In cases where rutting exceeded the standard, it was isolated to the main landing or main haul trail. Lots of great examples of brush matting were evident. Remediation was implemented in multiple cases and is scheduled in the 1 remaining case. With a very high compliance rate, it is worth noting the common items which

are found to be in non-conformance, even though minor. Hard hats were not in place in 3 cases when the operator exited the machine. These were easily remedied and a safety review is scheduled for each contractor in advance of next member job. The remote location plan was absent in 2 cases but was quickly provided.

Internal Monitoring Program

An internal audit was carried out of the program in 2023. Internal audit items may be selected by the certificate holder (NSAWC) to reflect relevant topics or areas of concern. Over the 5 year certificate cycle, all principles and criteria will be reviewed, alternating each year. Of the total membership of 813 FMUs, 18 woodlots were sampled. Minimal activity had occurred on the sampled FMUs, the woodlots being more or less idle over the past year. No significant findings were observed; although in 3 cases, landowners required a review of the FSC program, indicating a continued need for regular outreach to members. Of perhaps greatest value, follow-up consulting was initiated in 11 cases regarding management questions. This is expected to generate some moderate activity. Most landowners contacted were quite happy with the program to date. Some recommendations for future value included carbon offset project opportunities for private woodlot owners and market access facilitation, where to sell wood products.

Internal monitoring results summary for 2023.

Row Labels	Acceptable	Non-Conformance Addressed	Non-Conformance	Not Applicable	Observation	Grand Total
FSCInternal						
Activity follows management plan	13			2		15
Activity Matches documentation	14			1		15
Activity meets fsc requirements	8			7		15
Activity on woodlot	7			11		18
Activity Reported	8			10		18
HCVF Identified	7			11		18
HCVF Stratefy Followed				4		4
HCVF Strategy Effective	7			11		18
HCVF Strategy Followed	6			8		14
Landowner aware of FSC requirements	12			3	3	18
Management Plan Available and up to date	18					18
Management plan signed	18					18
NCR Issued				18		18
Other Followup Required	5			13		18
Recommended Improvements	7			11		18
Satisfaction with program	14			3	1	18
FSCInternal Total	144			113	4	261

NSAWC FSC® Woodlots, October 2023

