

SFI 2023 Annual Report Survey

Company:Washington Department of Natural Resources

Survey Submitted By:Tracy Petroske

Date Submitted:26 June 2023

1. MY ORGANIZATION'S PROFILE

Certificate Type

SFI Forest Management

Country

United States

Other Operations

2. FORESTRY RESEARCH, SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

2.3 Did your organization meet the SFI research objective in 2022 through one or more projects or collaborations?

INSTRUCTIONS: Report your organization's projects and/or collaborations using the online form or by uploading new and/or revised projects and/or collaborations in the excel file provided below.

YES, WE MET THE SFI RESEARCH OBJECTIVE LAST YEAR THROUGH ONE OR MORE PROJECTS OR COLLABORATIONS

Projects Upload

2.4 Does your organization have any peer-reviewed or gray literature research papers on topics related to key sustainability issues published now or in the last 10 years? (OPTIONAL)

SFI is collecting peer reviewed and gray literature from SFI-certified organizations related to key sustainability issues.

No, we don't have any research papers to share

2.5 To help illustrate the breadth of our work in sustainability, please share other projects and collaborations you were a part of this past year. (OPTIONAL)

INSTRUCTIONS: Report your organization's projects and/or collaborations using the online form or by uploading new and/or revised projects and/or collaborations in the excel file provided below.

WE HAVE OTHER PROJECTS AND COLLABORATIONS WE WANT TO SHARE WITH SFI, TO HELP ILLUSTRATE THE BREADTH OF OUR WORK IN SUSTAINABILITY

3. LEGAL AND REGULATORY COMPLIANCE

3.1 Which social laws are explicitly included in your written policy as per performance measure 11.2 (Forest Management) and 4.2 (Fiber Sourcing)?

Prior to the implementation of the SFI 2022 Standards, our organization explicitly includes the following social laws in our written policy

- Civil Rights
- Equal employment opportunities
- Gender equality
- Diversity inclusion
- Anti-discrimination and anti-harassment measures
- Workers' compensation
- Indigenous Peoples' rights
- Workers' and communities' right to know
- Prevailing wages
- Workers' right to organize
- Occupational health and safety

After the implementation of the SFI 2022 Standards, our organization explicitly includes the following social laws in our written policy

- Civil Rights
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4. FOREST MANAGEMENT PLANNING

REPORTING HARVEST IN THE UNITED STATES

4.1 Final harvest area: What is the total area of harvest units completed last year that would qualify as final harvest in the US (the removal of the remaining trees in a stand. It is anticipated that the time between final harvests on a given unit would typically correspond to the economic rotation age of the species).

16,610 acres

4.2 Intermediate harvest: What is the total area of harvest units completed last year that would qualify as intermediate harvest in the US (selection methods, thinning or sanitation salvage, and other harvest units not classified as final harvest)?

4,566

4.3 Average Clearcut Area: What was the average area of final harvest that were clear-cut in the US (even-aged silviculture system)?

37 acres

ANNUAL SURVEY QUESTION ON CONVERSION

4.7 Did your organization convert one forest cover type to another forest cover type as defined by Indicator 1.2.1?

Yes

Other 17 acres of riparian hardwood conversion was implemented to restore historic forest cover.

5. FOREST HEALTH AND PRODUCTIVITY

ANNUAL SURVEY QUESTIONS ON REFORESTATION

Activities and five year assessment for reforestation activities for certified forest areas.

Please report on the area successfully established as of the 5-year point following conclusion of harvest (*the removal of the remaining trees in a stand. It is anticipated that the time between final harvests on a given unit would typically correspond to the planned rotation age of the harvested area*).

Answer separately for USA or CANADA-certified Forestland covered under the scope of your SFI certificate.

Note on the "Reforestation Clock": For even-aged silviculture, the regeneration "clock" starts after the entire harvest unit is harvested or the planned harvest unit sale has been completed (see guidance under completed harvest units above).

Note: Do not include areas that were replanted due to poor seedling survival. Please report on the area successfully established as of the 5-year point following conclusion of harvest as defined above.

REPORTING REFORESTATION IN THE USA

5.1 What PERCENTAGE of area (acres or hectares) reported as final harvest experience adequate regeneration (natural, planted and direct seeding) within the five year window in the US? Enter total percentage regenerated.

100

5.2 Total area regenerated - USA

15,493 acres

5.3 USA Total Planting

15,985 acres

5.4 USA Total Direct Seeding

N/A

5.5 USA Natural Regeneration

160 acres

5.11 Do you use a WHO 1A or 1B pesticide in your operations?

No

5.10 Do you use chemicals to achieve forest management objectives

Yes

- Suppression of competing herbaceous species at time of reforestation
- Suppression of competing herbaceous species to ensure successful stand establishment
- Release of the target species to assist meeting "free to grow" targets

5.12 Does your organization collect data on soil health and/or productivity?

Yes

Soil Health - Please Explain

DNR State Uplands staff utilize GIS and other decision support tools for project planning phase, and use on-the-ground observations during implementation. In addition, DNR staff are currently collaborating with other agencies and organizations on soil mapping/health health in the Olympic Experimental State Forest.

5.12 Has your organization implemented practices that protect and maintain soil health as per PM 2.3?

- Prior to the implementation of the SFI 2022 FM Standard
 - YES, our organization has implemented practices that protect and maintain soil health.
 - Use of low pressure equipment on sensitive soil sites
 - Seasonal harvesting on sensitive soil sites
 - Designated equipment trails to reduce soil compaction
 - Use of logging slash on equipment trails
 - Use of erosion control techniques for harvest units on steeper slopes (e.g. water bars on equipment trails; skidding parallel to contours)
- After the implementation of the SFI 2022 FM Standard our organization implemented practices that protect and maintain soil health.
 - Use of low pressure equipment on sensitive soil sites
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6. Protection and maintenance of water resources

6.1 Does your organization have a program to implement federal, state, or provincial water quality best management practices during all phases of management activities as per PM 3.1?

Prior to the implementation of the SFI 2022 FM Standard

YES, our organization has a program to implement federal, state, or provincial water quality best management practices during all phases of management activities.

Planned temporary shut-downs

WA DNR implements temporary shutdowns via contract clauses and in conjunction with Forest Practices Rules for winter timing restrictions and during wet weather events.

Alternative harvesting plans and sites

WA DNR implements equipment limitation zones, skid plans, etc.

After the implementation of the SFI 2022 FM Standard our organization has a program to implement federal, state, or provincial water quality best management practices during all phases of management.

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6.2 Does your organization collect data on water quality (e.g. temperature, dissolved oxygen, pH, turbidity, nutrients)? (OPTIONAL)

Yes

6.3 Has your organization implemented water, wetland, and riparian protection programs based on climate, soil type, terrain, vegetation, ecological function, harvesting systems, state best management practices (BMPs), provincial guidelines and other applicable factors to protect water quantity within the area of your SFI certificate as per PM 3.2?

Prior to the implementation of the SFI 2022 FM Standard

YES, our organization has implemented water, wetland, and riparian protection programs based on applicable factors to protect water quantity within the area of our SFI certificate.

Increased riparian management areas near hydrologically active (or sensitive) areas

The WA DNR Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP), Policy for Sustainable Forests and forest land plans outline riparian and wetland management requirements in addition to protections for other sensitive and unique areas.

Establishment of machine-free zones

Forest Practice rules, contract clauses, and the WA DNR HCP Riparian Forest Restoration Strategy outline the appropriate use of equipment limitation zones.

Other programs

The WA DNR HCP includes a Riparian Forest Restoration Strategy. Our Policy for Sustainable Forests covers riparian forest management outside the HCP covered area. Eastside SFI-certified landscapes are covered under separate land plans.

After the implementation of the SFI 2022 FM Standard our organization has a program to implement federal, state, or provincial water quality best management practices during all phases of management.

Increased riparian management areas near hydrologically active (or sensitive) areas

Establishment of machine-free zones

Others

7. CONSERVATION of Biological Diversity

8. MANAGEMENT OF VISUAL QUALITY AND RECREATIONAL BENEFITS

1

Country: United States

State/Prov: Washington

Certified Area (Acres): 2,449,469

Certified Area (HA): 991,265

Public/Private: Public

Forest Ownership Type: State

% open to the public for recreation: 100

Areas open to recreation on your lands:

No Fee

9. RECOGNIZE AND RESPECT INDIGENOUS PEOPLES' RIGHTS

9.1 Has your organization implemented a program with appropriate training of personnel and contractors so that your organization is competent to fulfill responsibilities under Objective 8 of the Forest Management Standard (PM 8.1, Indicator 1.c)?

Prior to the implementation of the SFI 2022 FM Standard

YES, our organization provides training to personnel and contractors

Training is integrated into personnel and contractors onboarding

104 individuals were onboarded.

Ongoing or recurring training is provided to existing personnel and contractors

From mid-September to mid-June training programs are generally offered twice a month.

605 (not unique) employees were trained; some people took more than one training course.

Onboarding courses are 15 hours. Most other courses average about 1 hour.

Training is tailored to different roles within our organization (e.g., Human Resources; Board Members; Foresters; Field Staff)?

Indigenous rights-holders are involved in the development and/or delivery of training

- The same training is provided across our organization, regardless of geographic location
- We customize training to our regions in which we operate
 - Online
 - In-person
 - Where geographic location is not relevant, our training courses are the same regardless of geographic location, but other trainings are customized to consider unique natural habitats as appropriate for the region. We offer online, in-person and hybrid courses. Some non-DNR courses are also offered through organizations like WFCMA and partner universities.
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10. CLIMATE SMART FORESTRY

10.1 Has your organization identified climate change risks to your forests and forest operations as per SFI 2022 Forest Management Standard Performance Measure 9.1?

- Prior to the implementation of the SFI 2022 FM Standard
 - YES, our organization has identified the following risks
 - Risks to forest health, such as
 - Changes to precipitation regimes (e.g., dryer or wetter growing conditions)
 - Range shifts in pest species or invasive species that pose a threat to forests
 - Risk of shortened harvest season(s) and impacts to silviculture operations other risks
 - increased wildfire potential; potential seed and reforestation challenges; possible increase in conditions that trigger landslides and debris flows; potential changes in forest productivity; potential forest road damage; potential impacts to at-risk species.
 - After the implementation of the SFI 2022 FM Standard our organization has identified the following risks

- Risks to forest health, such as
 - Changes to precipitation regimes (e.g., dryer or wetter growing conditions)
 - Range shifts in pest species or invasive species that pose a threat to forests
- Risk of shortened harvest season(s) and impacts to silviculture operations other risks
- increased wildfire potential; potential seed and reforestation challenges; possible increase in conditions that trigger landslides and debris flows; potential changes in forest productivity; potential forest road damage; potential impacts to at-risk species.

10.2 Has your organization developed appropriate adaptation objectives and strategies to address climate change risks to forests and forest operations per SFI 2022 Forest Management Standard Performance Measure 9.1?

- Prior to the implementation of the SFI 2022 FM Standard
 - YES, our organization has an adaptation plan to address priority climate change risks and includes
 - Adjustments to shorter harvest seasons due to spring thaw and shorter winters
 - Adjustments to scheduling of operations such as access trail/road construction, site preparation due to increased peak flow, extended wet seasons or flood conditions
 - Assisted tree migration through selective planting
 - Changes to larger culverts or bridge structures to accommodate higher peak flows and flood conditions
 - Changes to road layout and design to resist washouts from floods, or to create systemic fire breaks
 - Development of new silvicultural techniques to accommodate altered growing conditions
 - Develop climate-resilient seed management, and reforestation approaches, promote climatesuitable strategies for at-risk species, prepare for increased variability in harvest opportunities under changing climate conditions, design and maintain forest roads to be resilient under current and projected climate conditions, support implementation of DNR's 20-Year Forest Health Strategic Plan, the Wildland Fire Protection 10-Year Strategic Plan and the Forest Action Plan.
- After the implementation of the SFI 2022 FM Standard our organization has developed the following plans to address priority climate change risks
 - Adjustments to shorter harvest seasons due to spring thaw and shorter winters
 - Adjustments to scheduling of operations such as access trail/road construction, site preparation due to increased peak flow, extended wet seasons or flood conditions
 - Assisted tree migration through selective planting
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10.3 Has your organization identified opportunities to adopt your forest operations to climate change as per SFI 2022 Forest Management Standard Performance Measure 9.2?

Prior to the implementation of the SFI 2022 FM Standard

YES, our organization already identified opportunities to mitigate the climate-related effects associated with our forest operations, such as

Planting of more drought tolerant species

Assisted migration of tree species

Fuel load reduction in managed forests

Increases in culvert sizes

Changes in annual harvesting schedules

Changes in seed sources

Changes in silvicultural practices

Age of equipment

Configuration of equipment (size and type)

design and maintain forest roads to be resilient under current and projected climate conditions, support implementation of DNR's 20-Year Forest Health Strategic Plan, the Wildland Fire Protection 10-Year Strategic Plan and the Forest Action Plan

After the implementation of the SFI 2022 FM Standard our organization has developed the following plans to address priority climate change risks

Planting of more drought tolerant species

Assisted migration of tree species

Fuel load reduction in managed forests

Increases in culvert sizes

Changes in annual harvesting schedules

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design and maintain forest roads to be resilient under current and projected climate conditions, support implementation of DNR's 20-Year Forest Health Strategic Plan, the Wildland Fire Protection 10-Year Strategic Plan and the Forest Action Plan

10.4 Has your organization addressed opportunities to mitigate the effects associated with your forest operations on climate change as per SFI 2022 Forest Management Standard Performance Measure 9.2?

Prior to the implementation of the SFI 2022 FM Standard

YES, our organization already addressed opportunities to mitigate the climate-related effects associated with our forest operations, such as

- Prompt reforestation or planned natural reforestation as per Indicator 2.2.1;
- Adequate regeneration and appropriate actions to correct understocked areas
- Evaluation for afforestation of areas that are not ecologically important
- Protection of desirable or planned advanced regeneration during harvest and the retention of vigorous trees during partial harvest
- Planned thinning or other silvicultural practices to enhance forest growth
- Species selection to enhance forest resilience
- Increased monitoring of factors affecting forest health
- Modifications to site preparation techniques to reduce soil disturbance, compaction, tillage, and equipment use to reduce soil carbon losses
- Identify alternative uses for logging waste to manage for fuel abatement and minimizing open burning
- Utilize correct equipment size/type
- Quantified results of changes to climate related indicators of progress (e.g., reduction in fuel use, increased tree growth)
- Please refer to WA DNR's Climate Resilience Plan
(https://www.dnr.wa.gov/publications/em_climaterresilienceplan_feb2020.pdf?r5qt4w)
- After the implementation of the SFI 2022 FM Standard our organization has developed the following plans to address priority climate change risks
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 - Quantified results of changes to climate related indicators of progress (e.g., reduction in fuel use, increased tree growth)
 - Please refer to WA DNR's Climate Resilience Plan
(https://www.dnr.wa.gov/publications/em_climaterresilienceplan_feb2020.pdf?r5qt4w)

11. FIRE RESILIENCE AND AWARENESS

11.1 Has your organization developed a fire risk analysis to date?

Yes

If yes, during the course of your fire risk analysis, what risks has your organization identified?

WA DNR has identified risks in the Washington State Wildland Fire Protection 10-Year Strategic Plan

(https://www.dnr.wa.gov/publications/rp_wildfire_strategic_plan.pdf) and in the Statewide Forest Resilience Plan (https://www.dnr.wa.gov/publications/rp_forest_health_20_year_strategic_plan.pdf)

11.2 On forests your organization owns or manages, does your organization limit susceptibility to undesirable impacts of wildfire as per PM 10.1?

- Prior to the implementation of the SFI 2022 FM Standard
- YES, our organization limits susceptibility to undesirable impacts of wildfire using the following management techniques on forests our organization owns or manages
- Prescribed burning for wildlife or cultural purposes (e.g., traditional foods)
 - Road network design to create systemic fire breaks
 - Stand thinning
 - Other treatments to reduce levels of hazardous fuels, such as brushing and dead wood removals
- After the implementation of the SFI 2022 FM Standard our organization has developed the following plans to address priority climate change risks
- Prescribed burning for wildlife or cultural purposes (e.g., traditional foods)
 - Road network design to create systemic fire breaks
 - Stand thinning
 - Other treatments to reduce levels of hazardous fuels, such as brushing and dead wood removals

11.3 On forests your organization owns or manages, does your organization promote healthy and resilient forest conditions through management techniques, actions and/or policies, and support restoration of forests following wildfire damage as per PM 10.1?

- Prior to the implementation of the SFI 2022 FM Standard
- YES, our organizations promotes healthy and resilient forest conditions through management techniques, actions and/or policies, and supports restoration of forests following wildfire damage on forests our organization owns or manages (check all that apply):
- After the implementation of the SFI 2022 FM Standard our organization has developed the following plans to address priority climate change risks
- Salvage logging
 - Installation of water or erosion control devices
 - Planting or seeding for erosion control or slope stability
 - Installation of appropriate-sized drainage features on roads or trails
 - Protection or restoration of significant ecological areas, or FECV
 - Monitoring for detection and rapid response to minimize the spread of invasive species
 - Prompt reforestation of burned areas

11.4 Does your organization engage in efforts to raise awareness of and take action towards benefits of fire management and minimization of undesirable impacts of wildfire as per PM 10.2?

- Prior to the implementation of the SFI 2022 FM Standard

YES, our organization engages in efforts to raise awareness of and take action towards benefits of fire management and minimization of the undesirable impacts of wildfire

Included in our organization's training programs, please explain and provide example(s)
Wildland Fire Academies - DNR hosts interagency wildland fire academies to provide quality wildland fire training at no-cost to Washington's in-state interagency firefighting partners. Each academy uses local, state and federal firefighters' expertise to teach the courses.

Involved in community fire prevention programs, please explain and provide example(s)
Community programs such as Firewise USA and Fire Adapted Communities

Participate in existing programs promoting fire management benefits, please explain
Community programs such as Firewise USA and Fire Adapted Communities

Other (Please specify)
DNR and other wildfire response agencies work collaboratively to provide information about large fires on Inciweb (the Incident Information System) and through the Northwest Interagency Coordination Center. The Washington Wildland Fire Summit, held in January 2018 included representatives from federal, tribal, state, and local government, affected communities, fire service, emergency response, forest management, and conservation organizations, and private industry to chart a path to improved wildland fire outcomes, identify a common vision and roadmap for improved wildland fire outcomes, promote strategic and programmatic alignment among wildland fire management agencies and jurisdictions (while recognizing the separate missions, roles, and responsibilities), and foster communication to improve wildfire outcomes before, during, and after wildfire.

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12. Forest tree biotechnology and FORESTS OUTSIDE US/CANADA

12.1 We currently invest in research with Genetically Engineered trees via forest tree biotechnology

No

Sign-off and submit

I acknowledge and certify that all of the information submitted is true and accurate for all our manufacturing facilities or lands under our ownership or management across the U.S. and Canada