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Programme décennal d'épandage de phytocides par voie aérienne en milieu forestier sur des terrains privés de Smurfit-Stone inc. sur le territoire de La Tuque et de la MRC du Domaine-du-Roy

Mauricie

6211-13-011



Sustainable Forestry Initiative® (SFI) Standard
2005–2009 Edition

Objectives for Sustainable Forestry

Some *Program Participants* own forestland, others own forestland and manufacturing facilities, and still others own manufacturing facilities only. As such,

SFIS *objectives* 1–7 provide measures for evaluating *Program Participants'* compliance with the SFI Standard on forestlands they own or control through long-term leases.

SFIS *objective* 8 provides measures for evaluating *Program Participants'* compliance with the SFI Standard through their *procurement* programs.

SFIS *objectives* 9–13 provide measures for evaluating all *Program Participants'* compliance with the SFI Standard for research, training, legal compliance, public and landowner involvement, management review, and continual improvement.

SFIS Objectives for Land Management

Objective 1. To broaden the implementation of *sustainable forestry* by ensuring long-term harvest levels based on the use of the *best scientific information* available.

Performance Measure 1.1. *Program Participants* shall ensure that long-term harvest levels are sustainable and consistent with appropriate *growth-and-yield models* and written plans.

Indicators:

1. A long-term resource analysis to guide forest management planning at a level appropriate to the size and scale of the operation, including
 - a. a periodic or ongoing forest *inventory*;
 - b. a *land classification* system;
 - c. soils *inventory* and maps, where available;
 - d. access to *growth-and-yield modeling* capabilities;
 - e. up-to-date maps or a *geographic information system (GIS)*;
 - f. recommended sustainable harvest levels; and
 - g. a review of nontimber issues (e.g., pilot projects and economic incentive programs to promote water protection, carbon storage, or *biological diversity conservation*).
2. Documentation of annual harvest trends in relation to the sustainable forest management plan.
3. A forest *inventory* system and a method to calculate growth.
4. Periodic updates of *inventory* and recalculation of planned harvests.
5. Documentation of forest practices (e.g., planting, fertilization, and thinning) consistent with assumptions in harvest plans.

Objective 2. To ensure long-term forest *productivity* and *conservation* of forest resources through prompt *reforestation*, *soil conservation*, *afforestation*, and other measures.

Performance Measure 2.1. *Program Participants* shall reforest after final harvest, unless delayed for site-specific environmental or *forest health* considerations, through *artificial regeneration* within two years or two planting seasons, or by planned *natural regeneration* methods within five years.

Indicators:

1. Designation of all management units for either *natural* or *artificial regeneration*.
2. Clear criteria to judge adequate regeneration and appropriate actions to correct understocked areas and achieve acceptable species composition and stocking rates for both *artificial* and *natural regeneration*.
3. *Minimized* plantings of *exotic tree species* and research documentation that *exotic tree species*, planted operationally, pose minimal risk.
4. Protection of desirable or planned advanced *natural regeneration* during harvest.
5. *Artificial reforestation programs* that consider potential ecological impacts of a different species or species mix from that which was harvested.

Performance Measure 2.2. *Program Participants* shall *minimize* chemical use required to achieve management objectives while protecting employees, neighbors, the public, and the forest environment.

Indicators:

1. *Minimized* chemical use required to achieve management objectives.
2. Use of *least-toxic* and *narrowest-spectrum*

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pesticides necessary to achieve management objectives.

3. Use of pesticides registered for the intended use and applied in accordance with label requirements.
4. Use of *integrated pest management* where feasible.
5. Supervision of forest chemical applications by state-trained or certified applicators.
6. Use of *best management practices (BMPs)* appropriate to the situation; for example,
 - a. Notification of adjoining landowners or nearby residents concerning applications and chemicals used;
 - b. appropriate multilingual signs or oral warnings;
 - c. control of public road access during and immediately after applications;
 - d. designation of streamside and other needed buffer strips;
 - e. use of positive shutoff and minimal-drift spray valves;
 - f. aerial application of forest chemicals parallel to buffer zones to *minimize* drift;
 - g. monitoring of water quality or safeguards to ensure proper equipment use and *protection* of streams, lakes, and other water bodies;
 - i. appropriate storage of chemicals;
 - j. filing of required state reports; or
 - k. use of methods to ensure protection of *threatened and endangered* species.

Performance Measure 2.3. *Program Participants* shall implement management practices to protect and maintain forest and soil *productivity*.

Indicators:

1. Use of soils maps where available.
2. Process to identify soils vulnerable to compaction and use of appropriate methods to avoid excessive soil disturbance.
3. Use of erosion control measures to *minimize* the loss of soil and site *productivity*.
4. Post-harvest conditions conducive to maintaining site *productivity* (e.g., limited rutting, retained down woody debris, *minimized skid trails*).
5. Retention of vigorous trees during partial harvesting, consistent with silvicultural norms for the area.
6. Criteria that address harvesting and site preparation to protect soil *productivity*.
7. *Minimized* road construction to meet management objectives efficiently.

Performance Measure 2.4. *Program Participants* shall manage so as to protect forests from damaging agents, such as environmentally or economically undesirable wildfire, pests, and diseases, to maintain and improve long-term *forest health, productivity and economic viability*.

Indicators:

1. *Program* to protect forests from damaging agents.
2. Management to promote healthy and productive forest conditions to *minimize* susceptibility to damaging agents.
3. Participation in, and support of, fire and pest prevention and control *programs*.

Performance Measure 2.5. *Program Participants* that utilize *improved planting stock*, including trees derived through *biotechnology*, shall use sound scientific methods and follow all applicable laws and international protocols.

Indicator:

1. *Program* for appropriate research, testing, evaluation, and deployment of *improved planting stock*, including trees derived through *biotechnology*.

Objective 3. To protect water quality in streams, lakes, and other water bodies.

Performance Measure 3.1. *Program Participants* shall meet or exceed all applicable federal, provincial, state, and local water quality laws and meet or exceed *best management practices* developed under U.S. Environmental Protection Agency–approved state water quality programs or other federal, provincial, state, or local programs.

Indicators:

1. *Program* to implement state or provincial *BMPs* during all phases of management activities.
2. Contract provisions that specify *BMP* compliance.
3. Plans that address wet-weather events (e.g., *inventory* systems, wet-weather tracts, definitions of acceptable operating conditions).
4. Monitoring of overall *BMP* implementation.

Performance Measure 3.2. *Program Participants* shall have or develop, implement, and document *riparian protection* measures based on soil type, terrain, vegetation, and other applicable factors.