

State of Maine Criteria, Goals, and Outcomes of Forest Sustainability

1. Criterion 1: Soil productivity
 - a. Goal: Maintain site productivity.
 - b. Outcome: Site productivity will be maintained or improved, and the area in roads and yards will be minimized.
2. Criterion 2: Water quality, wetlands and riparian zones
 - a. Goal: Maintain or improve the chemical, physical, and biological integrity of aquatic systems in forested areas and riparian forests.
 - b. Outcomes: Forest management in shoreland areas protects water quality and aquatic and riparian forest biodiversity.
3. Criterion 3: Timber supply and quality
 - a. Goal: Improve the quantity and quality of future timber supply when appropriate.
 - b. Outcome: The management strategy and harvest levels for the lands will increase the quality and quantity of the forest resource as appropriate in the medium and long term (20 - 50 years).
4. Criterion 4: Aesthetic impacts of timber harvesting
 - a. Goal: Minimize adverse visual impacts of timber harvesting.
 - b. Outcomes:
 1. The landowner will minimize visual impacts of harvests, roads, landings and other management activities.
 2. The landowner's planning staff are trained in and apply principles of visual quality management.
 3. The landowner identifies areas with high and moderate visual sensitivity, and takes appropriate measures to avoid significant visual impacts whenever necessary.
5. Criterion 5: Biological diversity
 - a. Goal: Maintain biological diversity with healthy populations of native flora and fauna, forest communities and ecosystems.
 - b. Outcomes:
 1. Management addresses the habitat needs of the full range of species present.
 2. Maintain or manage for acreage in the late successional (LS) condition through management and protection.
 3. Maintain a reasonable component of standing dead trees, live cull trees, and down logs across the landscape (not necessarily on every acre).
 4. High Conservation Value Forests are properly identified and values are protected on the ownership.
 5. Rare, threatened and endangered species habitats are properly identified, and the land is managed to protect the habitats and occurrences of rare, threatened and endangered species.
 6. Important plant communities are properly identified, and the land is managed to protect important plant communities.

7. Deer wintering areas are properly identified and managed to maintain or improve their value as winter cover for deer.
6. Criterion 6: Public accountability
 - a. Goal: Demonstrate sustainable forestry and build public confidence that forest management is protecting public values for the long-term.
 - b. Outcomes:
 1. The landowner will maintain independent 3rd party certification with a nationally recognized sustainable forestry management certification system without major, unresolved non-conformances on managed lands.
 2. A Licensed Forester within the company will review and approve the landowner's Forest Management Plan.
 3. The landowner will employ Licensed Foresters who are actively involved in the management, planning and supervision of operations on the land.
 4. All timber harvesting contractors will employ at least one person possessing Certified Logging Professional or Qualified Logging Professional certifications or the equivalent.
 7. Criterion 7: Economic considerations
 - a. Goal: Optimize benefits to the local and regional economy while also achieving the goals specified for the other criteria, to the extent allowed by market conditions.
 - b. Outcome: The landowner's management activities support as vibrant and diverse a forest products industry as is practicable, including loggers, truckers, and production facilities.
 8. Criterion 8: Social considerations
 - a. Goal: The landowner supports the communities surrounding their lands and operations, and except where special circumstances dictate otherwise, the landowner continues to provide historic and traditional recreational opportunities that do not conflict with the landowner's objectives or values.
 - b. Outcome: The landowner provides opportunities for appropriate historic and traditional recreational uses that do not conflict with the landowner's values or objectives.
 9. Criterion 9: Forest Health
 - a. Goal: The forest is healthy and vigorous with no serious insect infestations or disease outbreaks.
 - b. Outcome: The landowner does what is prudent and practicable to monitor for and prevent and control insects, disease, and fire, consistent with good practice in the industry and assists MFS in forest health monitoring programs on the ownership.