

FOREST, WETLANDS AND HABITAT • A • SYST

FOR FOREST, WETLANDS AND HABITAT LANDOWNERS

FAS 115 · October 2016 · Major Revision · Destroy Old



For MAEAP Verification:
Contact the MAEAP Office at the
Michigan Department of Agriculture & Rural
Development

(517) 284-5609



MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY | Extension

System Improvement Action Plan

Risk question	List high-risk practice(s) from FWH♦A♦Syst and medium-risk practices that do not meet MAEAP requirements	Required for MAEAP verification?	Management practice to reduce risk. (Include potential sources of technical and financial assistance.)	Action plan	
				Planned completion date	Indicate date when completed

I understand that this management system assessment (FWH♦A♦Syst) and corresponding FWH System Improvement Action Plan were developed on the basis that I have disclosed, to the best of my knowledge, all information pertaining to my forest, wetlands and/or habitat operations.

Property address:

Street _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Watershed name _____

Producer's signature _____

Date _____

FWH♦A♦Syst conducted by:

Name _____

Title _____

Organization _____ Date _____

MAEAP Verification Action Plan	Date
Target date for MAEAP verification of Cropping System	
Target date for MAEAP verification of Farmstead System	
Target date for MAEAP verification of Livestock System	
Target date for MAEAP verification of Forest, Wetlands & Habitat System	

For MAEAP verification, contact MAEAP office at the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development: 517-284-5609

Introduction

The Forest, Wetlands and Habitat♦A♦Syst (FWH♦A♦Syst) tool will assist you in developing and implementing a management plan that prevents contamination of groundwater and surface water resources and maintains your forest, wetland or habitat. The FWH♦A♦Syst will assess your current management practices and identify alternative management practices that, when implemented, will ensure that you are following Michigan’s Sustainable Soil and Water Quality Practices on Forest Land and the American Forest Foundation Standards of Sustainability.

The Michigan Agriculture Environmental Assurance Program (MAEAP) is a comprehensive, proactive and voluntary environmental pollution prevention program. It takes a systems approach to assist producers in evaluating their farms for environmental risks. The systems include Forest, Wetlands and Habitat; Livestock; Farmstead; and Cropping. The on-site risk evaluation uses specific tools for each system: The FWH♦A♦Syst for forests, wetlands and habitat; the comprehensive nutrient management plan (CNMP) or Livestock♦A♦Syst for the livestock system; the Farm♦A♦Syst for the farmstead system; and the Crop♦A♦Syst for the cropping system. Environmentally assured systems are eligible for various incentives and recognitions.

The Michigan Right to Farm Act authorized the Michigan Commission of Agriculture and Rural

Development to develop and adopt Generally Accepted Agricultural and Management Practices (GAAMPs) for farms and farm operations in Michigan. These voluntary practices are based on available technology and scientific research to promote sound environmental stewardship. The FWH♦A♦Syst is consistent with the identified practices.

The Michigan Right to Forest Act, Public Act 676 of 2002, was enacted to protect those who practice forestry from nuisance lawsuits if their practices conform to Generally Accepted Forest Management Practices (GAFMPs). These GAFMPs were developed by a 19-member Forest Management Advisory Committee whose charge was to assist the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) in “balancing the environmental, social and economic issues surrounding forest management.” The GAFMPs are organized into the categories of visual change, noise, removal of vegetation and the use of chemicals. The current Right to Forest GAFMPs are posted on the MDNR, Forest Management Advisory Committee website: www.michigan.gov/dnr/0,4570,7-153-65134_65140---,00.html

Producers who complete the FWH♦A♦Syst will be able to determine what management and recordkeeping changes (if any) will be needed for their forest management systems to be environmentally assured through MAEAP. Once a producer develops and implements a Forest Management Plan (FMP) to address the risks indicated by the FWH♦A♦Syst assessment, they can contact the Michigan Department of

Agriculture and Rural Development (MDARD) to request a MAEAP FWH System verification (517-284-5609). An MDARD inspector will schedule a site visit to complete the verification process.

Public Act 451 of 1994, Part 82 “Conservation Practices” ensures the confidentiality of the producer information you provide to MDARD for system verification. Any information connected with the development, implementation or verification of a conservation plan or conservation practice is confidential.

The owner of a MAEAP verified system will be eligible for incentives and can enjoy the peace of mind that comes from knowing that their forest management system is sustainable. Verified systems are positioned to achieve regulatory compliance with state and federal environmental laws.

Similar incentives are available for producers who have environmentally assured their Cropping, Livestock and Farmstead Systems. Contact your local Conservation District, Michigan State University Extension, or Natural Resources Conservation Service representative for a list of currently available incentives and information on how to get started.

What is the Forest, Wetlands and Habitat Assessment System?

The Forest, Wetlands and Habitat♦A♦Syst (FWH♦A♦Syst) is a series of risk questions that help you assess how effectively your management protects the environment and incorporates best management practices.

The risk questions are grouped into eight sections:

FWH System Improvement Action Plan	
1	Sustainable Non-Agriculture Land Management
2	Compliance With Laws
3	Protect Special Sites
4	Reforestation and Afforestation
5	Air, Water and Soil Protection
6	Habitat Restoration and Development
7	Forest Aesthetics
8	Forest Product Harvesting and Other Management Activities

Each section corresponds to a standard of sustainability endorsed by the American Forest Foundation Tree Farm System. The risk questions in each section correspond to the principles for each standard. The risk question answers indicate whether management practices have a low, medium or high risk of contributing to unsustainable or environmentally harmful management. Landowners are generally recommended to adopt the low-risk management practices. The questions that address management practices that are regulated by state or federal law indicate **illegal practices with black bold print**. Risk questions that address management practices covered by the Michigan Right to Forest Act indicate the risk level required for consistency with the identified practices with **bold blue italic print**.

Finally, a blue box indicates the management level(s) required for MAEAP verification.

MAEAP management requirements are aligned with state and federal environmental regulations, the Michigan Right to Forest Practices (GAFMPs), the Michigan Department of Natural Resources and Michigan Department of Environmental Quality Sustainable Soil and Water Quality Practices on Forest Land and the American Forest Foundation Tree Farm Sustainable Forestry Certification Standards. The records of evidence that correspond to the question are listed in the far right column. Most if not all, of this evidence (in the landowner's forest, wetlands and habitat management plan) are listed in the far right column. This evidence will provide the basis for awarding environmental assurance through MAEAP. Your forest and natural resource representative, both public and private, can assist you to make the appropriate management changes to become environmentally assured through MAEAP.

How Does FWH♦A♦Syst Work?

Answer the risk questions by selecting the answer that best describes management practices used on your property. Indicate your risk level in the column to the right.

Skip any questions that do not apply to your forest management system. After completing each section of risk questions, list the practices that present a high risk in the FWH System Improvement Action Plan, which is printed inside the front cover of this bulletin. Also include any medium-risk practices that do not meet MAEAP verification requirements.

In the FWH Systems Improvement Action Plan List:

- Management practice(s) that you plan to implement that will reduce the identified risk.
- Sources of technical and financial assistance.
- Target date for accomplishing the changes.

American Tree Farm System

The FWH♦A♦Syst builds upon the American Tree Farm System's Standards of Sustainability (American Forest Foundation, 2015) and adapts it for Michigan landowners. MAEAP encourages forestland owners to also enroll separately in the American Tree Farm System as it provides third-party certification and other services for forestland owners, at no additional cost. Interested landowners can learn more about the American Tree Farm System and their Standards for Sustainability at www.treefarmssystem.org.

A Few Final Words

The key to FWH♦A♦Syst is that you implement the actions you have identified to reduce the environmental risks. Some of the stewardship practices that will reduce risks may cost very little and take very little time to implement. Other practices may involve additional costs and may not be implemented for a few years. It is important, however, to have a plan to follow. Once you have developed a plan and have implemented changes to address the risks, you are ready for MAEAP verification for your FWH System.

Sustainable Non-Agriculture Land Management

RISK QUESTION	LOW RISK - 3 (RECOMMENDED)	MEDIUM RISK - 2 (POTENTIAL HAZARD)	HIGH RISK - 1 (SIGNIFICANT HAZARD)	RECORDS OR EVIDENCE FOR MAEAP VERIFICATION	YOUR RISK
1.01) Is the landowner implementing a Land Management Plan (LMP)?	Landowner has an up-to-date LMP and is making a reasonable effort to follow the implementation schedule.	Landowner has an up-to-date LMP, but has not implemented the plan.	Landowner does not have an up-to-date LMP.		
1.02) Are landowner objectives identified?	Landowner objectives are in writing and outlined in the Land Management Plan.	Landowner has objectives, but not in writing.	Landowner has not considered objectives.		
1.03) Is the Land Management Plan (LMP) active and adaptive (e.g. responding to natural events, change in objectives or in resource conditions)?	LMP is active and adaptive in case goals or resource conditions change.	LMP allows no active and adaptive management.			
1.04) Is the Land Management Plan (LMP) based on professional guidance and science?	LMP was prepared by a natural resource professional such as a forester certified by the Society of American Foresters, a Forest Stewardship plan writer, a technical service provider as registered by the USDA-NRCS, a registered forester, wildlife biologist, or an individual recognized by MDARD to write land management plans.	LMP was prepared by a non-professional.	Landowner does not have a LMP.		
1.05) Does the Land Management Plan (LMP) address specific, desired future conditions?	Details of desired future conditions are included in the LMP for each management unit.	General information about desired future conditions is included in the LMP, but they are not specific to each management unit.	No information about desired future conditions is in the LMP.		

A boxed risk level indicates the level required for environmental assurance verification (MAEAP verification).

Bold black print indicates a violation of state or federal regulation.

Bold italic blue print indicates a management practice consistent with a specified Right to Forest Act Generally Accepted Agricultural and Management Practices (GAFMPs).

Sustainable Non-Agriculture Land Management (cont.)

RISK QUESTION	LOW RISK - 3 (RECOMMENDED)	MEDIUM RISK - 2 (POTENTIAL HAZARD)	HIGH RISK - 1 (SIGNIFICANT HAZARD)	RECORDS OR EVIDENCE FOR MAEAP VERIFICATION	YOUR RISK
1.06) Does the Land Management Plan (LMP) address forest health, soil, water, air quality, wood and fiber production, threatened and endangered species, wildlife, special sites, invasive species, IPM, non-traditional forest products, and high conservation value forests/forests of exceptional value/forests of recognized importance?	All present and relevant issues are addressed.	Some issues are addressed, but other present and relevant issues are not.	None of these issues are addressed or the landowner has no current LMP.		
1.07) Does the landowner regularly monitor for changes that could affect resources on the site or goals?	The landowner (or their agent) monitors the property at least annually for changes that could affect resources or landowner goals.	The landowner (or their agent) monitors less than annually.	The landowner (or their agent) does not do any monitoring.		
1.08) Is the forestland enrolled in a sustainable forest certification program (e.g., Tree Farm, Sustainable Forestry Initiative, Forest Stewardship Council)?	Forestland is enrolled in a sustainable forest certification program.	Forestland is not enrolled in a forest certification program.	Landowner is not aware of certification programs.		

A boxed risk level indicates the level required for environmental assurance verification (MAEAP verification).

Bold black print indicates a violation of state or federal regulation.

Bold italic blue print indicates a management practice consistent with a specified Right to Forest Act Generally Accepted Agricultural and Management Practices (GAFMPs).

Sustainable Non-Agriculture Land Management (cont.)

RISK QUESTION	LOW RISK - 3 (RECOMMENDED)	MEDIUM RISK - 2 (POTENTIAL HAZARD)	HIGH RISK - 1 (SIGNIFICANT HAZARD)	RECORDS OR EVIDENCE FOR MAEAP VERIFICATION	YOUR RISK
1.09) Is the landowner aware of available forestland tax incentive programs (e.g., Commercial Forest Program, Qualified Forest Program) or financial assistance programs such as Environmental Quality Incentives Program?	Forestland owner is enrolled in programs appropriate to their objectives.	Forestland owner is knowledgeable about some available programs, but is not enrolled in programs that fit management objectives.	Forestland owner is not aware of any available programs.		
1.10) Are property boundaries known and marked?	Property boundaries are known and were established by a licensed surveyor.		Property boundaries are not known.		

Compliance With Laws

2.01) Does the landowner comply with all relevant federal and state laws and local ordinances?	Landowner complies with all applicable environmental laws, to their best knowledge.	Landowner is working towards falling into compliance with applicable environmental laws.	Does not comply with applicable environmental laws.		
---	---	--	--	--	--

A boxed risk level indicates the level required for environmental assurance verification (MAEAP verification).

Black print indicates a violation of state or federal regulation.

Blue print indicates a management practice consistent with a specified Right to Forest Act Generally Accepted Agricultural and Management Practices (GAFMPs).

Protect Special Sites

RISK QUESTION	LOW RISK - 3 (RECOMMENDED)	MEDIUM RISK - 2 (POTENTIAL HAZARD)	HIGH RISK - 1 (SIGNIFICANT HAZARD)	RECORDS OR EVIDENCE FOR MAEAP VERIFICATION	YOUR RISK
3.01) Has the landowner made a reasonable effort to locate and protect special sites?	If special sites are thought to be present, then best management practices are included in forest management plan and are properly implemented on the property.		No effort was made to determine if there were special sites on the property.		
3.02) How are special sites identified and treated on the property?	The management plan identifies special sites and the forest management plan contains activities to maintain special sites.	The management plan identifies special sites.	Treatment of special sites is not contained in the management plan.		
3.03) Are historical or archaeological artifacts or areas located on the site?	Landowner minimizes impact to sites and, if applicable, contacts the State Historic Preservation Office for technical assistance in historic site preservation.	Landowner minimizes impact to site.	Landowner does not minimize impact to site.		

Reforestation and Afforestation

4.01) Do understocked areas exist where productive forest is the desired future condition?	No.	Yes.			
4.02) Is reforestation or afforestation achieved by a suitable process that ensures desired future conditions?	Forestland or potential forestland has achieved a planned, adequate stocking of desired species reflecting the landowner's objectives and appropriate to the site and resource conditions.	Forestland or potential forestland is in the process of achieving adequate stocking of desired species that reflect the landowner's objectives, and are appropriate to the site and resource conditions.	No plan is in place to achieve desired future conditions. AND There is inadequate stocking.		

A boxed risk level indicates the level required for environmental assurance verification (MAEAP verification).

Black bold print indicates a violation of state or federal regulation.

Blue italic print indicates a management practice consistent with a specified Right to Forest Act Generally Accepted Agricultural and Management Practices (GAFMPs).

Air, Water and Soil Protection

RISK QUESTION	LOW RISK - 3 (RECOMMENDED)	MEDIUM RISK - 2 (POTENTIAL HAZARD)	HIGH RISK - 1 (SIGNIFICANT HAZARD)	RECORDS OR EVIDENCE FOR MAEAP VERIFICATION	YOUR RISK
5.01) Is the landowner compliant with practices prescribed in Sustainable Soil and Water Quality Practices (a/k/a BMPs)?	Yes.		No.		
5.02) Have streams, lakes, and ponds been identified?	If present, streams, lakes, and ponds have been identified and Riparian Management Zones (RMZs) established. Prior to any management activities, a plan that follows Sustainable Soil and Water Quality Practices (SSWQP) is developed and communicated. Plan is developed by appropriate resource professional.	Streams, lakes, and ponds have been identified on the property. No management plan has been developed. Qualified logging professionals are used for timber harvests.	Streams, lakes, ponds have not been identified.		
5.03) Have designated trout streams, natural rivers, wild and scenic rivers been Identified?	If present, designated trout streams, natural rivers, wild and scenic rivers have been identified, RMZs established and a management plan has been written by a qualified resource professional.	Landowner is aware that designated trout streams, natural rivers, wild and scenic rivers exist on the property, but no management plan has been developed or implemented.	Designated trout streams, natural rivers, wild and scenic rivers exist on the property, but landowner was not aware of the designation.		

A boxed risk level indicates the level required for environmental assurance verification (MAEAP verification).

Bold black print indicates a violation of state or federal regulation.

Bold Italic blue print indicates a management practice consistent with a specified Right to Forest Act Generally Accepted Agricultural and Management Practices (GAFMPs).

Air, Water and Soil Protection (cont.)

RISK QUESTION	LOW RISK - 3 (RECOMMENDED)	MEDIUM RISK - 2 (POTENTIAL HAZARD)	HIGH RISK - 1 (SIGNIFICANT HAZARD)	RECORDS OR EVIDENCE FOR MAEAP VERIFICATION	YOUR RISK
5.04) Have all wetlands including, but not limited to: bogs, fens, swamps, marsh, or vernal pools been identified?	Wetlands including, but not limited to: bogs, fens, swamps, marsh, or vernal pools have been identified and Riparian Management Zones (RMZs) established in the LMP. Prior to any management activities, a plan addressing soil erosion and sedimentation that follows Sustainable Soil and Water Quality Practices (SSWQP) for forestland and/or Soil and Sedimentation Manual is developed and communicated. Plan is developed by appropriate resource professional.	Wetlands including, but not limited to: bogs, fens, swamps, marsh, or vernal pools have been identified. No Land Management Plan has been developed. Qualified Logging Professionals are used for timber harvests, if timber harvesting occurred.	Wetlands including, but not limited to: bogs, fens, swamps, marsh, or vernal pools have not been identified. Untrained contractors/property owners conduct activities in or around these features.		
5.05) Are roads and trails established and maintained to avoid soil erosion?	Roads show minimal gulying or resulting sedimentation. Construction and maintenance has been done in accordance with Sustainable Soil and Water Quality Practices (SSWQP).	Some construction and maintenance has been done in accordance with some SSWQP.	Soil erosion, gulying or sedimentation is occurring and road needs to be relocated.		
5.06) If used on the property, how is prescribed burning performed?	Prescribed fire done according to the approved forest management plan and with pre-fire planning which conform to the Sustainable Soil and Water Quality Practices (SSWQP) and a burning permit obtained.	Prescribed fire is done with pre-fire planning, but does not conform to the SSWQP.	Prescribed fire is done without an approved forest management plan or pre-fire planning and does not conform to the SSWQP.		
5.07) How is management to control pests, pathogens and unwanted vegetation taking place?	Integrated pest management to control pests, pathogens and unwanted vegetation is in place.	Integrated pest management to control pests, pathogens and unwanted vegetation is planned, but not yet implemented.	No pest management is conducted.		

A boxed risk level indicates the level required for environmental assurance verification (MAEAP verification).

Bold black print indicates a violation of state or federal regulation.

Bold Italic blue print indicates a management practice consistent with a specified Right to Forest Act Generally Accepted Agricultural and Management Practices (GAFMPs).

Air, Water and Soil Protection (cont.)

RISK QUESTION	LOW RISK - 3 (RECOMMENDED)	MEDIUM RISK - 2 (POTENTIAL HAZARD)	HIGH RISK - 1 (SIGNIFICANT HAZARD)	RECORDS OR EVIDENCE FOR MAEAP VERIFICATION	YOUR RISK
5.08) If used on the property, how are pesticides applied?	Pesticides are applied in accordance with Sustainable Soil and Water Quality Practices (SSWQP) and with EPA approved labels and by persons appropriately trained, certified, licensed and supervised, etc.	Pesticides are EPA-approved, but not used in accordance to SSWQP.	Pesticides are not applied in accordance with EPA regulations and SSWQP.		

Habitat Restoration and Development

6.01) How are adverse impacts to federal- or state-listed threatened and endangered species avoided?	A database assessment and/or on-site inventory are completed. If listed species are thought to be present, then best management practices are included in a forest/habitat management plan and are properly implemented on the property.	A database assessment and/or on-site inventory are completed. If listed species are thought to be present, then best management practices are included in a forest/habitat management plan. At a minimum, no action is taken that will adversely impact the species or habitat.	No assessment has been completed, potential status of listed species on the property is unknown and no consideration of listed species is made when habitat is altered on the property. OR Action is knowingly being taken that adversely impacts listed species.		
---	--	---	--	--	--

A boxed risk level indicates the level required for environmental assurance verification (MAEAP verification).

Bold black print indicates a violation of state or federal regulation.

Bold Italic blue print indicates a management practice consistent with a specified Right to Forest Act Generally Accepted Agricultural and Management Practices (GAFMPs).

Habitat Restoration and Development (cont.)

RISK QUESTION	LOW RISK - 3 (RECOMMENDED)	MEDIUM RISK - 2 (POTENTIAL HAZARD)	HIGH RISK - 1 (SIGNIFICANT HAZARD)	RECORDS OR EVIDENCE FOR MAEAP VERIFICATION	YOUR RISK
6.02) How is management of habitat, including forestlands, wetlands and other non-agricultural areas addressed on the property?	A forest/habitat management plan that adequately addresses all habitat types has been completed and is being implemented on the property.	A forest/habitat management plan that adequately addresses all habitat types has been completed, but is yet to be fully implemented on the property.	No management plan that adequately addresses all habitat types has been completed for the property. Management actions, if taken at all, are done without an overall plan and may be adversely impacting habitat and wildlife.		
6.03) How are rare or sensitive species or habitats addressed on the property?	A database assessment and/or on-site inventory are complete. If rare or sensitive species or habitats are thought to be present, then best management practices are included in a forest/habitat management plan and are properly implemented on the property.	A database assessment and/or on-site inventory are complete. If rare or sensitive species or habitats are thought to be present, then best management practices are included in a forest/habitat management plan. At a minimum, no action is taken that will adversely impact the species or habitat.	No assessment exists, potential status rare or sensitive species or habitats on the property are unknown and no consideration of these species or habitats are made when habitat is altered on the property. OR Action is knowingly being taken that adversely impacts the species or habitats.		

A boxed risk level indicates the level required for environmental assurance verification (MAEAP verification).

Bold black print indicates a violation of state or federal regulation.

Bold Italic blue print indicates a management practice consistent with a specified Right to Forest Act Generally Accepted Agricultural and Management Practices (GAFMPs).

Habitat Restoration and Development (cont.)

RISK QUESTION	LOW RISK - 3 (RECOMMENDED)	MEDIUM RISK - 2 (POTENTIAL HAZARD)	HIGH RISK - 1 (SIGNIFICANT HAZARD)	RECORDS OR EVIDENCE FOR MAEAP VERIFICATION	YOUR RISK
6.04) How are invasive species on forestlands, wetlands and other non-agricultural areas addressed on the property?	Invasive species are identified and mapped on the property and all areas are actively being treated.	Invasive species are identified and mapped on the property and a portion of the area is actively being treated.	No effort has been made to identify and map invasive species and no treatment action is being taken. OR Invasive species are actively spreading on the property.		
6.05) How are potential conflicts between timber management and desired habitat development resolved?	A management plan clearly identifies landowner's goals <u>and</u> addresses both resources and is being implemented on the property.	A management plan clearly identifies landowner's goals and addresses both resources, but is yet to be fully implemented on the property.	No management plan that adequately addresses the landowner's goals has been completed for the property. OR A management plan exists but it addresses only timber management or habitat management and not both.		

A boxed risk level indicates the level required for environmental assurance verification (MAEAP verification).

Bold black print indicates a violation of state or federal regulation.

Blue print indicates a management practice consistent with a specified Right to Forest Act Generally Accepted Agricultural and Management Practices (GAFMPs).

Habitat Restoration and Development (cont.)

RISK QUESTION	LOW RISK - 3 (RECOMMENDED)	MEDIUM RISK - 2 (POTENTIAL HAZARD)	HIGH RISK - 1 (SIGNIFICANT HAZARD)	RECORDS OR EVIDENCE FOR MAEAP VERIFICATION	YOUR RISK
6.06) How are habitat priorities determined?	Within the context of federal and state law, landowner's interest in and goals for specific wildlife species are outlined in a forest/habitat management plan and actions are included in the plan to achieve those goals.	The landowner's species and/or habitat priorities are identified, but are not addressed or not fully addressed in a forest/habitat management plan.	Species and habitat priorities are not identified.		
6.07) Are all 'natural', degraded and drained wetlands (and other water bodies) on the property correctly identified and mapped in a plan?	Yes.	Partially.	No.		
6.08) Are all wetlands, streams, farm ditches, and other water bodies on the property protected from polluted runoff and sediment with conservation practices?	Filter strips, riparian buffer strips, grassed waterways and other conservation practices are maintained between fields and all surface water on the property.	Conservation practices are maintained on some fields.	No conservation practices are maintained.		
6.09) Are altered wetlands (hydrologically, vegetatively) assessed for restoration potential by agency personnel or others trained in wetland restoration?	Restoration potential is assessed on all altered wetland basins. OR A wetland survey has been completed and no altered wetlands exist on the property.	Restoration potential is assessed for some altered wetland basins.	No assessment of altered wetland basins has been started.		

A boxed risk level indicates the level required for environmental assurance verification (MAEAP verification).

Bold black print indicates a violation of state or federal regulation.

Bold Italic blue print indicates a management practice consistent with a specified Right to Forest Act Generally Accepted Agricultural and Management Practices (GAFMPs).

Habitat Restoration and Development (cont.)

RISK QUESTION	LOW RISK - 3 (RECOMMENDED)	MEDIUM RISK - 2 (POTENTIAL HAZARD)	HIGH RISK - 1 (SIGNIFICANT HAZARD)	RECORDS OR EVIDENCE FOR MAEAP VERIFICATION	YOUR RISK
6.10) Are altered wetlands (hydrologically, vegetatively) being restored by or following a plan from agency personnel or other trained in wetland restoration?	Restoration is being implemented on all altered wetlands.	Restoration is being implemented on some altered wetlands.	No restoration has been started on any altered wetland.		
6.11) Are restored and/or natural wetlands enrolled in a conservation program that offers long-term (ten years or longer) or permanent protection?	All wetland areas and appropriate buffers are enrolled in a conservation program.	Some wetland areas and appropriate buffers are enrolled in a conservation program.	No wetland areas are enrolled in a conservation program.		
6.12) Are all other natural or degraded habitats (e.g. grasslands, old fields, shrublands, stream, riparian areas) as determined in the forest/habitat plan, correctly identified and mapped?	Yes.	Partially.	No.		
6.13) Are these habitats being assessed for restoration potential by agency personnel or others trained in habitat restoration or improvement?	Restoration potential is assessed for all other (non-forested/non-wetland) habitats on the property.	Restoration potential is assessed for some other habitats on the property.	No assessment of other habitat has been started.		

A boxed risk level indicates the level required for environmental assurance verification (MAEAP verification).

Bold black print indicates a violation of state or federal regulation.

Bold italic blue print indicates a management practice consistent with a specified Right to Forest Act Generally Accepted Agricultural and Management Practices (GAFMPs).

Habitat Restoration and Development (cont.)

RISK QUESTION	LOW RISK - 3 (RECOMMENDED)	MEDIUM RISK - 2 (POTENTIAL HAZARD)	HIGH RISK - 1 (SIGNIFICANT HAZARD)	RECORDS OR EVIDENCE FOR MAEAP VERIFICATION	YOUR RISK
6.14) Are these habitats being restored by or according to a plan from agency personnel or others trained in habitat restoration or improvement?	Restoration is being implemented on all other (non-forested/non-wetland) habitats on the property.	Restoration is being implemented on some other habitats on the property.	No restoration has been started on other habitats on the property.		
6.15) Are restored and/or natural habitats enrolled in a conservation program that offers long-term (10 years or longer) or permanent protection?	All other habitat areas are enrolled in a conservation program.	Some other habitat areas are enrolled in a conservation program.	No other habitat areas are enrolled in a conservation program.		
6.16) Are the condition and health of forestlands and grasslands being addressed on the property in relationship to the priority wildlife species?	Successional stages, restoration potential, resource health, and long-term management are outlined in a habitat management plan and actions are included in the plan to achieve those goals.	Successional stages, restoration potential, resource health, and long-term management are not outlined in a habitat management plan or actions are not included in the plan to achieve those goals.	Successional stages, restoration potential, resource health, and long-term management are not being addressed.		
6.17) How is fish management addressed on the property?	Fisheries options are identified as well as actions within the plan for all of the waters on the property.	Fisheries options are identified as well as actions within the plan for most of the waters on the property.	There are no fisheries options or they are not addressed in the plan or if addressed no actions are identified.		

A boxed risk level indicates the level required for environmental assurance verification (MAEAP verification).

Bold black print indicates a violation of state or federal regulation.

Bold Italic blue print indicates a management practice consistent with a specified Right to Forest Act Generally Accepted Agricultural and Management Practices (GAFMPs).

Forest Aesthetics

RISK QUESTION	LOW RISK - 3 (RECOMMENDED)	MEDIUM RISK - 2 (POTENTIAL HAZARD)	HIGH RISK - 1 (SIGNIFICANT HAZARD)	RECORDS OR EVIDENCE FOR MAEAP VERIFICATION	YOUR RISK
7.01) What is the visual sensitivity of the site?	Least sensitive (by GAFMPs definition).	Moderately sensitive (by GAFMPs definition).	<i>Most sensitive (by GAFMPs definition).</i>		
7.02) Does forest owner manage the visual impacts of forest management activities consistent with the size of the forest, the scale and intensity of forest management activities, and the location of the property?	Forest management activities apply visual quality measures compatible with appropriate silvicultural practices and meeting Visual Quality Criteria in Michigan's Right to Forest Act Generally Accepted Forest Management Practices (GAFMPs).	Forest management activities apply some visual quality measures compatible with appropriate silvicultural practices and GAFMPs.	Forest management, activities do not apply visual quality measures compatible with appropriate silvicultural practices and GAFMPs.		

Forest Product Harvesting and Other Management Activities

8.01) Is timber harvesting conducted in compliance with forest management plan and maintains the potential of the property to produce forest products and other benefits sustainably?	Yes.		No.		
--	------	--	-----	--	--

A boxed risk level indicates the level required for environmental assurance verification (MAEAP verification).

Bold black print indicates a violation of state or federal regulation.

Bold Italic blue print indicates a management practice consistent with a specified Right to Forest Act Generally Accepted Agricultural and Management Practices (GAFMPs).

Forest Product Harvesting and Other Management Activities (cont.)

RISK QUESTION	LOW RISK - 3 (RECOMMENDED)	MEDIUM RISK - 2 (POTENTIAL HAZARD)	HIGH RISK - 1 (SIGNIFICANT HAZARD)	RECORDS OR EVIDENCE FOR MAEAP VERIFICATION	YOUR RISK
8.02) Does forest owner use qualified natural resource professionals and qualified contractors when contracting for services?	Yes.		No.		
8.03) Is a timber sale contract used when harvesting timber?	A timber sale contract was prepared by a professional forester.	A timber buyer or the forest owner prepared a timber sale contract.	Timber harvests are conducted without a written timber sale contract.		
8.04) If timber harvesting is done, is a harvest plan map prepared that details harvest boundaries, exclusion areas, sensitive sites, roads, and landings?	A harvest plan map is prepared that contains all pertinent information.	Written plan not in place. Oral harvesting plan discussed with contractor.	Harvests are done without a harvest plan map.		
8.05) If timber harvesting is done, was a Qualified Logging Professional used?	Timber harvesting is done by Qualified Logging Professional.		No specific qualifications are required of logging contractors.		
8.06) Does forest owner engage contractors that carry appropriate insurance and comply with appropriate federal, state, and local safety and fair labor rules, regulations, and standard?	Forest owner engages contractors that carry appropriate insurance and comply with appropriate federal, state, and local safety and fair labor rules, regulations and standard practices.	Forest owner engages contractors that carry appropriate insurance or comply with appropriate federal, state, and local safety and fair labor rules, regulations, and standard practices, but not both.	Forest owner does not engage contractors that carry appropriate insurance and comply with appropriate federal, state, and local safety and fair labor rules, regulations, and standard practices.		

A boxed risk level indicates the level required for environmental assurance verification (MAEAP verification).

Black print indicates a violation of state or federal regulation.

Blue print indicates a management practice consistent with a specified Right to Forest Act Generally Accepted Agricultural and Management Practices (GAFMPs).

Forest Product Harvesting and Other Management Activities (cont.)

RISK QUESTION	LOW RISK - 3 (RECOMMENDED)	MEDIUM RISK - 2 (POTENTIAL HAZARD)	HIGH RISK - 1 (SIGNIFICANT HAZARD)	RECORDS OR EVIDENCE FOR MAEAP VERIFICATION	YOUR RISK
8.07) Do all management activities, including timber harvesting conform to all applicable Michigan Forest Land Best Management Practices (BMPs)?	All management is done in accordance to Forest Land BMPs.	Some, but not all, BMPs are addressed.	Management activities are conducted without regard to BMPs.		
8.08) Do all management activities conform to Michigan's Right to Forest Generally Accepted Forest Management Practices (GAFMPs)?	<i>All management activities conform to GAFMPs.</i>	Some, but not all management activities conform to GAFMPs.	Management is done without regard to GAFMPs.		
8.09) Does forest owner retain appropriate records for forest product harvests and other management activities?	Forest owner retains appropriate records for forest product harvests and other management activities.	Forest owner retains some appropriate records for forest product harvests and other management activities.	Forest owner retains no records for forest product harvests and other management activities.		
8.10) Are silviculturally appropriate techniques used for the removal of vegetation or timber?	<i>Adheres to Right to Forest Act GAFMPs or other system as recommended by forester.</i>		Silviculture is not considered when harvesting.		

A boxed risk level indicates the level required for environmental assurance verification (MAEAP verification).

Black print indicates a violation of state or federal regulation.

Blue italic print indicates a management practice consistent with a specified Right to Forest Act Generally Accepted Agricultural and Management Practices (GAFMPs).

Forest Product Harvesting and Other Management Activities (cont.)

RISK QUESTION	LOW RISK - 3 (RECOMMENDED)	MEDIUM RISK - 2 (POTENTIAL HAZARD)	HIGH RISK - 1 (SIGNIFICANT HAZARD)	RECORDS OR EVIDENCE FOR MAEAP VERIFICATION	YOUR RISK
8.11) Does forest owner monitor forest product harvests and other management activities to ensure they conform to the management plan objectives?	Forest owner or a designated qualified natural resource professional monitors forest product harvests and other management activities to ensure they conform to the management plan objectives.		Forest owner does not monitor forest product harvests and other management activities.		
8.12) If conducting biomass harvesting, does it comply with Department of Natural Resources Biomass Harvesting Guidance?	Yes, it complies.		No, it does not comply.		

A boxed risk level indicates the level required for environmental assurance verification (MAEAP verification).

Bold black print indicates a violation of state or federal regulation.

Bold Italic blue print indicates a management practice consistent with a specified Right to Forest Act Generally Accepted Agricultural and Management Practices (GAFMPs).

FOREST/WETLAND/HABITAT MANAGEMENT PLAN	
PLAN TYPE:	DATE PLAN WRITTEN:
PLAN WRITER:	DATE PLAN EXPIRES:
Comments:	
Total Acres Included in Management Plan(s)	
Total Acres of Forestland	
Total Acres of Grassland	
Total Acres of Wetland	
Acres of Restored or Improved Wetland Habitat	
Acres of Restored or Improved Non-Wetland Habitat	
Acres Under Management for Invasive Species	
Acres Managed as Buffers	
Total Length (ft.) of Streambanks and Shorelines	

MSU is an affirmative-action, equal-opportunity employer, committed to achieving excellence through a diverse workforce and inclusive culture that encourages all people to reach their full potential. Michigan State University Extension program standards are open to all without regard to race, color, national origin, gender, gender identity, religion, age, height, weight, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, marital status, family status or veteran status. Issued in furtherance of MSU Extension work, acts of May 8 and June 30, 1914, in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Jeffrey W. Dwyer, Director, MSU Extension, East Lansing, MI 48824. This information is for educational purposes only. Reference to commercial products or trade names does not imply endorsement by MSU. Extension or bias against those mentioned.

Major revision (destroy old), 10:16 – 1,200 – HJ/BP