

## FSC Standards

**Below is the additional text required to upgrade existing Chapter 61 Forest Management or Forest Stewardship Plan to Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) US Forest Management Standard (v1.0), 7/8/2010.**

### Exhibit 3 Stewardship/FSC Certification

1. How might management of these lands **impact the local and regional rural economy?**

### Exhibit 5 Stand Descriptions

1. Volume per acre-**state the field method utilized** (Quick Cruise Computer found in USDA Forest Service, NA-FR-15, (Appendix D, Ashbey, Burl S.), or from the Composite Board Foot volume Table for 10 factor Angle Gauge found in USDA Forest Service Agricultural Handbook 355 NEFES (Appendix D, Roach & Gingrich), or any other reasonable scientific method)
2. Site index-**state the field method utilized** (the site index for each stand shall be determined by using the appropriate publication(s) listed in Appendix D)
3. Growth rate- Growth rate estimates per stand can be made by selecting one of the following methods:
  - **Consulting the USDA Soil Survey for the county where the property is located. The surveys contain tables with expected average growth and volume per acre based on soil type.**
  - **The state determines Chapter 61 tax valuations using an expected volume increase of 162 board feet per acre per year calculated from state Forest Inventory Analysis (FIA) data. The total expected average volume increase can be determined by multiplying the total acreage of the stand by 162 board feet per acre. For example, a 20 acre stand can be expected to grow 3,240 board feet (20x162=3,240)**
  - **Coring a representative sample of dominant and co-dominant trees. Growth rate may be calculated by using the formula provided in Appendix G.**
4. Stand narrative-soils: **provide the name of the type and characteristics** including moisture, drainage, and productivity by interpreting the site index of the dominant species and the site's suitability for growing timber. **The presence of Highly Erodable Soils must be identified if applicable.**
5. Stand narrative-desired future condition: **state a management vision of the future forest landscape within a specified timeframe including a description of the desired structural or compositional condition by identifying, at a minimum, species, age class distribution, future product potential and other desired ecological features.**

6. Stand narrative-topography: slopes-**note occurrence(s) of slopes greater than 30%**
7. Stand narrative-**Unique Natural Communities** (if applicable), identify and describe area(s) that meet the following definition: Areas designated to serve one or more of three purposes: 1) to establish and/or maintain an ecological reference condition; or 2) to create or maintain a representative system of protected areas; or 3) to serve as a set of refugia for species, communities and community types.
8. Stand narrative-cultural features such as cellar holes, stone walls, **known Native American cultural features such as camp sites and trails**
9. Stand narrative-**aesthetic quality, protection from fire, any additional property-specific details related to Forest Stewardship issues**

*Exhibit 6 Management Practices*

1. Silvicultural Prescription - Indicate practices other than silvicultural treatments to be completed for Stewardship plans such as USDA-NRCS WHIP and EQIP practices, e.g. forest stand improvement and prescribed burning. **See Appendix F for a complete list of NRCS forestry-related practices.**

<http://www.mass.gov/eea/docs/dcr/stewardship/forestry/service/appendix-f.pdf>

Quantify activities in terms and units used in anticipated WHIP and EQIP practices.

2. Practice narrative- **Special considerations** - erosion control, habitat protection, access, cultural feature protection, timing, **timber harvesting methods and equipment (E.g. non-mechanized (manual felling, skidder) mechanized (cut-to-length felling, forwarder).**

**3. Monitoring (required for FSC Certification, recommended for Chapter 61, 61A, 61B and Forest Stewardship)**

**Consistently monitoring their forest is essential for landowners to maintain an appropriate level of awareness of its condition. Incorporating the results of field observations enables landowners to re-evaluate their current management strategy and implement different management actions as needed, a process known as adaptive management.**

**Define the process for monitoring the forest based on the management plan. Identify who will be responsible for completing the monitoring, what they will be monitoring and the timing and/or frequency of the monitoring. Monitoring results such as regeneration failure, exotic insect infestation, damage from natural events-wind, ice, etc. may necessitate amendments to the management plan.**

4. **Boundaries-** If the boundaries are not clearly marked, **state the method and schedule for doing so.** See below for general information about boundaries.

#### **FOR ALL PLANS-CH 61, STEW, FSC CERTIFICATION**

If the boundaries are not marked at the time of the initial inspection conducted by MA Bureau of Forestry-Service Forestry staff, they must be permanently marked (painted or blazed and painted) within the first year of certification. Alternative permanent marking methods must have prior Service Forestry approval. For recertifications, the boundaries must be permanently marked before the next certification period begins, January 1st of the following year. If the boundaries are not clearly marked at the time of certification or recertification, the State Forester may require that said boundaries be made substantially discernible (flagging and/or signage) so as to be able to reference against the map provided. **See the following bulletin for more information; Wood H.Peter, Kulis, Richard W., Woodland Boundaries, Cooperative Extension Service, University of Massachusetts, Amherst, MA.**