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FOREST MANAGEMENT AND STUMP-TO-FOREST GATE CHAIN-OF-CUSTODY CERTIFICATION EVALUATION REPORT

Saint John's Abbey, Order of Saint Benedict
SCS-FM/COC-00100

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CERTIFIED	EXPIRATION
19/JUL/2007	19/JUL/2012

DATE OF FIELD AUDIT
22/NOV/2010
DATE OF LAST UPDATE
23/NOV/2010

Organization of the Report

This report of the results of our evaluation is divided into two sections. Section A provides the public summary and background information that is required by the Forest Stewardship Council. This section is made available to the general public and is intended to provide an overview of the evaluation process, the management programs and policies applied to the forest, and the results of the evaluation. Section A will be posted on the FSC Certificate Database (<http://info.fsc.org/>) no less than 30 days after issue of the certificate. Section B contains more detailed results and information for the use of by the FME.

FOREWARD

Cycle in annual surveillance audits			
<input type="checkbox"/> 1 st annual audit	<input type="checkbox"/> 2 nd annual audit	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 3 rd annual audit	<input type="checkbox"/> 4 th annual audit
Name of Forest Management Enterprise and abbreviation used in this report:			
Forest Management Enterprise (FME)	St. John's Abbey, Order of Saint Benedict (SJA)		

All certificates issued by SCS under the aegis of the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) require annual audits to ascertain ongoing compliance with the requirements and standards of certification. A public summary of the initial evaluation is available on the SCS website www.scscertified.com.

Pursuant to FSC and SCS guidelines, annual/surveillance audits are not intended to comprehensively examine the full scope of the certified forest operations, as the cost of a full-scope audit would be prohibitive and it is not mandated by FSC audit protocols. Rather, annual audits are comprised of three main components:

- A focused assessment of the status of any outstanding conditions or Corrective Action Requests (CARs; see discussion in section 2.4 for a listing of those CARs and their disposition as a result of this annual audit);
- Follow-up inquiry into any issues that may have arisen since the award of certification or prior to the audit; and
- As necessary given the breadth of coverage associated with the first two components, an additional focus on selected topics or issues, the selection of which is not known to the certificate holder prior to the audit.

All items marked with an asterisk (*) are not required for FMUs that qualify as single SLIMFs.

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Section A – Public Summary

1.0 General Information

1.1 Annual Audit Team

Kyle Meister, M.F. – Lead Auditor, Scientific Certification Systems. Mr. Meister is a Certification Forester with Scientific Certification Systems. He has been with SCS for two years and has conducted FSC pre-assessments, evaluations, and surveillance audits in Brazil, Panama, Mexico, Indonesia, India, and all major forest producing regions of the United States. He holds a B.S. in Natural Resource Ecology and Management and a B.A. in Spanish from the University of Michigan; and a Master of Forestry from the Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies. Mr. Meister has experience as an environmental educator and natural resource consultant in the U.S., Mexico, Ecuador, Costa Rica, Colombia, and Brazil. He is responsible for reviewing all of SCS’ forest management reports from Latin America. He is a member of the Forest Guild, Society of American Foresters, and International Society of Tropical Foresters.

1.2 Total time spent on evaluation

A. Number of days spent on desk audit:	0.5
B. Number of auditors participating in evaluation:	1
C. Additional days spent on stakeholder consultation:	0
D. Total number of person days used in evaluation:	0.5
(Line D = (Total number of days in Line A x Total number of auditors from Line B) + additional days from Line C.	

1.3 Standards Employed

Box 1.3.1. – Applicable FSC-Accredited Standards		
Title	Version	Date of Finalization
FSC US Forest Management Standard	V1-0	08 – July – 2010
FSC-TMK-50-201	V1-0	17 – April – 2007
All standards employed are available on the websites of FSC International (www.fsc.org), the FSC-US (www.fscus.org) or the SCS Forest Conservation Program homepage (www.scscertified.com/forestry). Standards are also available, upon request, from Scientific Certification Systems (www.scscertified.com).		

2.0 Annual Audit Dates and Activities

2.1 Annual Audit Itinerary and Activities

22 – Nov – 2010

FMU/Location/ sites visited*	Activities/ notes
Desk evaluation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review of response to open CARs and OBS • Overview of 2009-10 management, monitoring and educational activities • Review of selected FSC requirements • Conclusion

3.0 Changes in Management Practices

There have been no significant changes in management practices or harvesting methods. SJA is considering the use of additional fencing in oak regeneration areas to protect understory plants from excessive deer browse.

4.0 Annual Summary of pesticide and other chemical use

SJA maintains chemical purchase dates and other data related to chemical use. Annual reporting for section 4.0 will be required by the 2011 annual audit.

5.0 Open Corrective Action Requests (CARs)

Nonconformity: SJA's skidder was left outside in an upland area of the landing for at least two months post-harvest. The auditor observed evidence of fluid leakage underneath it.	
Minor CAR 2009.1	SJA shall develop an appropriate timeframe for returning logging equipment to storage areas as well as follow best management practices for preventing and cleaning up spills during times when logging equipment must be left outside for longer periods.
Deadline	Annual audit 2010
Reference	FSC indicators 6.7.a and 6.7.c. (Lake States-Central Hardwood Region)
FME Response	SJA moved the skidder into the campus machine storage area. SJA found source of leak and fixed the skidder. During operations, SLA staff place spill kit pads underneath the skidder to catch any leaks when it is parked in the woods.
SCS Comment	SJA has addressed the root cause of problem (leaky fixture) and has taken preventative measures to ensure that any future leaks are captured on pads rather than on soil.
Disposition of CAR	This CAR is closed.

5.1 Open Observations (OBSs)

SJA's previous annual audit was conducted under an old report template and FSC requirements. As such, observations were previously known as recommendations (REC).

Background/Justification: SJA has begun research into woody biomass utilization both on campus and locally. It is considering planting hybrid poplar species on marginal agricultural lands and using some of its own forest for supply. There are other factors in addition to species selection and biomass utilization technology that SJA could research.	
REC 2009.1	SJA should consider researching species that are currently under utilized in its forests and new woody biomass harvesting technology that may make use of these species more economical. SJA should stay up-to-date on retention guidelines for biomass production forests developed by the MNDNR and review FSC principal 10 before beginning any experimental plantings of hybrid poplars.
Reference	FSC Indicator 5.2.c., Criterion 5.3, and Principle 10
FME response and SCS comment	SJA has given up on woody biomass utilization for the time being. Research on wood supply showed that SJA could have obtained enough wood from local hybrid poplar and firewood purchases. However, the program had too high capital and operating costs (i.e., would had to have installed infrastructure to make use of the woody biomass and invest in a continuous supply of wood).
Disposition of REC	This REC is closed.

Background/Justification: SJA essentially has divided its sugarbush into two management areas. SJA alternates between the two areas each year, allowing one site to fallow, while tapping trees in the other. This good practice is not described in the management plan.	
REC 2009.2	SJA should describe this practice and its rationale in the Management Plan.
Reference	FSC Indicators 5.2.d. and 7.1.d.1.
FME response and SCS comment	SJA has chosen not to describe this practice in the management plan as sometimes it may use both sugarbush management areas in a given season. This is compatible with recommended regional sugarbush management practices as long as trees are large enough (> 12" DBH).
Disposition of REC	This REC is closed.

Background/Justification: SJA has researched and started experimental and control plots for understory treatments to promote oak regeneration in oak shelterwood systems as recommended in REC 2007.5. Much of the guidance on oak shelterwood systems, although edited and adapted for Minnesota, was taken from geographical areas of high oak productivity, such as Pennsylvania and Arkansas. Due to its lower precipitation, shorter growing season and different mix of species, not all techniques from these more productive areas may be appropriate for Minnesota.	
REC 2009.3	In addition to the understory treatments that SJA is currently researching, SJA should consider other important factors in shelterwood systems, such as crop tree spacing, the amount of cuts (i.e., 1, 2 or 3 cut shelterwood systems) and irregular shelterwoods. Information on oak shelterwood systems of New England (e.g., Kittredge, D.B.), particularly on marginal sites, and other areas of eastern North America with species mixtures similar to Minnesota might be

	helpful.
Reference	FSC Indicators 6.3.a.1, 6.3.a.2, and 7.1.c.1
FME response and SCS comment	The biggest issue on harvest units is the deer browse, rather than the shelterwood methods. According to its surveys, SJA's shelterwood systems have dense regeneration, but the deer are excessively browsing the unfenced areas. Many of the seedlings that were browsed last season have re-sprouted, but still face browsing pressure. These will only be able to withstand repeated browsing for so long. SJA is considering expanding its fenced area to protect oak regeneration from the continued threat of excessive browsing.
Disposition of REC	This REC is closed.

Background/Justification: A non-native invasive wood boring beetle, the Emerald Ash Borer (EAB; <i>Agrilus planipennis</i>), was recently discovered in Minnesota. EAB feeds exclusively on species of Ash in North America. EAB spreads to wooded areas mainly through the movement of ash firewood from infested areas, however, individual adults can fly as far as 5 miles away from where they emerged.	
REC 2009.4	SJA should research BMPs for keeping EAB out of its forests, including cooperating with grounds staff on any ash planted as street trees. SJA should also research silvicultural and biological control strategies for maintaining and protecting healthy populations of ash species.
Reference	FSC indicator 6.8.a.
FME response and SCS comment	SJA staff attended a conference with MNDNR's expert on EAB. In July of 2010, SJA rewrote its four forest public use and access policies. SJA addressed this REC directly under its updated invasive species policy in item 4 of the section titled <i>Campus Landscaping, Forest and Prairie</i> : "Because of various wood infestations, no off-campus cut wood is allowed for bonfires or fireplaces. The risk of bringing in a fungus or insects that could affect the forest at Saint John's is too great." The principle vector of EAB is the spread of infested material followed by the insect's own flight capabilities. Thus, SJA does not allow any non-campus wood for use on SJA lands; all firewood for use on campus must come from SJA lands. There are currently no well-known silvicultural options in the research and biological control remains the best long-term control measure. In terms of conserving the genetic resource, SJA is participating in an ash seed collection program, though this past season was not a good year for ash seed production.
Disposition of REC	This REC is closed.

Background/Justification: The area between the SJU campus and the Arboretum can be considered a type of wildland urban interface. There are some exotic tree and shrub species planted on the campus that have the potential to become invasive and threaten the Arboretum's management. For example, Norway maple (<i>Acer platanoides</i>) uses an allopathic chemical to deter sugar maple growth and regeneration.	
REC 2009.5	SJA forestry staff should consider working closely with SJU grounds to evaluate species used in landscaping for invasive qualities and develop a list of

	landscaping plants to be used that are least likely to become invasive in the forest.
Reference	FSC Criterion 6.9
FME response and SCS comment	<p>SJA has added the following text to its invasive species policy, which applies to all students, faculty, staff, and visitors:</p> <p>Campus Landscaping, Forest and Prairie:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To avoid un-intentional introductions of invasive plants and to avoid planting at undesirable locations, all trees, shrubs, plants, flowers, etc., intended for planting at Saint John’s must be planted under the direction of the abbey land management staff, the Saint John’s grounds staff, or other authorized monastic members and employees. No faculty, staff, students, guests or unauthorized employees may conduct plantings on campus or on abbey land without approval. 2. Faculty and students involved in research requiring plantings must submit their projects for approval to the Abbey Land Manager. 3. Native species of trees and plants should be preferred when possible. 4. Because of various wood infestations, no off-campus cut wood is allowed for bonfires or fireplaces. The risk of bringing in a fungus or insects that could affect the forest at Saint John’s is too great. <p>Basically, there is a strong preference for the use of native plants species in landscaping, unless a non-native can be proven to be non-aggressive/ invasive in the literature and/or regional field experience. Management and enforcement contact information is included in the policy document.</p>
Disposition of REC	This REC is closed.

6.0 New Corrective Action Requests (CARs)

Nonconformity: SLA has not sought approval from SCS for use of a sign in its forest that includes the FSC Logo and the Logo and Trademark of its former certification body. The sign also displays the former certification body’s logo and trademark in a way that is disadvantageous to the FSC trademarks.	
Minor CAR 2010.1	SLA shall remove the sign in question and make no further public display of it. Should SLA wish to place another sign in its forest to promote its FSC-certified status, it shall seek approval from SCS for uses of the FSC logo and trademarks prior to installation.
Deadline	Annual audit 2011
Reference	FSC-TMK-50-201: 2.3 and 13.1

6.1 Observations (OBS)

Background/ Justification: SJA’s use of chemicals is limited to herbicides for the control of invasive,
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noxious weeds. SJA documents cultural and chemical options for the control of these plant species and indirectly covers the elements of Family Forest indicator 6.6.b. when all chemical use strategies and records are taken as a whole. SJA could improve its conformance through directly addressing all of the elements of FF Indicator 6.6.b in its forest management plan.	
OBS 2010.1	SJA should develop a comprehensive chemical use strategy that addresses elements a) – d) of the indicator, as well as information on when non-chemical alternatives are used and, if feasible, a chemical reduction strategy.
Reference	FSC-US FF Indicator 6.6.b.

7.0 Stakeholder Comment*

This section is not required as SJA qualifies as a single SLIMF.

8.0 Certification Decision

Box 8.1 Surveillance Decision	
The certificate holder has demonstrated continued overall conformance to the applicable Forest Stewardship standards. The SCS annual audit team recommends that the certificate be sustained, subject to subsequent annual audits and the FME’s response to any open CARs.	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
Comments: None.	

Section B - Appendices

Appendix 1 – List of FMUs selected for evaluation (CONFIDENTIAL)

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FME consists of a single FMU – <i>No further action required</i>
<input type="checkbox"/> FME consists of multiple FMUs

Appendix 2 – Evaluation of Management Systems (CONFIDENTIAL)*

This section is not required as SJA qualifies as a single SLIMF.

Appendix 3 – Stakeholder analysis (CONFIDENTIAL)*

This section is not required as SJA qualifies as a single SLIMF.

Appendix 4 – Additional Audit Techniques Employed (CONFIDENTIAL)*

The audit team did not employ any additional audit techniques for this annual surveillance audit.

Appendix 5 – Changes in Certification Scope

There were no changes in the scope of the certification during the previous year.

Appendix 6 – Pesticide derogations

SJA has no derogations.

Appendix 7 – Detailed observations (CONFIDENTIAL)

Evaluation year	FSC P&C Reviewed
2007	All – Recertification Evaluation
2008	None
2009	P1, P5 , C6.7, C6.8, C6.9
2010	P2, P3, P4 , C6.6, C6.10, P7 , C8.3 (COC)
2011	

C= Conformance with Criterion

C/NC= Overall Conformance with Criterion, but there are Indicator non-conformances

NC= Non-Conformance with Criterion

REQUIREMENT	C/NC	COMMENT/CAR
P1 Forest management shall respect all applicable laws of the country in which they occur, and international treaties and agreements to which the country is a signatory, and comply with all FSC Principles and Criteria.		
P2 Long-term tenure and use rights to the land and forest resources shall be clearly defined, documented and legally established.		
C2.1. Clear evidence of long-term forest use rights to the land (e.g., land title, customary rights, or lease agreements) shall be demonstrated.	C	SJU has a 140 year history of owning and managing the forestlands. The management plan documents the history and current land uses. The monks of the Order of Saint Benedict obtained the land from the US government between 1857 and 1864 through either the Homestead Act or outright purchase. These acquisitions included

		<p>about 2500 acres of the 2740 acres now owned that house both SJA's forestlands and St. John's University. The remainder of the lands was purchased from adjacent farmers since the 1940s with the most recent addition of 100 acres added in 2001.</p> <p>Ownership and right-of-way documents are stored in the Archives Department. All deeds and legally established right-of-way are stored at the county courthouse. With the exception of highways and county roads, there are no other rights-of-way on SJA.</p> <p>Signs are posted to identify the property, and harvest boundaries are painted before commencement of management activities.</p>
C2.2. Local communities with legal or customary tenure or use rights shall maintain control, to the extent necessary to protect their rights or resources, over forest operations unless they delegate control with free and informed consent to other agencies.	C	<p>SJA allows legal hunting and fishing and provides deer stands. Non-motorized recreation (e.g., hiking) is allowed and trails are maintained for this and educational purposes. Motors are not allowed on the lakes. Dogs and other domestic animals are not allowed.</p> <p>The Land Management Committee and Arboretum Advisory Council are consulted regularly in forest management decisions.</p>
C2.3. Appropriate mechanisms shall be employed to resolve disputes over tenure claims and use rights. The circumstances and status of any outstanding disputes will be explicitly considered in the certification evaluation. Disputes of substantial magnitude involving a significant number of interests will normally disqualify an operation from being certified.	C	<p>SJA completed a legal boundary survey in the early 2000s at the expense of the Abbey. SJA maintains open communications with neighbors about boundaries and activities affecting adjacent landowners. As SJA's rights to the land and forest resource have been established for over 150 years and it allows use of the forest consistent with conservation of the forest resource, there is low risk for claims resulting from tenure or use rights issues.</p>
P3 The legal and customary rights of indigenous peoples to own, use and manage their lands, territories, and resources shall be recognized and respected.		
C3.1. Indigenous peoples shall control forest management on their lands and territories unless they delegate control with free and informed consent to other agencies.	NA	<p>This criterion is not applicable as SJA does not manage any tribal lands.</p>
C3.2. Forest management shall not threaten or diminish, either directly or indirectly, the resources or tenure rights of indigenous peoples.	C	<p>SJA contacted the Minnesota Historical Society, which maintain contact with the tribes to keep archaeological and cultural sites confidential, and has records of land use by American Indians. There are no known disputes over the land.</p> <p>No local tribes that have legal rights or other binding agreements that establish rights to resources on the FMU have been identified. The Abbey has had relationships with the White Earth and Red Lake Nations with monks located in and serving those communities. No evidence of threatened or diminished resources or tenure rights was observed.</p>
C3.3. Sites of special cultural, ecological, economic or religious significance to indigenous peoples shall be clearly	C	<p>In 2005, SJA collaborated with the Minnesota Historical Society to conduct a review of known sites of special cultural, ecological,</p>

<p>identified in cooperation with such peoples, and recognized and protected by forest managers.</p>		<p>economic or religious significance to indigenous peoples. No sites were identified. Oral histories and general information about historic land use have been collected and recorded in the management plan.</p> <p>The Minnesota Voluntary Site Level Guidelines have been adopted by SJA and address the protection of historic and cultural resources. Guidelines for cultural resource protection are included in the management plan.</p>
<p>C3.4. Indigenous peoples shall be compensated for the application of their traditional knowledge regarding the use of forest species or management systems in forest operations. This compensation shall be formally agreed upon with their free and informed consent before forest operations commence.</p>	<p>NA</p>	<p>This criterion is not applicable as SJA does not apply any traditional knowledge of indigenous peoples in its forest management.</p>
<p>P4 Forest management operations shall maintain or enhance the long-term social and economic well-being of forest workers and local communities.</p>		
<p>C4.1. The communities within, or adjacent to, the forest management area should be given opportunities for employment, training, and other services.</p>	<p>C</p>	<p>There is low risk of social and environmental impact resulting from SJA's contracting practices and involvement in local communities. SJA contracts with a local Amish sawmill to process its wood and uses its own logging crew to carry out forest management prescriptions. SJA also uses the forest for University courses on forest management and ecology, and holds several events for local residents throughout the year related to forest management, land stewardship, maple sugaring and environmental education.</p> <p>All chainsaws are purchased locally. Most forest work is contracted from labor that is located within 2 miles of SJA.</p>
<p>C4.2. Forest management should meet or exceed all applicable laws and/or regulations covering health and safety of employees and their families.</p>	<p>C</p>	<p>There is low risk of negative social or environmental impact on SJA forestlands resulting from health and safety issues.</p> <p>The biggest problem on SJA lands is deer ticks, which can transfer Lyme disease to humans during the summer months.</p> <p>Since July 1, 2009, SJA has had one injury incident (strained back) during trail maintenance. All accidents are filed with the Human Resources Department, which reports accidents to a government agency.</p> <p>SJA has its own logging crew and owns and maintains its own logging equipment. An OSHA review was conducted in 2003 following employee concerns. Treaded steps were installed on the skidder. SJA has worked with Amish sawyers to have them wear earplugs. SJA conducts tailgate sessions on a weekly basis and utilizes an industry publication that includes safety information. The Human Resources Department maintains records of training such as First Aid. There is a First Aid Training Officer at Saint John's University.</p>
<p>C4.3 The rights of workers to organize and voluntarily</p>	<p>C</p>	<p>There is low risk of social and environmental impact resulting from</p>

<p>negotiate with their employers shall be guaranteed as outlined in Conventions 87 and 98 of the International Labor Organization (ILO).</p>		<p>labor issues on SJA, especially as it completed an OSHA review in 2003. Past disputes have been resolved following state and federal law through SJU's human resources department.</p>
<p>C4.4. Management planning and operations shall incorporate the results of evaluations of social impact. Consultations shall be maintained with people and groups directly affected by management operations.</p>	<p>C</p>	<p>SJA is private land with many public uses. For example, the Chapel Trail is one of the most active trails. When SJA harvests in that area, SJA takes into account safety and aesthetics during management activities. SJA has encouraged professors to document research plots in the forest with forest management staff. SJA has diverted ski trails in the past to keep recreational users out of active timber harvests. SJA puts safety signs up near active harvests to warn recreational users. SJA harvested an acre of Aspen last year and informed the adjacent land owner of the harvest. Every time SJA harvests near a boundary, it notifies adjacent landowners.</p>
<p>C4.5. Appropriate mechanisms shall be employed for resolving grievances and for providing fair compensation in the case of loss or damage affecting the legal or customary rights, property, resources, or livelihoods of local peoples. Measures shall be taken to avoid such loss or damage.</p>	<p>C</p>	<p>SJA has no current disputes over labor, legal or customary rights, property, resources, or livelihoods of local peoples. SJA maintains open communications with neighbors in regards to current management activities.</p> <p>SJA's Arboretum webpage has links for contacting SJA staff and fellows and for getting involved with activities on the FMU.</p>
<p>P5 Forest management operations shall encourage the efficient use of the forest's multiple products and services to ensure economic viability and a wide range of environmental and social benefits.</p>		
<p>P6 Forest management shall conserve biological diversity and its associated values, water resources, soils, and unique and fragile ecosystems and landscapes, and, by so doing, maintain the ecological functions and the integrity of the forest.</p>		
<p>C6.6. Management systems shall promote the development and adoption of environmentally friendly non-chemical methods of pest management and strive to avoid the use of chemical pesticides. World Health Organization Type 1A and 1B and chlorinated hydrocarbon pesticides; pesticides that are persistent, toxic or whose derivatives remain biologically active and accumulate in the food chain beyond their intended use; as well as any pesticides banned by international agreement, shall be prohibited. If chemicals are used, proper equipment and training shall be provided to minimize health and environmental risks.</p>		<p>SJA uses no chemicals from the FSC list of prohibited chemicals (FSC-GUI-30-001).</p> <p>The chemical application prescription comes with a map of the treatment area and a copy of the chemical label, and the MSDS. These cover the site hazards and environmental risks associated with each active ingredient.</p> <p>Two summers ago, SJA student crews conducted some heavy treatment of buckthorn. Any trees that could be pulled at the roots were. Annual chemical use is heavily dependent on summer crew size as a larger crew can treat more acres.</p> <p>SJA keeps a log and list of chemicals bought, application dates of herbicides, rates, methods of application, application area described. SJA notes the effectiveness anecdotally for treatments. For example, cypress spurge has undergone various treatments and only one chemical is used. Chemicals are stored in a restricted area.</p> <p>SJA's use of chemicals is limited to herbicides for the control of invasive, noxious weeds. SJA documents cultural and chemical options for the control of these plant species and indirectly covers</p>

		the elements of Family Forest indicator 6.6.b. when all chemical use strategies and records are taken as a whole. SJA could improve its conformance through directly addressing all of the elements of FF Indicator 6.6.b in its forest management plan. See OBS 2010.1 .
C6.10. Forest conversion to plantations or non-forest land uses shall not occur, except in circumstances where conversion: a) Entails a very limited portion of the forest management unit; and b) Does not occur on High Conservation Value Forest areas; and c) Will enable clear, substantial, additional, secure, long-term conservation benefits across the forest management unit.	NA	There has been no conversion of forestland to non-forest use or plantations. The boundaries of the campus are well-established and have not expanded.
P7 A management plan -- appropriate to the scale and intensity of the operations -- shall be written, implemented, and kept up to date. The long-term objectives of management, and the means of achieving them, shall be clearly stated.		
C7.1. The management plan and supporting documents shall provide: a) Management objectives. b) description of the forest resources to be managed, environmental limitations, land use and ownership status, socio-economic conditions, and a profile of adjacent lands. c) Description of silvicultural and/or other management system, based on the ecology of the forest in question and information gathered through resource inventories. d) Rationale for rate of annual harvest and species selection. e) Provisions for monitoring of forest growth and dynamics. f) Environmental safeguards based on environmental assessments. g) Plans for the identification and protection of rare, threatened and endangered species. h) Maps describing the forest resource base including protected areas, planned management activities and land ownership. i) Description and justification of harvesting techniques and equipment to be used.	C	<p>The objectives of the forest management plan (FMP) are outlined on page 8 and include a vision statement and 17 distinct goals of forest management that cover ecological, social, and economic spheres. The objectives specific to vegetation and timber management are described on page 35 of the FMP.</p> <p>A description of the resources to be managed is in the section titled "Forest Description," which begins on page 25 of the FMP. This section includes Geology, Soils, Water and Wetlands, Vegetation, Timber Volumes, Wildlife, Rare, Endangered, Threatened and Special Concern Species, Archaeological and Cultural Resources, Identification and Protection of Cultural and Historical Sites, Landscape Level Perspective, and Surrounding Properties. The "Management of Vegetation" section on page 35 describes forest types and volumes represented on SJA lands. The silvicultural options/ systems for each timber type are described in each timber type's section. These prescriptions are based on the ecology of the species to regenerate and competition with other species for resources.</p> <p>The last timber inventory was conducted in 1997 by Peter Bundy. The timber volumes are included in the FMP and are the basis of the annual allowable cut (AAC). SJA has not harvested more than 20% of its AAC over the past five years.</p> <p>The FMP includes several environmental safeguards based on the assessment, including approaches to: (1) pest and weed management (page 48, Aggressive Exotic Plants and Animals Policy), (2) fire management (page 48, Fire and Controlled Burning Policy), and (3) protection of riparian management zones (page 28, Water and Wetlands; page 43, Forest Wetlands); (4) protection of representative samples of existing ecosystems (see Criterion 6.4) and management of High Conservation Value Forests (see Principle 9) (page 33, Rare, Endangered, Threatened and Special Concern Species; page 23, High Conservation Value Forests).</p>

		<p>RTE species and communities are described on page 33 of the FMP, and in some cases in sections that details particular ecosystem or stand types that contain unique features.</p> <p>Monitoring measures are described throughout the FMP, such as monitoring of special features and inventory updates.</p> <p>SJA possesses various maps that represent property boundaries, use rights, land cover types, hydrologic features, roads, adjoining land use, and protected areas in a manner that relates to the forest description and management prescriptions. For example, major bodies of water and stand types/ boundaries are included.</p>
C7.2. The management plan shall be periodically revised to incorporate the results of monitoring or new scientific and technical information, as well as to respond to changing environmental, social and economic circumstances.	C	<p>SJA updates the FMP almost annually in response to new information, policies, annual reports, timber harvests, inventory, and other events. The last update was in July 2010.</p> <p>In the FMP, the procedure for updating the plan is as follows: "The general procedure for updating the FMP is to go from inventory to a long range, strategic plan (10-15 years) to stand-based prescriptions to annual project plans and then to record keeping of completed work. The strategic Land Management Plan is intended to direct management of St. John's land outside of the inner campus. It is for a 10 to 15-year period with reviews of accomplishments and adjustments at 5-year intervals."</p>
C7.3. Forest workers shall receive adequate training and supervision to ensure proper implementation of the management plans.	C	<p>SJA staff meets SAF continuing education credit requirements. SJA workers have the opportunity to attend training on logging safety, pesticide application, and MNDNR events. Summer workers have been given training on the history of land management at SJA and safety. Research interns give talks to the crew on selected topics on the environment.</p>
C7.4. While respecting the confidentiality of information, forest managers shall make publicly available a summary of the primary elements of the management plan, including those listed in Criterion 7.1.	C	<p>The entirety of SJA's FMP is available on its website and accessible to anyone with an internet connection.</p>
P8 Monitoring shall be conducted -- appropriate to the scale and intensity of forest management -- to assess the condition of the forest, yields of forest products, chain of custody, management activities and their social and environmental impacts.		
C8.3. Documentation shall be provided by the forest manager to enable monitoring and certifying organizations to trace each forest product from its origin, a process known as the "chain of custody."	C	<p>SJA has a system that prevents mixing of FSC-certified and non-certified forest products prior to the point of sale, with accompanying documentation to enable the tracing of the harvested material from each harvested product from its origin to the point of sale. However, more than 90% of all certified products remain the property of SJA from harvesting, milling, transport, to final product. The tracking system allows tracking of the certified product throughout the supply chain for final use at SJA. Firewood and other special harvests typically are not for FSC-certified sales.</p> <p>SJA maintains documentation to enable the tracing of the harvested</p>

		material from each harvested product from its origin to the point of sale. Harvested timber volumes and processed volumes are available by species, grade, and harvest date.
P9 Management activities in high conservation value forests shall maintain or enhance the attributes which define such forests. Decisions regarding high conservation value forests shall always be considered in the context of a precautionary approach.		

Appendix 8 – Chain of Custody Indicators for FMEs (CONFIDENTIAL)

Small-scale joint FM/COC operations’ (<10,000 ha/ <24,710 acres; single-SLIMFs) COC procedures, at a minimum, shall include the following:

Tracking, tracing and identification of certified products		
<p>1.1. An evaluation of the risk of products from non-certified sources (including any areas specifically excluded from the scope of the certificate) being mixed with products from the forest area evaluated.</p> <p>SCS Auditor Findings: SJA purchased a conservation easement on property adjacent to the FMU to prevent residential development from encroaching upon forestlands and to preserve the current land use on the property. The terms of the conservation easement on the adjacent property do not convey any forest management rights or authority to SJA, so there is no risk of mixing certified and non-certified forest products on the FMU.</p> <p>Without a unique marking system and volume tracking through invoices/ records, uncontrolled timber could enter the certified chain of custody when the logs leave the site for custom sawing.</p>		
<p>1.2. A description of the control (tracking and tracing) systems in place that address the risk identified in 1.1 above.</p> <p><i>If the evaluation does not include all the FMUs in which the FME is involved, the FME shall describe the special controls in place to ensure that there is no risk of confusion as to which products are certified, and which are not.</i></p>		
<p>SCS Auditor Findings: SJA has implemented multiple controls to eliminate the risk of mixing non-certified logs with certified logs at the sawmill. These controls include the use of load tickets, painted and hammer stamped logs, separate storage and batch processing, and the inclusion of certification information on all invoices and records.</p>		
<p>1.3. Forest gate (check all that apply): <i>The forest gate is defined as the point where the change in ownership of the certified-forest product occurs.</i></p>		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Stump <i>Stumpage sale or sales of standing timber; transfer of ownership of certified-forest product occurs upon harvest.</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Log landing <i>Transfer of ownership of certified-product occurs at landing/yarding areas.</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> On-site concentration yard <i>Transfer of ownership of certified-product occurs at concentration yard under control of FME.</i>

<input type="checkbox"/> Off-site Mill/Log Yard <i>Transfer of ownership occurs when certified-product is unloaded at purchaser's facility.</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other: For lumber going to the Abbey Woodshop, SJA retains ownership through the harvesting, log transporting, sawmilling, grading, lumber transporting, and stickering at Saint John's University. Certified lumber is stored in a secure, fenced area and remains the property of SJA.		
SCS Auditor Findings:			
<p>1.4. A description of the documentation or marking system that allows products from the certified forest area to be reliably identified as such at the forest gate(s) identified in 1.3, including the FSC-claim and FSC certificate code on invoices.</p> <p>-----</p> <p>Firewood is typically sold through stumpage sales and furniture-grade wood is often sold at log landings. However, the chain of custody for these products is not maintained as the users do not desire to maintain the certification.</p> <p>All harvested wood is sold using an invoice (e.g., load ticket). The load ticket includes the species mix, product class, volume, a distinct load number, the date, the trucker, the destination, and the buyer. It also describes the products and the volume per truckload. Copies of the load ticket are provided to SJA, the trucker, and the buyer. In many cases, the trucker is responsible for scaling, completing, and distributing the form. The invoice also includes the appropriate forest certification logos and information. SJA documented approval for logo use from SCS.</p> <p>To assure that SJA can track its logs and lumber, certified logs that are to be custom sawn are hammer-branded with an "SJ" before going to the sawmill. Both ends of the logs are also painted with green end-coat paint. This prevents "checking" and allows visual verification of the log piles, the logs or lumber in transit, the lumber as it sits at the mill, and the lumber as it is being stickered.</p> <p>Lumber owned by SJA at off-site mills is handled in a manner that allows for easy tracking and retains clear separation of the products and ownership. Lumber is graded as needed and each pack (of not more than 500 bd ft of a single species, grade, and size) is labeled as to species, volume, grade, year, and sawmill. The labeling (e.g. aluminum tags) allows for tracking the lumber until the wood is used or sold. Green end paint and hammer stamps are also visible on the sawn lumber in the pack.</p>			
SCS Auditor Findings: See CAR 2010.1 . SJA does not have approval from SCS for the use of a sign in its sugarbush that contains both the FSC logo and the trademarks and logo of its former certification body.			
<p>1.5. Does FME have any primary or secondary processing facilities (e.g., fully-integrated production)? <i>NOTE: This does not apply to log cutting or de-barking units, small portable sawmills or on-site processing of chips/biomass originating from the FMU under evaluation. They can be evaluated as part of the 'normal' forest evaluation procedures. If any such on-site processing is done by contractors, this must be covered in section 1.5 on outsourcing.</i></p>	<table border="1"> <tr> <td data-bbox="993 1585 1323 1829"> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <i>Such sites shall be inspected for conformance to the applicable chain of custody standard(s) (e.g., FSC-STD-40-004). See 1.1.4 for large-scale FMEs.</i> </td> <td data-bbox="1323 1585 1422 1829"> <input type="checkbox"/> No </td> </tr> </table>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <i>Such sites shall be inspected for conformance to the applicable chain of custody standard(s) (e.g., FSC-STD-40-004). See 1.1.4 for large-scale FMEs.</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> No
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <i>Such sites shall be inspected for conformance to the applicable chain of custody standard(s) (e.g., FSC-STD-40-004). See 1.1.4 for large-scale FMEs.</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> No		

SCS Auditor Findings: SJA was evaluated to FSC-STD-40-004 during its 2007 recertification evaluation. There have been no outside FSC sales this year (SJA has maintained possession of all certified product and is the end user).