

High Conservation Value Forest (HCVF): Stormont, Dundas & Glengarry County Forest

Summary

The United Counties of Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry (UCSDG) owns 3,816.4 hectares of forested land in 2018. The location of these properties can be found on the UCSDG website at <http://sdgcounties.ca>. The UCSDG also maintains a detailed GIS inventory of the forests and natural heritage values for each property. The County Forest is managed according to the principles of the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC). FSC certification provides the assurance that the forests are sustainably managed to a world-recognized standard.

FSC principle 9 addresses High Conservation Value Forests. It states that “Management activities in High Conservation Value Forests shall maintain or enhance the attributes which define such forests.” The UCSDG, as a community forest owner, has evaluated the County Forest using a framework which identifies six potential categories of HCVF. Sources of information for identifying HCVF include the OMNRF’s Forest Resource Inventory and Natural Resources and Values Information System (NRVIS), Natural Heritage Information Centre (<https://www.ontario.ca/page/natural-heritage-information-centre>), natural heritage inventories, Endangered Species Act, <https://www.ontario.ca/laws/statute/07e06> and the knowledge of the forest manager and members of the community. The HCVF report has been reviewed by the SDG County Forest Management Plan Committee, the EOMF Certification Working Group and peer reviewed by an independent expert. The Forest Management Plan provides guidance for conservation of HCVFs when a timber harvest operation is planned and are consistent with OMNR habitat guidelines, <https://www.ontario.ca/page/forest-management-guides>. HCVF include a mapped area of 1,948.1 hectares, and additional unmapped areas of species at risk habitat. The full HCVF report is available for review South Nation Conservation, 38 Victoria Street, Finch, Ontario. The results are summarized in the following table.

Appendix E High Conservation Value Forest Assessment Framework – GLSL

This framework is designed to be used in order to help identify potential High Conservation Value Forests (HCVF) in the context of achieving certification to FSC Canada’s Great Lakes/St. Lawrence Standard. It is based on a framework originally developed by ProForest and since that time it has been applied in many forest regions around the world.

The framework is organized as a table covering six categories derived from the definition of HCVFs from the FSC standards. The six categories are:

- Category 1: Forest areas containing globally, regionally or nationally significant concentrations of biodiversity values (e.g., endemism, endangered species, refugia);
- Category 2: Forest areas containing globally, regionally or nationally significant large landscape level forests, contained within, or containing the management unit, where viable populations of most if not all naturally occurring species exist in natural patterns of distribution and abundance;
- Category 3: Forest areas that are in or contain rare, threatened or endangered ecosystems;
- Category 4: Forest areas that provide basic services of nature in critical situations (e.g., watershed protection, erosion control);
- Category 5: Forest areas fundamental to meeting basic needs of local communities (e.g., subsistence, health); and,
- Category 6: Forest areas critical to local communities’ traditional cultural identity (areas of cultural, ecological, economic or religious significance identified in cooperation with such local communities).

Each category has a question or questions (the left-hand column below) that aim to identify whether the management unit contains any of the values relevant to each category. Negative answers to these questions mean that the forest operation likely does not include High Conservation Values (HCV) in that category. Positive answers lead to further investigation. The second column explains the rationale for the conservation of the particular value. The third column provides sources of information on these values (e.g., COSEWIC lists in Canada, Conservation Data Centre lists, etc.). The fourth column provides further guidance to help determine whether or not a particular area might be considered a High Conservation Value Forest.

Scale and diversity in the Great Lakes/St. Lawrence region: This toolkit is designed to be used across the GLSL region, and applied in small private forests, on community forests and in large public forests. The manager may be operating in a highly fragmented landscape, where the stands with exceptionally high conservation value may be very small and require a high degree of protection, or in a much more intact landscape, where the HCVF toolkit can help to identify relatively broad features across the landscape in which the changes to management activities may be relatively modest although nevertheless significant at the landscape level. Furthermore, these diverse management regimes occur across a range of ecosystem types, from the Carolinian forests of southwestern Ontario through the mixed wood forests of

southern Ontario and Québec and northwards to forests that are in the boreal transition zone. This diversity means that HCVF assessments will be carried out differently on these various forests, and will produce vastly different results. In developing a toolkit that is intended to apply across this diversity it is not possible to provide specific thresholds or numerical responses to questions such as “What is the minimum size of a HCVF area?” or “What percentage of a management unit should be designated as HCVFs?”

“Critical habitat” and “Essential Habitat.” In this Toolkit, and elsewhere in this standard, the term “Critical habitat” is used only in the context of Species at Risk that have been listed by federal or provincial agencies. It is used in this narrow sense in order to align the use of the term in this Standard with the legal requirements that exist in federal and provincial legislation pertaining to maintaining and restoring critical habitat for species at risk. “Essential habitat” has the same meaning as “critical habitat,” but applies to all wildlife species, and not only to rare, threatened or endangered species.

HCV Summary for <u>United Counties of Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry (UCSDG) Forests</u>		Total (Hectares)
HCV1	Forest areas containing globally, regionally or nationally significant concentrations of biodiversity values (e.g. endemism, endangered species, refugia).	1710.0
HCV2	Forest areas containing globally, regionally or nationally significant large landscape level forests, contained within, or containing the management unit, where viable populations of most if not all naturally occurring species exist in natural patterns of distribution and abundance.	0
HCV3	Forest areas that are in or contain rare, threatened or endangered ecosystems.	16.7
HCV4	Forest areas that provide basic services of nature in critical situations (e.g. watershed protection, erosion control).	65.24
HCV5	Forest areas fundamental to meeting basic needs of local communities (e.g. subsistence, health).	81.16
HCV6	Forest areas critical to local communities' traditional cultural identity (areas of cultural, ecological, economic or religious significance identified in cooperation with such local communities).	75
	Total area	1948.1

Item	Rationale	Sources of information	Further Guidance	EOMF HCV: <u>United Counties of Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry (UCSDG) Forests</u>						
Category 1) Forest areas containing globally, regionally or nationally significant concentrations of biodiversity values (e.g., endemism, endangered species, refugia)				Comp. No,	Value	Year	Stakeholder	Management Guidance	Monitoring	Area (Ha)
Forest contains concentration of Species at Risk	SARA	The United Counties of Stormont, (Dundas and Glengarry (UCSDG) County Forest Management Plan 2007-2026.	SNC, Species at Risk Biologist, Algonquin First nations, Mohawks of Akwesasne	70, 91, 88,	Whipperwill, Butternut	2017	OMNR	Species Recovery Plan	Annual	15.1
Forest Contains regionally significant seasonal concentrations of species	Addresses wildlife habitat requirements critical to maintaining population viability (regional 'hot spots')	The United Counties of Stormont, (Dundas and Glengarry (UCSDG) County Forest Management Plan 2007-2026.	Mohawks of Akwesasne and Algonquin First Nations, Resource Stewardship SDG, OMNR,	11, 12, 13, 29, 94, 96,98,99	Deer Yard	2007	MNR EODAC Local Communities	Deer Management Guidelines along with First Nations	Monitoring not required unless work is undertaken in the area. Monitoring frequency and intensity depends on the activity.	206
Forest supports concentrations of species at the edge of their natural ranges or outlier populations	Addresses wildlife habitat requirements critical to maintaining population viability (regional 'hot spots')	The United Counties of Stormont, (Dundas and Glengarry (UCSDG) County Forest Management Plan 2007-2026.	Mohawks of Akwesasne and Algonquin First Nations, Resource Stewardship SDG, OMNR,	56	Eastern Cottonwood	2007		Consultation with OMNR Species at Risk Biologist and/or District Ecologists as required	Monitoring not required unless work is undertaken in the area. Monitoring frequency and intensity depends on the activity.	10.14
Forest lies within a conservation area; legally designated or proposed by relevant provincial legislative body	Provincially Significant Wetland (PSW) and Municipal Official Plan	The United Counties of Stormont, (Dundas and Glengarry (UCSDG) County Forest Management Plan 2007-2026 section B-9.3.1 Wetlands	Mohawks of Akwesasne and Algonquin First Nations, Resource Stewardship SDG, OMNR	5, 31, 32, 42,	Summerstown Swamp	2011	OMNR	Consultation with OMNR Species at Risk Biologist and/or District Ecologists as required, OMNR Habitat Protection Guidelines SDG County Forest – Forest Management, The UCSDG County Forest Management Plan 2007-2026 section	Monitoring not required unless work is undertaken in the area. Monitoring frequency and intensity depends on the activity.	53.44
				28	Hoasic Creek Wetland					36.79
				60	Froatburn Swamp					11.67
				25	Loch Garry Marsh					15.3
				53, 54, 71,70, 72	Newington Bog					164.26
				15, 16, 17, 18, 19	Morewood Bog					108.77
Forest Contains a locally significant conservation	Regionally Significant Wetland	The United Counties of Stormont, (Dundas and Glengarry (UCSDG)	Mohawks of Akwesasne and Algonquin First Nations, SDG, OMNR	34	Munroe Mills Swamp	2011	OMNR, SDG, Local	Consultation with OMNR Species at Risk Biologist and/or	Monitoring not required unless work is undertaken	23.05

Item	Rationale	Sources of information	Further Guidance	EOMF HCV: <u>United Counties of Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry (UCSDG) Forests</u>						
Category 1) Forest areas containing globally, regionally or nationally significant concentrations of biodiversity values (e.g., endemism, endangered species, refugia)				Comp. No,	Value	Year	Stakeholder	Management Guidance	Monitoring	Area (Ha)
area identified in a regional land use plan.		County Forest Management Plan 2007-2026.		43, 62	Concession 1 Bog		Communities, EODAC	District Ecologists, OMNR Habitat Protection Guidelines SDG County Forest – Forest Management, The UCSDG County Forest Management Plan 2007-2026 section	in the area. Monitoring frequency and intensity depends on the activity.	6.36
				43	Cp Swamp					9.75
				92	Dominionville Swamp					21.41
				80, 81, 82, 83	Hwy 417 Marsh					92.94
				77	Ingelside Swamp					13.27
				23, 69	Monkland Swamp					20.51
Forest Contains regionally significant species	Area of Natural and Scientific Interests (ANSIs) Addresses wildlife habitat requirements critical to maintaining population viability (regional 'hot spots')		Mohawks of Akwesasne and Algonquin First Nations, SDG, OMNR	63	Hoasic Creek	2011	OMNR, SDG, Local Communities, EODAC		Monitoring not required unless work is undertaken in the area. Monitoring frequency and intensity depends on the activity.	43.5
Forest lies within a conservation area; legally designated or proposed by relevant provincial legislative body Forest Contains regionally significant seasonal concentrations of species	Provincially Significant Wetland (PSW) and Municipal Official Plan Addresses wildlife habitat requirements critical to maintaining population viability (regional 'hot spots')	The United Counties of Stormont, (Dundas and Glengarry (UCSDG) County Forest Management Plan 2007-2026.	Mohawks of Akwesasne and Algonquin First Nations, SDG, OMNR	6, 30, 39, 40, 41	Summerstown Swamp	2011	OMNR, SDG, Local Communities, EODAC	Consultation with OMNR Species at Risk Biologist and/or District Ecologists as required, OMNR Habitat Protection Guidelines SDG County Forest – Forest Management, The UCSDG County Forest Management Plan 2007-2026 section, Deer Management Guidelines	Monitoring not required unless work is undertaken in the area. Monitoring frequency and intensity depends on the activity.	131.15
				14	Deer Yards Deer Yards					10.45

Item	Rationale	Sources of information	Further Guidance	EOMF HCV: <u>United Counties of Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry (UCSDG) Forests</u>						
Category 1) Forest areas containing globally, regionally or nationally significant concentrations of biodiversity values (e.g., endemism, endangered species, refugia)				Comp. No,	Value	Year	Stakeholder	Management Guidance	Monitoring	Area (Ha)
<p>Forest lies within a conservation area; legally designated or proposed by relevant provincial legislative body</p> <p>Forest Contains regionally significant species</p>	<p>Provincially Significant Wetland (PSW) and Municipal Official Plan</p>	<p>The United Counties of Stormont, (Dundas and Glengarry (UCSDG) County Forest Management Plan 2007-2026.</p>	<p>Mohawks of Akwesasne and Algonquin First Nations, SDG, OMNR</p>	35, 36, 37, 48, 49, 59, 64, 70, 75, 76, 86, 89, 94	Hoasic Creek Wetland ANSIs	2011	OMNR, SDG, Local Communities, EODAC	<p>Consultation with OMNR Species at Risk Biologist and/or District Ecologists as required, OMNR Habitat Protection Guidelines SDG County Forest – Forest Management, The UCSDG County Forest Management Plan 2007-2026 section</p>	<p>Monitoring not required unless work is undertaken in the area. Monitoring frequency and intensity depends on the activity.</p>	516.46
				27, 29	Black Lake Swamp ANSIs					70.42
				52, 55, 61	Newington Bog ANSIs					72.57
<p>Forest lies within a conservation area; legally designated or proposed by relevant provincial legislative body</p> <p>Forest Contains regionally significant seasonal concentrations of species</p> <p>Forest Contains regionally significant species</p>	<p>Provincially Significant Wetland (PSW) and Municipal Official Plan</p> <p>Addresses wildlife habitat requirements critical to maintaining population viability (regional ‘hot spots’)</p>	<p>The United Counties of Stormont, (Dundas and Glengarry (UCSDG) County Forest Management Plan 2007-2026.</p>	<p>Mohawks of Akwesasne and Algonquin First Nations, SDG, OMNR</p>	45, 50, 51	Hoasic Creek Wetland Deer Yards ANSIs	2011	OMNR, SDG, Local Communities, EODAC	<p>Consultation with OMNR Species at Risk Biologist and/or District Ecologists as required, OMNR Habitat Protection Guidelines SDG County Forest – Forest Management, The UCSDG County Forest Management Plan 2007-2026 section, Deer Management Guidelines</p>	<p>Monitoring not required unless work is undertaken in the area. Monitoring frequency and intensity depends on the activity. Monitoring not required unless work is undertaken in the area. Monitoring frequency and intensity depends on the activity.</p>	193.98
				66, 68, 79	Newington Bog Deer Yards ANSIs					74.66

Item	Rationale	Sources of information	Further Guidance	EOMF HCV:						
Category 2) Forest areas containing globally, regionally or nationally significant large landscape level forests, contained within, or containing the management unit, where viable populations of most if not all naturally occurring species exist in natural patterns of distribution and abundance				Comp.	Value	Year Completed	Stakeholder	Management Guidance	Monitoring	Area (Ha)

Item	Rationale	Sources of information	Further Guidance	EOMF HCV:						
Category 3) Forest areas that are in or contain rare, threatened or endangered ecosystems				Comp.	Value	Year Completed	Stakeholder	Management Guidance	Monitoring	Area (Ha)
Forests contains naturally rare ecosystem type	Old Growth Forest	The United Counties of Stormont, (Dundas and Glengarry (UCSDG) County Forest Management Plan 2007-2026	Mohawks of Akwesasne and Algonquin First Nations, SDG, OMNR	32 92	White Pine Hemlock, Cedar	2007	Local Communities, SDG, SNC, OMNR, EODAC		Monitoring not required unless work is undertaken in the area.	16.7

Item	Rationale	Sources of information	Further Guidance	EOMF HCV:						
Category 4) Forest areas that provide basic services of nature in critical situations (e.g., watershed protection, erosion control)				Comp.	Value	Year Completed	Stakeholder	Management Guidance	Monitoring	Area (Ha)
Forest provides a significant source of drinking water	Addresses wellhead areas important for the protection of drinking water.	The United Counties of Stormont, (Dundas and Glengarry (UCSDG) County Forest Management Plan 2007-2026	SNC	7, 8,9, 65, 84	Wellhead Protection Areas		Municipalities, Local Communities	Source Protection Policies	Monitoring not required unless threat activity is undertaken in the area.	65.24

Item	Rationale	Sources of information	Further Guidance	EOMF HCV:						
Category 5) Forest areas fundamental to meeting basic needs of local communities (e.g., subsistence, health)				Comp.	Value	Year	Stakeholder	Management Guidance	Monitoring	Area (Ha)
Traditional harvest areas	Access to these traditional areas	Treaty rights and noted on land deed	Traditional foods and medicines	88,91	Consult with both the Mohawk and Algonquin First Nations		UCSDG Private land owners	Treaty rights Nut field tract	Work with Mohawks of Akwesasne	81.16
Item	Rationale	Sources of information	Further Guidance	EOMF HCV:						
Category 6) Forest areas critical to local communities' traditional cultural identity (areas of cultural, ecological, economic or religious significance identified in cooperation with such local communities)				Comp.	Value	Year	Stakeholder	Management Guidance	Monitoring	Area (Ha)
Forest Contains regionally significant species (e.g., culturally important species)		Strategy for the Sustainable Management of Black Ash. Sept 2006. Table 5.1 Preliminary Management Recommendations	UCSDG, SNC, Mohawk of Akwesasne, Algonquins communities	37, 49, 56, 69, 74, 75, 92 88,91	Black Ash and other culturally significant species	2006	Local Communities, Municipalities, OMNR, SDG, Local Communities		Monitoring not required unless work is undertaken in the area. Monitoring frequency and intensity depends on the activity.	70
Forested Areas contain archaeological sites	Protect these sites and prevent the degradation of these sites	Ontario Ministry of culture and Heritage	Communications with the Mohawk communities, the Algonquin community's, ministry of culture and SNC and the UCSDG	22,26,41, 86, 94, 91, 64, 31	Cultural ecological spiritually as well as historical i.e.. homesteads	ongoing	Local Historians		Identify sites, map and maintain database of sites	5