

HCV Summary for <u> The County of Bruce </u>		Total (Hectares)
HCV1	Forest areas containing globally, regionally or nationally significant concentrations of biodiversity values (e.g. endemism, endangered species, refugia).	8181.7
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.	2867
HCV4	Forest areas that provide basic services of nature in critical situations (e.g watershed protection, erosion control).	713.9
HCV5	Forest areas fundamental to meeting basic needs of local communities (e.g. subsistence, health)	0
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).	0
Grand Total		11762.6

Item	Rationale	Sources of information	Further Guidance	EOMF HCV:							
				Compartment Number	Value	Year	Stakeholder	Management Guidance	Monitoring	Area (Ha)	HCV Decision
Category 1) Forest areas containing globally, regionally or nationally significant concentrations of biodiversity values											
1) Does the forest management unit contain species at risk or potential habitat of species at risk as listed by international, national or state / regional / provincial authorities?	See Appendix 1	<p>Bruce County Forest Management Plan 2002-2021</p> <p>Rare and Endangered Species of Grey and Bruce Counties, Owen Sound Field Naturalists, 2001.</p> <p>Natural Heritage Information Center(NHIC) Species Lists</p>	<p>Government of Canada Species At Risk Public Registry: Species List</p> <p>Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada (COSEWIC)</p>	See Appendix 1							
2) Is the forest within an Ecoregion that contains a concentration of endemic (native or restricted to a certain country or area) species?	Species is endemic to the upper Great Lakes, is endangered in the US and Canada, and is known from only 3 locations in Ontario, all of which are in rivers that are in Bruce County (COSEWIC 2011).	<p>COSEWIC Assessment and Status Report on the Hungerford's Crawling Water Beetle</p> <p>COSSARO Candidate Species at Risk Evaluation for Hungerford's Crawling Water Beetle (Brychius hungerfordi)</p>	<p>MNRF Habitat Protection Summary for Hungerford's Crawling Water Beetle</p> <p>MNRF Hungerford's Crawling Water Beetle in Ontario Recovery Strategy</p>	Brant Tract Compartment 5	Hungerford's Crawling Water Beetle	2011	COSEWIC	Avoid harvesting activities in areas adjacent to the beetle's habitat.	Not identified as an area of viable habitat.	60.7	Not an HCV
				Amabel Tract Compartment 7							

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Category 1) Forest areas containing globally, regionally or nationally significant concentrations of biodiversity values				Compartment Number	Value	Year	Stakeholder	Management Guidance	Monitoring	Area (Ha)	HCV Decision
3) Does the forest include critical habitat containing globally, nationally, or regionally significant seasonal concentrations of species (one or several species e.g. concentrations of breeding sites, wintering sites, migration sites, flyways)?	Deer movement during winter in the southern areas of Ecoregion 6E are not constrained by snow depth, however deer will annually congregate in large numbers in suitable woodlands to reduce or avoid the impacts of winter conditions (OMNRF, 2015).	Bruce County Forest Management Plan 2002-2021 Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry Significant Wildlife Habitat Criteria Schedules For Ecoregion 6E	Natural Heritage Information Center (NHIC)	Amabel Tract Compartments: 1,2,3,4,5,6,7	White Tailed Deer Wintering Yards	2001	OMNRF	Consultation with OMNRF Wildlife Biologists and/or District Ecologists as required. OMNRF Habitat Protection Guidelines	Prior to harvest operations	467	HCV
				Culross Tract Concession 15, Lots 34-35 Concession 13, Lots 24						112	

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Category 1) Forest areas containing globally, regionally or nationally significant concentrations of biodiversity values				Compartment Number	Value	Year	Stakeholder	Management Guidance	Monitoring	Area (Ha)	HCV Decision
3) Does the forest include critical habitat containing globally, nationally, or regionally significant seasonal concentrations of species (one or several species e.g. concentrations of breeding sites, wintering sites, migration sites, fly-ways)?	Winter habitat for deer is considered to be the main limiting factor for northern deer populations. In winter, deer congregate in "yards" to survive severe winter conditions. Deer yards typically have a long history of annual use by deer, yards typically represent 10-15% of an area's summer range (OMNRF, 2015).	Bruce County Forest Management Plan 2002-2021 Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry Significant Wildlife Habitat Criteria Schedules For Ecoregion 6E	Natural Heritage Information Center (NHIC)	Lindsay Tract Compartments: 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 97, 98, 99, 100, 101, 102, 103, 104, 105, 106, 109, 110, 111, 112, 113, 114, 115, 116, 117, 118, 119, 120, 121, 122, 123, 124, 125, 126, 127, 129, 130, 131, 132, 133, 135, 136, 137, 138, 139, 140, 141, 142, 143, 144, 145, 147, 148, 150, 151	White Tailed Deer Wintering Yards	2002	OMNRF	Consultation with OMNRF Wildlife Biologists and/or District Ecologists as required. OMNRF Habitat Protection Guidelines	Prior to harvest operations	1099	HCV
4) Does the forest contain concentrations of regionally significant species (e.g. focal species, declining species)?	The Bruce Peninsula has an isolated and distinct population of black bears.	Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry Significant Wildlife Habitat Criteria Schedules For Ecoregion 6E	Extirpation Risk of an Isolated Black Bear Population Under Different Management Scenarios. Journal of Wildlife Management 71 (2): 603-612; 2007	Lindsay Tract	Black Bears	N/A	OMNRF	Maintenance of large woodland tracts with mast-producing tree species is important	Prior to harvest operations	2867	HCV
		Nature Conservancy Canada Saugeen Bruce Peninsula 10 Year Conservation Plan		Albermarle Tract						123.8	
				Amabel Tract						713.9	

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Category 1) Forest areas containing globally, regionally or nationally significant concentrations of biodiversity values				Compartment Number	Value	Year	Stakeholder	Management Guidance	Monitoring	Area (Ha)	HCV Decision
6) Does the forest lie within or contain a conservation area a) designated by an international authority, b) designated by relevant federal/provincial legislative body or c) identified in regional land use plans? (Continued)	Provincially Significant Wetland (PSW)	Bruce County Forest Management Plan 2002-2021 County of Bruce Official Plan	Bruce Peninsula Biosphere Association Conservation and Stewardship Plan Supporting Community Action on the Bruce Peninsula	Amabel Tract Concession 2 Lots 55 and 56 Compartments 2 and 7	Rankin River	1999	OMNRF	OMNRF Habitat Protection Guidelines	Prior to harvest operations	15	HCV
				Amabel Tracts Concession 13 Lot 20 Compartments 57 and 58	Hell Hole					23	HCV
				Amabel Tracts Concession D Part Mill Lot Compartment 8	Chief's Point					1.6	HCV
6) Does the forest lie within or contain a conservation area a) designated by an international authority, b) designated by relevant federal/provincial legislative body or c) identified in regional land use plans? (Continued)	Provincially Significant Wetland (PSW)	Bruce County Forest Management Plan 2002-2021 County of Bruce Official Plan	Bruce Peninsula Biosphere Association Conservation and Stewardship Plan Supporting Community Action on the Bruce Peninsula	Kinloss Tracts Concession 6 Lot 23 Compartment 3	Kinloss Creek	1999	OMNRF	OMNRF Habitat Protection Guidelines	Prior to harvest operations	11	HCV
				Kinloss Tracts Concession 2 Lots 16 to 17 Compartments 4 and 5	Dickies Creek					51	HCV
				Kinloss Tracts Concession 5 North Pt Lot 20 Compartments 2 and 3							

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<p>6) Does the forest lie within or contain a conservation area</p> <p>a) designated by an international authority, b) designated by relevant federal/provincial legislative body or c) identified in regional land use plans? (Continued)</p>	<p>Provincially Significant Wetland (PSW)</p>	<p>Bruce County Forest Management Plan 2002-2021</p> <p>County of Bruce Official Plan</p>	<p>Bruce Peninsula Biosphere Association Conservation and Stewardship Plan Supporting Community Action on the Bruce Peninsula</p>	Kinloss Tracts Concession 4 South Pt Lot 16 Compartments 2 and 3	Dickies Creek	1999	OMNRF	OMNRF Habitat Protection Guidelines	Prior to harvest operations	51	HCV
				Kinloss Tracts Concession 3 Lot 24 Compartments 4 and 7							
				Kinloss Tracts Concession 6 West Pt Lot 22 Compartments 8 and 9							
<p>6) Does the forest lie within or contain a conservation area</p> <p>a) designated by an international authority, b) designated by relevant federal/provincial legislative body or c) identified in regional land use plans? (Continued)</p>	<p>Provincially Significant Wetland (PSW)</p>	<p>Bruce County Forest Management Plan 2002-2021</p> <p>County of Bruce Official Plan</p>	<p>Bruce Peninsula Biosphere Association Conservation and Stewardship Plan Supporting Community Action on the Bruce Peninsula</p>	Culross Tracts Concession 2 West Pt Lot 29 Compartment 3	Teeswater Complex	1999	OMNRF	OMNRF Habitat Protection Guidelines	Prior to harvest operations	103	HCV
				Culross Tracts Con. 1 Lot 32, south Pt Lot 33, Lot 34 to 35, Con. 2 Lot 33, Compartments 1,2,3,4,9,14,15							

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Category 1) Forest areas containing globally, regionally or nationally significant concentrations of biodiversity values				Compartment Number	Value	Year	Stakeholder	Management Guidance	Monitoring	Area (Ha)	HCV Decision
6) Does the forest lie within or contain a conservation area a) designated by an international authority, b) designated by relevant federal/provincial legislative body or c) identified in regional land use plans? (Continued)	Provincially Significant Wetland (PSW)	Bruce County Forest Management Plan 2002-2021 County of Bruce Official Plan	Bruce Peninsula Biosphere Association Conservation and Stewardship Plan Supporting Community Action on the Bruce Peninsula	Culross Tracts Concession 13 Lot 24 Compartments 2, 3, and 4	Greenock Swamp	1999	OMNRF	OMNRF Habitat Protection Guidelines	Prior to harvest operations	97	HCV
				Culross Tracts Concession 15 Lots 34 and 35 Compartment 1							
6) Does the forest lie within or contain a conservation area a) designated by an international authority, b) designated by relevant federal/provincial legislative body or c) identified in regional land use plans? (Continued)	The Escarpment Biosphere Conservancy is a charitable non-profit organization, with a mandate to create nature reserves allowing for sustainable, low impact recreation, and it owns some property that is either immediately adjacent to or completely surrounded by County Forest.	Bruce County Maps website	Property Location: Municipality of Brockton, Brant Township, Concession 15, Part Lot 7, Roll # 410434000605102 Area = 24 ha	Bordering property of Bruce County Forest: Brant Tract Compartments 5-F and 5-G	Non-Government Organization Nature Reserve	2007	Escarpment Biosphere Conservancy	OMNRF Forest Management Guidelines	Prior to harvest operations	14.2	HCV
				Bordering property of Bruce County Forest: Lindsay Tract Compartments 87, 89, 124, 140						2005	211

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Category 1) Forest areas containing globally, regionally or nationally significant concentrations of biodiversity values				Compartment Number	Value	Year	Stakeholder	Management Guidance	Monitoring	Area (Ha)	HCV Decision
<p>6) Does the forest lie within or contain a conservation area a) designated by an international authority, b) designated by relevant federal/provincial legislative body or c) identified in regional land use plans? (Continued)</p>	<p>Ontario Nature is a non-profit organization based in Toronto that promotes the preservation and conservation of natural areas in the province of Ontario. It was established in 1931 as the Federation of Ontario Naturalists and changed its name to Ontario Nature in 2004.</p> <p>Ontario Nature owns the Lewington Ontario Nature Reserve, which is a property immediately adjacent to one of the Bruce County Forest's Amabel Tracts.</p>	<p>Ontario Nature website</p>	<p>Property Location: Town of South Bruce Peninsula, Amabel Township, Concession D, Part Mill Lot, Roll Number: 410254001621600 Area= 51 ha</p>	<p>Bordering on property of Bruce County Forest: Amabel Tract Compartment 8</p>	<p>Lewington Ontario Nature Reserve</p>	<p>2012</p>	<p>Ontario Nature</p>	<p>OMNRF Forest Management Guidelines</p>	<p>Prior to harvest operations</p>	<p>29</p>	<p>HCV</p>

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Category 1) Forest areas containing globally, regionally or nationally significant concentrations of biodiversity values				Compartment Number	Value	Year	Stakeholder	Management Guidance	Monitoring	Area (Ha)	HCV Decision
6) Does the forest lie within or contain a conservation area a) designated by an international authority, b) designated by relevant federal/provincial legislative body or c) identified in regional land use plans? (Continued)	<p>Ontario Parks is the branch of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry that administers the provincial parks in Ontario.</p> <p>Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry owns the Sauble Falls Provincial Park, which is immediately adjacent to one of the Bruce County Amabel Tracts.</p>	Ontario Parks website	<p>Property Location: Town of South Bruce Peninsula, Amabel Township, Concession C, Part Mill Lot, Roll Number: 410254001703110 Area = 23 ha</p>	<p>Bordering on property of Bruce County Forest: Amabel Tract Compartment 46</p>	Saubel Falls Provincial Park	N/A	Ontario Parks	OMNRF Forest Management Guidelines	Prior to harvest operations	32	HCV
6) Does the forest lie within or contain a conservation area a) designated by an international authority, b) designated by relevant federal/provincial legislative body or c) identified in regional land use plans? (Continued)	<p>Provincial Nature Reserves are areas of public land identified as conservation reserves, which are managed to permit natural ecosystems to operate with minimum human interference.</p>	Ontario Parks website	<p>Property Location: Municipality of Northern Bruce Peninsula, Lindsay Township, Concession 1 West of Boundary Road, Part Lot 8, Roll Number: 410966000201300 Area = 30 ha</p>	<p>Bordering on property of Bruce County Forest: Lindsay Tract Comparments 66 and 67</p>	Ira Lake Provincial Nature Reserve	1972	Ontario Parks	OMNRF Forest Management Guidelines	Prior to harvest operations	30	HCV
	<p>There are six Provincial Nature Reserves located within Bruce County; however, only the Ira Lake Provincial Nature Reserve, borders on a County forest tract.</p>		<p>Cabot Head Nature Reserve, Bruce Alvar Nature Reserve, Smokey Head-White Bluff Nature Reserve, Lion's Head Nature Reserve, Hope Bay Nature Reserve.</p>	N/A	Provincial Nature Reserve	N/A		N/A	N/A	Not an HCV	

Natural Heritage Information Centre Listed Species for Bruce County	Summary of High Conservation Value Attributes: APPENDIX 1			Eastern Ontario Model Forest High Conservation Value:				
	1) Habitat Description Information	2) Bruce County Forest Tract Occurrence	3) Status 4) Risk From Forest Operations 5) Management Guidance	Compartment Number	Year Listed	Stakeholder	Monitoring	Area (Ha)
Eastern Meadowlark (Sturnella magna)	<p>1) Breed primarily in moderately tall grasslands, pastures, and hayfields, but are also found in alfalfa fields, weedy borders of croplands, roadsides, orchards, airports, shrubby overgrown fields, or other open areas.</p> <p>2) Elem. Occur: Culross Con. 2, Lot 33; Albermarle Tract; Brant Tract</p> <p>3) Threatened.</p> <p>4) Minimal risk.</p> <p>5) Eastern Meadowlark in Ontario Recovery Strategy, May 31, 2013</p>	Culross South Tract, Con 2. Lots 33, Stand 1	Albermarle Tract Compartments 1,2,6	January 13, 2012	OMNRF	Prior to harvest operations.	15	HCV
							116.8	
							6.3	
Hungerford's Crawling Water Beetle (Brychius hungerfordi)	<p>1) Found in small to medium-sized streams with cool, high quality, fast-flowing water, often immediately downstream from beaver dams, culverts and man-made barriers.</p> <p>2) The Rankin, Saugeen, and North Saugeen Rivers.</p> <p>3) Endangered.</p> <p>4) Minimal risk from harvesting (Check Cat. 1 - Section 2) Endemic Species)</p> <p>5) Hungerford's Water Beetle Recovery Strategy, January 11, 2013.</p>	Brant Tract Compartment 5	Amabel Tract Compartment 7	January 13, 2012	OMNRF	Monitoring not required unless work is undertaken in the area.	60.7	HCV
							20	
Massasauga Rattlesnake (Sistrurus catenatus)	<p>1) Different types of habitats: tall grass prairie, bogs, marshes, shorelines, forests and alvars, but always require open areas to warm in the sun. Hibernate in bedrock, sphagnum swamps, root cavities and animal burrows where they get below the frost line but above the water table.</p> <p>2) Element Occurrences in Lindsay and Albermarle Tracts</p> <p>3) Threatened.</p> <p>4) Moderate risk. Use timing restrictions to mitigate risk. No Harvesting from Sept 1st to Oct 15th and April 15th to June 1st during hibernacula entrance and exit times.</p> <p>5) MNR Forest Management Guide for Conserving Biodiversity at the Stand and Site Scales.</p> <p>Massasauga in Ontario Recovery Strategy, May 31, 2016</p>	Lindsay Tract: 2,6,7,8,11,13,17,18,19,22,23,24,26,27,29,33,34,35,36,37,38,39,40,43,45,46,47,48,49,53,58,60,62,66,67,68,70,71,96,101,102,105,108,110,112,113,114,115,116,117,118,119,121,123,125,127,130,132,134,138,139,140,141,142,149	Albermarle Tract Compartments 2,4,5	June 27, 2014 The Great Lakes-St. Lawrence population listed as threatened.	OMNRF	Prior to harvest operations.	812	HCV
							57.7	

Natural Heritage Information Centre Listed Species for Bruce County	Summary of High Conservation Value Attributes: APPENDIX 1			Eastern Ontario Model Forest High Conservation Value:					
	1) Habitat Description Information	2) Bruce County Forest Tract Occurrence	3) Status 4) Risk From Forest Operations 5) Management Guidance	Compartment Number	Year Listed	Stakeholder	Monitoring	Area (Ha)	HCV Decision
Queensnake (<i>Regina septemvittata</i>)	<p>1) Prefers rivers, streams and lakes with clear water, rocky or gravel bottoms, a lot of places to hide, and an abundance of crayfish. Hibernacula include abutments of old bridges and bedrock crevices.</p> <p>2) Element Occurrences in Lindsay Tracts</p> <p>3) Endangered.</p> <p>4) Minimal risk from harvesting activity.</p> <p>5) Queensnake in Ontario Recovery Strategy, February 18, 2011</p>			Lindsay Tract Compartments: 89,91,96,100,138,139,140	September 28, 2010	OMNRF	Prior to harvest operations.	327	HCV
Spotted Turtle (<i>Clemmys guttata</i>)	<p>1) Prefers ponds, marshes, bogs and even ditches with slow-moving, unpolluted water, and an abundant supply of aquatic vegetation.</p> <p>2) Element of Occurrence: Amabel Tract</p> <p>3) Endangered</p> <p>4) Minimal risk from forest harvesting activity, sensitive habitat areas will be buffered.</p> <p>5) General Habitat Protection - June 30, 2013</p>			Amabel Tract Stand 8 Culross South Tract, Con 1, Lot 32, Compartment 9	Already assessed as endangered prior to the ESA taking effect in 2008.	OMNRF	Prior to harvest operations.	29 7.7	HCV

Item	Rationale	Sources of information	Further Guidance	EOMF HCV:							
Category 3) Forest areas that are in or contain rare, threatened or endangered ecosystems				Compartment Number	Value	Year	Stakeholder	Management Guidance	Monitoring	Area (Ha)	HCV Decision
8) Does the forest contain naturally rare ecosystem types?	Alvar Vegetative Communities. Dry Open Alvar Pavement Type, Provincially ranked as S3, which is considered Rare to Uncommon, Globally very rare.	Bruce County Forest Management Plan 2002-2021	Ecological Land Classification for southern Ontario, First Approximation	Lindsay Tract Lot 15, concessions 4 and 5 WBR	Site is poor quality, limited potential, no significant fauna identified.	2001	OMNRF NCC	Areas are designated as non productive forest land. Delinate areas as restricted access AOCs during forest operations.	Monitoring not required	Recorded as "small size", exact area is unknown.	HCV
	Lindsay Tract Lot 16, concession 4 WBR			Larger site, greater ecological potential, no significant fauna identified.	2001	Listed as "4X the size of the first alvar site", area is unknown.					
	Lindsay Tract Lot 8, concessions 1 and 2 WBR and Lot 9 concession 2 WBR			Ira Lake Fen	2001	Area of fen is unknown					
	Twig-rush Open Fen Type. Provincially ranked as S3, which is considered Rare to Uncommon, Globally very rare.										
10) Are large landscape level forests (i.e. large unfragmented forests) rare or absent in the forest or Ecoregion?	Large landscape level forests are rare in Ecoregion 6E. The Bruce Peninsula represents the largest remaining forested area in Ontario south of the Canadian Shield. 6E is the province's second most densely populated ecoregion, with almost 60% of the area being used for cropland. The total forest cover of Ecoregion 6E is 30.1%, compared to a total forest cover of 69.15% for the Bruce Peninsula.	The Ecosystems of Ontario, Part 1: Ecozones and Ecoregions The Bruce Peninsula Biosphere Association Conservation and Stewardship Plan, Supporting Community Action on the Bruce Peninsula	The Bruce Peninsula Biosphere Association Forest Connectivity Strategy	Lindsay Tract	The Bruce Peninsula has 66146.7 ha of forest cover.	N/A	N/A	Maintain integrity of the County's forest canopy cover, so that it continues to contribute to the Bruce Peninsula's overall total forest cover.	Monitoring not required	The 2867 ha of forest owned by Bruce County on the Bruce Peninsula represents 4% of the total forested area.	HCV

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)				Compartment Number	Value	Year	Stakeholder	Management Guidance	Monitoring	Area (Ha)	HCV Decision
12) Does the forest provide a significant source of drinking water?	Addresses wellhead areas important for the protection of drinking water.	Bruce County Geocortex GIS Mapping Layers, Wellhead Protection Area Boundary and Intake Protection Zone	Saugeen, Grey Sauble, Northern Bruce Peninsula Drinking Water Source Protection Plan	N/A (No Bruce County Forest Tracts are Near Wellhead Protection Areas)	Wellhead Protection Areas	N/A	Local Communities and Municipalities	Source Protection Policies	Monitoring not required unless threat activity is undertaken in the area	N/A	Not an HCV
13) Are there forests that provide a significant ecological service in mediating flooding and/or drought, controlling stream flow regulation, and water quality?	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
14) Are there forests critical to erosion control?	During homesteading, the Sauble Beach area had all of the trees removed, and the result was a near desert condition with wind eroding the sandy soils. In 1938 the County purchased land and planted trees to stabilize the soil.	The Bruce County Forest Management Plan 2001-2021	N/A	Amabel Tracts near Sauble Beach	Red Pine White Pine Mixed Hardwoods Sandy Soil Stabilization	N/A	Municipality of South Bruce Peninsula Saugeen First Nation	Bruce County Forest Management Plan	Monitoring not required in the absence of an unplanned and natural large scale site disturbance	713.9	HCV

15) Are there forests that provide a critical barrier to destructive fire (in areas where fire is not a common natural agent of disturbance)?	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
16) Are there forest landscapes (or regional landscapes) that have a critical impact on agriculture or fisheries?	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

Review of Bruce County High Conservation Value report
Prepared for: Kevin Predon, Bruce County

December 7, 2017

The purpose of this letter is to present my review of the Bruce County High Conservation Value report submitted to Rainforest Alliance as a part Forest Stewardship Council certification for Bruce County forests. In my review of the information in the HCV report, I considered requirements and considerations within the EOMF Policies and Procedures Manual and the FSC Principles and Criteria for Forest Stewardship. As a biogeographer, with an MSc and PhD in Geography, my expertise is in population dynamics of trees, species range limits and changes through time, forest ecosystem processes, long term forest change, physical environments, biodiversity, evolution and extinction processes.

The Bruce County utilized a wide range of sources of information from databases and publications to assess the high conservation values of the forest management unit. These sources are current and include governmental documents (e.g., Natural Heritage Information Centre, Species at Risk registries, OMRF Significant Wildlife Habitat information, Bruce County Forest Management Plan, County of Bruce Official Plan), non-governmental organization documents (e.g., NCC's Conservation Plan, BPBA's Conservation and Stewardship Plan, Escarpment Biosphere Conservancy information) and information from local groups and experts (e.g., rare and endangered species list from Owen Sound Field Naturalists). One possible addition would be the inclusion of any additional information available for the portion of Lindsay Tract that falls within the Ira Lake and the Bruce County Forest Miller Lake ANSI's (Life Sciences). In total, the information gathered was extensive and resulted in a thorough documentation of conservation features and sound rationale for the delineation of HCV categories present within the forest management unit. In the HCV designation, Bruce County has identified and taken into consideration the important conservation features neighbouring the management unit. Being familiar with the forest areas in southern Ontario, the ecosystems and physical environments of Bruce County, and in examining the working copy of the forest unit features, I support the final report assessment of three categories of HCV within the management unit and presented in the final report.

In examining the management and monitoring information in the report, Bruce County has accessed appropriate documents and expert advice to guide an adaptive and precautionary approach in their management and monitoring plans. Document guides include: recovery strategies where available for species at risk, MNRF's Forest Management Guide for Conserving Biodiversity at the Stand and Site Scales, BPBA Forest Connectivity Strategy and several policies and management plans. The report summarizes appropriate management strategies and actions to maintain and in some cases enhance the HCV features. In the instance where there is little scientific guidance on management of a HCV feature, such is the case for alvars, Bruce County has taken a precautionary approach through the designation of a restricted access AOC during operations. The planned monitoring schedules, prior to harvest operations, annually, or less frequently, are appropriate to the specific HCV features presented in the report.

I consider this report to be complete and accurate to the HCV features in the Bruce County forest management unit.

Sincerely,



Dr. Katherine McLeod, PhD