NS-DOC-020 Forest Management Plan & Monitoring Public Summary

Field	Entry
Document	NS-DOC-020 Forest Management Plan & Monitoring Public Summary
Version	1
Issued by	NativState, LLC, Applicant for FSC Group Entity
Owner	Compliance Manager
Standards	FSC-STD-USA-02-2026 (FSC US Forest Stewardship Standard V2.0); FSC-STD-30-005 V2-1 (forest management groups); FSC-STD-50-001 V3-0 (trademark use); SFI 2022 Forest Management Standard
FSC certificate	In Progress
Review cycle	Management plan summary: when plans change materially. Monitoring summary: annually, after the management review (NS-DOC-015)
Location	DOC / Group DOC; published at [nativstate.com/certification]

1. About this summary

This document is NativState's free public summary of the management plans for every management unit (MU) in its FSC group, and of the group's monitoring results. It meets FSC-STD-USA-02-2026 Criterion 7.5 (Indicators 7.5.1 and 7.5.2) and Criterion 8.4 (Indicator 8.4.1) and outlines the plan elements required by Criteria 7.1 and 7.2.

What we withhold, and why. We publish findings but protect three kinds of information:

- Locations of sensitive sites, such as archaeological sites and rare-species occurrences, to keep them from being disturbed.
- Personal details of individual landowner members. MUs are identified by code, county and ownership type unless the member agrees to be named.
- Commercially confidential data, such as detailed timber volumes, prices and contract terms.

Getting more. Stakeholders may request other non-confidential parts of a management plan through the contact in Section 11. We respond within [30] days at no charge.

2. NativState and the group

NativState, LLC will hold an FSC forest management and chain of custody (FM/COC) group certificate as Group Entity and is also the resource manager for every enrolled MU. Members keep ownership of their land. NativState prepares each MU's management plan, carries out field management, and runs the group's internal monitoring and audits.

- **Scope:** forest management and chain of custody (FM/COC). Products from enrolled MUs are sold with the claim “FSC 100%” up to the forest gate, the log landing or roadside deck where ownership passes to the buyer. NativState and its members do not buy, process or trade certified material beyond the forest gate.
- **Members:** 18 private landowner entities in Arkansas, 60,293.80 gross acres and 58,607.08 FSC-certified acres, in four groupings: Groups A, B, C and D.
- **Ownership type:** all private. No public land is in the group.
- **Phased expansion:** the certificate starts with Arkansas. Members in Kentucky, Alabama, Georgia, Oklahoma, Louisiana, Missouri, Mississippi, Texas, South Carolina, North Carolina and Tennessee will be added as they enroll. When NativState enrolls Forest Management Units (FMUs) in a new state or region, the Group Entity will apply all regional requirements in effect for that location
- **Group rules:** members sign the Group Member Agreement & Declaration of Consent (NS-DOC-012) and follow the Group Rules (NS-PROC-002).

Ownership, legal status and rights of others. Every MU is privately owned in fee by its member. Rights held by others that affect management:

- ACR carbon project agreements on every MU (40-year terms).
- A conservation easement of about 2,931 acres on AR0077 (Group D). The easement is within FSC scope and includes a designated no-cut zone.
- Utility rights-of-way and public roads.
- Mineral, oil and gas, hunting and other leases

No Indigenous Peoples' rights or customary use rights have been identified on any MU to date.

3. Management units

The group has 18 MUs. Each one is a separate private ownership with its own management plan, and each is designated in full as part of the Conservation Areas Network. Gross acres are taken from each MU’s management plan, 60,293.80 in total. Certified acres are gross acres less the Non-FSC areas delineated on the stand maps (open water, private roads, easements and rights-of-way, maintained openings and food plots, a levee, camp and residential areas), 1,686.72 acres in all, leaving 58,607.08 FSC-certified acres (about 23,717 ha).

MU	Group	County	Gross ac	Non-FSC ac	Certified ac	Small forest (SLIMF)	HCVs designated
AR0064	Group A	Union, Ouachita, Cleveland, Calhoun	2,125.35	132.29	1,993.06	Yes	None
AR0065	Group A	Dallas, Ouachita	1,033.73	24.23	1,009.50	Yes	None

MU	Group	County	Gross ac	Non-FSC ac	Certified ac	Small forest (SLIMF)	HCVs designated
AR0066	Group A	Ouachita	160.64	1.21	159.43	Yes	None
AR0067	Group A	Ouachita	3,104.75	105.71	2,999.04	No	None
AR0068	Group A	Ouachita	117.19	4.93	112.26	Yes	None
AR0069	Group A	Ouachita	977.59	37.59	940.00	Yes	None
AR0070	Group A	Ouachita, Union	190.63	1.50	189.13	Yes	None
AR0071	Group A	Nevada, Ouachita	526.03	26.05	499.98	Yes	None
AR0210	Group A	Dallas, Ouachita	169.51	6.82	162.69	Yes	None
AR0214	Group A	Dallas	144.72	2.08	142.64	Yes	None
AR0215	Group A	Ouachita	159.29	16.20	143.09	Yes	None
AR0216	Group A	Cleveland	709.70	25.97	683.73	Yes	HCV 1 (river corridor)
AR0154	Group B	Ouachita	279.69	7.69	272.00	Yes	None
AR0157	Group B	Ouachita, Columbia, Calhoun	5,243.16	168.49	5,074.67	No	HCV 6 (cultural sites)
AR0158	Group B	Clark, Ouachita, Columbia	405.50	4.92	400.58	Yes	HCV 1 (river corridor)
AR0159	Group B	Ouachita	327.55	6.34	321.21	Yes	None
AR0152	Group C	Arkansas, Desha	2,559.77	312.70	2,247.07	No	None

MU	Group	County	Gross ac	Non-FSC ac	Certified ac	Small forest (SLIMF)	HCVs designated
AR0077	Group D	Ouachita, Calhoun, Union	42,059.00	802.00	41,257.00	No	HCV 1, HCV 4, HCV 6
Total			**60,293.80**	**1,686.72**	**58,607.08**		

"None" means all six HCV categories were assessed and none were found. Small-forest status uses the 2,470-acre (1,000 ha) threshold applied to each MU's gross area, which includes its Non-FSC areas.

4. Management objectives

The group's forests are managed mainly for ecosystem services, chiefly long-term carbon storage, with timber harvest kept below forest growth. Every MU is enrolled in an improved forest management carbon project registered with the American Carbon Registry (ACR): Group D (AR0077) in ACR 900, all other MUs in ACR 1016. Each project runs 40 years and is verified by an independent third party.

Objectives shared by all MUs:

1. Increase carbon stored in the forest, verified through ACR monitoring.
2. Harvest at or below each planning unit's sustained-yield ceiling (Section 6).
3. Maintain and enhance high conservation values, rare species habitat and water quality.
4. Keep natural-forest character: mixed species, natural regeneration and varied structure and age.
5. Provide income to landowners from carbon and timber, and support local loggers, mills and contractors.
6. Respect the rights of workers, neighbors, Indigenous Peoples and local communities.

NativState does not make FSC ecosystem-services claims. Carbon credits are sold through ACR only.

Policies. Two group policies support every plan [confirm wording against the issued policies]:

- *Forest Management Policy* (v1.1): NativState commits to manage enrolled forests in conformance with the FSC Principles and Criteria and the SFI Standard, to obey applicable law, and to keep forests as forests.
- *Commitment to People and Communities* (v1.1): NativState commits to respect workers' rights, Indigenous Peoples' rights and the rights and interests of local communities, and to resolve concerns fairly.

Desired future condition. Older, fully stocked, mixed-species forests that store more carbon each decade, with natural pine-hardwood and bottomland hardwood character restored where past management simplified it. Each MU's management plan sets its own desired future condition.

5. Forest resources and classification

The group's forests are south Arkansas pine, pine-hardwood and bottomland hardwood forests on Coastal Plain and Arkansas River floodplain sites.

Group	Main forest types	Notes
ACR 1016 MUs (Groups A, B and C)	About 9,528 ac pine, 7,441 ac hardwood, 770 ac streamside zones	Planted and natural loblolly and shortleaf pine; bottomland hardwood in Group C
Group D (AR0077)	About 97% hardwood, 3% pine	Ouachita River bottomland and terrace hardwoods

Classification. Planted native pine stands that keep natural-forest characteristics (mixed species, natural regeneration, varied structure, streamside retention) are classified as semi-natural forest, not plantations. Only stands that meet the FSC plantation definition are managed as plantations.

No stands are converted to plantations or to non-forest use. No genetically modified trees are used. Inventory comes from timber cruises and permanent carbon plots.

History and natural disturbance. The MUs have long been managed as private timberland, including pine planting and periodic harvests, and entered their ACR carbon projects in 2023. Each MU's management plan records its own land-use and harvest history. Historic forests of the region were fire-maintained pine and pine-oak on uplands and flood-shaped bottomland hardwoods along the rivers. Natural disturbances affecting the MUs are flooding, wind and ice storms, drought, fire and southern pine beetle.

Landscape. The MUs lie in a working-forest landscape of industrial and family timberland, with public conservation lands nearby, such as Poison Spring State Forest/WMA, the Moro Big Pine Natural Area and Arkansas Post National Memorial. Major waterways crossing or bordering MUs include the Ouachita, Saline, Little Missouri and Arkansas Rivers. Riparian corridors and the whole-unit conservation designation maintain habitat connectivity across ownerships.

Soils. Soils range from sandy and loamy upland Coastal Plain soils to poorly drained clayey bottomland soils along the rivers; each MU's management plan describes its soils. Soils are protected through BMPs, wet-weather limits and keeping operations off saturated sites.

6. Silviculture and sustained yield

Harvest in every sustained-yield planning unit is kept below forest growth. ACR third-party verification confirms that each project stores more carbon over time, which is only possible when harvest stays below growth.

Sustained-yield planning unit	MUs	Harvest level	Planned harvest
Group A	12	Below growth	About 1.5% of biomass/yr; AR0064 about 3.5% managed pine
Group B	4	Below growth	About 1.5% of biomass/yr
Group C (AR0152)	1	Below growth	About 1.5% of biomass/yr

Sustained-yield planning unit	MUs	Harvest level	Planned harvest
Group D (AR0077)	1	Below growth	ACR 900 project scenario; partial harvest about 16% below common practice

Silviculture. Most harvests are thinnings in extended-rotation pine and selection or partial harvests in hardwood. Some MUs defer harvest entirely. Natural regeneration is preferred; planting uses native species only.

Operations. Harvests follow a written harvest plan, are inspected by a forester, and meet Arkansas forestry BMPs. Streamside management zones are not harvested except to protect the streambank.

How harvest levels are set. Each planning unit's allowable harvest is calculated from its timber cruise and the forest growth modeled for its ACR carbon project, and planned harvest is set below that level.

Roads and access. MUs use existing permanent roads, skid trails and landings. Roads and stream crossings are built and maintained to Arkansas BMPs, inspected after harvests, and closed or stabilized when not needed.

Product tracking and sales. Every load is tracked from the stump to the forest gate and recorded in the Product Sales Record & Harvest Ledger. Sales documents for certified products will carry NativState's FSC certificate code and the claim “FSC 100%”. Any FSC claim beyond the forest gate rests on the buyer's own chain-of-custody certificate. FSC trademarks are used only for promotion, under FSC-STD-50-001 and with FSC approval.

7. Environmental values

Each MU has an Environmental Assessment and an HCV Assessment, and both shape its plan. Five HCV areas are designated across four MUs; the other 14 MUs were assessed and have none.

HCV	Where	What it protects	Management
HCV 1	AR0216 (Saline River)	Critical habitat for federally listed freshwater mussels	No-harvest buffer; BMP crossings
HCV 1	AR0158 (Little Missouri River), about 8.8 ac	Critical habitat for the Ouachita fanshell mussel	No-harvest buffer
HCV 1	AR0077 (Ouachita River corridor)	Critical habitat for three listed mussels	No-harvest zone
HCV 4	AR0077	Drinking-water source area for Camden	Harvest and chemical restrictions
HCV 6	AR0157 and AR0077	Archaeological sites (locations withheld)	Avoided in all operations

Conservation Areas Network. Every MU is designated in full, well above the FSC minimum of 10%. Within it, representative sample areas, restoration areas, riparian zones and rare communities are each mapped and managed for their values.

Rare species. MUs are screened against Arkansas Natural Heritage Commission data and USFWS critical habitat. Species of conservation concern noted include bat species and deep-sand plants; locations are not published.

Water. Arkansas BMPs and streamside management zones apply on every MU, and exceeded where sensitive areas and areas of concern occur.

Invasive species. Inventories have found no critical invasives so far [confirm. Common privet is a minor presence, and harvest sites are checked for new invasions afterward.

Pesticides. NativState uses no FSC-prohibited pesticides, WHO Class 1a/1b products or Stockholm Convention chemicals. FSC highly hazardous pesticides on the restricted list are used only after an Environmental and Social Risk Assessment. Use is limited to site preparation, competition control and invasive control, and every application is recorded.

Biological control agents. None are used.

8. People and communities

NativState engages neighbors, Indigenous Peoples and other stakeholders before management decisions and gives advance notice of field operations.

- **Workers and contractors.** Loggers and contractors work under written health and safety risk assessments and NativState's training program. They must respect workers' rights in line with the ILO core labour conventions, including gender equity in hiring, pay and training.
- **Indigenous Peoples.** Tribes with historic ties to south Arkansas were invited to identify sites and concerns and to comment. Free, prior and informed consent is sought for any activity that could affect their rights.
- **Cultural sites.** Archaeological and historic sites are protected from operations, and their locations are not published.
- **Neighbors and stakeholders.** Adjacent landowners, agencies, conservation groups and local communities are identified and prioritized. Planned harvests are announced by signs posted on site.
- **Local benefits.** Harvests and services go to local loggers, mills and contractors wherever practical.
- **Legal compliance.** NativState keeps a register of applicable laws and reviews it each year.

Public access and recreation. The MUs are private land and are not open to general public access. Where landowners allow hunting or other recreation (for example, through hunting leases), it is managed so it does not harm HCVs, soils, water or wildlife habitat. Boundaries are posted and access roads gated where needed to prevent trespass, dumping and other unauthorized use. Each MU’s management plan describes its access and recreation arrangements.

9. Climate change

The group's management works against climate change by building and keeping forest carbon, and each plan assesses how the MU may be affected by a changing climate.

Risk	How it is managed
Flooding and extreme rainfall, especially on bottomland MUs	Streamside zones, BMP road and crossing design, wet-weather operating limits
Drought and heat stress	Mixed species, natural regeneration, avoiding over-dense stands
Wildfire	Fuel management and prescribed fire where appropriate
Insects and disease, such as southern pine beetle	Thinning to keep stands vigorous; salvage when needed
Wind and storm damage	Varied structure and age; prompt salvage

Carbon is measured on permanent plots and verified by ACR's third-party verifiers. Each MU's management plan describes its own climate risks and adaptation strategies.

10. Monitoring results

In 2025–2026, harvest in every planning unit stayed below forest growth. This section is updated each year after the management review.

How we monitor. NativState monitors harvest, regeneration, environmental and social impacts, HCVs and workers' safety. Carbon plots are remeasured and independently verified for ACR. Harvests are inspected by foresters, and the program is checked by internal audits and the annual management review.

TopicRecord		
Harvest vs growth, Group A	Below growth: thinnings on AR0064 and AR0067, one final harvest on AR0070	ACR 1016 RP2 monitoring
Harvest vs growth, Group B	Below growth: thinnings on AR0157 and AR0158	ACR 1016 RP2 monitoring
Certified sales and FSC claims	Five thinnings on group MUs (AR0065, AR0070, AR0157; 364 ac) were sold with FSC claims under the Four States (FSTOA) group certificate, before members transfer to NativState's certificate. Group D's 2026 hardwood thinning and salvage was sold without	NS-DOC-025 Product Sales Record & Harvest Ledger

TopicRecord		
	an FSC claim.	
Harvest, Groups C and D	Group D: hardwood thinning and salvage on about 1,000 ac, May–August 2026, below growth. Group C: no harvest recorded.	Harvest records
Carbon stock change		ACR verification reports
HCV condition		NS-DOC-023 HCV Monitoring Record
Harvest inspections and BMP compliance	6 harvests on group MUs visited: 5 thinnings (364 ac) and Group D's thinning and salvage (about 1,000 ac). Streamside zones present on all six.	Harvest inspections
Pesticide use	One aerial woody-release treatment in September 2026 on 185.9 ac across AR0065, AR0067 and AR0069 (Group A): Escort XP (metsulfuron-methyl), 7.0 lb active ingredient; Arsenal AC (imazapyr), 104.6 lb acid equivalent. Neither is an FSC highly hazardous pesticide. No other applications recorded.	NS-DOC-009
Invasive species		Post-harvest checks
Worker safety incidents	0	NS-DOC-021
Grievances and disputes	0 currently	NS-DOC-016 Dispute Register
Stakeholder comments	0 currently	NS-DOC-013
Audit findings	9–13 Nov 2026 audit	NS-DOC-003 CAR Register

11. Contact, comments and grievances

We welcome comments on this summary and on our management at any time.

Contact	Forest Certification Director, NativState, LLC
Email	bpalmer@nativstate.com

Phone	1-601-870-6222
Mail	1510 Mill Street Conway, AR
Web	[nativstate.com/certification]

Grievances. Complaints and disputes are handled under NS-PROC-005. They can be submitted by phone, email, mail, in person or through the online form on our website, and must be made or confirmed in writing; they may be submitted confidentially, and we do not tolerate retaliation. We acknowledge each one within 3 business days, complete an initial assessment within 7, normally finish our investigation within 15, and communicate a resolution within 30 business days of receipt. Every grievance is recorded in the Dispute Register (NS-DOC-016). Anyone not satisfied may contact our certification body, or use FSC's complaints process (FSC-PRO-01-008).Revision history