



WASHINGTON STATE DEPARTMENT OF
Natural Resources
Doug Sutherland - Commissioner of Public Lands

Proposed Forest Stewardship Council “Green” Certification for 145,000 acres of State Trust Lands

Washington’s Department of Natural Resources (DNR) is seeking Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) Certification on about 145,000 acres of forest land located within parts of King, Pierce, Thurston, Lewis, Kitsap, and Mason counties. The area is DNR’s South Puget Habitat Conservation Plan Planning Unit.

What is FSC “Green Certification?”

FSC is an international non-profit organization that endorses and certifies environmentally responsible, socially beneficial, and economically viable management of the world’s forests to promote responsible stewardship. Certification involves an inspection audit of a landowner’s forest management activities by an independent FSC-accredited team to verify that it meets internationally-agreed upon FSC forest management principles. If the forest unit complies with the FSC Standard, the landowner receives a certificate of conformance characterizing their forests as “green.”

What makes a forest “green?”

Forests that are grown to a set of standards that reduce negative environmental impacts are commonly known as “green” forests. A forest may become a “certified source” once the landowner has undergone an accredited certification process and demonstrated that it meets the FSC standards and principles.

The term “certified” is used to label products that have been produced from materials that conserve natural resources, such as lumber. In order for a product to be certified, it must maintain a “chain-of-custody” certification which begins with raw materials harvested by a “certified source” or forest such as DNR.

What does the FSC audit process involve for DNR?

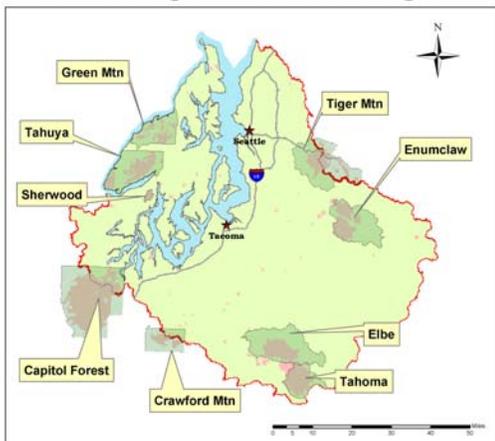
The FSC audit consists of two parts, a documentation verification portion and a field verification portion.

Documentation verification consists of comparing DNR policy and procedures with the international FSC Standard. Some of the documents being reviewed are the State Trust Lands Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP), Policy for Sustainable Forests, Sustainable Forest Management and the Riparian Forest Restoration Strategy. In addition to documentation review, senior and key DNR personnel are interviewed in order for FSC auditors to gain added insight into DNR policies, procedures and field activities.

Field verification is carried out on DNR activities such as timber harvests, silvicultural prescriptions, road conditions, Natural Area Preserves, Natural Resources Conservation Areas and Recreation Areas. This helps to verify that on-the-ground activities are consistent with agency policies and procedures, which must align with principles in the FSC Standard.

The audit team consists of a lead auditor working side-by-side with a secondary auditor and a team of specialists, including a biologist, social scientist and a roads engineer. The team works to ensure that every

South Puget HCP Planning Unit



Extreme care was used during the compilation of this map to ensure accuracy. However, due to changes in data and the need to rely on outside information, the Department of Natural Resources cannot accept responsibility for errors or omissions, and therefore, there are no warranties which accompany this material.



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aspect of the FSC standard is met. The audit is expected to take about one week, anticipated for June 2007. If the audit is successful, DNR will be issued a certificate to demonstrate conformance with the FSC Standard.

Does the public have a role in the certification process?

Yes. The auditing firm on contract, Bureau Veritas Certification North America, Inc. (Bureau Veritas), is soliciting comments from the public including stakeholders, other government agencies and tribes, to ensure an inclusive and transparent process. Through written comments or individual meetings with the auditors, each stakeholder will have the opportunity to support, discuss concerns or simply comment about what DNR is pursuing through FSC Certification.

If you would like to be added to the stakeholder outreach list, please contact: Bureau Veritas Certification North America, Inc., 515 West Fifth Street, Jamestown, NY 14701, (800) 937-9311
www.certification.us.bureauveritas.com.

Why Bureau Veritas?

Bureau Veritas is the most recognized certification body in the world. They are an accredited auditing firm for both the FSC and the Sustainable Forestry Initiative® (SFI®) Certification Standards. Presently, all DNR-managed forested trust lands are SFI® certified.

Bureau Veritas will simultaneously conduct the FSC Certification Audit for DNR's South Puget HCP Planning Unit along with the required annual SFI® Certification Surveillance Audit in South Puget Sound Region. Bureau Veritas is able to provide DNR with a separate experienced, skilled and professional lead auditor for each standard while sharing technical resources, which optimizes efficiency and consistency.

The contract was approved by the Washington State Office of Financial Management in April, 2007.

How does FSC "green" certification link to the consumer?

From a consumer perspective, the FSC label represents a promise that economical, environmental and social benefits of managing forestland compliment each other to ensure forests are well-managed. Customers have a choice to purchase products that promote responsible management of the world's forests. Buying certified products provides an incentive for responsible forest management.

FSC-certified materials are available in many kinds of products that include plywood and lumber to build homes, wood for furniture, and other types of household products like paint brush handles and yard sticks. It's the consumer that creates the market and pushes forest owners to grow and maintain healthy forests.

What is the difference between SFI® and FSC Certification?

While Sustainable Forest Initiative® (SFI®) was originally created by the "forest industry" and Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) was created by the "conservation" community, both now are governed by Boards made up of independent stakeholder groups with diverse representation from environmental and social groups, timber and trade professionals, private industry, community forest groups and forest product certification organizations.

Although they are slightly different, both standards encourage integration of perpetual growing and harvesting of trees with strong measures to protect wildlife, plants, soil, water, and air quality. Both standards provide a seal of approval that forests certified under these principles are well-managed.

Because they are separate certifications, each have individual market niches. By being dually certified, DNR may maximize its customer base.

What have we accomplished since we last considered FSC Certification?

DNR voluntarily underwent an assessment in 2003 against the Pacific Coast Regional FSC Standard. While DNR was considered well-managed, specific issues needed to be addressed to meet the standard. Since that time, DNR has:

- Developed Alternatives for Sustainable Forest Management and set the sustainable harvest level for Western Washington
- Completed the HCP Riparian Forest Restoration Strategy, in collaboration with the Tribes, Federal Services and other stakeholders
- Adopted the Policy for Sustainable Forests, which includes an Old Growth Policy
- Compiled a five-year comprehensive HCP implementation and monitoring report for State Trust Lands
- Developed a comprehensive report on the status of State Trust Lands in Washington which was presented to the Board of Natural Resources
- Initiated Forest Land Planning efforts in three of the six Westside HCP planning units, including the South Puget Planning Unit
- Increased efforts in law enforcement, recreation and science

By continually maintaining sustainable forest stewardship and through these additional investments and commitments, DNR seeks FSC certification with confidence.