

## **Congratulations to DNR on Forest Certification Under the Sustainable Forestry Initiative**

### **Trust Beneficiaries**

*Dean Bruce Bare, College of Forest Resources, University of Washington  
Member Board of Natural Resources*

Three years ago, I joined Commissioner Sutherland in a guest editorial endorsing natural resource sustainability as an overriding management concept for our State's forest lands. We argued together that sustainability and forest certification are broadly applicable concepts understandable by a wide range of stakeholders and the general public and should be used to guide the future management of our trust assets.

Today, sustainability is even more widely understood as the appropriate goal for managing our natural resource lands, because it seeks a dynamic balance of both the economic and conservation benefits those lands provide within a socially acceptable framework. And, it seeks this balance to meet the needs of society today and for future generations.

Conservation, protection, restoration and responsible management of our working forests and our natural ecosystems are undertaken to ensure that our natural resources continue to sustain all components of the forest ecosystem to meet the growing needs of an urbanizing population. Sustainability is a cornerstone concept that applies equally to working forests and natural area preserves.

We believe that most Washingtonians endorse this form of land stewardship and fully recognize the need to create working forests, healthy ecosystems and benefits for all the people of Washington in a proper, sustainable balance.

An increasingly important hallmark of sustainable forestry is independently verified forest certification, under a rigorous system such as that provided by the Sustainable Forestry Initiative. Not only stakeholders and the general public, but consumers and retailers of wood and paper products are increasingly sensitive to the environmental pedigree of what they consume and the environmental footprint of the production process.

As a member of the Board of Natural Resources, responsible for the policy direction for Washington State's state-managed trust forest lands, it's important to me to know that timber products from state trust lands have full access to today's marketplace.

As Dean of the College of Forest Resources at the University of Washington, I'm personally committed to using certification as a public indication of sustainable

management. Late last year, we received SFI certification for the University's Pack Experimental Forest, which we manage through our Center for Sustainable Forestry.

Therefore, I'm pleased to help congratulate the Department of Natural Resources today on the achievement of becoming the first western State to have its forest state trust lands receive independent third-party certification under the SFI Standard, and to launch its SFI program.

SFI certification of these trust lands is significant because of the strict standard of loyalty the trust manager must show to the interests of the trust beneficiaries – including Washington's schools and universities. Certification illustrates that sustainability and trust management are compatible, and in fact are mutually supportive.

Congratulations to DNR on this significant milestone. I'll look forward to seeing timber sales brought to the Board for approval with the SFI trademark in evidence, and seeing those sales pass into the growing market for certified forest products.

***Executive Director Bill Vogler, Washington Association of Counties***

WSAC and the benefiting timber counties would like to congratulate the Department of Natural Resources and the Board of Natural Resources on the successful completion of the SFI Certification Process. The Timber Counties of Washington have worked closely with the Board and department staff in bringing the land management policies for Washington's trust land to the point where this certification is possible.

WSAC's timber counties see this certification as further support for the sustainable, environmentally sensitive, economically viable, and balanced land management approach we take in Washington. Not only is sustainable forestry necessary to being a successful competitor in the world timber market, it is the right thing to do and it helps to bring in needed revenue for our communities, counties, and schools. Thanks to the Board and the Department for this step toward long-term success in managing Washington's trust lands.

***Councilmember Jane Hague, King County Council***

Congratulations to Lands Commissioner Sutherland and the State Department of Natural Resources for your leadership. This certification assures consumers and the general public that forested trust lands in Western Washington are managed sustainably and with environmental sensitivity. Your agency has set an example for other Western states to follow.

## **The Retail Sector**

*President and CEO Paul W. Hylbert, Lanoga*

We at Lanoga are very pleased to see the SFI Certification of the forestry practices for the State Lands in Washington.

Managing this large and valuable resource in a sustainable fashion is a responsibility with critical environmental, economic and social ramifications. Through certification, we are assured that our State's forest resources will be managed for the benefit of the various stakeholders for their short and long-term benefits.

As lumber is among the most environmentally friendly of all building products, it is highly appropriate that Doug Sutherland and the Department of Natural Resources have taken this important step.

## **Bureau Veritas Quality International, licensed independent auditor**

*President Randy Daugharthy, BVQi North America*

The audit commended DNR for environmentally-sensitive management of forest roads and timber harvest near streams as well as the close working relationship between DNR foresters and wildlife biologists.

## **Sustainable Forest Initiative Board**

*President Bill Banzhaf*

We welcome DNR's enrollment in the Sustainable Forestry Initiative Program. The SFI program is based on the integration of responsible environmental practices and sound business practices to the benefit of landowners, customers, and the people they serve. DNR is a perfect example of this approach.