



BUILDING & REMODELING WITH FSC

For Residential Projects



Building & Remodeling with FSC

Introduction



FSC is the best insurance policy the world's forests have.

Photo Credit: Northwest Natural Resource Group

If you are a developer, residential architect, homebuilder, remodeler or homeowner working on a residential project and you care about the environment, *Building & Remodeling with FSC* is essential for your toolbox. Forest Products Solutions has created the one-stop resource for incorporating responsible wood into your green residential project.

There is no doubt that building has a significant impact on the global environment. Residential construction accounts for 30% of the wood removed from US forests which makes it an even larger draw than the paper market. Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) certification gives you a tool for ensuring that the wood you use comes from responsibly managed forests. This guide provides you with methods to communicate the need and establish sources in your market so you can build with FSC-certified wood.

As globalization takes hold, more and more wood comes from outside of the US. Your choices in wood products drive not only the protection of biodiversity but also the fate of indigenous communities, the protection of water resources, and the ongoing removal of carbon gasses from our atmosphere. According to a recent study by the Global Canopy Programme (GCP) deforestation contributes 25% of the world's greenhouse gas emissions. Choosing the right wood helps stem global warming, protects people, and conserves forests. FSC is the best insurance policy the world's forests have.

Please use this guide to help conserve forests and reward forest managers and companies that share your values. Remember, wood is a renewable resource, but to be sustainable we must choose carefully. Using this guide makes it easy. Thanks for your contribution to forest conservation.

Michael P. Washburn, *Ph.D.*
President, Washburn Consulting



Forest Certification and FSC

Forest Certification



Principles of Forest Management

- Compliance with laws
- Tenure use rights and responsibilities
- Indigenous peoples' rights
- Community relations and workers' rights
- Benefits from the forest
- Environmental impact
- Management plan
- Monitoring and assessment
- Maintenance of high conservation value forests
- Plantations

See www.fscus.org for a more detailed explanation of these principles.

Photo Credits: The Collins Companies

Forest certification has been actively growing around the world for close to twenty years, as a method for forest land owners to prove to society that they practice responsible forestry. Prior to forest certification there was no mechanism for society to avoid buying forest products from irresponsible forestry practices. One reaction to these irresponsible forestry and logging operations was to boycott the use of wood products, or find alternatives to wood products. However, boycotts and the use of alternative products often results in forest land being converted to other economic uses, such as, grazing, agriculture or housing developments. Therefore, many leading experts believe that a forest certification system requiring landowners and manufacturers to invite third-party auditors to certify that their practices meet internationally recognized standards for responsible forest management, could answer some of society's concerns and stave off further damage to vulnerable ecosystems.

Since the early 1990's, forest certification systems have grown both in the number of manufacturing participants and in forested acres. Currently, there are more than 90 certification systems worldwide administered by government agencies, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), trade associations, and other entities. Each of these certification systems was created to demonstrate that a given forestry operation is meeting a particular set of standards. However, not all of these certification systems were created equal and not all of them require a transparent, multi-stakeholder process. In a world that is increasingly asking for more accountability and witnessing environmental degradation at the hands of natural resource-based industries, a transparent multi-stakeholder certification process that operates internationally and includes a system for tracking products is the only way to ensure protection of those forests.

Forest Stewardship Council (FSC)

The Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) is an independent, nonprofit organization that promotes the responsible management of the world's working forests through the development of standards, a certification system, and trademark recognition. A critical component of this system is the recognition of FSC's role as a facilitator of a collaborative process that unites stakeholders to form the FSC standard of forest management. The other key is the recognition that this process is dynamic, in that the



principles and criteria defining “good forestry” are subject to continual evaluation and improvement. Part of FSC’s uniqueness has resulted from this collaborative process, allowing the organization to interweave the best ideas of its diverse membership into solutions.

In 1994, FSC’s members approved an international set of principles and criteria. Under the FSC system, the principles and criteria provide the foundation for responsible forestry. Since its inception FSC’s third-party accredited certifiers have certified over 5,600 companies to sell FSC products in more than 70 countries, and nearly 225 million acres of forestland in 78 countries—an area larger than the states of Texas and Oklahoma combined. (As of June 2007)

FSC Membership

FSC’s membership is divided equally into three chambers:

Economic Chamber: Includes organizations and individuals with an interest in commercial forest products entities. A number of major retailers and forest products manufacturers are members of this chamber including Hayward Lumber, Columbia Forest Products and Tembec.

Social Chamber: Intended for indigenous organizations and social movements which have an active interest in environmentally viable forest stewardship. Members of the social chamber include unions, wood workers, indigenous groups, as well as organizations such as Forest Guild and Sustainable Northwest.

Environmental Chamber: Limited to non-profit organizations and NGOs with a demonstrated commitment to environmentally appropriate, socially beneficial, and economically viable forest stewardship. Some examples of current members include World Wildlife Fund, The Nature Conservancy, Greenpeace, National Wildlife Federation, and the Natural Resources Defense Council.

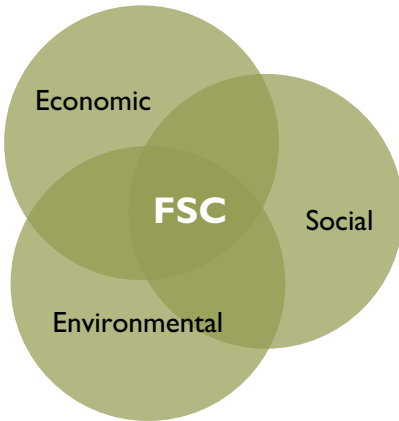
The purpose of the three-chamber system is to maintain a balance of voting power between the different interests within FSC. Each chamber has 33.3% of the voting power in the general assembly. Motions require an affirmative vote of 66.6% of the total vote to be adopted.



The principles and criteria that define “good forestry” are subject to continual evaluation and improvement.

Photo Credit: The Collins Companies





FSC Labels

FSC-certified products that are sold can be labeled with one of the following:



How Does FSC Certification Work?

Under the FSC system there are two types of certifications.

Forest Management (FM) certification applies to the actual forestland. This certification applies the FSC Principles and Criteria (and any FSC regional standards that may be present in the area) to the land base. In order for a parcel to receive FSC endorsement, its forest management practices must meet the FSC’s Principles and Criteria as certified by an FSC-accredited, third party auditor.

The certification process involves an initial assessment of the land, followed by annual audits. The certifier’s on-site visits verify compliance with FSC standards. A five-year contract is signed between the landowner and the certifier, committing the landowner to maintain the forest to FSC standards for the length of the contract. After five years, the process will start all over again with another full assessment, followed by annual audits.

Chain-of-Custody (COC) certification applies to the manufacturing and distribution chain that certified wood travels through before it is purchased by society. COC certification ensures that forest products carrying the FSC’s “checkmark-and-tree” label come from verified FSC-certified sources. Any use of the FSC label by a COC certificate holder must be pre-approved by the company’s certifier. All FSC claims are based solely on the origin of the wood, and in no way reference any aspect or quality of the product.

The chain-of-custody certification process is basically a verification of the manufacturer’s ability to separately track all FSC materials throughout their business, from purchasing and inventory control to manufacture and sale. For most organizations in North America this is a very simple, non-invasive process that verifies existing good business practices. COC certificate holders will have an initial assessment followed by annual audits, and enter into a five-year contract with the certifier.