

# SFN's Group Certification Program



# FSC Family Forests Program

To be certified as a Family Forest, a member has to meet at least one of these two qualifications:

- Forest area or ownership is no larger than 2470 acres.

OR

- The average annual harvest is no more than 20% of mean annual increment and no more than 5000M<sup>3</sup>/yr (2.2 MMBF or million board feet).

**Mean annual increment** is the potential or actual yield of a forest, calculated as the total volume of wood produced divided by the age (Volume of stand [m<sup>3</sup>/ha or MBF/ac]/Age of stand [yrs]).

# FSC Family Forests Program

- For small-scale forest owners, non-timber forest product producers and forest operations practicing low-level harvesting
- Streamlines the technical requirements for management plans, assessments, and monitoring

# Scale and Intensity

“Scale” refers to the size of a forest or facility.

“Intensity” refers to the intensity and complexity of management.

# Scale and Intensity

- FF Program is still new and undefined
- Minimal guidance available
- FSC will be developing more guidance
- SFN can provide advice

# Guidance on Scale & Intensity

FSC-GUI-60-100 Guidance on the Interpretation of FSC Principles and Criteria to take account of scale and intensity

# Guidance on Scale & Intensity

6.2 Safeguards shall exist which protect rare, threatened and endangered species and their habitats (e.g., nesting and feeding areas). Conservation zones and protection areas shall be established, appropriate to the scale and intensity of forest management and the uniqueness of the affected resources. Inappropriate hunting, fishing, trapping and collecting shall be controlled.

- *Very small forests (ie. <~25ac) including plantation forests: Protection is required only for specific features or habitat which are important for the protection of rare, threatened and endangered species and their habitats (eg. nest sites, feeding areas, etc.) and which are identified nationally.*

Example indicators:

- Where information exists on RTE species and their habitats, the forest manager uses this information to map and protect them.
- Other features which are important for conservation are identified and protected.
- Hunting or fishing ...with significant impacts is regulated.
- The use of fires is controlled inside the FMU and the forest manager assists in fire prevention or regulation in the surrounding area

Example verifiers:

- Forest manager accesses available information or databases on RTE species and ecosystems.

# Guidance on Scale & Intensity

**6.4 Representative samples of existing ecosystems within the landscape shall be protected in their natural state and recorded on maps, appropriate to the scale and intensity of operations and the uniqueness of the affected resources.**

- *As with 6.2, above, the focus for very small forests should be on specific conservation features and habitat, including restoration, as a contribution to representative samples in the landscape.*
- *If there are adequate off-site protected ecosystems already existing in the landscapes, the need for an individual small forest owner to protect a representative area is reduced.*

Example indicators:

- Low intensity forests, groups of small forests operations where timber harvesting is taking place: Representative samples of ecosystems that are unique and not under protection by public or private agencies known to exist in the FMU are identified, recorded on maps and excluded from the harvesting area.

# The Southern Forests Network



The Southern Forests Network brings together people, organizations, and businesses working to conserve private forestlands and cultivate sustainable forest economies in the South.

# The Southern Forests Network

We are working to:

- **Create strong, active partnerships** among landowners, forestry professionals, local forest products businesses, conservation organizations, state and federal agencies, educational and research institutions, and economic development organizations.
- **Provide landowners with tools and resources** that help them practice sustainable forestry and realize greater benefits from their forestland.
- **Enhance rural economies** through local value-added processing of sustainable forest products.
- **Develop markets** for local & sustainable forest products.

# The Southern Forests Network

Why group certification?

NEEDS:

- Help landowners understand the need for, and practice of, sustainable forestry
- Make sustainable forestry profitable
- Compete with imports
- Community organizing, capacity building & shared resources

# The Group Certification Program

## GOALS:

- Define and recognize good forestry
- Set sustainable forest products apart in the marketplace
- Provide infrastructure, tools, and support to make FSC certification and the practice of sustainable forestry highly accessible, affordable, and enjoyable
- Expand the benefits of certification

# SFN's Group Certification Program

- Allows many producers to join together
- Certifies forests and facilities
- Dramatically reduces costs of certification
- Centralizes structure, oversight, and administration
- Is a communications & learning network

# BEYOND CERTIFICATION

- Market Development
- Landowner Organizing
- Value-added Processing
- Enterprise Development
- Ecosystem Service Markets

# Growing Markets for FSC Products

- Green Building
- Paper
- Furniture

\* See markets report on the SFN website

# Growing Markets for FSC Products

SFN is working to maximize local economic benefits by:

- Providing COC certification
- Creating market links
- Cultivating buyer and consumer demand

# Growing Markets for FSC Products

## Current activities:

- LOCAL: community-based market linkage & development strategies
- REGIONAL: recruiting major manufacturers for certification
- NATIONAL: Community Forestry Business Alliance
- CONSUMERS: educating consumers about certification
- ECOSYSTEM SERVICES: exploring voluntary markets for carbon sequestration