

# Public Dialogue

## NFS Certification Study

Lessons Learned: SmartWood

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# Third-Party Auditing

- **Evaluation of conformance to defined standards**
  - *In light of evidence provided and discovered*
- **Standards are applied within the context of the candidate operation**
  - *In consideration of the scale & intensity of operation*
- **Auditing – by necessity – is sampling**
  - *Methodical and comprehensive, but ...*

# Common Misconceptions



- **Auditing, not advocating**
  - *Not making value judgments*
- **Not arbiters**
  - *Resolution of issues beyond role of auditors*
- **Stakeholder consultation**
  - *Input on conformance to augment other findings*
  - *Not scientific opinion poll*
- **Not a panacea**
  - *Limited to measuring conformance to specific, defined standards*

# What was Different?

- Size & complexity of the organization
- USFS Mission – wide ranging and comprehensive
- Depth & volume of “evidence” to consider
  - Documents, interviews, activities
- Political context – Robust engagement at local, regional & national levels
- “Challenging” environment: formal legal and administrative challenges
- FSC US Federal Lands Policy

# FSC-US Fed Lands Thresholds

## **1. Willing Landowner Participation**

- Agency expresses interest & willingness
- Requesting official has clear authority
- Agency polices permit external auditing & entering into certification contracts

## **2. Public Consensus**

- Timber Harvesting & Other Major Resource Management Practices
- FSC members, stakeholders, public-at-large
- Determined by FSC-US Board

## **3. Special National Indicators**

- Address special issues
- Developed for each federal land ownership category
- Developed by FSC-US & approved by FSC-US Board

# **“Additional Considerations”**

- Additional stakeholder concerns and/or management implications unique to the National Forest System
- Developed through consideration of the management objectives and constraints unique to the Forest Service, and include input from stakeholders
- Integrate the FSC regional standards, FSC DOD/DOE national standards, and additional stakeholder concerns

# CNNF Conformance with FSC

<b>FSC Principle</b>	<b>NC</b>	<b>AC</b>	<b>OBS</b>
P1: FSC Commitment & Legal Compliance	1	0	1
P2: Tenure & Use Rights and Responsibilities	1	0	0
P3: Indigenous People's Rights	0	0	1
P4: Community Relations & Workers Rights	0	0	1
P5: Benefits from the Forest	1	0	3
P6: Environmental Impact	1	2	8
P7: Management Plan	1	0	5
P8: Monitoring	2	0	5
P9: Maintenance of High Conservation Value Forest	2	0	0
P10: Plantations	0	0	0
Chain of Custody	1	0	0

# CNNF Conformance with SFI

<b>SFI Objective</b>	<b>NC</b>	<b>OFI</b>
1: Forestry Planning	0	1
2: Long-term Forest Productivity	0	4
3: Protect Water Quality	0	1
4: Wildlife & Biodiversity	0	0
5: Visual Quality	0	0
6: Special Sites	0	0
7: Utilization	0	0
9: Research	0	0
10: Training	<b>1</b>	2
11: Legal compliance	0	0
12: Public Outreach	<b>1</b>	0
13: Continual Improvement	1	0



# Challenging Issues

- **Communication**
  - *Internal & external*
- **Legal and administrative appeals**
  - *Delay & suspension of plans and activities*
- **Size of organization**
  - *Forest-level implementation of national policies*
  - *Big ship, turns slowly v. auditing cycle*
- **Budgeting & staffing**
  - *External influences, element of uncertainty*
  - *Ability to achieve goals and mandates unclear*
- **Issues not entirely controlled by NF**
  - *OGM, Wilderness, deer management*

# SmartWood

Practical conservation through  
certified forestry

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