

# Certification for Forest Owners



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# Forest Certification

forests = all size



–being grown (or managed) with a plan that contains all of the standards of a recognized certified system

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# Wood Certification



–wood or wood products that are made from timber grown in a certified forest.

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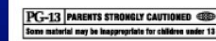
# Certification Is Not New



Underwriters Laboratory



USDA Prime Grade of Beef



Motion Picture Association  
PG-13 Rating

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**Combination of  
Wood and Forest Certification  
is a  
Market Solution  
that Ensures Sustainability of the  
Forest**

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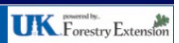
# Forest Certification

Forests managed for sustainability so that forest operations (harvesting, pesticide use, TSI, prescribed fire, etc.):

- protect the environment
- sustainably produce timber and fiber
- enhance wildlife, bio-diversity and habitats
- safe to humans
- protect special sites (historic, archeological, etc.)
- protect species of concern
- maintain ecosystem function

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## The Difference Between Managing Well and Being Certification?

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IS PROVING THROUGH A 3<sup>RD</sup> PARTY AUDIT THAT YOU ARE DOING WHAT YOU SAY YOU ARE DOING.

## The Difference Between Managing Well and Being Certification?

- prove forest management is being done according to a set of “standards” that ensures sustainability

### Certification Legitimacy

- standards developed by a second or third party organization and third party audited
  - 1<sup>st</sup> party: you develop your own standards
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> party: an organization develops standards
  - 3<sup>rd</sup> party: standards developed by organization not directly involved in ownership

- standards reflect the organizations:
  - position and policies on sustainability
  - geographic/political scope
- **ULTIMATELY** – differences in standards reflect how organizations define sustainability, their disposition to different components of sustainability and the area they encompass (country, continent, globe)

- What Does Sustainability Include?
- What is Emphasized?

- What Does Sustainability Include?
- What is Emphasized?
  - Forests ability to sustainably provide timber and non-timber products
  - Protect Special Species and Sites
    - Rare and Threatened Species, Archeological, Historical
  - Provide for social sustainability
    - Protections for local communities and peoples
    - Local economic development and opportunities
  - Protect the Overall Environment
  - Ecosystem Function of the Forest
  - Ecosystem at the Landscape Level

## Interest in Certification

- **Corporations, Architects, Society**

- build and use more certified wood products



- **Secondary industries**

- furniture, cabinet manufactures, flooring, trim, paneling, etc. have clients placing orders for certified wood products

- **Primary industries**

- sawmills, pulpmills have orders for certified lumber and paper

## Why ?

- Society wants to know that everything is being done in an environmentally and socially sound manner.
- Modern certification was developed in response to environmental activists (initially in Europe) protesting against illegal logging - strapping themselves to trees, etc. etc.

## Activists Switched From Protesting in Forests to Protesting Against Board Rooms and Retailers



Protests at Home Depot Stores Nationwide



1999 - commitment to stop selling wood from endangered forests and begin buying "certified"

Source: RAN



## Certification Helps –

### Industries/Businesses

Policies that indicate preference for certified products indicate to concerned public that they are doing their part to help protect forests, the environment, and people.

### Forest Owners

Provide an acceptable method of proving good management

## Certification Helps – Forest Owners

### Forest Owners (Large Acreage)

Provides market opportunities for timber and pulpwood.

### Woodland Owners (Family Forests or NIPF)

- Timber and pulpwood market preference
- Increased assistance
- Improved oversight of operations
- Other non-timber market opportunities

## Types of Certification



**Forest Management (FM)**  
All sizes and ownership types



**Chain-of-Custody (CoC)**  
forest and wood industry



**Point-of-Harvest**  
logging

## Forest Certification

Simple

Complex



## Forest Certification

Simple

Complex



county/region

global

## Forest Certification

Simple

Complex



county/region

global

expert opinion based

prescriptive

## Forest Certification

Simple

Complex



county/region

global

expert opinion based

prescriptive

functional legal structure    nonfunctional legal structure

## Forest Certification

Simple

Complex



county/region

global

expert opinion based

prescriptive

functional legal structure    nonfunctional legal structure

first/second party

third party

## FM Systems



American Tree Farm – primarily for family or privately owned in the U.S. woodlands.

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Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI) – for industry owned forests in North America.

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Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI) – for industry owned forests in North America.



Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) – for all types of forests – internationally recognized.

## FM Systems



Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification (PEFC)

## FM Systems



### Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification (PEFC)



**Certification that  
endorses other  
certification systems**

## FM Independent or Group

- **Independent Certificate**
  - required by FSC for over 2,470 acres
  - Individual landowner bears burden of audit costs and certificate costs
- **Group Certificate ATFS (IMG) or FSC**
  - Organization runs group (Group Manager)
  - Individual joins group
  - Group manager distributes costs
  - Group manager handles some issues for landowners

## Independent Forest Certification

- **Written Management Plan** using Qualified Professional consistent with Standards
- **Develop Contract with Certifying Body** to conduct audit
  - SFI/ATFS (ex. PriceWaterHouseCoopers for ATFS)
  - FSC – (ex. Rainforest Alliance, Scientific Certification System)
- **Certifying Body provides certificate** (3-5 yrs)
- **Annual and Periodic Audit Required**

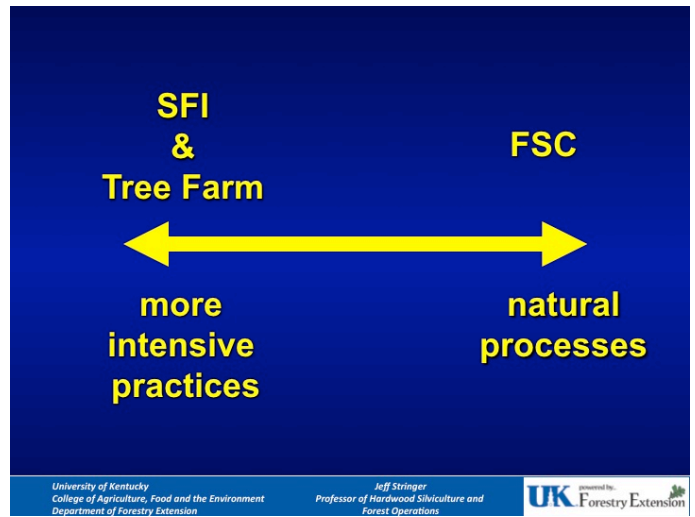
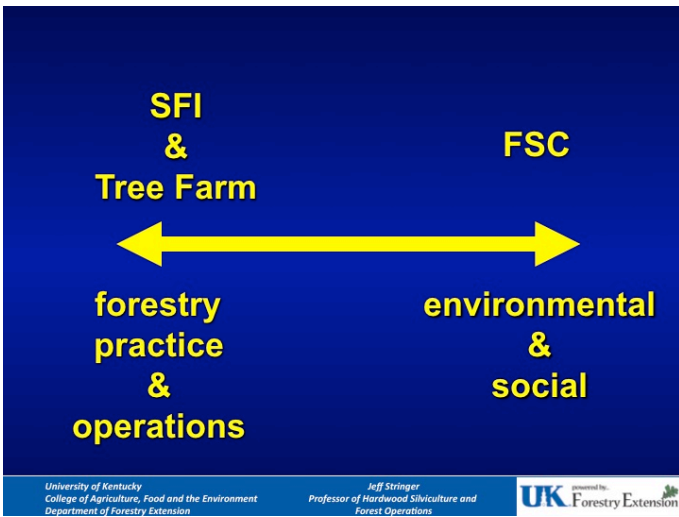
## Group Forest Certification

- **Written Management Plan** using Qualified Professional consistent with Standards
- **Join Group** (free or fee)
- **Group Manager will audit** periodically
- **Occasionally forest owner will also get audited** by Certifying Body

## Group Certification

- **Virtually all family forests get certified via a group**
- **Reduces costs significantly**
  - (ex. \$2,000 vs \$200 or \$20)
- **Only periodic auditing is required**
- **Group manager handles some certification issues for you**

**All systems  
were designed  
to achieve sustainable use  
over the long-term.**



- ### SFI Standards
- Forest Management Planning
  - Forest Productivity
  - Water Quality
  - Conservation of Biological Diversity including Exceptional Conservation Value
  - Protect Special Sites
  - Efficient Use of Forest Resources
  - Legal and Regulatory Compliance
  - Forestry Research, Science and Technology
  - Training and Education
  - Community Participation
  - Public Land Management Responsibilities
  - Communications and Public Reporting
  - Management Review and Continual Improvement
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### American Tree Farm System

oldest most wide spread system in the US

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**8 principles**

**Trained Inspectors Used** (in certification terms these would be internal or group auditors)

**3<sup>rd</sup> Party Auditing is Now in Place**

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- Sustainable Forestry
- Compliance with Laws
- Reforestation/Afforestation
- Air, Water and Soil Protection
- Fish, Wildlife, Biodiversity
- Forest Aesthetics
- Protect Special Sites
- Forest Product Harvests and Other Activities

**8 Standards**

**23 indicators**

**Generally Aligned with SFI**

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**FSC**

## Forest Stewardship Council

WORLD FOREST MAP SHOWING CERTIFIED FOREST SITES ENDORSED BY FSC, 8 November 2001

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**FSC**

- Comply with Laws
- Tenure and Use Rights
- Indigenous Peoples' Rights
- Relations and Workers Rights
- Benefits from Forest
- Environmental Impact
- Management Plan
- Monitoring
- High Conservation Forests
- Plantations

10 Global Principles  
56 Criteria  
138 indicators  
Verifiers

Note: currently under review and update

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**FSC**

## FSC – regional provisions

United States

please choose a region to get the principles specific to that area:

- Pacific Coast
- Rocky Mountain
- Southwest
- Non-Forested
- Ozark-Quachita
- Northeast
- Appalachian
- Southeast
- Lake States
- Mississippi Alluvial Valley

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## Contrast Clearcuts

<p><b>SFI</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● 120 acres maximum, greater for natural disturbances</li> </ul>	<p><b>FSC</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● no complete clearcuts in natural stands</li> <li>● retention to mimic natural disturbance</li> <li>● 40 acres avg. in plantations, max. 80</li> </ul>
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## Contrast Chemicals

<p><b>SFI</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● follow label</li> </ul>	<p><b>FSC</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● certain chemicals banned</li> <li>● show prudent use and reduction in chemical use</li> </ul>
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## Contrast Plantations

<p><b>SFI</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● any amount</li> <li>● prudent use of pesticides</li> <li>● GMO's allowed</li> </ul>	<p><b>FSC</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● no new conversions</li> <li>● old plantations before 1994 OK</li> <li>● restricted pesticides</li> <li>● local sources</li> </ul>
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## Contrast Plantations

### SFI

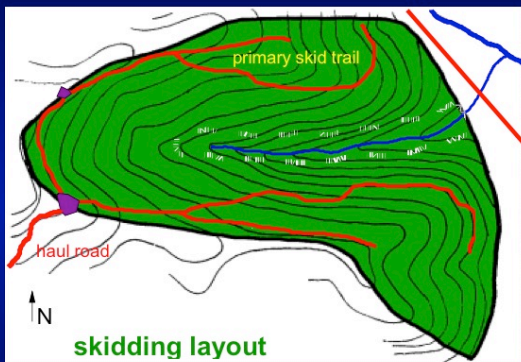
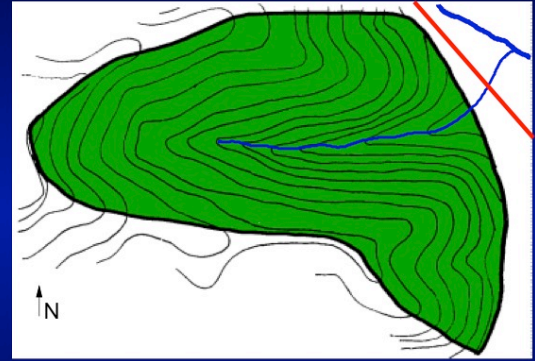
- any amount
- prudent use of pesticides
- GMO's allowed

### FSC

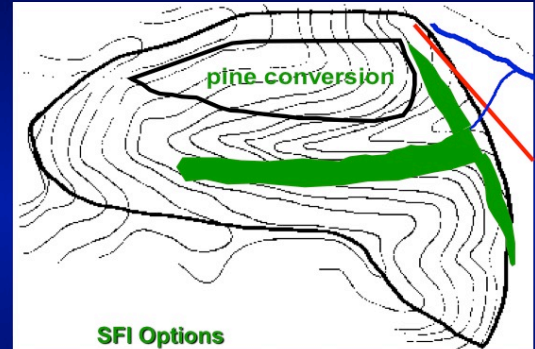
- no new conversions
- old plantations before 1994 OK
- restricted pesticides
- local sources

FSC plantations do not equal artificially planted forests  
**FSC plantation = short rotation (pulp), bedding, mid-rotation herbicides**

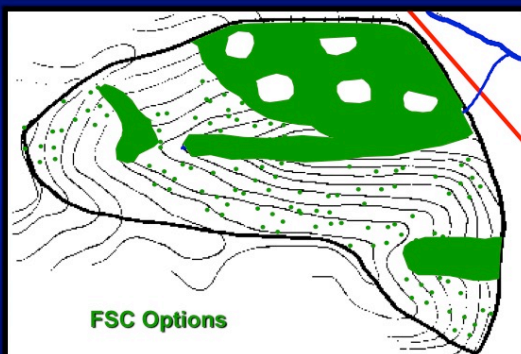
**FSC semi-natural planted forests = planted, long rotation (sawtimber), management allows some understory natural attributes to develop**



skidding layout



SFI Options



FSC Options

## Family Forests

FSC provides for different rigor for large ownerships compared to Small Low Intensity Management Units (in US Family Forests)

Stewardship Plans work for FSC (unless using banned chemicals, GMO, large clearcuts, FSC defined plantations)

## Woodland Owner **BENEFITS**

- Access to potential wood markets
- Improved management and assistance
- Price premium or incentive
- Access to ecosystem service (carbon)
- other states – tax incentive

## Woodland Owner **COSTS**

- Time and involvement with improving plan
- Fees associated with certification system
  - Tree Farm – free (now)
  - FSC – initial and annual fees

## First Step in Certification

- Contact local state forestry agency – direct you to Tree Farm or FSC if there is a group manager for your area
- Industry foresters can assist
- Can contact ATFS, SFI, or FSC directly on the web.

## Questions



## Forest Certification Was Developed To:

1. Stop logging.
2. Allow forestry and logging to continue without change.
3. Ensure governmental control of forestry.
4. Provide a market solution to ensure sustainability.

## A Legitimate Certification System Requires?

1. Universal approval of standards.
2. 3<sup>rd</sup> party auditing.
3. Payment of Significant Annual Certification Fees.
4. Approval of state Forestry Agency.

## The Forest Stewardship Council is a System Designed for Use in Only in European Forests.

1. True
2. False

## American Tree Farm is Now a Certification System Because:

1. It is recognized globally.
2. It uses Tree Farm Inspectors.
3. It requires 3<sup>rd</sup> party auditing.
4. It requires a written management plan.

## Certified Family Forest Owners in the U.S.:

1. Pay significant certification costs.
2. Are subjected to rigorous annual auditing.
3. Typically get certified through a group.