



## **Public Briefing Notice**

# **FSC Group Forest Management Certification Assessments Northwest Certified Forestry, Port Townsend, WA USA**

**December 27, 2005**

## **Introduction**

The Northwest Certified Forestry Program (NCF) of the Northwest Natural Resource Group (NNRG) received a Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) group certificate (SA-FM/COC-1394) for Small and Low Intensity Managed Forests (SLIMF) in Washington and Oregon on January 6<sup>th</sup>, 2005. This certificate was approved by the Soil Association's Woodmark Program, an FSC accredited certifier.

The annual audit for this group certificate will be conducted under FSC forest management/chain of custody certification guidelines in late January 2006. A sample audit of group member's properties will include; Wild Thyme Farm and High Grove of Oakville, WA and Tree Shepherd Woods of Olympia, WA. On-site reviews of NCF's 10 members, totaling 3,266 acres, were conducted by NCF staff in 2005.

A new NCF group certificate assessment will be conducted in late January 2006 for new NCF members that do not meet SLIMF guidelines. The assessment will involve three ownerships totaling 16,483 acres that are managed by GreenWood Resources. The assessment sample will include Forestry Fund 3 - Lower Columbia Tree Farm, Clatskanie, OR.

For more information on NNRG and NCF, please see [www.nnrg.org](http://www.nnrg.org).

## **Scope of the Certification Assessment**

The FSC forest management certification assessment and audit will review the environmental, silvicultural and socioeconomic aspects of the forest lands managed by Northwest Certified Forestry members. To obtain a copy of the FSC Pacific Coast Regional Standard, the regional standard applicable in Washington and Oregon, please see [http://www.fscus.org/images/documents/2006\\_standards/pcwg\\_9.0\\_NTC.pdf](http://www.fscus.org/images/documents/2006_standards/pcwg_9.0_NTC.pdf). For more information on other applicable FSC policies please see [http://fsc.org/fsc/about/documents/Docs\\_cent/2](http://fsc.org/fsc/about/documents/Docs_cent/2). As group certificate manager, Northwest Certified Forestry operations will follow procedures that have been approved

by Woodmark. For more information on Woodmark's FSC approved policies, please see <http://www.soilassociation.org/forestry>.

Stakeholders are invited to provide comments to Northwest Certified Forestry by January 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2006 on special concerns that may not be adequately addressed with in the FSC Pacific Coast Regional Standard. Those special concerns and issues will be incorporated into the review process for Northwest Certified Forestry operations.

### **Assessment and Audit Team Composition**

#### ***Erik Leslie - Woodmark Lead Auditor***

Mr. Leslie has worked across Canada as a forestry planner, consultant, and technician for local governments, industry, private landowners, environmental groups, First Nations, and community forests. He is the former manager of the Silva Forest Foundation FSC Certification Program and works as a lead auditor for Soil Association's Woodmark Program.

#### ***Nils Christofferson, Wallowa Resources - Woodmark Contractor***

Mr. Christofferson currently serves as Deputy Director and Program Manager for Wallowa Resources in Enterprise, OR. He holds a Bachelors in Economics from Williams College, and a Masters in Forestry from Oxford University. His work experience includes six years in Eastern and Southern Africa on forestry and wildlife management issues, with an emphasis on community based natural resource management.

### **Annual audit process for NCF SLIMF certificate**

Following is a short description of the SLIMF certificate audit process and a tentative agenda:

- **Field visits:** Woodmark will conduct site visits for a sample of NCF members the last week of January 2006.
- **Stakeholder Consultation:** NCF will assist members with stakeholder consultation during 2006. The purpose of consultation with stakeholders is to identify controversial local issues related to forest stewardship and to gather information about NCF members and their management operations and ability to meet FSC Pacific Coast Standards.
- **Report Production:** – NCF staff and contractors produce confidential annual reports outlining forest management on all NCF members for Woodmark's review. In February 2006 Woodmark will produce an annual audit report reviewing NCF member activities and confirming that certification conditions have been adequately addressed. A summary of this report will be made publicly available on Woodmark's website <http://www.soilassociation.org/forestry>.

### **Assessment process for NCF new large landowner certificate**

Following is a short description of the new large landowner group certificate assessment process and a tentative agenda:

- **Operations review and field visit:** The Woodmark team will review NCF's operational policies and visit candidate operations the last week of January 2006.

- **Stakeholder Consultation:** NCF staff will conduct stakeholder outreach throughout the month of January. The purpose of consultation with stakeholders is to identify controversial issues within the region related to regional forest stewardship and to gather information about membership candidates and their management operations and ability to meet the FSC Pacific Coast Regional Standard.
- **Report Production:** NCF staff and contractors will produce confidential annual reports on all NCF members for Woodmark's review. Woodmark will produce an assessment report reviewing NCF and members' operations, a summary of which will be made publicly available.
- **Certification Decision:** Stakeholder comments will be shared with Woodmark and will assist them in their certification decision, expected in late February 2006.

### **Providing Stakeholder Input**

As a part of the forest certification assessment process we invite stakeholders to offer comments and feedback on all NCF members' management in relation to the FSC Pacific Coast Regional Standard. We welcome input, either public or confidential, in whatever form is easiest and most secure for you. Please provide your comments prior to January 23, 2006 so that Woodmark can take them into consideration in finalizing the assessment reports. Unless you request otherwise, these comments will be kept confidential and are solely for the purposes of assessing Northwest Certified Forestry operations.

You may contact NCF in any of the following ways:

- **Email:** [ian@nnrg.org](mailto:ian@nnrg.org)
- **Telephone** – 360-379-9421
- **FAX** – 360-385-7455
- **Mail address** – PO Box 1067, Port Townsend, WA 98368

Stakeholders who wish to dispute any aspect of the forest certification process or decision can contact Woodmark at [wm@soilassociation.org](mailto:wm@soilassociation.org).