

Announcing Third Public Consultation for the Supplemental FSC Certification Requirements for the US Forest Service

February 13, 2017

Dear FSC Colleagues,

FSC US invites your participation in the third public consultation of the supplemental requirements for FSC certification on lands managed by the US Forest Service. Your review and input in this process is essential for a successful outcome, and we hope you will take some time to share your perspectives.

The 60-day consultation period closes on April 13, 2017

Overview

To date, FSC certification of US Forest Service lands (National Forests) has not been possible due to an agreement among stakeholders that supplementary requirements to the FSC standard was needed to capture the unique conditions associated with National Forests, including ownership, history, mandate and resource management objectives.

In January 2015, the FSC-US Board of Directors initiated a process to develop these supplementary certification requirements, including supplementary requirements to both the FSC Forest Stewardship Standard as well as to the Certification Body Auditing Procedures.

The process to develop these supplementary requirements follows FSC procedures for developing or revising normative documents, including technical input and oversight from a chamber-balanced and consensus-based working group and technical experts, and opportunities for broader stakeholder engagement. The process honors a commitment to advancing a shared perspective of what certification of National Forests should require.

The first consultation took place from February 23 through April 22, 2016, and after revisions were made by the working group based on comments received, a second consultation was held from June 1 through July 31, 2016. The working group then developed a 'forest testing' draft which was tested on the Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest on January 6, 2017. The primary purpose of the exercise was to test the auditability of the proposed supplementary requirements – it was not an audit of the National Forest to the supplementary requirements.

This current Draft 3 under consultation is the 'forest-tested draft'.

Stakeholders are highly encouraged to participate in this third and final consultation.

How to participate

The draft Forest Service supplementary certification requirements and comment form can be found on the FSC US Fedlands [webpage](#). You will also find a Consultation Report from the second public consultation that provides both a summary of key issues raised during the second consultation, as well as a compilation of all comments received and FSC US responses. A report from the forest testing exercise is also available on the webpage.

To facilitate your review, we have provided the supplementary certification requirements in two formats:

- 1) Listed on their own in one document; and,
- 2) Embedded directly into the body of the FSC US forest management standard, with track-changes and comment boxes to indicate changes from Draft 2 to Draft 3.

Please note that these are the same sets of requirements – simply in two different formats.

For more information, or to discuss your perspectives verbally, please contact Karen Steer, external project coordinator, at: k.steer@us.fsc.org.

Thank you!