



Forest Stewardship Council®



Adaptation of the FSC US Forest Stewardship Standard for the US Forest Service

*Interactive Webinar for First Public Consultation
March 31, 2016*

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Webinar Objective - To support an informed and meaningful first public consultation by:

- **Advancing a shared understanding of project scope, structure and process**
- **Reviewing the draft proposed ‘supplementary requirements’, clarifying points of confusion and answering other questions**
- **Sharing perspectives on key issues**

Webinar Agenda

- 1. Project overview**
- 2. Overview of normative makeup of ‘supplementary requirements’ for USFS certification**
- 3. Principle-by-Principle walk-through of proposed modifications**
- 4. Next steps in the process and how to participate**

Project: Development of supplementary certification requirements for USFS certification

Why Supplementary Requirements for USFS lands?

- **FSC certification of National Forests currently not allowed**
- **Agreement between FSC US and stakeholders that additional requirements are needed to capture the unique aspects of National Forests**

Why Now?

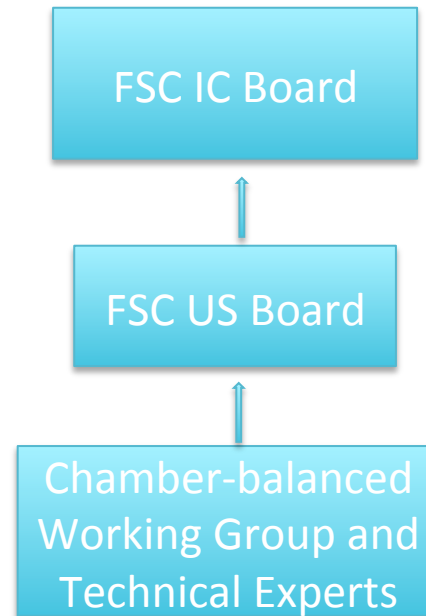
- ✓ **FSC US Board motivation**
- ✓ **USFS willingness**
- ✓ **Stakeholder interest**

Project Scope

- Supplementary requirements to the FSC US **forest stewardship standard AND auditing procedures** used by Certification Bodies.
- USFS lands only (not BLM).

Outcome: A modified standard (not certification) for use in pursuing forest-level certification.

Guiding the process



- Federal Lands Policy
- Stakeholder input
- DoD/DoE indicators
- Pinchot project input
- Revised FSC P&C and IGIs
- Two public consultations
- Consultative Forum

FSC US Federal Lands Group

Working Group:

- Environmental: Christina Hall, The Nature Conservancy
- Economic: Mike Jani, Humboldt Redwoods Company
- Social: Lynn Jungwirth, Watershed Research and Training Center

Technical Experts:

- Dr. Robert Hrubes, SCS Global Services
- Mark Heyde, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
- Katie Fernholz, Dovetail Partners

Project managers:

- Karen Steer, Dr. Gary Dodge

Format of Supplementary Requirements to the FSC US Forest Stewardship Standard

New Indicator/Guidance/Intent

*(USFS Indicator X.X.X or
USFS Guidance for Indicator X.X.X)*

Supplementary Indicator/Guidance/Intent

*(USFS Supplement to Indicator X.X.X or
USFS Supplement to Guidance for Indicator X.X.X)*

**Also some guidance at the Principle and
Criterion level**

Certification Lingo

Indicator: Elements of measuring conformance

Intent: Aids in understanding how Principles, Criteria and Indicators are applied

Guidance: Used when seeking/weighing evidence in assessing conformance with the Indicator. Not a requirement, but helps determine conformance

The Standard

- P1: Compliance with Laws and FSC Principles
- P2: Tenure and Use Rights and Responsibilities
- P3: Indigenous Peoples' Rights
- P4: Community Relations and Worker's Rights
- P5: Benefits from the Forest
- P6: Environmental Impact
- P7: Management Plan
- P8: Monitoring and Assessment
- P9: Maintenance of High Conservation Value Forests
- P10: Plantation Management

Key Supplementary Requirements:

P1 Legality and FSC Principles

- ***Robust dispute resolution procedures***: Disputes are identified and there is a process being implemented to resolve them. Ongoing disputes are considered, and although do not *alone* constitute a nonconformance, may influence the award of a certificate.
- ***Effective management of illegal/unauthorized activities***: Assessments are conducted and USFS is aware of these activities; These activities are documented and reported. Guidance also provided on effective mechanisms for controlling these activities.
- ***Certification is at the forest-level*** (or administratively combined National Forests).

Already sufficiently covered in the standard:

- All existing USFS requirements must remain in effect.
- Certification does not preclude any individual seeking legislative or judicial relief.

Key Supplementary Requirements: P2 Tenure and Use Rights

Ongoing disputes are effectively addressed

- Operations that negatively impact the interests of disputants cease in areas where disputes regarding tenure claims or use rights exist and that are of ***substantial magnitude***, until the disputes are resolved (with guidance on what is a dispute of substantial magnitude).
- Up to date records of disputes are maintained, including steps to resolve them, outcomes of dispute resolution and reasons for unresolved disputes.

Key Supplementary Requirements: P3 Indigenous Peoples' Rights

Enhanced consultation with Tribes

- Procedures exist for government-to-government consultation with tribes; consultation techniques are culturally appropriate and designed for effective engagement.

Ongoing disputes are effectively addressed

- Same as in P2.

Key Supplementary Requirements: P4 Community Relations and Worker's Rights

- ***Improved working conditions:*** oversight and monitoring of health and safety conditions for all workers; existing certification requirements for employees extended to all workers, to the extent they are covered under the USFS legal contract.
- ***Robust stakeholder engagement:*** consultations are national in scope; early and ongoing engagement; transparency in FSC certification reporting. NOTE: existing 'public lands' indicator provides extensive requirements on stakeholder engagement.
- ***Employment opportunities:*** training to develop a skilled workforce; opportunities for local workers to bid on contracts.

Key Supplementary Requirements: P5 Benefits from the Forest

- ***Management is oriented towards ecological and social objectives*** – ecosystem services, biodiversity, social values, etc.
- ***Core management activities that need to be met (as defined in the FSC standard) are defined and funded*** – restoration, reforestation, road maintenance, etc.
- ***Diversification of economic uses of the forest*** – restoration, recreation, ecosystem services, etc.
- ***Sustained yield harvest calculation is based on the land designated for production.***

Key Supplementary Requirements: P6 Environmental Impact

- ***Management priority for conservation and restoration***
- including protected areas, RTE species, Old Growth, when inadequately represented across the landscape.
- ***Establishment of a Representative Sample Area network*** – meet goals of reference conditions, under-represented conditions, and refugia for native species.
- ***Protection of Old Growth*** – management only allowed to maintain or restore old growth conditions.
- ***Assessment of direct and cumulative effects of management*** – on FMU and neighboring lands.

Key Supplementary Requirements: P7 and P8 Management Planning and Monitoring

- ***Increased transparency:*** Plans are made available to the public prior to commencement of significant operations.
- ***Emphasis on oversight:*** Adequate oversight is provided to workers to safely implement the management plan.
- ***Effectiveness monitoring:*** Socio-economic monitoring includes effectiveness in providing opportunities at the local-level and public access to and use of the forest.
- ***Increased monitoring around forest restoration:*** Planning and monitoring of restoration and effectiveness of restoration techniques.

Already sufficiently covered in the standard: outdoor recreation management.

Key Supplementary Requirements:

P9 Maintenance of High Conservation Value Forests

- All designated ***roadless areas*** and all ***Intact Forest Landscapes*** are classified as HCV2; non-designated roadless areas undergo an HCV assessment.
- Additional public consultation in developing the HCV assessment methodology and in its application.
- Emphasis on coordination with adjacent landowners.

High Conservation Value Forests

HCV Forests are managed to protect/maintain their identified high conservation value attributes. In some cases, active management is consistent with these attributes, and in other cases (e.g., most old growth forests), active management is specifically precluded.

HCV2: Contain globally, regionally or nationally significant large landscape level forests, contained within, or containing the management unit, where viable populations of most if not all naturally occurring species exist in natural patterns of distribution and abundance.

Key Supplementary Requirements: P10 Plantation Management

- Stands classified as plantations are restored to natural forest conditions.

Supplementary Auditing Protocols

- Qualified audit team: size, qualifications and audit days.
- Increased transparency: public notice, pre-assessment report, full assessment report, peer reviews.
- Enhanced and early public notification and consultation.
- ASI witness assessment.
- Existing requirements for 'large-scale and complex operations' found in:
 - FSC-STD-20-001, General requirements for FSC accredited certification bodies
 - FSC-STD-20-007 Forest management evaluations
 - FSC-STD-20-006 Stakeholder consultation for forest evaluations

Please provide comments!

Consultation closes April 22

Comments should:

- Be directly linked to a particular issue
- Include suggested change and for the change
- Include feedback on proposed requirements that you support (and not just those you do not support!)

All information can be found here:

<https://us.fsc.org/en-us/certification/forest-management-certification/federal-lands-certification>

And feel free to contact us to further discuss any issues:

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Thank you!