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Mr. Corey Brinkema
President
Forest Stewardship Council U.S.
212 Third Avenue North, Suite 445
Minneapolis, MN 55401

Dear Mr. Brinkema:

I recently reviewed your newly adopted Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) U.S. Federal Lands Policy. Clearly, a great deal of thought and consideration went into developing this new policy. I appreciate your organization's interest in potentially certifying National Forest System lands.

As you are aware, over the past 15-years the Forest Service has evaluated the question of certification of National Forest System lands. From 2005 to 2007, in partnership with the Pinchot Institute, the Forest Service investigated the forest certification processes, of both FSC and the Sustainable Forestry Initiative, more closely by engaging in five case studies on national forests. In 2008, in partnership with the Meridian Institute, the Forest Service held three listening sessions across the country. Through this work, the Agency learned a great deal more about the certification potential of the National Forests.

With the recent changes to the FSC U.S. Federal Lands Policy, I propose we meet with your organization to learn more about the process of developing additional considerations for Federal lands with the intent of exploring certification of several national forests. Ideally, this would take the form of a small exploration group, including representatives from FSC, the Forest Service Washington Office and an interested Forest Supervisor. If things work out favorably, we could then consider expanding to other forests across the country. Please let me know if you would be interested.

I appreciate your interest in the management of National Forest System lands and look forward to future discussions with you and the Forest Stewardship Council U.S.

Sincerely,

Thomas L. Tidwell

THOMAS L. TIDWELL
Chief

cc: Megan Roessing, Richard Fitzgerald, Bill Timko