



FOREST STEWARDSHIP COUNCIL®
UNITED STATES

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**Forest Stewardship Council:
Community and Family Forest Workshop
In Person Workshop – July 18-20, 2023
Minneapolis, Minnesota**

FSC is hosting a 2.5-day workshop to explore opportunities to make certification more accessible to community and family forests

Background

The Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) sets standards for responsible forest management and manages a voluntary certification system that allows manufacturers and consumers of forest products to directly contribute to the health of forests and forest communities. Today, more than 480 million acres of forest are certified globally under FSC's system, including nearly 148 million acres in the US and Canada.

Existing and potential FSC certificate holders have expressed concerns regarding the rigor, complexity, and cost of FSC certification – particularly for community-managed forests (including tribal community-managed forests) and family forests, which are often small or managed at a low level of intensity. This perception likely has an impact on how these forest managers assess the benefits and costs (i.e., the “value proposition”) of FSC certification.

FSC's Community and Family Forests (CFF) program provides a suite of resources intended to increase the accessibility and benefits of FSC-certification for community-managed forests and family forests. The tools and resources developed by this FSC program, and additional tools and resources developed by FSC's U.S. national office, are intended to help improve the value proposition of FSC certification.

Purpose

The in-person workshop will convene community and family forest managers and related stakeholders to review existing FSC resources and tools available to community and family forests. The goals are to increase awareness of these resources, confirm their relevancy to U.S. forest managers, determine if use of multiple resources in combination could drive even greater benefit, and identify any gaps or additional resources that may yet need to be developed.

What to expect

The workshop duration will be two full days and one half day, offered free of charge. Prior to the workshop, attendees will be given access to a shared drive with background materials. This information will be summarized by presenters and event facilitators during the workshop. During the workshop, facilitated discussions will include review of resources and structured collection of feedback through small and large group discussion. Take-away resources will also be shared.

Breakfast and lunch will be provided on site, but dinners and lodging will not be provided. A limited number of travel stipends may be available.

If we are successful...

Participants will better understand how FSC is supporting communities and family forests with certification and is working to make FSC-certification a feasible and useful path for associated forest managers in the United States. FSC will learn how to better serve community and family forest managers with FSC tools and resources.

Questions?

Contact Emily Huff (ehuff@msu.edu, 413-320-2396) for questions related to the workshop content. Contact Chloe Nelms (c.nelms@us.fsc.org, 480-744-2797) for questions related to logistics.