Public Dialogue

NFS Certification Study

Lessons Learned: SmartWood

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US Region Manager
SmartWood
Third-Party Auditing

- **Evaluation of conformance to defined standards**
  → *In light of evidence provided and discovered*

- **Standards are applied within the context of the candidate operation**
  → *In consideration of the scale & intensity of operation*

- **Auditing – by necessity – is sampling**
  → *Methodical and comprehensive, but ...*
Common Misconceptions

- **Auditing, not advocating**
  → *Not making value judgments*

- **Not arbiters**
  → *Resolution of issues beyond role of auditors*

- **Stakeholder consultation**
  → *Input on conformance to augment other findings*
  → *Not scientific opinion poll*

- **Not a panacea**
  → *Limited to measuring conformance to specific, defined standards*
What was Different?

- Size & complexity of the organization
- USFS Mission – wide ranging and comprehensive
- Depth & volume of “evidence” to consider
  → Documents, interviews, activities
- Political context – Robust engagement at local, regional & national levels
- “Challenging” environment: formal legal and administrative challenges
- FSC US Federal Lands Policy
FSC-US Fed Lands Thresholds

1. Willing Landowner Participation
   - Agency expresses interest & willingness
   - Requesting official has clear authority
   - Agency polices permit external auditing & entering into certification contracts

2. Public Consensus
   - Timber Harvesting & Other Major Resource Management Practices
   - FSC members, stakeholders, public-at-large
   - Determined by FSC-US Board

3. Special National Indicators
   - Address special issues
   - Developed for each federal land ownership category
   - Developed by FSC-US & approved by FSC-US Board
“Additional Considerations”

- Additional stakeholder concerns and/or management implications unique to the National Forest System
- Developed through consideration of the management objectives and constraints unique to the Forest Service, and include input from stakeholders
- Integrate the FSC regional standards, FSC DOD/DOE national standards, and additional stakeholder concerns
## CNNF Conformance with FSC

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>FSC Principle</th>
<th>NC</th>
<th>AC</th>
<th>OBS</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>P1: FSC Commitment &amp; Legal Compliance</td>
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<td>P2: Tenure &amp; Use Rights and Responsibilities</td>
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<td>P3: Indigenous People’s Rights</td>
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<td>P4: Community Relations &amp; Workers Rights</td>
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<td>P5: Benefits from the Forest</td>
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<td>P6: Environmental Impact</td>
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<td>P7: Management Plan</td>
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<td>P8: Monitoring</td>
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<td>P9: Maintenance of High Conservation Value Forest</td>
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<td>P10: Plantations</td>
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## CNNF Conformance with SFI

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<td>3: Protect Water Quality</td>
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<td>4: Wildlife &amp; Biodiversity</td>
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<td>6: Special Sites</td>
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<td>7: Utilization</td>
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<td>13: Continual Improvement</td>
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Challenging Issues

- **Communication**
  - *Internal & external*

- **Legal and administrative appeals**
  - *Delay & suspension of plans and activities*

- **Size of organization**
  - *Forest-level implementation of national polices*
  - *Big ship, turns slowly v. auditing cycle*

- **Budgeting & staffing**
  - *External influences, element of uncertainty*
  - *Ability to achieve goals and mandates unclear*

- **Issues not entirely controlled by NF**
  - *OGM, Wilderness, deer management*
SmartWood

Practical conservation through certified forestry

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