



**Public Briefing Paper for
Forest Management Certification Re-assessment of
Center for Forest and Wood Certification
in
Lexington, Kentucky USA
November 7, 2016**

Introduction - The Rainforest Alliance is conducting forest management and chain of custody certification re-assessments of Center for Forest and Wood Certification (CFWC) with an office located in Lexington, KY. CFWC was originally certified by SCS in 2012 (SCS-FM/COC-00152G). This re-assessment includes properties in Kentucky, Tennessee, Mississippi, Virginia, and North Carolina totaling approximately 10,620 hectares. The re-assessment will be implemented from December 19-21, 2016.

Scope of the Certification Re-Assessment – The forest management certification re-assessment will assess the environmental, silvicultural and socioeconomic aspects of the forest management of the properties included in the CFWC group, using the *FSC-US Forest Management Standard (v1.0)* and the *FSC Standard for Group Entities in Forest Management Groups (FM-STD-30-005)*. To obtain a copy of these guidelines, please visit the FSC-US web site (at www.fscus.org/standards_criteria/forest_management.php) or contact Rainforest Alliance directly by telephone, fax, or e-mail as listed below. Rainforest Alliance is accredited by the Forest Stewardship Council™ (FSC®) and this re-assessment process must follow procedures which have been approved by the FSC.

Re-Assessment Team Composition – The re-assessment will be conducted by:

- Karen Boyd, Lead Auditor and Forester.

Assessment Steps and Schedule – Following is a short description of the certification process and a tentative agenda:

- ◆ Re-assessment organization – The Rainforest Alliance auditors and CFWC staff will meet onsite on December 19th.
- ◆ Field assessments – The auditors will visit properties in the certified group from December 19th to December 21st.
- ◆ Re-assessment briefing – Prior to departure, the auditors will meet with CFWC staff and other parties to finalize their data collection and present preliminary findings.
- ◆ Stakeholder consultation – The auditors will conduct interviews with stakeholders prior to, during, and after the re-assessment.
- ◆ Draft report production – The auditors will produce a confidential draft report that will be circulated for comment to CFWC. This should occur 10 days after completion of the re-assessment field work.

- ◆ Certification decision – Upon receipt of comments on the draft report from CFWC and other general stakeholder comments, Rainforest Alliance will reach a certification decision. Barring unforeseen obstacles, this should occur by January 20th.

Your Input Sought – As a part of the forest certification re-assessment process we invite stakeholders to offer comment and feedback on forest management on CFWC’s group member properties in relation to conformance with the requirements of the forest management standard referenced above. We welcome input, either public or confidential, in whatever form is easiest and most secure for you. Your input will be valuable at any stage of the re-assessment process, but we would prefer to receive your comments either prior to the re-assessment, during the re-assessment, or prior to December 23rd so that we can take them into consideration in reaching a certification decision by January 20th. Your options for communicating your observations to us are as follows.

1. Meet with the Rainforest Alliance audit team during or shortly after the fieldwork.
2. Call and give comments to Kara Wires, the Rainforest Alliance staff person responsible for coordinating this certification re-assessment from the US Regional Office.
3. Submit written comments by mail, FAX or email to Kara Wires. Unless you request otherwise, these comments will be kept confidential and are solely for the purposes of auditing CFWC as described in this briefing.

Contacting Rainforest Alliance

Kara Wires, Forest Certification Coordinator, US Region

- ◆ Email: kwires@ra.org
- ◆ Worldwide Website – www.rainforest-alliance.org.
- ◆ Telephone – 802-923-3767
- ◆ FAX – 802-434-3116
- ◆ Mail address – 65 Millet Street, Suite 201, Richmond, VT 05477

The source of any information provided will be kept confidential available to only the FSC and Rainforest Alliance staff.

Stakeholders who may wish to dispute any aspect of the forest certification process or decision can access Rainforest Alliance’s Complaints, Appeals and Dispute resolution procedures at www.rainforest-allaince.org.