

What Can You Do?

There are a variety of ways that you can be involved in the Yukon FSC certification program. You can:

- Encourage responsible forest industry participants to seek information about, and involvement in, Forest Stewardship Council certification.
- Encourage government to advance FSC certification as the appropriate international standard for voluntary forest certification.
- Participate in initial community-based meetings on Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) Certification in the Yukon.
- Participate on the Yukon FSC working group during the development of certification standards.
- Share your thoughts during consultation of the draft FSC standards developed by the Yukon Regional Committee.

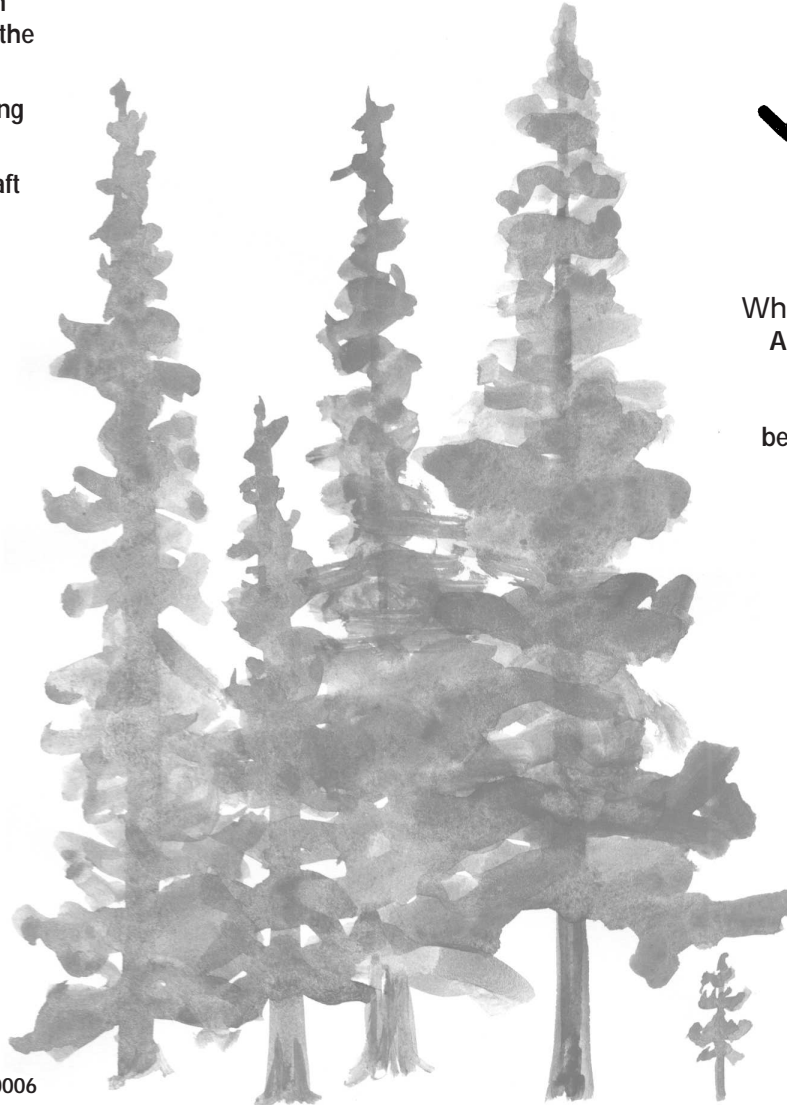
For more information on the process of setting FSC forestry standards in the Yukon, the FSC principles and criteria, or what YCS is doing regarding forest certification, please contact:



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Yukon Conservation Society



It makes
eco-nomic sense
to take care of our forests
and log with the future in mind:



*Setting Forestry
Standards that
Benefit Yukon
Communities and
Forests*

What is the Forest Stewardship Council?
An international, not-for-profit, independent organization whose goal is to support environmentally appropriate, socially beneficial and economically viable use of the world's forests.

What is FSC Forest Certification?
An internationally recognized marketing tool that helps consumers purchase wood and wood products originating from well-managed forests.

Who Benefits from FSC Forest Certification?
Everyone benefits. Wood product producers. Forest companies. Consumers. All people living in the Yukon benefit from forests that are being managed in responsible ways.

What is FSC Forest Certification?

The Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) forest certification program is a market-based approach used to encourage the forest industry and wood product manufacturers and retailers to commit to forest management practices that are environmentally appropriate, socially beneficial, and economically viable for the long term.

An independent evaluation determines whether an applicant has met the locally-developed environmental, social and economic standards. If the standards are met, then the products are certified as originating from a "well-managed" forest and the international FSC logo identifies these products.

IKEA, Home Depot and many other major retailers in North America and Europe support the Forest Stewardship Council as the only certification standards they find acceptable.

Background

Forest Certification became an issue in the late 1980's in response to perceived poor forestry planning and practices which resulted in calls for boycotts of certain wood products. After three years of extensive international consultation with a broad range of stakeholders, the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) was formed in 1993 to oversee a credible process of independent certification of well-managed forests.

The member organizations of the Forest Stewardship Council developed international principles and criteria to support environmentally appropriate, socially beneficial and economically viable management of the world's forests. The Forest Stewardship Council also supports the development of more specific national and regional standards.

There are several forest certification programs. However, at the present time, wood buyers' groups and environmental groups worldwide consider the Forest Stewardship Council Certification to be the only credible, independent certification program.

Forest Certification through the Forest Stewardship Council is voluntary – there is no requirement for forest companies to become certified.

Why is the Yukon Conservation Society Interested in FSC Forest Certification?

The Yukon Conservation Society supports the increasing number of responsible Yukon forest companies who are committed to using our forests wisely. Forest certification is a way to economically reward forest companies who make the investment to improve their roles as forest stewards and forest users.

Who Benefits from FSC Forest Certification?

All Yukon people:

- Forest companies and wood producers, through improved access to markets.
- First Nations, through the application of aboriginal rights and protection of aboriginal land uses.
- Non-timber forest industries, traditional users, hunters and recreationalists, through the respect for all forest values and uses.
- Communities, through long term, sustainable employment.



How Can We Set Up FSC Certification Standards in the Yukon?

An increasing number of forest companies in the Yukon are interested in becoming certified through the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC).

You can help them by advocating the use of FSC certification and encouraging the development of local standards that meet the needs of all forest users. This requires the creation of a Yukon regional committee composed of First Nations, social organizations, economic organizations and environmental organizations.

The Forest Stewardship Council is already involved in developing local standards in many Canadian provinces.