



Media Release

Group Achieves FSC Certification on BC Coast

The Coast Forest Conservation Initiative (CFCI) has been awarded Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) certification for forest tenures within the Mid Coast Timber Supply Area. The certification covers 846,395 hectares near Bella Coola on BC's central coast. This is the largest FSC certification on the coast of BC and includes tenures held by British Columbia Timber Sales (BCTS), International Forest Products Limited (Interfor) and Western Forest Products Inc. (WFP).

The group certificate is held by the CFCI Society representing five coastal businesses: BCTS, Catalyst Paper Corporation, Howe Sound Pulp and Paper Ltd., Interfor and WFP. The certification is good for five years subject to the results of annual surveillances.

Gerry Fraser, Interfor's Manager, Sustainable Forestry said: "This certification is an important milestone for CFCI as we implement the Coast Land Use Decision and ecosystem based management in the coastal temperate rainforest within the region." He observed that, "Achieving FSC certification will add value to our efforts to balance conservation and development within the Great Bear Rainforest, a globally significant region. In pursuing certification we are taking up the challenge of testing the FSC BC standards operationally on the ground."

WFP's Chief Forester Kerry McGourlick remarked that, "Achieving FSC certification in the Mid Coast had its challenging moments, but proved doable because much of the preparatory work was already done. The cooperative effort of local First Nations, environmental groups and CFCI businesses to develop ecosystem-based management for the region had prepared a foundation for the certification effort to build upon. Through this process we have learned a lot about the requirements of the FSC standards in BC."

Jim Sutherland BCTS Director, Forestry added, "BCTS is very pleased to offer FSC certified Timber Sale Licenses to our customers as an effective means of increasing market recognition for ecosystem-based management practices in the Mid Coast Timber Supply area."

Speaking for Howe Sound Pulp and Paper Fred Fominoff said, "Many of our international customers are seeking FSC certified pulp and paper. Achieving FSC certification in the Mid Coast TSA will be of significant interest to the marketplace where we do business." Lyn Brown of Catalyst Paper added: "Delivery of this FSC certification underscores our long-term commitment toward improving the sustainability of forestry operations in the Great Bear Rainforest as well as the protection of this unique ecosystem."

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Mid-Coast TSA FSC Certification Background

The Coast Forest Conservation Initiative (CFCI) Society has been awarded Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) certification covering 846,395 hectares within the Mid Coast Timber Supply Area. CFCI Society members include British Columbia Timber Sales (BCTS), Catalyst Paper Corporation (Catalyst), Howe Sound Pulp and Paper Ltd (HSPP), International Forest Products Limited (Interfor) and Western Forest Products Inc. (WFP). While the certificate is held by the CFCI Society representing five companies, the assessment covers tenures managed by three CFCI members: WFP, BCTS and Interfor.

The certification is based on the FSC Regional Certification Standards for British Columbia, which were accredited in 2005. This certification is the largest for FSC on the coast of BC and covers forest tenures found within the 6.4 million hectare area covered by the 2006 Coast Land Use Decision, a region known as the Great Bear Rainforest. The area is subject to the outcome of multi-interest land use planning and a governance structure involving First Nations and the provincial government (Land and Resource Forums). Forest management in the area is subject to ecosystem based management requirements specifically developed for implementation in the Great Bear Rainforest.

The certification covers all aspects of forest management relating to the environmental, social and economic performance associated with the lands being certified. The certificate is good for five years subject to the results of annual surveillances.