

CHOOSING FOREST CERTIFICATION

for Environmentally Responsible Forest Products

Too often, industrial forestry in British Columbia, Washington, and Oregon harms old growth forests, fish and wildlife, water quality, and long-term timber productivity, and fails to restore forests already reduced to tree plantations.

The wood products industry must do better at balancing short-term production with other forest values. Forest certification can help by guiding consumers to products from ecologically, economically, and socially well-managed forests.

But not all certification systems are credible. Only the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) has strong standards for ecosystem protection and restoration, and is genuinely independent. (See chart on reverse.)

The FSC is the choice of the Washington Environmental Council, Seattle Audubon, WWF's Klamath/Siskiyou program, and most other regional, national, and international conservation groups that promote certification.



CERTIFICATION & REGIONAL CONSERVATION GOALS

	<u>FSC</u>	<u>CSA</u>	<u>SFI</u>
Protect old growth forests	Strong	Zero	Zero
Recover salmon populations and water quality	Strong	Very Weak	Weak
Protect and recover other imperiled species	Strong	Very Weak	Weak
Limit clearcutting and grow mature trees	Strong/Fair	Zero	Weak/Zero
Reduce toxic chemical use	Strong/Fair	Zero	Weak
Prohibit conversion to plantations and sprawl	Very Strong	Zero	Zero
Use stronger standards for U.S. public forests	Strong	---	Zero
Primary focus on “on-the-ground” performance	Strong	Weak	Weak
Protect and restore forest ecosystems—overall	Strong	Very Weak	Very Weak

CERTIFICATION -- OTHER REQUIREMENTS

	<u>FSC</u>	<u>CSA</u>	<u>SFI</u>
Independently funded and governed	Strong	Weak	Weak/Zero
Credible claims—chain-of-custody monitoring	Strong/Fair	Strong/Fair	Very Weak
Credible claims—labeling	Strong/Fair	Fair	Very Weak
Protects workers and indigenous people	Strong	Fair/Weak	Weak
Stakeholder consultation during assessments	Strong	Strong	Zero
Balance ecological, economic, and social values	Very Strong	Weak	Weak

For details, go to www.americanlands.org