

# CERTIFICATION & REGIONAL CONSERVATION GOALS (PACIFIC NORTHWEST & BRITISH COLUMBIA)

## Protect old growth forests

**FSC: Strong.** OR and WA standards protect most old growth. BC standards protect 50% of original levels of old growth, and require old growth levels to be within the natural range of variation.

**CSA: Zero.** No requirements; issue may or may not be addressed by management plans.

**SFI: Zero.** No requirement for companies to protect old growth.

## Recover salmon populations and water quality

**FSC: Strong.** OR, WA, and BC standards provide strong, independent aquatic conservation measures.

**CSA: Very Weak.** No specific requirements or standards. Adequate standards may or may not be provided in management plans.

**SFI: Weak.** Relies on state and provincial rules, which are inadequate in OR and BC.

## Protect and recover other imperiled species

**FSC: Strong.** Strong international and regional standards. Surveys required. All species protected in OR and WA. Recovery options also protected in BC.

**CSA: Very Weak.** No specific protection measures required. No specific species protected. Adequate protections may or may not be provided by management plans.

**SFI: Weak.** Protection not required for some species. Several SFI companies well-known to be harming endangered species. No requirement to restore habitats for imperiled species.

## Limit clearcutting and grow mature trees

**FSC: Strong/Fair.** In OR and WA, clearcuts limited to 40 acres, and prohibited in forests suited to selection forestry. Longer rotations encouraged. In BC, young timber stands and new cuts limited to 25% of each watershed.

**CSA: Zero.** No requirements; issue may or may not be addressed by management plans.

**SFI: Very Weak/Zero.** Allows 120 acre clearcuts. Allows entire watersheds to be clearcut in short timeframes.

## Reduce toxic chemical use

**FSC: Strong/Fair.** International standards prohibit use of the most toxic chemicals and strongly discourage others. In OR, WA, and BC, permitted forestry practices also reduce need for chemicals.

**CSA: Zero.** No requirements; issue may or may not be addressed by management plans.

**SFI: Weak.** Reduced chemical use a goal; however, no requirement to use forestry practices that require fewer chemicals. Some companies actually increasing their chemical use.

## Prohibit conversion to plantations and sprawl

**FSC: Very Strong.** International standards prohibit most conversion of forests to plantations and sprawl. In OR and WA, 50% of existing plantations must be restored. In BC, plantations in excess of 10% of assessment areas must be restored, and roughly 30% of areas must be in ecological reserves.

- CSA: Zero.** No requirements; issue may or may not be addressed by management plans.
- SFI: Zero.** Conversion to plantations and sprawl allowed. No requirement to restore existing plantations. Many SFI certified forests managed as plantations, not natural forests. Several SFI certified companies actively converting thousands of acres of productive forests to sprawl, and purchasing wood from plantation conversion.

### **Use stronger standards for public forests in the U.S.**

- FSC: Strong.** Public values identified during certification of state forests. Public consensus and special standards required before federal forests are certified.
- CSA: ---** Not applicable.
- SFI: Zero.** Standards ignore the issue.

### **Primary focus on “on-the-ground” performance**

- FSC: Strong.** OR, WA, and BC standards include many quantitative standards, and tend to require specific on-the-ground outcomes more generally.
- CSA: Weak.** System generally lacks performance standards; companies set their own performance standards.
- SFI: Weak.** Many standards rely on company plans or policies whose objectives are left to the companies. Insufficient use of quantitative standards.

### **Protect and restore forest ecosystems—overall**

- FSC: Strong.** International standards prohibit most conversion of forests to plantations and sprawl. In OR and WA, 50% of existing plantations must be restored. Specific ecological components required to be maintained in other forests in OR and WA. In BC, plantations in excess of 10% of assessment areas must be restored, and roughly 30% of areas must be in ecological reserves.
- CSA: Very Weak.** Requirements extremely vague, with no specific thresholds. Adequate standards may or may not be provided by management plans.
- SFI: Very Weak.** Conversion to plantations and sprawl allowed. No requirement to restore existing plantations. Standards do not adequately protect or restore ecological components in various forest types.

## **CERTIFICATION – OTHER REQUIREMENTS**

### **Independently funded and governed**

- FSC: Strong.** Independently funded. Governed by a balance of environmental, economic, and social stakeholders.
- CSA: Weak.** Established and funded significantly by the wood products industry. Companies set their own performance standards within the broad confines of the CSA standards.
- SFI: Weak/Zero.** SFI system and standards originally created by AF&PA and its members, who continue to control funding and some other SFI elements. Social interests not represented on SFI Board, and commercial forestry interests retain a majority on the Board.

### **Credible claims—chain-of-custody monitoring**

**FSC: *Strong/Fair.*** Chain-of-custody monitoring required. Non-certified product content may not originate from controversial sources.

**CSA: *Strong/Fair.*** Chain-of-custody monitoring exists. Weak protections against non-certified product content from controversial sources.

**SFI: *Very Weak.*** Chain-of-custody not required. Product content may originate from controversial sources.

### **Credible claims—labeling**

**FSC: *Strong/Fair.*** Labels describe product content. Labels indicate when products contain non-FSC content.

**CSA: *Fair.*** Labels fairly accurate, but do not address product content from controversial sources.

**SFI: *Very Weak.*** Labels do not describe product content. No recognition of non-SFI product content.

### **Protects workers and indigenous people**

**FSC: *Strong.*** International and regional standards protect rights of workers, indigenous peoples, and communities. Compliance with all international and domestic social laws expressly required.

**CSA: *Fair/Weak.*** Limited recognition of indigenous (“aboriginal”) rights. No clear requirement to protect rights, including rights not yet recognized by treaties.

**SFI: *Weak.*** Largely relies upon domestic social laws. Requirements for legal compliance inconsistent and unclear.

### **Stakeholder consultation during assessments**

**FSC: *Strong.*** Consultation required during certification assessments.

**CSA: *Strong.*** Consultation required during certification assessments.

**SFI: *Zero.*** Consultation not required.

### **Balance ecological, economic, and social values**

**FSC: *Very Strong.***

**CSA: *Weak.***

**SFI: *Weak.*** System biased towards companies’ short-term economic goals.

**The ratings:** *Very Strong – Certification standards meet the goal very well. Actual forestry practices conform to the goal.*  
*Strong – Standards and practices meet the goal well.*  
*Fair – Standards and practices are so-so.*  
*Weak – Standards and practices do not meet the goal well.*  
*Very Weak – Standards and practices very poor at meeting the goal.*  
*Zero – Standards have no requirements to meet the goal.*

**Sources/For More Information:** American Lands Alliance. 2003. A Review of the American Forest & Paper Association’s Sustainable Forestry Initiative. American Lands Alliance, Washington DC. FERN. 2004. Footprints in the Forest: Current Practice and Future Challenges in Forest Certification. FERN, Moreton-in-Marsh, UK. Available at [www.fern.org](http://www.fern.org). Tan, A. 2003. On the Ground: Forest Certification: Green Stamp of Approval or Rubber Stamp of Destruction? Commissioned by ForestEthics, Greenpeace, and Sierra Club of Canada, BC Chapter. Available at [www.goodwoodwatch.org](http://www.goodwoodwatch.org). Analyses of current and proposed-revised FSC, SFI, and CSA standards; standards available at [www.fscus.org](http://www.fscus.org), [www.aboutsfb.org](http://www.aboutsfb.org), and [www.csa.ca](http://www.csa.ca).