

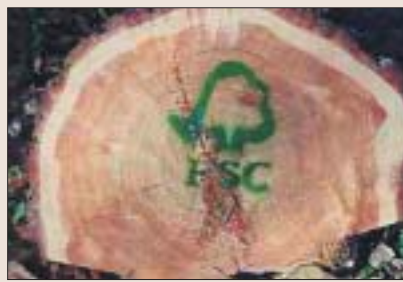
# Good Wood, Good Forestry



CPAWS uses the marketplace to protect Canada's boreal forests



Using the power of the marketplace to encourage companies to adopt better environmental practices is a growing worldwide trend. For everything from coffee to lumber, conservation organizations are using global trade forces to reward producers of products that conserve nature and support communities.



perate and boreal forests around the world.

FSC certification works through the development of standards for how forests should be cared for. These standards are then used by independent certifiers to assess whether the forests where companies applying for certification are logging are well managed. Unlike other certification systems, FSC requires companies to meet detailed, rigorous on-the-ground performance measures that have been developed with the support of all of the interests represented in the FSC system — from industry to conservation groups, communities and First Nations.

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*The FSC certification system makes it easier for consumers to choose forest-friendly wood and paper products.*

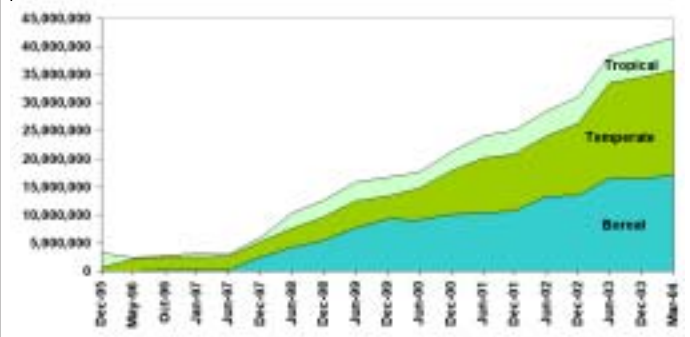
In Canada, we at CPAWS have chosen to enhance our efforts to improve the protection and care of the boreal forest by supporting the market certification program developed and administered by the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC). Under the FSC umbrella, we are working with Aboriginal communities, forest companies and other conservation groups to ensure that we adopt leading-edge approaches to protecting our globally significant boreal forests.

## What is forest certification?



FSC was founded in 1993 after three years of extensive international consultation with a broad range of interests, including representatives from environmental organizations (including CPAWS), the forest products industry, the forestry profession, indigenous people's organizations, communities, forestry groups and forest-product certification organizations from 25 countries. This diverse group developed FSC's guiding set of Principles and Criteria that apply to tropical, tem-

**Rate of Increase of FSC Certified Forest (in hectares)**  
December 1995 to March 2004



www.certified-forests.org

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# KEY ISSUES

Conventional industrial forestry poses several serious threats to forest ecosystems. Below we look at some of these key threats and how the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) system addresses them.

KEY THREATS	FSC SOLUTIONS
<p><b>Loss of habitat:</b> the rate and intensity of logging in Canada's boreal forest is leading to the loss of critical habitat for wildlife. In particular, the declining amount of older and more sensitive forests threatens populations of plants and animals that depend on these habitats for survival. For example, Canada has recently designated woodland caribou, which require old forests, as a threatened species because of habitat loss.</p>	<p>FSC certification requires identification of important habitat areas that are either completely off-limits to logging or are harvested in a way that is more likely to allow the survival of species of concern.</p>
<p><b>Impacts of roads:</b> Logging requires extensive road networks. These fragment large forest areas into smaller and less ecologically valuable habitat blocks. They also allow people to access previously undisturbed areas for hunting and fishing. This can threaten fish and wildlife populations.</p>	<p>FSC certification requires development of strategies for minimizing the extent and impact of road networks.</p>
 <p><b>Regenerating the forest:</b> In many places, the logging that occurs in Canada's forests makes it difficult for a new forest with the same characteristics as the original to redevelop.</p>	<p>FSC certification requires that logging practices be designed to match the desirable characteristics of natural disturbances (e.g. wildfire, windstorms).</p>
<p><b>Old-growth forests:</b> Many birds, mammals, insects and plants require forests that are old or contain many old trees. Industrial logging has focused on reducing or eliminating these forests.</p>	<p>FSC certification requires that old-growth forests are kept at natural levels.</p>
<p><b>Water quality:</b> Road construction and logging near shorelines can lead to sediment running into lakes and rivers and a general deterioration of water quality. Large areas logged within a watershed can also have a negative impact on water quality and water flows.</p>	<p>FSC certification requires that no-harvest reserves be left beside lakes and streams.</p>
<p><b>Economic sustainability and community stability:</b> The current level of industrial logging in many jurisdictions in Canada exceeds the level that can be sustained in the long-term. The industry's focus on logging species like spruce to produce low value-added products like newsprint and wood pulp has resulted in a highly mechanized industry that has been steadily cutting more wood while employing fewer people. A better future for many Canadian logging towns will depend on cutting fewer trees, protecting other economic values in the forest (such as tourism) and using skill, innovation and knowledge to add value to wood products before they leave the community.</p>	<p>FSC certification requires that the harvest level be determined based on long-term ecological sustainability and that mill and forest workers' jobs be protected when investments are made in newer technologies.</p>
<p><b>Respect for Aboriginal and treaty rights:</b> Canada's boreal forest is home to many Aboriginal peoples and communities. Most forestry operations have been approved in their traditional territories without consideration of their Aboriginal and treaty rights.</p> 	<p>FSC certification requires that Aboriginal peoples control management on their lands and territories unless they delegate control with free and informed consent to other agencies. In addition, where traditional knowledge is applied in forest operations, Aboriginal peoples must be compensated for their knowledge by the forest company.</p>

This page: CPAWS - Wildlands League. Opposite page: aerial, Bruce Petersen; Gordon Cosens, CPAWS - Wildlands League; house and furniture, World Wildlife Fund; wood bins, Sabine Vielmo; floor, Crazy Shirt

## What is CPAWS doing across Canada?



CPAWS is working to ensure that the rules or “standards” for forest certification reflect the best science and the best consensus possible between all the groups involved in developing them. Recently, work was completed on a FSC National Boreal Standard. The efforts of CPAWS staff were key to making this standard a big step forward for forest management in Canada.

We have also been direct participants in reviewing on-the-ground certifications. CPAWS-Wildlands League worked with Tembec Inc. on the Gordon Cosens Forest certification in northeastern Ontario, which included:

-  A commitment to protect close to 15% of the forest (291,000 ha.) in areas of high conservation value.
-  A commitment to a much higher level of standing tree retention (10-50%) after logging than required by any provincial rules in place across the country.
-  A commitment to maintain 20% of the forest in large core patches of mature and old forest.
-  A commitment to undertake access planning to protect the remote nature of forest areas (Canadian governments have no policies or laws on this issue.)

In the next couple of years CPAWS will expand its forest certification work to include involvement in certification efforts in Alberta, Ontario and Quebec and to support others working in other jurisdictions.

### Alberta



The CPAWS-Edmonton Chapter supports Alberta-Pacific Forest Products commitment to obtain FSC certification on its 5.8 million hectare Forest Management Agreement (FMA) area, which lies entirely within the boreal forest of northeast Alberta. The chapter is taking part in the company’s efforts to identify High Conservation Value Forest (HCVF) areas and in the identification of sites that should potentially be protected from industrial activities. The chapter will also be in direct contact with the certifier as the certification process proceeds to ensure that all the requirements of



### Conserving Canada's forests is good for business.

Tembec Inc., which recently obtained FSC certification for its operations in hardwood and boreal forests in Ontario, has signed a major contract to supply home renovation giant Home Depot. This \$120 million contract was made possible partly because of Tembec’s FSC certification.



*CPAWS played a hands-on role in shaping the FSC certification of the Gordon Cosens forest in Ontario.*

the new national boreal standard are being met and that the larger viewpoint of the environmental community is being considered.

### Ontario



CPAWS-Wildlands League, which led the environmental community in developing the strong FSC national boreal standard, is now working to translate company certification commitments to real conservation outcomes. The chapter is working with forest companies Tembec and Domtar to ensure that this happens on the substantial lands under their management in Ontario.

### Quebec



In Quebec, CPAWS-Ottawa Valley participated in discussions with Tembec that have led to a proposal for protected areas on Tembec’s licence area. These sites (and others) are currently being considered as part of the provincial government’s protected-areas strategy.

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If you would like more information about CPAWS' efforts to protect boreal forests using the power of the market and other methods, please contact the following or visit our website at [www.cpaws.org/boreal](http://www.cpaws.org/boreal):

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For more information on the Forest Stewardship Council and its forest certification process and standards, visit [www.fscscanada.org](http://www.fscscanada.org)

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## Yukon



CPAWS-Yukon has worked in support of developing the strongest possible FSC national boreal standard. In the Yukon, we are promoting FSC certification of all public lands and the adoption of FSC standards as a basis for Yukon government forest policy. In the interim, we are working within regional forest planning processes to promote ecosystem-based forest plans that will enable smooth certification evaluations in the future.



*FSC certification makes good business sense.*

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FSC also allows products produced from certified wood by approved manufacturers to carry an FSC label (see the FSC label at the bottom of this page), which means that consumers can quickly identify "good wood" products in stores.

In Canada, detailed forest-specific standards have been developed for use in Ontario's hardwood forests (the region that includes Algonquin Park), the Maritimes, and for the boreal forest across Canada. Currently in Canada there are 4.25 million hectares of forest certified under the FSC system, which means that Canada ranks third in the world for the area of forest certified under FSC.



*FSC certified products range from log homes to paper.*

Sunset, Wayne Lynch; houses, Ecolog; handshake, Photodisc



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