

Forest Friendly Lumber



Seattle Audubon's Forest Friendly Lumber Campaign promotes sustainable forestry practices and informed buying decisions by educating consumers about the connection between birds, their habitat needs and Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) certified forestry.

About FSC

- FSC is a nonprofit organization devoted to encouraging the responsible management of the world's forest.
- FSC is the only independent, 3rd party certification system that protects the environment and local communities. Independent certification organizations are accredited by the FSC to carry out assessments of forest management to determine if standards have been met.
- The FSC standards ensure environmental, social responsibility and economic viability by maintaining economic well being of the workers and communities, conserving biological diversity and protecting old-growth forests and allowing indigenous people to keep the rights to their land.
- The Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) partially came about due to the failure by an intergovernmental process to agree on a global forest compact during the 1992 Earth Summit in Rio and the question of "what is sustainable forestry?" In 1993 the Council was formed by a group of loggers, foresters, environmentalists, sociologists wanting to change the practice of sustainable forestry worldwide.
- FSC developed 10 Principles and 57 Criteria for sustainable forest management that are applicable to all FSC-certified forests throughout the world. These 10 Principles encompass every aspect of forest management from the endangered wildlife to the local communities.
- Regional Standards originated from the 10 Principles to provide a unique and local knowledge of the forests for better management. In the United States there are 9 Regional Standards.
- As of 2008, 81 countries have FSC certified forests with 940 total certificates for individual forests.



FSC and Birds

- The most significant forested ecosystems are identified in every certified forestry operation and care is taken to ensure that values such as biodiversity, sensitive aquatic habitats, unique species and plant and animal communities are all protected.
- Buying FSC lumber supports forest management that conserves old growth forests and high conservation value habitats.

- The environmental impact is an important principle that is meant to conserve biological diversity and maintain ecological functions. There are many criteria in place to help lessen the environmental impact of forestry.
 - Safeguards are in place to protect rare, threatened or endangered species and their habitat (e.g., nesting and feeding areas).
 - Management systems shall promote the development and adoption of environmentally friendly non-chemical methods of pest management and strive to avoid the use of chemical pesticides.
 - The usage of any genetically modified organism is prohibited.
- Annual monitoring is required for high conservation value forests to assess the effectiveness of the measures employed to maintain or enhance the conservation attributes.
- Visit Seattle Audubon's Forest Friendly Lumber website to learn more about the diverse birds that use FSC certified forests www.forestfriendlylumber.com.

FSC Wood and Paper Products

- Companies that manufacture, process or trade in timber or non-timber forest products must go through a chain-of-custody certification in order to label their products FSC-certified. Chain-of-custody certification ensures that every step from the source to the store follows FSC principles and standards.
- The three different labels for FSC products:
 - **FSC 100%** products originate entirely from forests certified as meeting the environmental standard and social standards of FSC.
 - **FSC Recycled** products are made up of post-consumer recycled wood or fiber in accordance with FSC standards.
 - **FSC Mixed Sources**; the wood comes FSC certified forests, company controlled sources and/or recycled material.

FSC and Community

- FSC standards help improve the communities surrounding the forests by providing workers opportunities for training, employment and other services.
- FSC Principles ensure that Indigenous people are able to control forest management of their land.

The leading certification alternative is SFI (Sustainable Forestry Initiative) certification, which was founded by the American Forest and Paper Association but which is now an independent organization. SFI standards allow for dramatically less protection for fish and other wildlife than FSC and SFI lacks the strong chain of custody which ensures customers that the wood products they purchase are from sustainably-managed forests.

Resources:

Forest Stewardship Council; www.fsc.org

Seattle Audubon Society; www.forestfriendlylumber.com