

# FSC Certification in BC

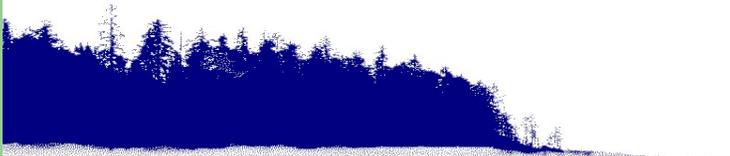
Presentation to WIWAG  
Port Alberni, January 22, 2009

Keith Moore RPF  
Moore Resource Management



# Certification Systems

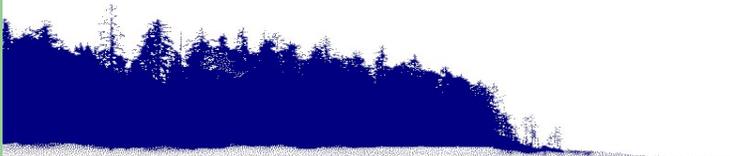
- System based
  - International Standards Organization ISO
- Performance based
  - Canadian Standards Association CSA
  - Sustainable Forestry Initiative SFI
  - Forest Stewardship Council FSC
- Others
  - Program for Endorsement of Forest Certification PEFC



## Lots in Common

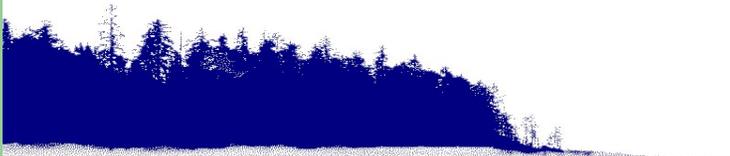
- All are voluntary
- All have a well-developed set of standards
- All have independent audit requirement and defined audit procedures
- All are complimentary to regulatory systems – do not replace them

Each has strengths



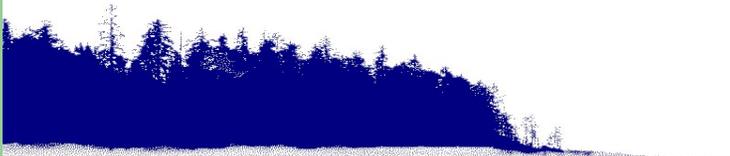
## My involvement

- I chose to work in 1 system - FSC
- Doing it since 2000, in 5 provinces and 5 other countries
- Working on both areas – the audit side, and standard development/policy side
- A response to my background in regulatory enforcement and need for an additional approach



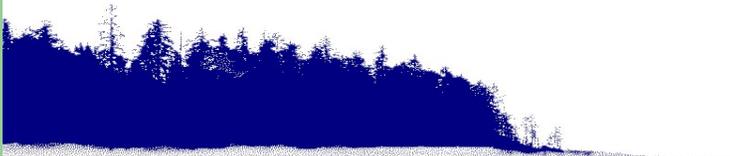
## Why FSC?

- The broadest and highest standard
  - The most rigorous and extensive auditing process
  - Open process with public notice and reporting
  - Credible with environmental and indigenous peoples organizations
  - The only global standard
  - Has a real presence in the market place – a recognizable logo
- IT WORKS



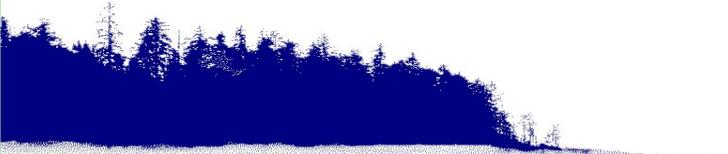
## What is FSC

- An NGO with members around the world
- Balance of social, environmental, economic and respect for indigenous peoples
- A standard setting body– 10 internationally agreed principles of good forest management
- A recognizable logo – a brand



## Important points

- FSC
  - Controls the process for development of FSC standards
  - Endorses standards
  - Accredits and audits the certification bodies
  - Controls and promotes the trademark - logo
- FSC does NOT do audits
- FSC does NOT award certificates
- Certification bodies DO – SmartWood, KPMG, SGS, etc
- Certifies the forest, not the manager or products



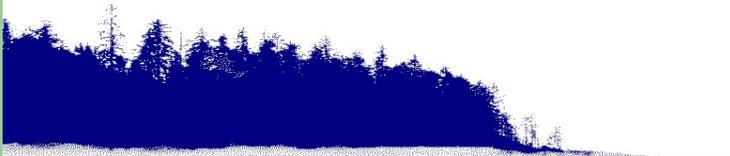
## FSC Globally

- Over 100 million ha
- Over 800 certified forests in 81 countries,
- 10,000 of Chain of custody certificates
- FSC offices in 36 countries
- Boreal, temperate and tropical forests
- \$20 billion of sales of FSC products
- Growing rapidly



## In Canada

- 27 million ha
- 50 forests from Maritimes to BC
- 4 regional standards
- A national office
- Huge network of people

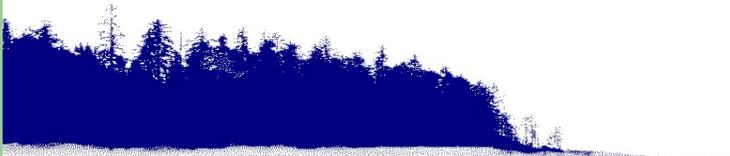


## In BC

- 9 forests – almost 1.9 million ha
- 5 large industrial forests - 3 in Kootenays, 1 on Coast, 1 in Peace
- Several woodlots, 1 community forest
- Pieces are in place
  - a completed standard
  - group of experienced auditors
  - experience with several tenures
  - market pressure and interest

## In Ontario

- The dominant certification system
- 20 forests – 19.5 million ha
- Expanding
- Recent government procurement policy



# The FSC Standard

## ➤ Principles

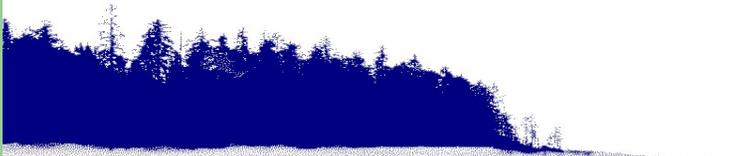
- 10 of them, global application
- Social, environmental, economic and respect for indigenous people

## ➤ Criteria

- 56 of them, global
- More detail about the principles

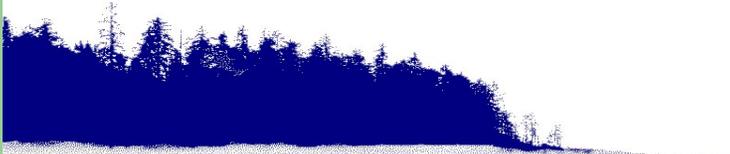
## ➤ Indicators

- Many, locally developed
- Developed in democratic local process



## Global standard - 10 FSC Principles

1. Compliance with local legislation
2. Long term tenure and use rights
3. Recognition and respect for Indigenous Peoples' rights
4. Community relations and workers rights
5. Economic benefits and sustainability
6. Environmental assessment
7. Management planning
8. Monitoring
9. High Conservation Value Forests
10. Plantations

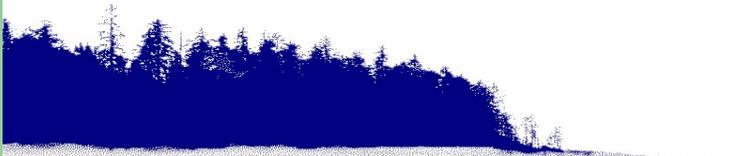


## Regional Standards

- Localize the International Principles and Criteria
- Developed in an FSC approved process
- 4 Regional Standards in Canada

### In BC

- The BC standard (October 2005)
- The BC Small Low Intensity Standard (SLIMF)
- National Boreal Standard (August 2004)

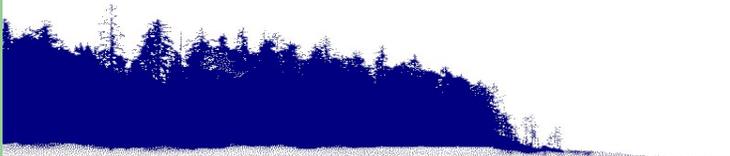


## Getting FSC Certified Means

An applicant fully meets or is in a position to meet the FSC standards that apply to BC.

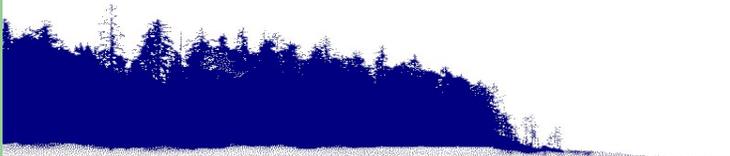
Two important dimensions

- ❖ Standards that apply to BC
- ❖ Compliance with those standards, determined in an independent audit



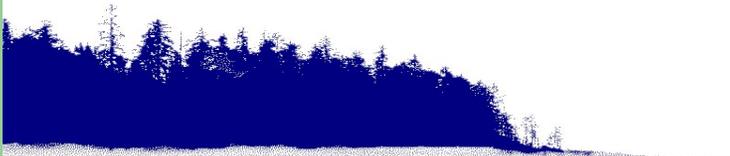
## Getting FSC Certified

- Does NOT require perfection or 100% conformance
- Requirement is “certifiable performance”
- For non-conformance, auditors issue
  - Pre-Conditions – met before certification
  - OR CARS – met in defined times following certification



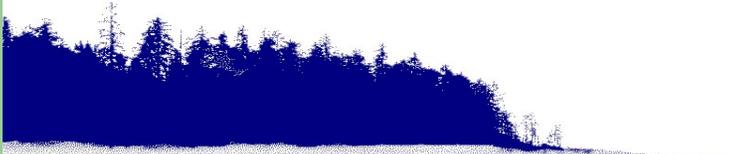
## Key Messages

- BC Standard is done
- Determining compliance with the standard is the job of auditors, not FSC
- Certification does not mean perfection
  - Certified with CARS to move to full compliance
- Can start process even in expectation of Pre-conditions.



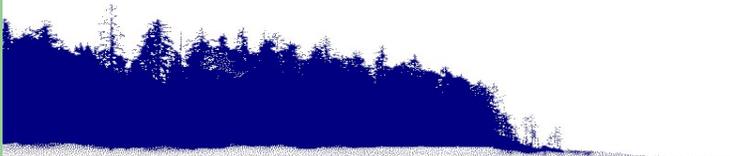
# BC Standard – Myths, Realities, Challenges

- Tenure - What types of licenses can meet the BC standard?
- First Nations - What does the standard require?
- Sustainable level of harvest – AAC?
- Relationships with workers, and communities
- Environmental requirements
  - Riparian
  - High Conservation Value Forests



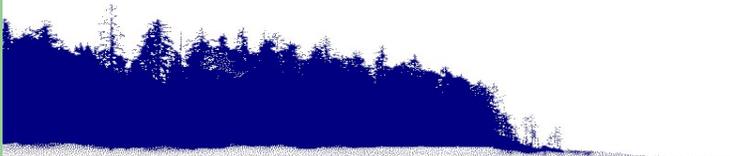
## Tenure – Principle 2

- Area-based
  - No real issues
- Volume-based replaceable
  - Require a defined area or participation of government
- Volume-based non-replaceable
  - Definitely require government participation
  - Very complicated, likely not certifiable
- Short-term
  - Not certifiable



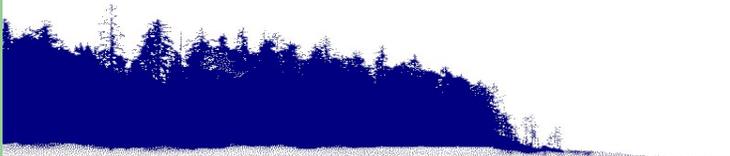
## First Nations – Principle 3

- Relationship between licensee and First Nation
- Based on recognition and respect
- Defined by the parties
  - Ideally a written protocol, but not necessarily
- Interaction on management plans and protection of significant sites, other matters of interest to the First Nation



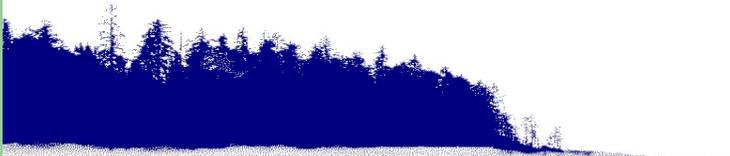
## Rate of Harvest – Principles 2 and 5

- An analysis for area that is certified
- Harvest levels must reflect implementation of measures
  - Can be done subsequent to certification
- Actual harvest no more than 25% above long-term
- No evidence of dramatic AAC reduction in future



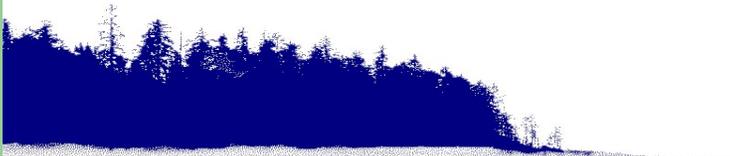
## Workers and Communities – Principle 4 and 5

- Important part of standard
  - Local procurement, worker safety, public participation, local processing, open decision-making
- Significant changes in final revision phase



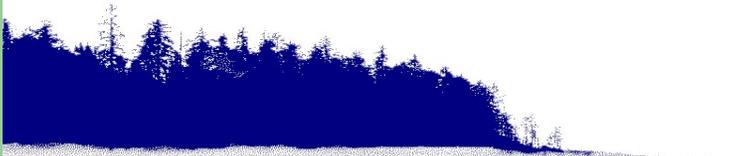
## Environmental – Principles 6 and 9

- Requires analyses and management strategies
  - RONV – environmental base case
  - Species at Risk
  - Protected Reserves
- Protected reserves on the certified forest (6.4)
  - Extent determined by surrounding landscapes
  - Reserves not protected areas – can be dynamic
  - Not foreclosing options – deferral areas



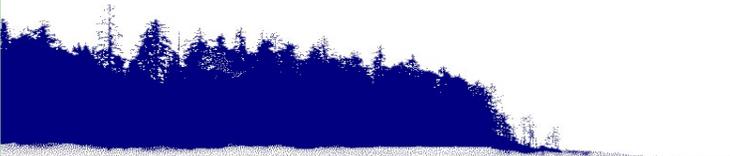
## Environmental – Principles 6 and 9

- Riparian requirements (6.5 bis)
  - An integrated riparian assessment
  - Management strategies and riparian budget
- Probably the most difficult part of the standard
- High Conservation Value Forests requirements (P9)
  - A rigorous consultative HCV assessment
  - Management strategies to protect attributes
  - Deferrals



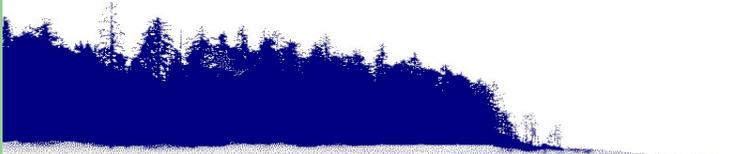
## Getting started

- An internal evaluation
- Select a Certification Body
- A Pre-assessment
  - Small team
  - Focuses on barriers
  - Short report with recommendations



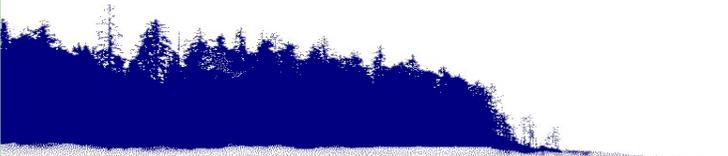
## Next Steps

- Full Assessment
  - Team of 3-5
  - Public notice, many interviews
  - Full report with Pre-conditions and Cars
  - Peer review of full report
  - Posting of summary report on website
- Pre-condition verification audit
- Certificate awarded
  - With Cars



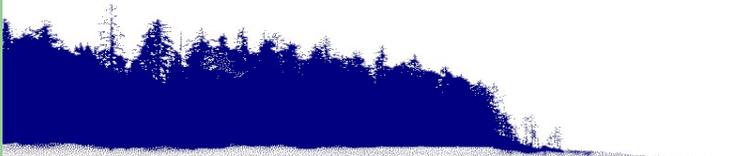
## On-going

- Annual Audits
  - Completion of CARs
  - Issues arising
  - Overview of on-going compliance
  - Small team
  - Public report
  
- Re-assessment after 5 years



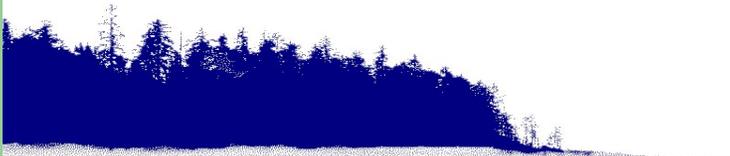
## Before you start

- Whole organization needs to really want to do this
- Takes management to a new level
  - Not just Code-plus, or FRPA plus
- Will lead you into some new relationships
  - Particularly in the interaction with interest groups and First Nations



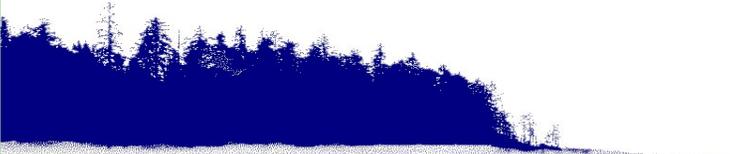
## The future?

- Very significant interest in FSC at the moment
  - Driven by the pulp and paper sector, value-added and environmental pressures
  - Still not much pressure for FSC certified lumber, but growing – RONA announcement
- CSA and ISO fading
- Some convergence with SFI especially in Chain of Custody and add-on certifications
- Revisions to BC Standard and National Boreal Standard



## More Info??

- [www.fsc.org](http://www.fsc.org)
- [www.fscscanada.org](http://www.fscscanada.org)
- [www.smartwood.org](http://www.smartwood.org)
- [www.scs-certified.com/forestry](http://www.scs-certified.com/forestry)
- [www.metafore.org](http://www.metafore.org)
- [www.fscwatch.org](http://www.fscwatch.org)



## Summary

- FSC is an important and growing driver of improved forest management.
- Based on reward and recognition for those that want to be the best
- Growing in importance in the market place
- Lots of issues and lots of critics and opponents worldwide, and locally. Vigorous and robust debate.

