

CONTROLLED WOOD

Guidance for the Pacific Northwest

The Forest Stewardship Council® (FSC®) promotes environmentally sound, socially beneficial, and economically prosperous management of the world's forests. Additionally, FSC® recognizes the challenges in sourcing materials entirely from certified forests. To assist companies and landowners in implementing FSC® requirements, the FSC® Mix label was introduced in 2004. The label allows manufacturers to mix FSC®-certified and non-certified materials. To maintain the purpose of the FSC® label, the risk non-certified materials come from unacceptable sources is controlled. The non-certified material is called "Controlled Wood." This system, with the assistance of suppliers and manufacturers, provides an efficient supply chain while maintaining demand for FSC®-certified products.

FSC CONTROLLED WOOD STANDARD

Maintaining Responsible Sourcing

FSC® developed the *Controlled Wood Standard* for certificate holders, suppliers, and landowners to mitigate the risks of procuring products from the undesirable sources including harvests that are:

- illegal,
- forests with genetically modified trees,
- violate traditional and civil rights,
- threaten High Conservation Values, or
- convert forest to non-forest uses.

To continue to effectively support the FSC® mission and label, all parties of the supply chain will need to assist in the due diligence of product verification.



CONTROLLED WOOD IN THE NORTHWEST

Recognizing & Keeping Unique Features

Since forests across the country have different important features and threats, FSC® has identified conditions in each region that are at risk of being sourced. In the Pacific Northwest (PNW), the Controlled Wood National Risk Assessment identified three elements:

- Old growth,
- Klamath-Siskiyou critical biodiversity area, and
- Conversion from natural forest to other land uses.

Implementation of the standard in the PNW additionally assists with preserving remaining old growth stands, protecting the biodiversity of the Klamath-Siskiyou region, and keeping forest as forest wherever possible.



OLD GROWTH



A Growing Pacific Northwest Rarity

Old growth forests play essential roles in wildlife habitat, species diversity, hydrological regimes, nutrient cycles, carbon storage, and numerous other ecological processes. These old forests are rare, and becoming rarer every day due to natural disturbances like fire; human disturbance where old growth isn't protected; and the warming and drying climate.

Old growth forests are dominated by large, old trees, both live and dead, standing and fallen. Large down logs, broken treetops, bayonet tops, cracks, scars, bark loss, hollow chambers, stem cavities, and other signs of age are common in old growth stands. Because old growth forests are rare, if you find an area that looks like it may be old growth, it is worth reaching out to local forestry agencies or experts.

CONVERSION, FRAGMENTATION, AND CONSERVATION

Keeping Forest As Forest

When forests are converted to agriculture, homes, offices, roads, or other development, we lose all the benefits the forest provided. Even when a forest is fragmented into smaller patches, wildlife habitat is lost and ecosystem processes are disrupted.

Family forests are at the leading edge of conversion risk. Engaging owners in management that meets their goals through efforts such as Foresters for the Birds, Women Owning Woodlands, or University of Oregon's Land Steward program can assist families maintain their forest.

Keeping forest as forest helps protect the clean air, fresh water, carbon storage, economic opportunity, recreation benefits, and wildlife habitat forests provide.



KLAMATH-SISKIYOU REGION

A Critical Biodiversity Area

The Klamath-Siskiyou region has been identified as a Critical Biodiversity Area due to an extraordinary concentration of endemic species. This southwestern Oregon and northwestern California area has complex geology, topography, precipitation patterns, and fire regimes, which combine to create diverse vegetation communities and wildlife habitat. The steep climate gradients and diverse geologic parent materials support more than 1,800 vascular plant species and significant tracts of old growth forests. The region is home to at least 38 native species of amphibians and reptiles. The complex forests of the Klamath-Siskiyou region calls for forest stewardship with sourcing that responds to ecological variation and the high conservation value of these forests, while supporting cultural and community vitality.

