

Agenda Item No.:	2
Presentation Title:	Indiana and Pennsylvania State Forests' Certification
Date of Presentation:	July 25, 2008
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## **SUMMARY**

At its January 9, 2008, the Board requested additional information regarding State Forest Certification. Jack Seifert, Indiana State Forester, and Jim Grace, Deputy Secretary of Parks and Forests for Pennsylvania will give brief presentations on their experiences

Pennsylvania has certified its 2.1 million acres of state forests, through the Forest Stewardship Council [FSC], for 15 years. Indiana has certified its forests through both FSC and the Sustainable Forestry Initiative [SFI].

## **CONTEXT**

Forest Certification is an independent scientific review process that determines if a forest is managed in an environmentally responsible manner. Timber resource sustainability, forest ecosystem maintenance, and financial and socioeconomic considerations are all scrutinized during the process.

The forest products industry is a complex web of interrelationships between producers, suppliers, manufacturers, wholesalers, and customers. Beyond their direct customers and suppliers, companies rarely know where their wood comes from, nor where it ends up. This complex web does not provide a mechanism to trace a product from the forest to the final product and vice versa. Certification provides a mechanism for linking consumers and producers in the marketplace.

By tracking wood from forest to final product, certification enables consumers to support responsible forestry and provides forest owners with an incentive to maintain and improve forest management practices.