

Testimony for Oregon Department of Forestry Board of Forestry Meeting, 7/24/08

Given by Ian Hanna
Northwest Natural Resource Group
360-379-9421 x 2
ian@nnrg.org

I give testimony today on behalf of three organizations:

- Northwest Natural Resource Group (NNRG), www.nnrg.org - *Director, Northwest Certified Forestry*
- Forest Stewardship Council US Initiative (FSC US), www.fscus.org - *Board member*
- FSC Family Forests Alliance, www.familyforestsalliance.org - *Founding member*

All three organizations strongly support ODF pursuing FSC certification as an incremental long term strategy. We support this strategy for the following reasons:

1. FSC certification of specific management units, timed and scaled with market demand, will contribute to the diversification and resiliency of Oregon's forest products industry. The FSC market operates on its own unique set of dynamics, providing new opportunities for Oregon's forestry stakeholders.
2. The FSC system is experiencing rapid growth and maintaining a leadership position for Oregon is important for the state's economy. FSC market share in the US grew from 1 to 2% in 2007 while the number of certified companies grew from 700 to over 1400. As of today there are over 2000 US certificate holders, including 116 in Oregon.
3. Establishing a critical mass of FSC supply, particularly on the Westside, is essential to attracting larger industrial sawmills to the FSC system, which in turn enables greater participation of smaller landowners.
4. The creation of a robust FSC market presents a unique opportunity to engage a broader spectrum of small forest landowners in active planning and management, helping to increase the value of their forests and decrease the pressure to liquidate forests.
5. Washington's Department of Natural Resources has recently completed FSC certification on 145,000 acres in the South Puget Planning Unit with many of these same goals in mind. The agency is committed to helping ODF have a successful experience by providing guidance and feedback.

NNRG has firmly established our Northwest Certified Forestry program in Washington and developed a mutually beneficial relationship with WADNR in the process. Our growth plan, developed in partnership with Sustainable Northwest, calls for the establishment of two field offices in Oregon over the next three years and offers the potential for a constructive NGO/agency partnership. The certification of a northwestern management unit, such as Forest Grove, would present a particularly rich opportunity for developing FSC infrastructure that benefits a full range of stakeholders.