Public Notification Letter

To: Interested Parties
From: SCS Global Services
Date: 21 January 2015
Re: Notification of Pending FSC Controlled Wood Evaluation of Midway Ltd

Summary: As part of an FSC Controlled Wood assessment, SCS is currently seeking stakeholder input regarding the forest management of Midway Ltd. Please comment via email, or call our offices or representatives to discuss (contact info below).

Midway Ltd (Midway) is seeking Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) Controlled Wood (CW) certification for Forest Management Enterprises for their plantation land in Victoria. The Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) is a non-profit organization devoted to encouraging the responsible management of the world’s forests. FSC sets standards that ensure forestry is practiced in an environmentally responsible, socially beneficial, and economically viable way. FSC Controlled Wood standards ensure manufacturers and traders avoid unacceptable timber and timber products, including; illegally harvested wood; wood harvested in violation of traditional and civil rights; wood harvested in forests in which High Conservation Values[1] are threatened through management activities; wood harvested from conversion of natural forests; and wood harvested from areas where genetically modified trees are planted.

Midway manages a total plantation estate of some 22,324 ha. Plantations on freehold land owned by Midway are situated in the Otways, Upper Goulburn and Ballarat regions, and comprise 10,022 ha.

An additional 11,544 ha is managed by Midway for other parties under commercial arrangements. In most cases Midway has a direct interest in these plantations through either joint ventures, leases and or options to purchase the harvest. These plantations are located within Victoria in the Otways, Ballarat, Upper Goulburn and Gippsland regions. Midway also owns an additional 758 ha on leasehold land.

Hardwood species (Eucalyptus globulus and small areas of Eucalyptus nitens) account for 93% of the plantation area and softwood (Pinus radiata) accounts for 7%. The hardwood plantation is managed for pulpwood production; the softwood plantation is managed for sawlog and pulpwood production.

Scope and Certification Evaluation Process

SCS Global Services (SCS), a FSC-accredited certification body based in Emeryville, California, will conduct this FSC evaluation.

The CW Evaluation Process Includes the Following Phases:

- Public notification: distribution of the standard and solicitation of comments on the certification applicant; Audit planning and document review;
- Field assessment: A representative sample of field sites and operations within the defined forest area are inspected by a team of auditors;
- Stakeholder consultation;
- Synthesis of findings: Compliance with the standard is ascertained and the certification decision is formulated;
- Reporting: A draft report describing the evaluation process, findings, and certification decision is produced;
- Delivery of final certification report;
- Certification decision: a public summary of the certification report is released, if certification is awarded.

Call for Public Participation

SCS welcomes comments on the forest management of Midway or other topics pertinent to their seeking FSC CW certification, such as whether Midway complies with the legal, social, technical, and environmental requirements of the standard or identification of high conservation value forests\(^1\). Comments can be submitted via email, standard mail, or facsimile to Graeme Lea. The audit team can make arrangements to allow stakeholders to meet with them during the evaluation upon request. All comments and sources will be kept in strict confidence at the request of the commenter.

\(^1\)High Conservation Value Forests possess one or more of the following attributes: a) forest areas containing globally, regionally or nationally significant: concentrations of biodiversity values (e.g. endemism, endangered species, refugia); and/or large landscape level forests, contained within, or containing the management unit, where viable populations of most if not all naturally occurring species exist in natural patterns of distribution and abundance b) forest areas that are in or contain rare, threatened or endangered ecosystems c) forest areas that provide basic services of nature in critical situations (e.g. watershed protection, erosion control) d) forest areas fundamental to meeting basic needs of local communities (e.g. subsistence, health) and/or critical to local communities’ traditional cultural identity (areas of cultural, ecological, economic or religious significance identified in cooperation with such local communities). Also see Principle 9, in the FSC Principles and Criteria.
Dates

The field evaluation is scheduled to commence during the week of February 23rd, 2015. SCS will make arrangements to meet with interested parties during the evaluation if appropriate, but it is preferred that comments are submitted before the evaluation commences.

Dispute Resolution Procedure

As provided by the FSC Interim Dispute Resolution Protocol and the SCS Forest Conservation Program Quality Manual, dispute resolution procedures are in place and available to interested parties at http://www.scsglobalservices.com/your-feedback

Additional Information


Please contact us

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Thank you for your help and participation.

Best regards,