

From: FSC US Policy and Standards Forum

<standardsforum@us.fsc.org>

Subject: Important update on FSC Controlled Wood US National Risk Assessment

Date: December 21, 2018 at 11:39:26 AM EST

Policy and Standards Forum
Forest Stewardship Council– US



Dear FSC Stakeholders:

Ahead of the holiday break, I wanted to provide an important update about the status of the Controlled Wood National Risk Assessment (NRA) for the United States. Key developments we'd like to make you aware of are:

- On December 7, FSC US received conditional approval of its US National Risk Assessment (NRA). It is **not** published, and the six-month conformance period has not yet begun. We are currently reconciling the conditions and are expecting to finalize and gain full approval before the end of January 2019.
- FSC International has agreed that Certificate Holders can continue to use company risk assessments pending approval of the US NRA or through June 2019, whichever comes first.
- FSC US has gained consent from three US-based environmental NGO's for a low risk designation for threats to High Conservation Values in the 48 conterminous US states. Certificate holders that are using a previous letter from these organizations may use the updated version (attached) to demonstrate stakeholder support for their Category 3 conclusions. We expect that this will be reflected in a formal derogation from FSC International in the next few weeks.
- FSC US has moved to add Alaska and Hawaii to the scope of its NRA in a "Part 2" to be completed by June 2019. In the meantime, FSC International has approved that companies sourcing from these two states can continue to use company risk assessments through June 2019.

The principal issue we are seeking to resolve with FSC International is gaining allowance for certificate holders to rely on effectiveness monitoring by FSC US for landscape-level impacts of control measures using the risk mitigation options developed this past fall. FSC US's proposed approach to the NRA and associated risk mitigation in the US (developed under the guidance of our Board and in consultation with you) departs from the customary approach in the FSC system. As we've noted before, it's innovative and experimental. This was so that we can provide a critical service to certificate holders and other stakeholders – a coherent and limited set of mitigation options that will streamline certificate holder application of the NRA and focus mitigation efforts to increase the on-the-ground impacts that should reduce risk with time. However, because it is so different, the approval process is taking a little longer than expected, and has included a request for FSC US to provide additional support materials.

Once the current version of the NRA (without Alaska or Hawaii) is approved, we will alert you immediately so you have the maximum amount of time to transition to the new standards ahead of the six-month deadline.

Thank you for your input, engagement and continued patience.

My best wishes for the holiday season!

Sincerely,

Amy

Forest Stewardship Council U.S. (FSC-US)
708 North First Street, Suite 235 · Minneapolis, MN 55401 · Phone:
+1 612.353.4511, E-Mail: info@us.fsc.org

FSC US Policy and Standards Team

Amv Clark Eagle. Director of Science and Certification

(a.eagle@us.fsc.org)

Lori Knosalla, Policy and Standards Manager, (l.knosalla@us.fsc.org)

Jenny Anderson, Policy and Standards Manager

(j.anderson@us.fsc.org)

This email notification was sent to the FSC US Policy and Standards Forum. To join the forum, or if you do not wish to receive such emails in the future, please contact FSC US at info@us.fsc.org. Please visit our website at www.us.fsc.org.