



Practical conservation through certified forestry

Public Briefing Paper for FSC forest management certification assessment of Syamzhenskiy LPH OAO in Vologda region, Russia

Introduction – The SmartWood Program of the Rainforest Alliance is conducting FSC forest management and chain of custody certification assessment of Syamzhenskiy LPH OAO located in Vologda region, Russia. This assessment will be carried out by NEPCon - a regional partner and the official representative of the SmartWood Program in Eastern Europe, Scandinavia and Russia. The forest management certification assessment is scheduled to be carried out in March 19-22, 2007.

Scope of the assessment – The forest management certification assessment covers environmental, economic and social aspects of the forest management in the forest area managed by Syamzhenskiy LPH OAO, operating in Syamzhenskiy Leskhoz of Vologda region, Russia. The assessment will cover a total area of 31604 ha.

The assessment will be based upon the Project of SmartWood Interim Forest Management Evaluation Standard for Vologda region, Russian Federation. To get a copy of the standards, please contact NEPCon on the address given at the end of the announcement. The SmartWood Program is accredited by the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) and the assessment process will be conducted in accordance with the FSC requirements and SmartWood certification procedures.

Assessment Team Composition - The assessment team will be led by Alexey Klochikhin (NEPCon). The team member will be Valery Malyshev (Arkhangelsk).

Assessment Steps and Schedule – Following is a short description of certification process and a tentative agenda:

- ◆ Assessment organization – The NEPCon/SmartWood team will assemble in Noginskaya village, Syamzhenskiy district of Vologda region on March 19, 2007.
- ◆ Field assessments – The team will visit sites managed by Syamzhenskiy LPH OAO from March 19, 2007 to March 22, 2007
- ◆ Stakeholder consultation – Throughout the fieldwork, the team will contact local stakeholders regarding Syamzhenskiy LPH OAO forest management in villages surrounding the forest area. This will include private interviews and discussions, and public stakeholder meetings.
- ◆ Public stakeholder meetings – A public stakeholder meeting will be held in Noginskaya village a centrally located public meeting place for Syamzhenskiy LPH OAO. Date, time, and location will be announced soon.
- ◆ Final assessment briefing – Prior to departure the team will meet with Syamzhenskiy LPH OAO managers and other parties to finalize their data collection and present preliminary findings.

- ◆ Draft report production – The assessment team will produce a confidential draft report that will be circulated for comment to Syamzhenskiy LPH OAO.
- ◆ Certification decision – Upon receipt of comments on the draft report from Syamzhenskiy LPH OAO forest managers and other general stakeholder comments SmartWood will reach a certification decision.

Your input – As a part of forest management certification assessment we invite stakeholders to offer comment and feedback on Syamzhenskiy LPH OAO forest management in relation to the requirements of the forest management standard referenced above. We welcome input, either public or confidential, in whatever form is easiest and most secure for you. Your input will be valuable at any stage of the assessment process. We would, however, appreciate receiving your comments as soon as possible so we can consider these during the re-assessment. You can submit your comments in one of the following ways:

1. Call and tell your comments to Nikolai Tochilov or Alexey Klochikhin.
2. Send written comments by mail, fax or email to Nikolai Tochilov or Alexey Klochikhin. Unless you specifically indicate so, your comments will remain confidential and shall only be used to evaluate forest management by the Syamzhenskiy LPH OAO.
3. Meet NEPCon/SmartWood assessment team during the assessment.

The source of any information provided will be kept confidential available to only the FSC and NEPCon/SmartWood staff.

Stakeholders who may wish to dispute any aspect of the forest certification process or decision can access SmartWood's dispute resolution procedures at www.smartwood.org.

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