



Public Briefing Paper for  
**FSC® Forest Management Certification Re-Assessment of  
Marsh-Billings-Rockefeller National Historical Park  
in  
Woodstock, Vermont, USA  
June 10, 2021**

**Introduction** – Preferred by Nature is conducting Forest Stewardship Council (FSC®) Forest Management and Chain of Custody certification re-assessments of Marsh-Billings-Rockefeller National Historical Park with an office located in Woodstock, Vermont. Marsh-Billings-Rockefeller National Historical Park has been certified by Preferred by Nature (formerly NEPCo) since August 23, 2005 (NC-FM/COC-001606). The re-assessment includes forest in Woodstock, Vermont totaling approximately 221 hectares. The re-assessment will begin on August 6, 2021.

**Scope of the Certification Re-Assessment** – The forest management certification re-assessment will assess the environmental, silvicultural, and socioeconomic aspects of the certified forests managed by Marsh-Billings-Rockefeller National Historical Park, using the *FSC-US Forest Management Standard (v1.1)* and the *FSC Standards for US Department of Defense and Department of Energy Forests (V1.1)*. To obtain a copy of these guidelines, please visit the FSC-US website (at <https://us.fsc.org/en-us/certification/forest-management-certification>) or contact Preferred by Nature directly by telephone or e-mail as listed below. Preferred by Nature is accredited by the Forest Stewardship Council™ (FSC®)<sup>1</sup> and this re-assessment process must follow procedures which have been approved by the FSC.

**Re-Assessment Team Composition** – The re-assessment will be conducted by Carolyn Loeb, Lead Auditor, Forest Ecology.

**Re-assessment Steps and Schedule** – Following is a short description of the certification process and a tentative agenda:

- ◆ Re-assessment organization – The Preferred by Nature auditor and Marsh-Billings-Rockefeller National Historical Park staff will meet at Marsh-Billings-Rockefeller National Historical Park's office in Woodstock, Vermont on August 6, 2021.
- ◆ Field assessments – The auditor will visit sites managed by Marsh-Billings-Rockefeller National Historical Park that are included in the scope of the certificate on August 6, 2021.
- ◆ Re-assessment briefing – Prior to departure, the auditor will meet with Marsh-Billings-Rockefeller National Historical Park managers and other parties to finalize their data collection and present preliminary findings.
- ◆ Stakeholder consultation – The auditor will conduct interviews with stakeholders prior to, during, and after the re-assessment.

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<sup>1</sup> FSC® A000535

- ◆ Draft report production – The auditor will produce a confidential draft report that will be circulated for comment to Marsh-Billings-Rockefeller National Historical Park. This should occur 45 days after completion of the re-assessment field work.
- ◆ Certification decision – Upon receipt of comments on the draft report from Marsh-Billings-Rockefeller National Historical Park and other general stakeholder comments, Preferred by Nature will reach a certification decision. Barring unforeseen obstacles, this should occur no later than 90 days after the audit.

**Your Input Sought** – As a part of the forest certification re-assessment process we invite stakeholders to offer comment and feedback on Marsh-Billings-Rockefeller National Historical Park's forest management in relation to conformance with 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 re-assessment process, but we would prefer to receive your comments either prior to the re-assessment, during the re-assessment, or prior to August 13, 2021, so that we can take them into consideration in reaching a certification decision. Your options for communicating your observations to us are as follows:

1. Meet with the Preferred by Nature auditor during or shortly after the fieldwork.
2. Call and give comments to Carolyn Loeb, the Preferred by Nature auditor and staff person responsible for coordinating this certification re-assessment.
3. Submit written comments by mail or email to Carolyn Loeb. Unless you request otherwise, these comments will be kept confidential and are solely for the purposes of auditing Marsh-Billings-Rockefeller National Historical Park as described in this briefing.

### **Contacting Preferred by Nature**

*Carolyn Loeb, Forestry Specialist at Preferred by Nature*

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- ◆ Website: [www.preferredbynature.org](http://www.preferredbynature.org)
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The source of any information provided will be kept confidential and will be available to only the FSC and Preferred by Nature staff.

Stakeholders who may wish to dispute any aspect of the forest certification process or decision can access Preferred by Nature's Complaints, Appeals and Dispute resolution procedures at <https://preferredbynature.org/certification/fsc/complaints-and-resolutions>.