



Public Briefing Paper for
**FSC® Forest Management Certification Re-Assessment of
Duke University, Duke Forest
in
Durham, North Carolina, USA
July 15, 2021**

Introduction – Preferred by Nature is conducting Forest Stewardship Council (FSC®) Forest Management and Chain of Custody certification re-assessments of Duke University, Duke Forest with an office located in Durham, North Carolina. Duke University, Duke Forest has been certified by Preferred by Nature (formerly NEPCo) since December 1, 2001 (NC-FM/COC-000175). The re-assessment includes forest in Durham, North Carolina, totaling approximately 2,749 hectares. The re-assessment will begin on October 18, 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 Duke University, Duke Forest, using the *FSC-US Forest Management Standard (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, fax, or e-mail as listed below. Preferred by Nature is accredited by the Forest Stewardship Council™ (FSC®)¹ 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:

- C. Reed Rossell Jr., 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 auditors and Duke University, Duke Forest staff will meet at Duke University, Duke Forest's office in Durham, North Carolina, on October 18, 2021.
- ◆ Field assessments – The auditors will visit sites managed by Duke University, Duke Forest that are included in the scope of the certificate from October 18 to 19, 2021.
- ◆ Re-assessment briefing – Prior to departure, the auditors will meet with Duke University, Duke Forest managers and other parties to finalize their data collection and present preliminary findings.
- ◆ Stakeholder consultation – The auditors will conduct interviews with stakeholders prior to, during, and after the re-assessment.
- ◆ Draft report production – The auditors will produce a confidential draft report that will be circulated for comment to Duke University, Duke Forest. This should occur 45 days after completion of the re-assessment field work.

¹ FSC® A000535

- ◆ Certification decision – Upon receipt of comments on the draft report from Duke University, Duke Forest and other general stakeholder comments, Preferred by Nature will reach a certification decision. Barring unforeseen obstacles, this should occur by December 1, 2021.

Your Input Sought – As a part of the forest certification re-assessment process we invite stakeholders to offer comment and feedback on Duke University, Duke Forest’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 November 1, 2021, so that we can take them into consideration in reaching a certification decision by December 1, 2021. Your options for communicating your observations to us are as follows:

1. Meet with the Preferred by Nature audit team during or shortly after the fieldwork.
2. Call and give comments to Randy Coots, the Preferred by Nature staff person responsible for coordinating this certification re-assessment.
3. Submit written comments by mail, FAX or email to Randy Coots. Unless you request otherwise, these comments will be kept confidential and are solely for the purposes of auditing Duke University, Duke Forest as described in this briefing.

Contacting Preferred by Nature

Randy Coots, Forestry Specialist

- ◆ Email: rcoots@preferredbynature.org
- ◆ Website: www.preferredbynature.org
- ◆ Telephone: 304-884-9364
- ◆ Mailing address: P.O. Box 212, Canvas, WV 26662, USA

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>.