

Date of notice : October 4, 2021



Public Notification

FSC® Forest Management Annual Audit

Eastern Ontario Forest Group

in

Kemptville, Ontario, Canada

Introduction

Preferred by Nature is conducting an FSC® forest management annual audit of Eastern Ontario Forest Group located in Kemptville, Ontario, Canada. The evaluation will be conducted during the week of **November 15th, 2021**.

Scope of Evaluation

The FSC® certification evaluation will assess the environmental, silvicultural, and socioeconomic aspects of the forest management unit(s) managed by Eastern Ontario Forest Group using the NEPCon interim FSC standard for great lakes/saint-lawrence region (2008). To obtain a copy, please visit: <https://preferredbynature.org/library/standard/nepcon-interim-fsc-standard-great-lakes-saint-lawrence-region-canada>

Information on this FSC certificate holder is available on FSC's website:

<https://info.fsc.org/details.php?id=a0240000005sV9pAAE&type=certificate>

Preferred by Nature is accredited by the Forest Stewardship Council® (FSC) and this evaluation will follow procedures which have been approved by the Forest Stewardship Council®.

Team Composition

James Hallworth, RPF is the sole audit team member.

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Steps and Schedule

In consideration of COVID-19 related travel restrictions in effect at time of audit planning, it has been determined that an evaluation can still be credibly conducted partially remote, in alignment with [Preferred by Nature's policy on auditing during COVID-19 outbreak](#) and [FSC derogation](#). Following is a short description of the evaluation process and a tentative agenda:

- **Desk audit** – The audit team will complete a desk audit and field visit (dependant on travel restrictions) of certificate holder during the week of **November 15th, 2021**.
- **Stakeholder and Indigenous communities/peoples' consultation** – Before and during the fieldwork, the team will contact local stakeholders and Indigenous communities/peoples regarding the forest management activities of the certificate holder in communities. This can include private interviews and discussions as well as public meetings.
- **Final evaluation briefing** – The team will meet with the certificate holder's forest managers and other parties to finalize their data collection and present preliminary findings.
- **Draft report production** – The audit team will produce a confidential draft report that will be circulated for comment to the certificate holder. This should occur within one month after completion of the evaluation.
- **Certification decision** – Upon receipt of comments on the draft report from the certificate holder forest managers, and other general stakeholder and Indigenous communities/peoples' comments, Preferred by Nature will reach a certification decision. Barring unforeseen obstacles, this should occur by end of **January 2022**.

Your Comments Sought

As a part of the audit process, we invite stakeholders and Indigenous communities/peoples to offer comments on the certificate holder's forest management activities in relation to conformance with the requirements of the forest management standard referenced above. **We welcome input, either public or confidential.** Your input will be valuable at any stage of the process, but we would prefer to receive your comments before the end of the on-site audit so that we can take them into consideration in reaching a certification decision. Your options for communicating your comments are as follows:

1. Speak with a Preferred by Nature audit team member before or during the audit.
2. Send comments to the Preferred by Nature staff person responsible for coordinating this audit (see contact info below)

Unless you request otherwise, these comments will be kept confidential, available only to FSC and Preferred by Nature staff. Preferred by Nature's complaints, appeals and dispute resolution policy is available to stakeholders and Indigenous communities/peoples at www.preferredbynature.org.

Contacting the Audit Team James Hallworth ♦ Email: jhallworth@preferredbynature.org ♦ Telephone: +1 (249) 358-9844	Contacting Preferred by Nature James Hallworth ♦ Email: jhallworth@preferredbynature.org ♦ Telephone: +1 (249) 358-9844 ♦ Worldwide Website: www.preferredbynature.org	Mailing address Preferred by Nature Canada Inc. PO box 1771, Chelsea QC, J9B1A1
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