

Forest Management Certification reassessment of M&R Forestland Management Limited in Marlborough, South Island 17 July 2023

Introduction - NEPCon is conducting forest management and chain of custody certification reassessments of the M&R Forestland Management Limited located in South Island, New Zealand. The reassessment will be implemented from 7 to 11 August 2023.

Scope of the Certification reassessment – The forest management certification reassessment will assess the environmental, silvicultural and socioeconomic aspects of the PLANTATIONS managed by M&R Forestland Management Limited, using The FSC Forest Stewardship Standard for New Zealand FSC-STD-NZL-02-2023 Plantations EN and FSC-STD-30-005 V2-0 EN FSC Standard for Group Entities in Forest Management Groups. To obtain a copy of the applicable guidelines or to make comments about these standards, please contact NEPCon by telephone, FAX, email or visit FSC website <https://connect.fsc.org/document-centre> . Please note that the standard may be modified to take account of stakeholder comments. NEPCon is accredited by the Forest Stewardship Council™ (FSC™), . and this reassessment process must follow procedures which have been approved.

The forest under evaluation contains areas either identified as High Conservation Value Forests or where high conservation values, as defined by the FSC, are likely found. NEPCon evaluates the identification, management and protection of these High Conservation Values and solicits related comments from stakeholders.

Reassessment Team Composition – The assessment team will be led by Mr. Graeme Gillies.

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

- ◆ **Assessment organization** – NEPCon team will assemble in Marlborough, South Island on 6 August 2023.
- ◆ **Field assessments** – The team will visit sites managed by M&R Forestland Management Limited from 7 to 11 August 2023.
- ◆ **Stakeholder consultation** – Throughout the fieldwork, the team will contact local stakeholders regarding M&R Forestland Management Limited forest management in villages surrounding the forest area. This will include private interviews and discussions, and public stakeholder meetings.
- ◆ **Final assessment briefing** – Prior to departure the team will meet with FMU managers and other parties to finalize their data collection and present preliminary findings.
- ◆ **Draft report production** – The reassessment team will produce a confidential draft report that will be circulated for comment to M&R Forestland Management Limited. This should occur 7 days after completion of the reassessment. **Certification decision** – Upon receipt of comments on the draft report from M&R Forestland Management Limited forest and other general stakeholder comments, NEPCon will reach a certification decision. Barring unforeseen obstacles, this should occur by 23 August 2023.

Your Input Sought – As a part of the forest certification reassessment process we invite stakeholders to offer comment and feedback on M&R Forestland Management Limited forest management in relation to conformance with the requirements of the forest management standard referenced above as well as comments on the FME's management and protection of High Conservation Values within the forest under evaluation. 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, but we would prefer to receive your comments either prior to the reassessment, during the reassessment, or prior to 14 August 2023 so that we can take them into consideration in reaching a certification decision by 23 August 2023. Your options for communicating your observations to us are as follows.

1. Meet with a NEPCon reassessment team member during or shortly after the fieldwork.

2. Call and give comments to Pratama, NEPCon staff person responsible for coordinating this certification assessment from Asia Pacific Regional Office. If Pratama is not in the office, please give your comments to either Cu.
3. Submit written comments by mail, FAX or email to Pratama. Unless you request otherwise, these comments will be kept confidential and are solely for the purposes of assessing the M&R Forestland Management Limited.

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

Stakeholders who may wish to dispute any aspect of the forest certification process or decision can access NEPCon's Dispute Resolution Policy at preferredbynature.org

Contacting NEPCon

- ◆ Email: pkurniaji@preferredbynature.org for Pratama and cuho@preferredbynature.org for Cu.
- ◆ Worldwide Website - Preferredbynature.org
- ◆ Mail address -

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