

Forest Management Certification Assessment of LESTRANS LLC in Nizhny Novgorod region, Russia 30/10/2015

Introduction - NEPCon is conducting forest management and chain of custody certification assessment of the **LESTRANS LLC** located in Nizhny Novgorod region, Russia. The assessment will be implemented from 21/12/2015 to 25/12/2015.

Scope of the Certification Assessment – The forest management certification assessment will assess the environmental, silvicultural and socioeconomic aspects of the forests managed by **LESTRANS LLC**, using the standard FSC-STD-RUS-V6-1-2012 Russia Natural and Plantations EN. To obtain a copy of the applicable guidelines or to make comments about these standards, please contact NEPCon by telephone, email or website listed below. NEPCon is accredited by FSC and this assessment process must follow procedures which have been approved.

Assessment Team Composition – The assessment team will be led by Alexander Gorbunov (Vologda, Russia). The team members will be named later.

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

- ◆ Assessment organization – NEPCon team will assemble in Shahunya on 21/12/2015.
- ◆ Field assessments – The team will visit the forest management units from 21/12/2015 to 25/12/2015.
- ◆ Stakeholder consultation – Throughout the fieldwork, the team will contact local stakeholders regarding 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 **LESTRANS LLC** 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 **LESTRANS LLC**. This should occur within 30 days after completion of the assessment.
- ◆ Certification decision – Upon receipt of comments on the draft report from **LESTRANS LLC** forest managers, and other general stakeholder comments, NEPCon will reach a certification decision. Barring unforeseen obstacles, this should occur by February 15, 2016.

Your Input Sought – As a part of the forest certification assessment process we invite stakeholders to offer comment and feedback on 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 assessment, during the assessment, or prior to 21/01/2016 so that we can take them into consideration in reaching a certification decision by 15/02/2016. Your options for communicating your observations to us are as follows.

1. Meet with a NEPCon assessment team member during or shortly after the fieldwork.
2. Call and give comments to Alexander Gorbunov, NEPCon staff person responsible for coordinating this certification assessment from NEPCon Russia. If Alexander Gorbunov is not in the office, please give your comments to Nikolay Tochilov.
3. Submit written comments by mail or email to Nikolai Tochilov. Unless you request otherwise, these comments will be kept confidential and are solely for the purposes of assessing the **LESTRANS LLC**.

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 www.nepcon.net

Contacting NEPCon

- ◆ **Email:** nt@nepcon.net for Nikolai Tochilov and ag@nepcon.net for Alexander Gorbunov
- ◆ **Worldwide Website** – www.nepcon.net.
- ◆ **Telephone:** + 79115572080 (Nikolai Tochilov) and +79115736949 (Alexander Gorbunov)
- ◆ **Mail address:** Russia, 163017, Arkhangelsk, Timme street 17, korp. 2

List of forest management units being included into the scope of certification assessment:

Lease agreement	Forestry	Forest district	Compartments	Пл Total area, (ha)ощадъ, га
№3	Pizhenskoe	Burepolomskoye	1-49, 52-63, 65-69, 71-78, 80-85, 87-96, 100-102, 104-110, 114-134, 138-144	107982
		Verkhne-Unzhenskoye	6, 13, 20, 22, 23, 26-28, 34, 36, 37, 39, 42, 43, 46-49, 51, 52, 54, 56, 61-63, 68, 69, 72, 75, 77, 78, 83, 84, 89, 91, 93	
		Pizhenskoe	1-23, 27-32, 34, 35, 37-41, 43-54, 56-65, 68-75, 77-80, 86-89, 93, 95-98, 103-105, 107, 110-114, 116, 118-121, 126, 131-133, 139, 140	
	Shakhunskoye	Shakhunskoye	1-16, 17(part), 18-21, 22(part), 23-27, 28(part), 29-109	
		Khmelnitskoye	1-122	
№73	Pizhenskoe	Pizhenskoe	24-26, 33, 36, 42, 55, 66, 67, 76, 81-85, 90-92, 99-101, 106, 115, 122-125, 127-130, 136, 137, 142-158	24134
		Burepolomskoye	50, 51, 64, 70, 79, 86, 97-99, 103, 111-113, 135-137, 146-155	
		Verkhne-Unzhenskoye	1, 2, 5, 7, 8, 14, 15, 21, 29-32, 35, 38, 44, 53, 55, 57-59, 64, 65, 70, 71, 76, 80-82, 86-88, 90, 92, 94-106	