

**Confidential**



**SmartWood**

*Practical conservation through certified forestry*

**SmartWood Certification Assessment Report**  
*for:*

Paul Smith's College  
Paul Smith NY 12970 USA

**Date Report Finalized:** January 3, 2005

**Date of Field Visit:** August 9 - 10, 2004

**Certification Team:**

David S. deCalesta, Wildlife Ecologist

## **ACRONYMS & ABBREVIATIONS**

AAC	Annual Allowable Cut
AGS	Acceptable Growing Stock
ALP	Annual Logging Plan
AP	Adirondack State Park
APA	Adirondack Park Agency
CITES	Convention on Trade in Endangered Species
DBH	Diameter at Breast Height
DOC	Department of Conservation
FMO	Forest Management Organization
FSC	Forest Stewardship Council
HCVF	High Conservation Value Forest
ILO	International Labor Organization
MBF	Thousand Board Feet
NYS DEC	New York State Department of Environmental Conservation
OSH	Occupation Safety and Health
P&C	Principles and Criteria of the FSC
PSC	Paul Smith's College
RMA	Resource Management Act
SFM	Sustainable Forest Management
SFMP	Sustainable Forest Management Plan
UGS	Unacceptable Growing Stock
VIC	Visitor Interpretive Center

## **INTRODUCTION**

This report presents the findings of an independent certification assessment conducted by a specialist representing the SmartWood Program of the Rainforest Alliance. The purpose of the assessment was to evaluate the ecological, economic and social sustainability of Paul Smith's College (hereafter referred to as PSC) forest management.

This report contains five sections of information and findings. Sections one through three will become public information about the forest management operation that may be distributed by SmartWood or the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) to interested parties. Sections four, five, and the appendices are confidential, to be reviewed only by authorized SmartWood and FSC staff and reviewers bound by confidentiality agreements.

The purpose of the SmartWood program is to recognize conscientious land stewardship through independent evaluation and certification of forestry practices. Forestry operations that attain SmartWood certification may use the SmartWood label for public marketing and advertising.

## 1. GENERAL SUMMARY

### 1.1. Name and Contact Information

**Source Name:** Paul Smith's College

**Contact Person:** Mr. Steve McFarland

**Address:** Paul Smith's College, PO Box 265, Paul Smiths NY 12970

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### 1.2. General Background

#### A. Type of operation

Paul Smith's is a private college offering A.S., A.A.S. and Baccalaureate degrees and is located on the north shore of Lower St. Regis Lake in the heart of the New York State Adirondack Park. The College owns more than 14,000 acres (11,682 forested acres) that are utilized as a teaching laboratory for the educational mission of the College.

#### B. Years in operation

PSC has owned and managed the land under evaluation since 1947.

#### C. Date first certified

PSC was originally certified in August 1999.

#### D. Latitude and longitude of certified operation

Latitude and longitude of certified operation: N44<sup>0</sup> 26.31'; W74<sup>0</sup> 15.28'.

### 1.3. Forest and Management System

#### A. Forest type and land use history

Paul Smiths College (PSC) lands are comprised of temperate white pine, spruce-fir, northern hardwood and mixed hardwood forests. Pine dominates the drier outwash sites with northern hardwoods on the richer till sites. Mixed woods tend to dominate on the less well-drained and nutrient poor outwash sites. The forests are mostly second growth, with an isolated pocket of hemlock/yellow birch old-growth. Forest management is primarily even-aged with minor acreage in all-aged management in stands where pockets of saplings of desirable species (primarily yellow birch) are left standing amid final removal harvests, shelterwoods, or crop tree thinnings. Natural regeneration is utilized to regenerate harvested stands.

In 1858 Paul Smith purchased lands to build a resort hotel on the shore of Lower St. Regis Lake. PSC was chartered in 1947. All PSC forest lands are located within the Adirondack State Park (hereafter referred to as AP). PSC owns a minimal amount of agricultural land. Prior use of the lands was fairly intensive and included timbering (multiple removals via thinning, select cuts, and clearcutting, and whole tree removals for charcoaling), and clearing for pasturing cattle and sheep.

These practices favored shade-intolerant species (black cherry, red maple, yellow birch, and pin cherry) and resulted in the present day species composition, which is different from pre-European settlement (primarily shade-tolerant species).

At one time PSC owned in excess of 50,000 acres, some of which were great distances from the main campus. In the mid-1980's a task force organized the sale of many of these parcels, retaining lands deemed essential to the educational mission of PSC. Some of the outlying parcels were sold to timber companies. New York State purchased areas to add to the Adirondack Forest Preserve. The state also purchased conservation easements on 7,719 acres, which are open to the public for recreation and are used extensively for these purposes.

**B. Size of forest management unit certified and forest use and area in production forest, conservation, and/or restoration**

<b>Land use</b>	<b>Hectares</b>	<b>Acres</b>
<b>Natural or Semi Natural Forest</b>	3,087	7,628
<b>Plantation</b>	0	0
<b>Protected area</b>	215	530
<b>Special Management Areas</b>	1,426	3,524
<b>Water</b>	0	0
<b>Infrastructure and other uses</b>	0	0
<b>Other uses</b>	0	0
<b>Total Certified Area</b>	4,728	11,682

**C. Annual allowable cut and/or annual harvest covered by management plan**

According to the PSC consulting forester Herb Boyce (consulting forester and owner of Northwoods Forest Consultants), there are no good local or regional growth simulators for deriving annual allowable cut (AAC) designed to maintain a sustainable flow of wood products. Therefore, the current AAC is performed on an area basis, scheduling approximately 390 acres per year (out of 7808 acres available for harvest) on a 20-year cycle (primarily thinning and shelterwood cuts). This cut will approximate 3,559 cords of pulpwood and 438 MBF (1,752 cubic meters) of logs per year.

**D. General description of details and objectives of the management plan/system**

Paul Smith's forestlands are administered by the college's Lands Division under the administrative direction of Mr. Steve McFarland, Vice-president for Facilities and Lands Planning and Management. Jim Burtis, PSC Forest Manager, directly oversees consultants, contractors, and stakeholder consultation on behalf of PSC. Actual timber management including inventory, analysis, marking, location of harvest areas and associated transportation roads is conducted by Herb Boyce, in conjunction with Jim Burtis. Road construction, felling, and hauling of wood harvested from PSC's forestlands are usually contracted to professional harvesters (e.g. Seaway and Paul Mitchell logging companies). Paul Smith's staff and consulting forester make management decisions on all of PSC forestlands.

PSC developed their management plan in 2000 at the direction of the Vice President for Facilities and Lands Planning and Management. The introduction of the PSC overarching management plan states that the purpose of the forestlands is "...to provide educational resources and recreational opportunities for the student body and for the public. Management of the diverse forest, water, and

wildlife resources on these lands has the goal of enhancing education and recreational values through the demonstration of sound natural resource management practices.”

Primary goals identified for forest management practices are:

1. Provide direction for the sustainable management of the College’s forest resources.
2. Assure the necessary resource base for the educational needs of the College’s Academic programs.
3. Direct harvesting of production forest lands to improve timber quality and provide revenue to support the educational mission of the College.
4. Revise and clarify forest management policies and operating procedures.
5. Direct management activities to maintain and enhance biodiversity on [the] College forest.
6. Preserve and manage unique sites and habitats on the College forest.
7. Provide mechanisms to encourage the compatibility of the various uses of land values associated with the College forest.
8. Position the management of the College’s easement lands within the framework of the NYS DEC unit management plan and the College forest within the greater Adirondack landscape.

PSC philosophy regarding forest management, as deduced from: 1) review of its purpose and goal statements; and 2) field and office interviews with PSC forestry staff, consulting forester, contract loggers, and other stakeholders is one of comprehensive stewardship (conservation, enhancement, and preservation [where deemed necessary]) of multiple forest resources and values for intra-generational and sustainable use by multiple publics.

The approach of PSC for management of forest resources consists of: 1) considerate, comprehensive identification of perceived and desired uses and values, consumptive and non-consumptive, of forest resources by multiple publics; 2) professional evaluation, based on scientific inventory, of the condition of its resources relative to these perceived uses and values; 3) development of management activities designed to meet the needs of various publics for its forest resources, including protection/preservation/conservation of imperiled resources whilst being sensitive to concerns of adjacent public and private landowners; 4) continuous dialogue with/education of concerned publics regarding conduct of forest management activities, including rationale for such activities; and 5) monitoring of outcomes of management activities to determine impacts and need for corrective action (if any).

For each of its managed tracts PSC has developed a management plan based on a template. The management plan for each tract includes a summary narrative followed by tabled inventory data for each stand in all compartments in the tract. Northwoods Forest Consultants, LLC (Herb and Debbie Boyce) were retained by PSC to assemble the management plans with oversight and guidance provided by the PSC Forest Manager. The plan is updated or amended as needed. An annual report is prepared and submitted to the PSC College Board of Trustees detailing: commercial timber harvest; educational activities conducted in support of PSC educational mission; forestland improvements; status of FSC/SFI certification (awards, recognition, and certification audit results). Harvesting is on a 20-year entry cycle based on projections drawn from running data through stand-level (SILVAH) and/or landscape-level (NED) models and adjusted based on the professional judgment of consulting foresters. Both SILVAH and NED models are based on long-term planning.

Overstory vegetation (trees) and understory vegetation (regeneration and interfering plants including ferns) are inventoried systematically on a 10 by 10 chain grid of plots. Overstory trees are tallied

using a 10 BAF prism; all seedling/sapling stems within a 6' radius plot are tallied as is percent ground cover and fern. These data are entered into the SILVAH computer program which produces an inventory of overstory trees and understory condition. The consulting forester, Herb Boyce integrates this inventory (primarily basal area by species and size classes) with information on site quality and personal experience to develop prescriptions for timber management. The overriding philosophy for the timber resource is to grow what grows best based on site factors. Rare species are reserved from harvest to enhance biodiversity. Real or potential occurrence of sensitive plant and animal species is obtained by querying the New York Natural Heritage database. The majority of PSC forestlands have an even-aged structure; even-aged management practices remain the predominant silvicultural regime currently employed. Pockets of sapling birch (or other desirable species) are maintained within sites harvested under even-aged management (final removal harvest, shelterwood thinnings, seed tree harvest) with the intent of eventually creating pockets of all-aged stands where feasible. Shelterwood and seed tree harvests are conducted with the intent of improving diversity and abundance of advanced regeneration prior to final harvest removals. Residual trees are retained within harvested stands to provide wildlife habitat (snag and den trees) and to retain species diversity (rare species such as butternut). Pockets of conifers are retained as additional sources of wildlife habitat and tree species diversity. Other wildlife habitats (hawk/owl nests, rock outcrops, vernal pools, riparian zones) are protected by 100' no-cut buffers.

Current timber harvesting is carried out with feller-bunchers, gathering whole trees into "hitches" and hauled out by grapple skidders on skid trails to landings where they are either chipped or processed into sawlogs or veneer logs. Logging is contracted to a limited number of contract loggers with a proven history of responsible logging practices. Wherever possible, existing roads and skid trails are used to extract timber. Where new roads are needed, the layout is planned by the forestry consultant and contract logger under the supervision of the Forest Manager. Skid trails are located to minimize disturbance. Stream crossings are constructed of temporary steel bridges or corduroy logs in a manner to minimize erosion/siltation. The forestry consultant carefully supervises all harvests and usually visits harvest sites daily. Harvests are scheduled during winter or dry times of the year to minimize site disturbance, and operations are shut down if sites become too wet for adequate environmental protection. The PSC Forest Manager alerts adjacent landowners and other stakeholders of imminent timber harvest or other management operations, integrates any concerns with harvest planning, and makes superior efforts to minimize negative interactions with neighboring landowners.

#### **1.4. Environmental and Socioeconomic Context**

***Regional environmental context:*** PSC forestlands lie within the Adirondack Park (AP), which encompasses 6.1 million acres in northeastern New York State. The AP is the largest publicly protected area in the contiguous United States. About 42% of the lands within the AP boundary are for public use, and protected to remain "forever wild", while the other roughly 58% is a mosaic of large and small private ownerships. Along with similar lands in the Catskills, the Adirondack Forest Preserve was created in 1885 by an act of the New York State Legislature. Originally consisting of scattered parcels covering about 681,000 acres, the Adirondack Forest Preserve has grown over the past century to include more than 2.6 million acres, which are owned and managed by the State of New York.

New York's Constitution states that public lands in the AP must never be developed and "...shall be forever kept as wild forest lands." Attempts to weaken the law that established the Adirondack Forest Preserve led the State to amend the New York State Constitution to read:

"The lands of the state, now owned or hereafter acquired, constituting the forest preserve as now fixed by law, shall be forever kept as wild forest lands. They shall not be leased, sold or exchanged, or be taken by any corporation, public or private, nor shall the timber thereon be sold, removed or destroyed."

Forest stands in the AP represent a full range of successional stages, including even-aged early succession, sapling, and second-growth stands, and uneven-aged second growth and old growth. Lakes and ponds abound throughout the park, as do myriads of riparian zones. Beaver meadows form permanent grassland savannas in places. The breadth and aggregate acreage of a great variety of habitat types and vegetative species provides a high degree of floral and faunal diversity. Because of the great diversity and associated large acreage of wildlife habitats, the AP represents a regional bio-reserve of high value, providing source habitat (habitat of sufficient quality and quantity that attracts and retains populations of individual wildlife species) rather than sink habitat (habitat of high value that attracts individuals of wildlife species which cannot sustain local populations because aggregate acreage is too small).

The major natural disturbance factor, as evidenced by a pit-and-mound topography, is windthrow by tornadic winds: small windshears may lay down small blocks of trees (2-10 ha), other, larger winds, including remnants of hurricanes and tropical storms, may disturb hundreds to thousands of ha. Ice storms cause spotty tree mortality, and the area is within the killing front for the beech bark disease complex which regionally has resulted in much beech mortality. Browsing impact by the white-tailed deer is a local factor limiting regeneration, as is interference (to advance regeneration of tree species) by ferns.

The 12,306 acres (4,980 ha) of forestland constituting lands managed by PSC are located in the north-central part of the AP and are close to three of the largest tourist towns (Saranac Lake, Lake Placid, and Tupper Lake). Managed PSC forestlands provide a contrast with adjacent AP lands: trees within managed PSC lands are younger and dominated by hardwood species: trees within AP lands without a history of timber extraction contain older trees which may be dominated by conifer species, and by more and larger snags and logs.

There are few endangered/threatened (Federal status) plant or animal species within the AP. The Natural Heritage Program of the New York Department of Environmental Conservation has listed as Federally-endangered one animal (Karner Blue butterfly), and one plant (northeastern bulrush), two threatened animals (Indiana bat, bald eagle), and one threatened plant (small whorled pagonia). The large and diverse public land holdings within the AP minimize the potential for endangerment or imperilment, as does the permanent protection and prohibition of development of forestland provided by New York State legislation. The AP contains several small to medium-sized human communities that depend upon water provided by local watersheds, but larger metropolitan areas farther south (e.g., New York City) obtain water from other watersheds south of the AP. The AP contains several rivers in the wild and scenic category for which environmental safeguards are in effect. The predominant forest type is northern hardwood with a preponderance of sugar maple, eastern hemlock, white pine, yellow birch, and aspen with lesser representation of red maple, American beech, black cherry, basswood, and black ash.

The AP is sufficiently far north that deer form "yards" within which they wait out severe winter weather. Deer yards are usually found in low, sheltered areas out of the wind with a continuous conifer cover where food sources are not drifted over with snow and deer can move about freely. Such areas provide important habitat components for white-tailed deer, and the PSC assessment program includes identification of loci of deer yards (one currently identified) and maintenance of the yard.

**Regional Socioeconomic Context:** PSC represents a small fraction of the land within the AP.

Excepting the tourist towns of Saranac Lake, Lake Placid, and Tupper Lake, the area is rural with low human density. The New York Corrections Department (prisons) and tourism are the largest employers in the area; the forestry profession (haulers, skidders, fellers, consultants) forms a small fraction of the local workforce. Most all local pulp mills closed years ago and haulers must travel long distances (60 miles or more to Glens Falls or Fort Ticonderoga, NY or Cornwall, Ontario, or 200-400 miles to mills in Quebec). Recently, the pulp market has improved considerably with increased demand for pulp fueled partly by the Finch, Pruyn mill in Glens Falls, NY coming back on line after a labor strike. Paul Smith's contributes more to the local workforce with its faculty, technical, and service staffs than by providing employment in timber management/extraction.

Most of PSC land is natural forest. The 2,815 acre VIC tract is leased to the State of New York for their Visitor Information Center and the Onchiota tract is leased to the "Aspen Group" which conducts a outward bound type camp for youth rehabilitation on that acreage. Because PSC lands were harvested repeatedly in the past before they were acquired, PSC forestlands are primarily maturing young second growth. There are a variety of age classes on the forest, and timber management is carried out on a sustained yield allowable cut rotation where reentry into a stand is made on average every 20 years. The management objectives are to maintain the current species composition on the forest. A variety of timber products are harvested from its lands. A very small portion of the harvest is directed to PSC's on-campus mill and kiln used by students to gain experience in milling and drying lumber. Most of the timber is sold on the open market. The College has long-term relations with contractors and mills in the area.

Most of PSC land is open to public recreation. PSC lands encompassed by the AP boundaries are strictly regulated for a number of uses including forest management.

PSC has been an integral part of the AP community and has given small tracts of land to the local community for use as public utility sites. PSC contributes to local and regional forestry professional and outreach programs by conducting public tours and professional workshops assists in logger training exercises by providing sites and equipment. It also provides public access to a number of recreational trails. The significant public educational effort on the VIC has contributed significantly to local employment and revenues.

Over the last few years PSC has focused on salvage operations, particularly due to the 1998 ice storm, to utilize the wood before it loses value.

## **1.5. Products Produced and Chain of Custody**

### **A. Chain of custody certificate**

As forestland managers, PSC is pursuing a Forest Management certificate. Because FSC certified forest management operations selling timber are responsible for maintaining FSC chain of custody standards to the point that the wood sold goes out of their ownership (defined as the "forest gate"), all forest management certificates are issued with "FM/COC" certification numbers. The scope of activities taking place under PSC's chain of custody will include timber-harvesting activities and the sale of harvested logs and pulpwood.

PSC sells timber on the open market to a wide range of purchasers. PSC explicitly describes their timber as FSC certified in all advertisements and on timber sale contracts and cutting permits. The

forest gate is the log yard where logs, pulpwood, chipwood and veneer buyers send their own trucks to transport the FSC certified wood.

The consulting forester identifies all wood that is harvested on PSC forestlands and loaded onto a truck with a control ticket that specifies the property owner, date and time loaded and delivered, mill/buyer, product by species, and signs the ticket which is given to the mill and picked up by the consultant at weekly intervals from individual mills.

## B. Species and volumes covered by the certificate

**Table 1: FSC Certified Production 2004 (January - September)**

Species	Scientific name	Volume (m <sup>3</sup> per yr)	Product
Sugar maple	<i>Acer saccharum</i>	386.2	Sawlogs
Red maple	<i>Acer rubrum</i>	173.2	Sawlogs
Black cherry	<i>Prunus serotina</i>	85.3	Sawlogs
Yellow birch	<i>Betula alleghaniensis</i>	5.6	Sawlogs
White ash	<i>Fraxinus americana</i>	0.5	Sawlogs
American beech	<i>Fagus grandifolia</i>	83.0	Sawlogs
White birch	<i>Betula papyrifera</i>	0.2	Sawlogs
Basswood	<i>Tilia americana</i>	0.1	Sawlogs
American elm	<i>Ulmus americana</i>	0.4	Sawlogs
Aspen	<i>Populus sp.</i>	0.4	Sawlogs
White pine	<i>Pinus strobus</i>	6.7	Sawlogs
Spruce	<i>Picea sp.</i>	180.0	Sawlogs
Softwood pulp	-	51.5	Chipwood
Hardwood pulp	-	47,536	Chipwood

## C. Description of current and planned processing capacity covered by the certificate

PSC has a small mill and kiln utilized primarily for student education. The production potential at PSC's mill is too small to qualify as a commercial operation.

## 2. CERTIFICATION ASSESSMENT PROCESS

### 2.1. Assessment Dates

August 9-10, 2004	Field assessment at PSC
September 24	Draft report to SmartWood
October 5	Draft report submitted to auditor for modifications
October 9	Second draft report to SmartWood
October 15	Draft report to PSC for initial review & fact- checking/comment
November 30	Comments received from PSC
January 4, 2005	Final draft submitted to SW for Certification Decision

## 2.2. Assessment Team and Peer Reviewers

The assessment was conducted by David S. deCalesta from Wildlife Analysis PC. Dr. deCalesta has a Ph.D. in Wildlife Ecology from Colorado State University and is a Certified Wildlife Biologist. Experience includes 13 years as research wildlife biologist, USDA Forest Service Northeastern Research Station, 16 years assistant/associate professor of Wildlife Ecology and Forest Science, North Carolina State University and Oregon State University, and 4 years as a wildlife consultant and FSC auditor. He has served on 11 assessment teams, and was team leader on 3 assessments. Has performed three audits and reviewed 2 FSC assessments. Took SmartWood team leader training in 2001. Currently Professor of Forestry (adjunct) at SUNY-ESF.

### Peer Review

No peer reviews were sought for this assessment consistent with FSC policy for re-assessments.

## 2.3. Assessment Process

During the field phase of the assessment process, the assessor conducted the following steps as part of the normal SmartWood certification process.

**Pre-Assessment Planning and Documentation review** – The assessor (David deCalesta) reviewed the initial SmartWood assessment and subsequent 4 annual audit reports for PSC. The assessor also reviewed the 2002 edition of the Northeast Regional Standards and the Northeast Regional Assessment Template. No documents were received from PSC prior to conduct of the assessment. Documents received and reviewed during the assessment included: annual reports to Paul Smith's College Board of Trustees; Timber sale announcements for PSC forestlands prepared by the consultant Herb Boyce; example timber sale contracts; harvest operation closing form; 2004 harvest yield from thinning Creighton tract; site quality classification document; PSC management plan including stand tables, stand descriptions and prescriptions, and timber harvest work schedules for individual stands within tracts; letter from NYS DEDC referencing Natural Heritage Database query for sensitive species within PSC forestlands; Gap analysis performed by SW prior to the re-assessment; control ticket form used to track wood harvested from PSC forestlands; and timber harvest work schedule by year (2001-2004). Two publications (*Paul Smiths Flora II: Additional Vascular Plants, Soils and Vegetation and Local Forest History*, and *Historical Update Paul Smith's College: Lands, Forests, and Buildings*) written by Mike Kudish, PSC Professor of Forestry were received from Mike Kudish two weeks after the field portion of the assessment was completed.

- 1) **Selection of Sites and Field Inspections:** – All sites with recent timber harvest activities (crop tree thinning, improvement thinning) were visited by the assessor and the PSC Forest Manager. The consulting forester and one of the contract loggers (Pat Curran) were laying out a haul road on another site which was to receive improvement thinnings in the near future. The assessor walked the length of the laid-out road, inspecting permanent and intermittent stream crossings and querying the consultant and logger about bridge placement and location of the road relative to sensitive areas and a site being utilized for silvicultural research by the USDA Forest Service Northeast Research Station. A recreational site within this property was visited and the assessor and PSC Forest Manager discussed viewshed protection. A part of the Tongue tract which contains a potential old growth site was visited as was a recreational site (lean-to and fire pit). The VIC tract, leased to the NYDEC for a Visitor Interpretive Center (preserve/demonstration

area/management area) was also inspected. At each site visited (where applicable) the location and condition of skidding and haul roads were inspected, standing trees were examined for residual damage, condition, location, and number of residual trees (snags and live trees) was observed, and justification for silvicultural treatment was discussed. The assessor and PSC Forest Manager briefly toured the PSC campus.

- 2) **Field Interviews/Stakeholder consultation** – The assessor was accompanied by the PSC Forest Manager and discussed PSC forest management throughout the assessment. The consulting forester and a contract logger (Pat Curran) were interviewed in the field as they laid out a haul road on a portion of the VIC tract to be harvested. During a visit to the PSC campus the assessor interviewed a Forest Division faculty member. After the field portion of the assessment was concluded the assessor contacted and interviewed 14 stakeholders by telephone.
- 3) **Assessment Report Development** – The assessment report was developed over a 24 day period after the fieldwork was completed. Throughout this write-up period the assessors continued to conduct stakeholder interviews and other research.
- 4) **Report Review by Candidate Operation and Independent Peer Reviewers** – The assessment report was reviewed by the SmartWood staff, and PSC. The report was not peer reviewed in keeping with FSC policy for reassessments.
- 5) **Certification Decision** – The certification decision was made by SmartWood. This was completed after review the assessment report and comments made on the draft report by PSC.

**Table 2. Summary of Forest Areas & Areas Visited by SmartWood Assessor**

<b>Forest/Block Name</b>	<b>Total Area in Acres</b>	<b>Assessment Site</b>
Airport 1	798.0	
Airport 2	691.3	
Campus	361.5	X
Creighton	2148.4	X
Currier	354.4	
Easy Street	438.9	
Gabriels	462.7	
Johnson Mountain	2028.3	
Onchiota	656.8	
Osgood	227.8	X
Sugarbush	628.5	
Tongue	694.5	X
VIC	2814.6	X
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>12,305.7</b>	<b>6246.8</b>

#### 2.4. Standards

The standards used in the assessment of PSC were the 2002 FSC Certification Standards for the Northeast Region of the United States. These standards may be found on the website: <http://www.fscstandards.org>

## 2.5. Stakeholder consultation process and results

The purpose of the stakeholder consultation strategy for this assessment was threefold:

- 1) to ensure that the public is aware of and informed about the assessment process and its objectives;
- 2) to assist the field assessment team in identifying potential issues; and,
- 3) to provide diverse opportunities for the public to discuss and act upon the findings of the assessment.

The stakeholder consultation process includes an initial stakeholder notification, as well as detailed and meaningful stakeholder interaction. The process of stakeholder interaction begins prior to the field visits, occurs throughout the field evaluations including post assessment interviews, and can continue after a certification decision is made. SmartWood welcomes comments on certified operations at any time, and such comments often provide a basis for field auditing.

In the case of PSC, input from the Forest Manager and the assessor's knowledge of regional contacts were used to form an initial list of stakeholders which was the basis for selection of people for interviews (in person or by telephone).

### Issues Identified Through Stakeholder Comments and Public Meetings

The stakeholder consultation activities were organized to give participants the opportunity to provide comments according to general categories of interest based upon the assessment criteria. Each stakeholder interviewed was appraised of the 10 FSC principles forming the basis of the assessment process and invited to comment upon as many as he/she desired. The table below summarizes the issues identified by the assessment team with a brief discussion of each based upon specific interview and/or public meeting comments.

**Table 3: Stakeholder Comments**

<b>FSC Principle</b>	<b>Stakeholder Comments</b>	<b>SmartWood Response</b>
<b>P1: FSC Commitment/ Legal Compliance</b>	Paul Smith's always pays its taxes on time	None needed
<b>P2: Tenure &amp; Use Rights &amp; Responsibilities</b>	No comments given	None needed
<b>P3 – Indigenous Peoples' Rights</b>	No comments given, this is not an issue on PSC lands as there are no indigenous peoples' holdings nor are there any legal cases on file related to such holdings.	None needed
<b>P4: Community Relations &amp; Workers' Rights</b>	<p>'Jim Burtis is a good go-between for PSC and loggers.' Note: this was a very common comment. 'PSC is an excellent outfit to work with, Herb Boyce is a great forester, on timber harvesting jobs every day checking to make sure all is OK.'</p> <p>“Wishes PSC would make better use of their small demonstration saw mill and kiln for local businesses, attempt was made in past but some political problem</p>	<p>None needed</p> <p>None needed, mill is too small to operate as a business.</p>

	<p>with PSC’s charter regarding competition.”</p> <p>“Adirondack North Country Association has a great long-term relationship with the College faculty and academic programs.”</p> <p>“Bid on 3-4 logging jobs but didn’t get them. Like the bid process except that there is no feedback on failed bids – wish they had informed me of winning bid amount. I complained but was told they would not change the procedure/policy.”</p> <p>“PSC has a good local reputation.”</p> <p>“Good trust relationship between PSC and Heron Lane landowners. Local community supports PSC in variety of ways and community uses PSC resources on campus.”</p> <p>Some anxiety exists among neighboring landowners that a planned harvest will turn a forest into a field.</p> <p>“PSC recognized locally, regionally as contributing positively to general welfare as well as to forestry profession.”</p>	<p>None needed</p> <p>PSC should consider releasing information on successful bids to improve transparency in the bidding process and to encourage competition among bidders.</p> <p>None needed</p> <p>None needed</p> <p>SmartWood assessor appraised PSC Forest Manager of concerns, Burtis said he would respond.</p> <p>None needed</p>
<b>P5: Benefits from the Forest</b>	<p>“PSC right up where it should be in forest management and doing the right things. Very professional group.”</p>	<p>None needed</p>
<b>P6: Environmental Impact</b>	<p>PSC very responsive to NYS DEC concerns about forest protection. Impressed with staff, great job with Timco feller-buncher operation, no residual stand damage, one of nicer timber jobs, least damage possible. “PSC contracts with only the best loggers.”</p> <p>“Forestlands are managed well.”</p> <p>“PSC great to deal with, good relationship with Jim Burtis, wishes he had more work with them. Best stewards of the land he knows. “</p>	<p>None needed</p> <p>None needed</p> <p>None needed</p>
<b>P7: Management Plan</b>	<p>No comments given</p>	<p>None needed</p>
<b>P8: Monitoring &amp; Assessment</b>	<p>No comments given</p>	<p>None needed</p>
<b>P9: Maintenance of High Conservation Value Forest</b>	<p>No comments given</p>	<p>None needed</p>
<b>P10 - Plantations</b>	<p>No comments given</p>	<p>None needed</p>