

## **February 13<sup>th</sup> 2012 CFCI Statement Suspension of FSC® certificate**

On December 10<sup>th</sup> 2009 the Coast Forest Conservation Initiative (CFCI) was issued a Forest Stewardship Council® (FSC) certificate (SW-FM/COC-004545) for tenures within the Mid Coast Timber Supply Area. The period of certification is 5-years or until September 2014 at which time the operations will be recertified.

In addition to the 5-year reassessment, the certification is reviewed through an annual surveillance by the FSC® accredited certification body Rainforest Alliance. During the 2011 surveillance 10 existing non-conformances with the FSC British Columbia Forest Management Standard were reviewed by the audit team. Seven of these were closed and three remained open at the end of the audit. During the 2011 surveillance an additional three incidents of non-conformance were identified and not closed within the time specified by FSC. A certificate with five or more open major non-conformances is subject to suspension. As a result the CFCI certificate has been suspended pending closure of two or more of the non-conformances. Once the certificate is reinstated the remaining non-conformances are still required to be closed within prescribed timelines. CFCI expects to complete the corrective actions required during 2012.

The certification process has mechanisms to address incidents of non-conformance. FSC® recognizes that closing a non-conformance may sometimes take longer than allowed by the organization's policies and procedures. As a result a temporary suspension of the certificate is the mechanism that allows time for the certificate holder to implement corrective action.

The FSC® certificate issued to CFCI is based on compliance with the FSC® British Columbia Standard, which is available at [www.FSCcanada.org/bcstandard.htm](http://www.FSCcanada.org/bcstandard.htm).

Further information on FSC® can be found at [www.fsc.org](http://www.fsc.org).

A public summary of the auditor's report can be found at [info.fsc.org](http://info.fsc.org).