

**Contacts:** Diane Dulmage  
Communications Associate  
Scientific Certification Systems  
ddulmage@scscertified.com  
510-452-8003

Bill Schmidt  
Marketing Director  
Menominee Tribal Enterprises  
bills@mtewood.com  
715-756-2311 Ext. 1142

## **Menominee Tribal Enterprises Awarded FSC Certification**

### *Wisconsin Forest and Sawmill Reaffirm Commitment to Sustainability*

**Emeryville, CA August 11, 2008** – Scientific Certification Systems (SCS) has certified Menominee Tribal Enterprises (MTE) for its “well-managed forests” under the internationally recognized Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) program. In addition, SCS has certified MTE for its chain-of-custody handling of wood products.

The certifications, awarded for a five-year period, coincide with MTE’s celebration of its 100th anniversary as the business arm of the Menominee Indian Tribe of Wisconsin. Formed to provide employment and benefit members of the tribe, it built a sawmill on the property. Today, the forest and sawmill represent about \$100 million of total economic output and support 460 jobs in the county, many of whom are Menominee. According to MTE, the forest serves not only as a source of employment and harvesting opportunities, but also as a source of enjoyment and spiritual wellness for the Menominee Tribe, stewards of the land for thousands of years.

Marshall Pecore, MTE Forest Manager, noted that there is more standing saw timber volume (1.7 billion board feet) now than there was in 1854 (estimated at 1.2 billion board feet). During this same period, over 2.25 billion board feet have been harvested from the same acreage.

“We are fortunate – everything we cut, we sell, and FSC certification adds more value to our lumber and wood products in the marketplace,” said Adrian Miller, President and CEO of MTE. “The Menominee People have long recognized the need for balance between the environment, community and economy. Culture and traditions teach us never to take more resources than are produced within natural cycles so that all life can be sustained.”



SCS conducted on-site inspections, document reviews, and consultations with key stakeholders to confirm MTE’s conformance to the 56 FSC criteria relating to management of the Wisconsin forest estate. MTE also earned Chain-of-Custody Certification, which oversees the path taken by raw materials harvested from an FSC-certified source to the end consumer, including lumber, veneer and pulpwood. The mill is located onsite; since the entire forest is FSC-certified, and only MTE wood is processed at the mill, the assessment was relatively simple.

"We congratulate Menominee Tribal Enterprises and the Menominee people," said Dr. Robert Hrubes, SCS Senior Vice President and head of SCS's FSC-accredited Forest Conservation Program. "This successful certification renewal reaffirms MTE's commitment to practicing exemplary forest management, and is particularly gratifying given MTE's groundbreaking role as one of the early adopters of FSC principles."

According to Dr. Hrubes, MTE earned one of the very first FSC Forest Management certificates issued by SCS, Cert. #SCS-FM-02, in 1996. In 2003, MTE voluntarily suspended its FSC certification, yet continued to maintain excellent forestry practices. MTE decided to reapply for certification to tap into the growing awareness and customer demand for FSC-certified products in the paper and wood manufacturing industries.

MTE's management goal is to maximize the quantity and quality of saw timber grown under sustained-yield management principles, while maintaining the diversity of native species, including fine old stands of hardwood, pine and hemlock. Market demands have not been the sole driver; the MTE works within a management structure in which "the forest drives the mill, rather than the mill driving the forest," according to MTE. This reflects the Menominee's philosophy that short-term sacrifices must be endured at times to ensure the long-term sustainability and quality of life.

"The MTE forest looks like mature forest, despite a high level of management and harvesting, and it stands out in the region for its biodiversity significance," said Sterling Griffin, SCS Certification Forester. According to the official SCS certification report MTE is not only engaged in "remarkable forest management" practices, but has collaborated on rare, threatened and endangered species research, and has led the way in the development of habitat type classification systems.

According to David L. Sperling of *Wisconsin Natural Resources* magazine, "The Menominee reservation also attracts thousands of visitors annually who learn more about sustainable forest management, manufacturing and marketing... The cornerstone of MTE's forest management is sustained yield, which means forest growth should balance all removals over time. This includes tree removal due to harvesting, wind, fire, insects and disease."

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### **About Scientific Certification Systems**

SCS is an independent certifier of environmental, food quality and food purity claims. Over two decades, SCS has developed internationally recognized standards and certification programs aimed at spurring the highest level of environmental and quality performance. Programs span a cross-section of the economy, recognizing accomplishments in the fields of agricultural production, food processing and handling, forestry, fisheries, energy, green building, retail, and manufacturing. To date, SCS has certified 30 million acres of natural forests and plantations and has issued over 1,200 FSC-endorsed chain of custody certificates in the wood and paper products sector. For more information, visit [www.scs-certified.com](http://www.scs-certified.com) or call 510-452-8000.

### **About Menominee Tribal Enterprises**

Menominee Tribal Enterprises is an integrated sustainable forest management and wood products manufacturing enterprise, marketing wood products from 14 quality hardwood and softwood species. Located on the Menominee Reservation in the north central portion of the state of

Wisconsin, MTE is 45 miles northwest of the city of Green Bay and approximately 150 miles northwest of Milwaukee. For more information, visit [www.mteewood.com](http://www.mteewood.com) or call 715-756-2311.

**About The Forest Stewardship Council (FSC)**

FSC is a nonprofit organization devoted to encouraging the responsible management of the world's forests. FSC sets high standards that ensure forestry is practiced in an environmentally responsible, socially beneficial, and economically viable way. Landowners and companies that sell timber or forest products seek certification as a way to verify to consumers that they have practiced forestry consistent with FSC standards. There are currently 21 million acres of FSC-certified forestland in North America and 100 million acres globally. For more information, visit [www.fscus.org](http://www.fscus.org).