



**Press Release**  
For Immediate Release

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### **State of Michigan Achieves FSC Certification for Its State Forestlands**

Scientific Certification Systems issues “well-managed” forest certification to the Michigan Department of Natural Resources for 3.75 million acres of state forest lands

Emeryville, CA -- January 12, 2006 -- Scientific Certification Systems (SCS) announces certification of 3.75 million acres of Michigan state forest lands in accordance with the Forest Stewardship Council's (FSC) international standards for responsible forest management. FSC-endorsed certification of the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) administered forest lands confirms that the forests are being well-managed and establishes a tool for facilitating continued progress in forest management practices.

“As the second largest state forest certification in the U.S. to date, this FSC certification is an important accomplishment for the state of Michigan, forest management and the country,” says Dr. Robert Hrubes, SCS senior vice-president. “We applaud the Department of Natural Resources and the people of Michigan on this achievement.”

The Forest Stewardship Council is an internationally recognized certification program for forest stewardship that promotes environmentally responsible, socially beneficial and economically viable management of the world's forests. Because the FSC system is built on stakeholder involvement, it promotes cooperation among various groups interested in responsible forest management. Scientific Certification Systems is an FSC-accredited certification body.

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During the FSC certification process, SCS empanelled a multidisciplinary team to audit forest management practices against FSC principles and criteria, a set of international certification standards unparalleled in rigor. Over 60 auditor-days, the team of natural resource specialists collected and analyzed written materials, conducted interviews with regional and local stakeholders, and completed an extensive field audit of DNR managed forestlands around the state. Upon completion, the team evaluated results and, finally, made a decision to award certification.

Certification is a voluntary process and by engaging in the FSC certification process, Michigan DNR submitted to third-party examination of its forest management practices and the manner in which it endeavors to strike a balance in the management of the state forests. Like other multi-use forest lands, the Michigan Department of Natural Resources balances the sometimes conflicting goals of protecting forest land while supporting economic and recreational opportunities.

“We are pleased that our commitment to managing the state forest lands in a responsible manner that maintains the integrity of the forest while meeting the desires of our citizens has been recognized by the Forest Stewardship Council,” says Rebecca Humphries, director of the Department of Natural Resources. “This third-party certification provides assurances to the Department that our program is fundamentally sound and offers us a mechanism for making further progress.”

Awards of certification typically include specific management actions that must be taken within an agreed upon time to demonstrate ongoing progress in forest management practices. Michigan DNR has agreed, for instance, to develop and pursue strategies for enhanced public use management that balance public expectations for recreational use opportunities on the state forests with minimization of adverse resource impacts. Among additional commitments, DNR has agreed to further identify and appropriately manage areas of high conservation value, as well as to complete eco-regional plans in a timely manner.

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FSC certification includes annual audits against FSC standards and the monitoring of progress in agreed upon subject areas. “The Michigan DNR has been successful in demonstrating to the audit team a track record of active and responsible management of the state forestlands,” says Dr. Hrubes, “and FSC certification both underscores and strengthens the state’s stewardship efforts.”

### **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. Its programs span a wide cross-section of the economy, recognizing accomplishments in the fields of agricultural production, food processing and handling, forestry, fisheries, energy, green building, consumer and business product manufacturing, and retail. As an accredited certification body of the FSC operating globally, SCS has certified 23-million acres of natural forests and plantations. For more information about SCS, visit [www.scscertified.com](http://www.scscertified.com) or call 510-452-8000.

### **About the Michigan Department of Natural Resources**

The Michigan Department of Natural Resources is charged with the responsibility to conserve and manage the state's natural resources, to provide outdoor recreation opportunities, and to provide for commercial uses of natural resources in conformance with all applicable laws and regulations and in a manner responsive to the expectations of the citizens of Michigan. For more information, visit [www.michigan.gov/dnr](http://www.michigan.gov/dnr).

### **About 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

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consumers that they have practiced forestry consistent with FSC standards. Independent certification organizations are accredited by FSC to carry out assessments of forest management to determine if standards have been met. There are currently 21-million acres of FSC-certified forestland in North America and 100-million acres globally. For more information, please visit [www.fscus.org](http://www.fscus.org).

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