



**Public Briefing Paper for  
FSC® Forest Management Certification Re-assessment of  
Hoopa Valley Tribal Council  
in  
Hoopa, California USA  
July 12, 2019**

**Introduction** - The NEPCon is conducting forest management and chain of custody certification re-assessments of Hoopa Valley Tribal Council with an office located in Hoopa, California. Hoopa Valley Tribal Council has been certified by NEPCon since 1999 (NC-FM/COC-000068). The re-assessment includes forest in California totaling approximately 36,732 hectares. The re-assessment will be implemented from August 28-29, 2019.

**Scope of the Certification Re-Assessment** – The forest management certification re-assessment will assess the environmental, silvicultural and socioeconomic aspects of the forests managed by XX, using the *FSC-US Forest Management Standard (v1.0)*. To obtain a copy of these guidelines, please visit the FSC-US web site (at [www.fscus.org/standards\\_criteria/forest\\_management.php](http://www.fscus.org/standards_criteria/forest_management.php)) or contact NEPCon directly by telephone, fax, or e-mail as listed below. NEPCon is accredited by the Forest Stewardship Council™ (FSC®)<sup>1</sup> and this re-assessment process must follow procedures which have been approved by the FSC.

**Re-Assessment Team Composition** – The re-assessment will be conducted by:

- Karen Brenner, Lead Auditor, Forestry; and
- Klaus Geiger, Auditor, Forestry

**Re-assessment Steps and Schedule** – Following is a short description of the certification process and a tentative agenda:

- ◆ **Re-assessment organization** – The NEPCon auditors and Hoopa staff will meet at Hoopa's office in Hoopa, California on August 28<sup>th</sup>.
- ◆ **Field assessments** – The auditors will visit sites managed by Hoopa that are included in the scope of the certificate from August 28 to 29, 2019.
- ◆ **Re-assessment briefing** – Prior to departure, the auditors will meet with Hoopa Valley Tribal Council managers and other parties to finalize their data collection and present preliminary findings.
- ◆ **Stakeholder consultation** – The auditors will conduct interviews with stakeholders prior to, during, and after the re-assessment.
- ◆ **Draft report production** – The auditors will produce a confidential draft report that will be circulated for comment to Hoopa. This should occur 45 days after completion of the re-assessment field work.

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<sup>1</sup> FSC® A000535

- ◆ Certification decision – Upon receipt of comments on the draft report from Hoopa and other general stakeholder comments, NEPCon will reach a certification decision. Barring unforeseen obstacles, this should occur by October 28, 2019.

**Your Input Sought** – As a part of the forest certification re-assessment process we invite stakeholders to offer comment and feedback on Hoopa's forest management in relation to conformance with the requirements of the forest management standard referenced above. 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 re-assessment process, but we would prefer to receive your comments either prior to the re-assessment, during the re-assessment, or prior to October 14, 2019 so that we can take them into consideration in reaching a certification decision by October 28, 2019. Your options for communicating your observations to us are as follows.

1. Meet with the NEPCon audit team during or shortly after the fieldwork.
2. Call and give comments to Klaus Geiger, the NEPCon staff person responsible for coordinating this certification re-assessment from the US Regional Office.
3. Submit written comments by mail, FAX or email to Klaus Geiger. Unless you request otherwise, these comments will be kept confidential and are solely for the purposes of auditing Hoopa Valley Tribal Council as described in this briefing.

1. Meet with the NEPCon audit team during or shortly after the fieldwork.
2. Call and give comments to Steve Grado the NEPCon audit team member responsible for coordinating stakeholder participation.
3. Submit written comments by mail, FAX or email to Steve Grado. Unless you request otherwise, these comments will be kept confidential and are solely for the purposes of auditing Hoopa Valley Tribal Council as described in this briefing.

For more information or to provide comments on Hoopa Valley Tribal Council's forest management, you can also contact Klaus Geiger, the NEPCon staff person responsible for coordinating this certification audit.

### **Contacting NEPCon**

*Klaus Geiger, Forest Certification Associate, US Region*

- ◆ Email: kgeiger@nepcon.org
- ◆ Worldwide Website – <https://www.nepcon.org/>
- ◆ Telephone – 802-923-3767
- ◆ FAX – 802-434-3116
- ◆ Mail address – 13 Jolina Court, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, PO Box 99, Richmond, VT 05477

The source of any information provided will be kept confidential available to only the FSC and NEPCon staff.

Stakeholders who may wish to dispute any aspect of the forest certification process or decision can access NEPCon's Complaints, Appeals and Dispute resolution procedures at <https://www.nepcon.org/>.