



**Public Briefing Paper for  
FSC® Forest Management Certification Re-Assessment of  
Finch Paper, LLC  
in  
Glens Falls, New York USA  
January 19, 2023**

**Introduction** – Preferred by Nature is conducting Forest Stewardship Council (FSC®) Forest Management and Chain of Custody certification re-assessments of Finch Paper with an office located in Glens Falls, NY. Finch Paper has been certified by Preferred by Nature since 2003 (NC-FM/COC-000253). The re-assessment includes 8 properties in New York totaling approximately 20,500 hectares. The re-assessment will begin on February 28, 2023.

**Scope of the Certification Re-Assessment** – The forest management certification re-assessment will assess the environmental, silvicultural, and socioeconomic aspects of the certified forests included in the Finch Paper certificate, using the *FSC-US Forest Management Standard (v1.1)* and the *FSC Standard For Group Entities in Forest Management Groups (FM-STD-30-005)*. To obtain a copy of these guidelines, please visit the FSC-US website (at <https://us.fsc.org/en-us/certification/forest-management-certification>) or contact Preferred by Nature directly by telephone, fax, or e-mail as listed below. Preferred by Nature 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:

- Kara Wires, Lead Auditor, Forestry;
- Kate Locke, Forestry/Auditor-in-Training

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

- ◆ Re-assessment organization – The Preferred by Nature auditors and Finch Paper staff will meet at the Glens Falls office on February 28, 2023.
- ◆ Field assessments – The auditors will visit a sample of properties that are included in the scope of the certificate on March 1.
- ◆ Re-assessment briefing – Prior to departure, the auditors will meet with Finch Paper managers and other parties to finalize their data collection. Preliminary findings will be presented at a remote closing meeting on March 17.
- ◆ 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 Finch Paper. This should occur 45 days after completion of the re-assessment.

---

<sup>1</sup> FSC® A000535

- ◆ Certification decision – Upon receipt of comments on the draft report from Finch Paper and other general stakeholder comments, Preferred by Nature will reach a certification decision. Barring unforeseen obstacles, this should occur by May 1, 2023.

**Your Input Sought** – As a part of the forest certification re-assessment process we invite stakeholders to offer comment and feedback on the forest management properties included in the certificate 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 April 1, 2023 so that we can take them into consideration in reaching a certification decision by May 1, 2023. Your options for communicating your observations to us are as follows:

1. Meet with the Preferred by Nature audit team during or shortly after the fieldwork.
2. Call and give comments to Kara Wires, the Preferred by Nature staff person responsible for coordinating this certification re-assessment.
3. Submit written comments by mail, FAX or email to Kara Wires. Unless you request otherwise, these comments will be kept confidential and are solely for the purposes of auditing Finch Paper as described in this briefing.

### **Contacting Preferred by Nature**

*Kara Wires, Senior Forestry Specialist*

- ◆ Email: [kwires@preferredbynature.org](mailto:kwires@preferredbynature.org)
- ◆ Website: [www.preferredbynature.org](http://www.preferredbynature.org)
- ◆ Telephone: 802-391-4001
- ◆ Mailing address: P.O. Box 99, Richmond, VT 05477, USA

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

Stakeholders who may wish to dispute any aspect of the forest certification process or decision can access Preferred by Nature's Complaints, Appeals and Dispute resolution procedures at <https://preferredbynature.org/certification/fsc/complaints-and-resolutions>.