



**Public Briefing Paper for
FSC® Forest Management Certification Re-Assessment of
Wagner Forest Management
in
Lyme, NH USA
January 31, 2022**

Introduction – Preferred by Nature is conducting Forest Stewardship Council (FSC®) Forest Management and Chain of Custody certification re-assessments of Wagner Forest Management with an office located in Lyme, NH. Wagner Forest Management has been certified by Preferred by Nature (formerly NEPCo/Rainforest Alliance) since 2008 (NC-FM/COC-003288). The re-assessment includes forest in New Hampshire and Maine totaling approximately 205,000 hectares. The re-assessment will begin on March 14, 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 managed by Wagner Forest Management, using the *FSC-US Forest Management Standard (v1.1)*. 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®)¹ 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:

- Randy Coats, Lead Auditor, Forestry;
- Geoff Morris, Auditor, Forestry, Socio-economic Specialist; and
- Kate Locke, Auditor-in-Training, Forestry.

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 Wagner Forest Management staff will meet at Wagner Forest Management’s office in Errol, NH on March 14, 2023.
- ◆ Field assessments – The auditors will visit sites managed by Wagner Forest Management that are included in the scope of the certificate from March 14 to March 15.
- ◆ Re-assessment briefing – Prior to departure, the auditors will meet with Wagner Forest Management managers and other parties to finalize their data collection. Preliminary findings will be presented at a remote closing meeting on March 23.
- ◆ Stakeholder consultation – The auditors will conduct interviews with stakeholders prior to, during, and after the re-assessment.

¹ FSC® A000535

- ◆ Draft report production – The auditors will produce a confidential draft report that will be circulated for comment to Wagner Forest Management. This should occur 45 days after completion of the re-assessment field work.
- ◆ Certification decision – Upon receipt of comments on the draft report from Wagner Forest Management and other general stakeholder comments, Preferred by Nature will reach a certification decision. Barring unforeseen obstacles, this should occur by May 8, 2023.

Your Input Sought – As a part of the forest certification re-assessment process we invite stakeholders to offer comment and feedback on Wagner Forest Management’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 April 8, 2023, so that we can take them into consideration in reaching a certification decision by May 8, 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 Geoff Morris, the Preferred by Nature staff person responsible for coordinating stakeholder interviews for this certification re-assessment.
3. Submit written comments by mail or email to Geoff Morris. Unless you request otherwise, these comments will be kept confidential and are solely for the purposes of auditing Wagner Forest Management as described in this briefing.

Contacting Preferred by Nature

Geoff Morris, Forestry Specialist

- ◆ Email: gmorris@preferredbynature.org
- ◆ Website: www.preferredbynature.org
- ◆ Telephone: 715-790-8795
- ◆ Mailing address: 4618 Twilight Ln, Eau Claire, WI, 54703, 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>.