

OLSEN FSC NEWS

February 2002

Welcome to the third edition of Olsen FSC News.

Olsen FSC News

Whilst we remain proud of being the first (and still only) certified group scheme in Australasia we cannot rest on our laurels and forget the hard work. Over the past few months since our last Olsen FSC News we have gone through a consolidation process of building the scheme. We now have over 9,000 stocked hectares in the Group Scheme. This is shared fairly evenly between our clients (Resource Members) and other forest owners (Group Members). This is made up of 28 members with 30 forests in total. Membership size ranges from 3.1 ha to 4,151.1 ha and are located from Marlborough up to Northland. While most of the members are located in the Bay of Plenty and Gisborne area there is good a spread of members through the North Island.

Our FSC members are also responsible for over 1,200 ha of indigenous reserve areas. Some of these areas have high conservation values, while others require time more than anything else to recover from past management such as grazing. These areas include QEII covenants and Recommended Areas for Protection that have been identified with significant conservation values. One area includes the rare parasitic plant Woodrose where we are planning a survey to determine the numbers of these species.

While most of our group members are focused on producing high quality radiata pine logs we also have over 600 ha of alternative species in the scheme. This includes significant areas of Mexican cypress, Monterey cypress, Douglas fir, Tasmanian Blackwood, Coastal redwood and several species of Eucalyptus.

From a social perspective we have calculated that Olsen managed forests contribute to between 1,800 and 3,800 full time jobs. This is from 60,000 ha or one for every 16 to 33 ha of managed stocked area. While the actual forest operations contribute to around 400 jobs the forestry employment multipliers indicate the actual full time jobs that can be attributed to the forests. While this is great to hear, we have again been disappointed with the lost time injuries associated with our forest operations. The lost time injury frequency for 2002 was 23.3 and compared to our target of 10 is a poor result. This will certainly be addressed by our staff responsible for worker health and safety, and hopefully the results for 2003 will be substantially improved.

Our first surveillance audit by SmartWood is scheduled for March 1-3 and we have been busy ensuring that the scheme has complied with the conditions of our assessment. The audit is expected to focus on our forests located in the Bay of Plenty and Hawkes Bay regions. It will certainly be interesting to see how our scheme has developed in its first year of certification from the assessors perspective. Our SmartWood certification number is **SW-FM/COC-190**.

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The National Initiative Working Group Plantation Committee has been busy and the draft standards are now available for public consultation. Olsens have provided a submission on behalf of our members. Whilst we attempted to provide comment on all the standards most of the focus was on chemical use and reserve areas. We also asked for confirmation that group members could amalgamate their resources to meet the requirements such as the reserve area contribution. Without this ability it would be very difficult for many small but well managed forests to effectively obtain certification. Overall we are very positive about the standard setting process and support it 100%. Our involvement has also included representation on meetings and correspondence of the Economic Chamber.

The deadline for submissions has been extended to March 7 and we urge you to have your say. The standards and submission details can be found at www.nzcertification.com.

Contact

For further information please check our website at www.pfolsen.co.nz, or contact Colin Maunder on +64 7 357 4135 or colin.maunder@pfolsen.co.nz