



PF Olsen Ltd FSC News

June 2008

Successful five year recertification

In April this year PF Olsen Ltd underwent its first 5 year re-Certification. FSC rules require that each year we undergo a surveillance audit to check on systems and any required progress with corrective actions. Each 5 years however we must in effect go through full recertification.

This year PF Olsen Ltd retained their certification, achieving the accreditation with no corrective action requests (CARs) - a very pleasing result.

Our Certificate is now available to be downloaded from our website at: http://www.pfolsen.com/nz/src/fscman/fsc_cert.pdf

FSC – international perspectives

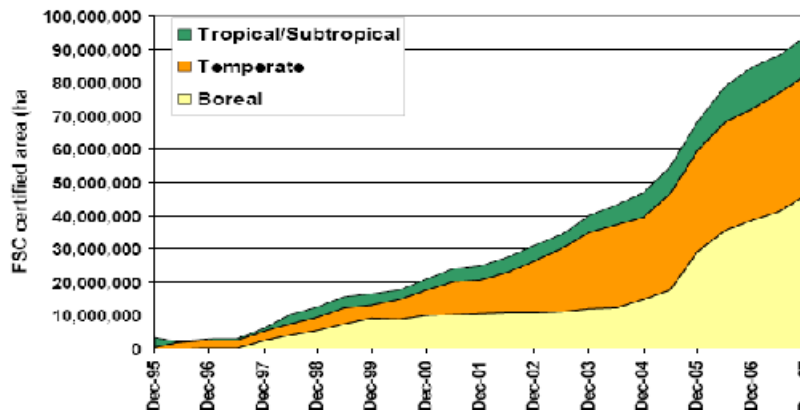
FSC international have recently launched an upgraded website that included statistical information about the development of certification worldwide - see - . <http://www.fsc.org/facts-figures.html>

We think the increase in boreal forest certification is particularly relevant, reflecting certification of northern hemisphere softwood resources often competing in American & European markets with our own products.



Forest Stewardship Council

FSC certified forest area growth



Source: FSC International 18/12/07

Group Scheme growing

In line with international growth, PF Olsen Ltd's group scheme, now standing at 49,000 ha, is also for the first time experiencing a surge in interest from small and medium scaled forest owners. Plans are now in preparation for 3 new forest areas and these will shortly be notified to the wider public.

To accommodate this process and make it easier and faster, a new "Stakeholder Relations" section has been added to our website where the wider stakeholder community will be able to access copies of plans and related information in the course of making any comment once a plan is advertised.

See- http://www.pfolsen.com/nz_index.php?sect=fsc&inc=stkh

Group Members section

Our website now also has a password protected "Group Members" area; http://www.pfolsen.com/nz_index.php?sect=fscgrp.

Specifically for members of the scheme it provides for the dissemination of specific management assistance and information to those managing a Group Scheme Forest. At this point the members area gives access to "Environmental Alerts", résumés of the contributing factors and things to be learnt as a result of environmental incidents AND downloadable "self-guided" training datashows to keep users up-to-date with new requirements or environmental knowledge.

This area will be enlarged to contain the Group Scheme manual, Environmental Management System (EMS), Forestry Code of Practice and other important management aids.

FSC Principles & Criteria

FSC are currently undertaking a review of the FSC principles & criteria. There are a number of areas and potential changes that are pertinent to the management of plantation forests. PF Olsen Ltd are again working alongside others in the industry to try and ensure the interests of the New Zealand Plantation industry are well represented. Further information on the review can be accessed via the FSC international website at; <http://www.fsc.org/pcreview.html>

Annual public disclosure

June is the month that we set for annual update of the statistics on our website. We would expect all key statistics to be current as at the 30th June by the end of July.

See website on http://www.pfolsen.com/nz_index.php?sect=fsc&inc=ogs .

FSC & chemicals

In 2006 we reported that FSC, having changed the method by which it determined “Hazardous Chemicals”, was likely to find some NZ Chemicals in that category. Over a very long and protracted process that has involved a FSC certified industry wide effort, derogations to continue the use of certain chemicals were lodged just prior to Christmas 2007. In May this year the results were finally notified. They are as follows:

1. Formulations with Hexazinone - conditional - 3 more years .
2. Formulations with Terbutylazine – conditional -3 more years
3. Formulations with Sodium Cyanide – conditional – 2 more years
4. Formulations with 1080 - Aerial application restricted – Ground 5 years
5. Formulations with Diquat Bromide – not permitted
6. Formulations with Brodifacoumb – not permitted

While the last two chemicals have not been used recently in PF Olsen Ltd managed forests others are used or have been used by pest management authorities.

There is widespread concern about the limited timeframes for establishing alternative chemicals or methods, and the industry wide FSC group, including PF Olsen Ltd, will be submitting to FSC International a comprehensive package of information relating to past and future programmes designed to avoid, minimise or replace these chemicals emphasising that such processes normally take more than 3 years.

In the meantime those chemicals that have received a derogation may be used for the approved duration subject to conditions.

Threatened species



Kiwi Burrow

Over the last 3 years PF Olsen Ltd have been involved with a kiwi project in one of the Bay of Plenty forests, a subset of a wider multiparty Whakatane Kiwi Project. A small local population of breeding birds has been monitored continuously and eggs recovered for the Operation Nestegg captive breeding programme. A number of chicks have been successfully hatched in captivity.

Tragically however as a clear example of the vulnerability of this species, 2 birds in an area adjacent to the forest were lost to a stray or uncontrolled dog. Dogs are barred within the forest concerned.

On the positive side, breeding pairs remain and the monitoring is to continue through the breeding season while harvesting is undertaken nearby. A series of guidelines has been produced to educate operational managers and contractors about what to do if kiwi are found.

Species sightings

Other forest surveys have found NI Weka and most recently NI Kokako extending their range from the well established Kaharoa population near Rotorua.

Active reporting by staff and contractors continues to see a steady influx of rare or endangered species records as tabulated below for the 2 years ending May. Geographic references are maintained for all these records so that they can contribute to national distribution datasets.

Count of SpeciesDesc	ThreatClassDesc					
SpeciesDesc	Gradual decline	Nat'nly Endang	Nat'nly Vulner	Serious Decline	Sparse	G.Total
Blue Duck		1				1
Fern Bird					5	5
Kereru	13					13
King Fern Marattia salicina				1		1
Long Tailed Bat			1			1
Long Tailed Cuckoo	5					5
New Zealand Falcon			28			28
North Island Brown Kiwi				18		18
North Island Weka		3				3
Scandia rosifolia					1	1
G.Total	18	4	29	19	6	76