

# High Conservation Value Forest Assessment (HCVF)

Open House – Cochrane  
February 9, 2011

Welcome

- Introductions
- What is FSC?
- Why are we doing it?
- What is a High Conservation Value Forest Assessment?
- How can you participate?
- Turn it over to John to introduce the Categories and Key Questions

## Forest Stewardship Council (FSC)

- The FSC is an international, membership-based, non-profit organization that supports environmentally appropriate, socially beneficial, and economically viable management of the world's forests.
- FSC certification is a voluntary process

# FSC

- FSC oversees the development of regional forest management standards, raises awareness of FSC certification and the benefits of using FSC certified products.
- You may have seen the FSC logo on envelopes and paper products

## Why is SLS Pursuing Certification?

- Certification is a mechanism to identify and promote good forest management
- Strengthened supplier relationships
- Meeting consumer demands
- Access to new markets and securing existing markets
- International recognition
- A part of doing business

# The Boreal Standard

- The SLS FMA and B9 quota area will be audited to the National Boreal Standard (August 2004)
- [www.fsccanada.org/nationalboreal.htm](http://www.fsccanada.org/nationalboreal.htm)
- The standard consists of 10 Principles

# The Boreal Standard

- **PRINCIPLE #1: Compliance with Laws and FSC Principles**
- **PRINCIPLE #2: Tenure and Use Rights and Responsibilities**
- **PRINCIPLE #3: Indigenous Peoples' Rights**
- **PRINCIPLE #4: Community Relations and Workers' Rights**
- **PRINCIPLE #5: Benefits from the Forest**
- **PRINCIPLE #6: Environmental Impact**
- **PRINCIPLE #7: Management Plan**
- **PRINCIPLE #8: Monitoring and Assessment**
- **PRINCIPLE #9 High Conservation Value Forests**
- **PRINCIPLE #10: Plantations**

## Principle 9 - HCVF

- The HCVF concept focuses on the environmental, social, and cultural values that make a forest area *outstandingly significant*, and the management strategies to ‘maintain or enhance’ those values.
- Moves the debate away from definitions of particular forest types (e.g. old growth) or harvesting methods and **focuses on the values** that make a forest important.
- Key concept is the **identification** of HCVs



# Principle 9 - HCVF

## 4 Criteria

- 9.1 Requires an **assessment** to determine the presence of attributes consistent with HCVFs
- 9.2 Guidance to certifiers on the **consultative** portion of the certification process
- 9.3 Requires management objectives that ensure the **maintenance or enhancement** of HCVs
- 9.4 Requires **monitoring** the effectiveness of the management and activities implemented

# Principle 9 - HCVF

## DEFINITION

### **Forests with 1 or more of the following attributes:**

- Forest areas containing globally, regionally or nationally significant :
  - Concentrations of biodiversity values (e.g., endemism, endangered species, refugia)
  - Large landscape level forests, contained within, or containing the management unit, where viable populations of most (if not all) naturally occurring species exist in natural patterns of distribution and abundance.
- Forest areas that are in or contain rare, threatened or endangered ecosystems.
- Forest areas that provide basic services of nature in critical situations (e.g., watershed protection, erosion control).
- Forest areas fundamental to meeting basic needs of local communities (e.g., subsistence, health) and/or critical to local communities' traditional cultural identity (areas of cultural, ecological, economic or religious significance identified in cooperation with such local communities).



# Principle 9 - HCVF

## ASSESSMENT FRAMEWORK

- Guidance Documents
  - Boreal Standard (2004)- Appendix 5 : HCVF National Framework
  - WWF Canada (2005) HCVF Support Document
    - Guidance on identifying thresholds
    - ecological/ technical guidance
- A table format, with the HCVF definition organized into:
  - **6** Categories
  - With **19 Key Questions**

# Principle 9 - HCVF

## ASSESSMENT FRAMEWORK

- Each **Key** question has:
  - **Definitive** Questions
  - **Guidance** Questions
- Negative (NO) answers to **Key** Question = NO HCVF
- Positive (YES) answers lead to  **Definitive** questions
- Positive (YES) response to a *Definitive* question = HCVF  
Negative (NO) response to a *Definitive* question leads to  **Guidance** questions
- Several positive (YES) responses to *Guidance* questions indicate the potential for reaching a threshold for HCVF designation.

# Principle 9 - HCVF

## Scale

HCVF Values can be identified at various scales:

- Landscape (e.g. Large landscape forests or ESAs)
- Habitat or Community (e.g. rare plant communities or rare habitat types)
- Species Level (e.g. westslope cutthroat trout, grizzly bear)

# HCVF Public Consultation

## How Can You Participate?

### Step 1

- Currently, the **focus** is on **identifying** values
- Have we missed your Critical Value?
  - Fill out a form
  - Send an email to [woodlands@spraylakesawmills.com](mailto:woodlands@spraylakesawmills.com)
- Your identified values will be evaluated in the context of the Assessment Framework.

# HCVF Public Consultation

## How Can You Participate?

### Step 2

- A Draft HCVF Assessment Report will be made publicly available on the SLS website at:  
[www.spraylakesawmills.com](http://www.spraylakesawmills.com)
- **Leave us your email address** if you would like to be contacted when the draft report is ready
- Send us your comments on the draft report, including the HCVFs identified and the management strategies
- The final report will include a public consultation summary
- Send your comments on the process to the Auditor when the Certification Audit (Assessment) is announced.

# Spray Lake Sawmills Thank You

