



SCIENTIFIC CERTIFICATION SYSTEMS

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## Public Notification Letter

To: Interested Parties  
From: Scientific Certification Systems  
Date: 04/27/12  
Re: Notification of Pending Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) Certification Evaluation of Green Diamond Resource Company's California Timberlands

**Summary: As part of a Forest Stewardship Council-endorsed assessment, Scientific Certification Systems (SCS) is currently seeking stakeholder input regarding the forest management of Green Diamond Resource Company's California timberlands. Please comment via email, or call our offices or representatives to discuss (contact info below).**

Green Diamond Resource Company (GDRC) is seeking Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) endorsed certification for their California fee timberlands, located in Humboldt and Del Norte Counties. The Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) is a non-profit organization devoted to encouraging the responsible management of the world's forests. FSC sets standards that ensure forestry is practiced in an environmentally responsible, socially beneficial, and economically viable way. SCS is an accredited certification body authorized to conduct certification assessments under the aegis of the FSC.

GDRC's California Timberlands Division manages 406,406 acres of forestland owned in fee in California. The forest type on GDRC's ownership is predominantly California redwood but also has a significant component of Douglas-fir and a small portion of western hemlock, Sitka spruce and tanoak.

### Scope and Certification Evaluation Process

GDRC's California forest management operations will be evaluated against the FSC US Forest Management Standard, V 1.0. A copy of the standard is available from [http://fscus.org/standards\\_criteria/forest\\_management.php](http://fscus.org/standards_criteria/forest_management.php) or SCS, upon request.

The evaluation process includes the following phases:

- a) Public notification: distribution of the standard and solicitation of comments on the certification applicant;
- b) Audit planning and document review;
- c) Field assessment: A representative sample of field sites and operations within the defined forest area are inspected by a team of auditors;
- d) Stakeholder consultation;
- e) Synthesis of findings: Compliance with the standard is ascertained and the certification decision is formulated;
- f) Reporting: A draft, confidential report describing the evaluation process, preliminary findings, and certification decision is produced;

- g) Peer review: The evaluation report is peer reviewed by 2 independent natural resource professionals;
- h) Delivery of final certification report;
- i) Certification decision: a public summary of the certification report is released, if certification is awarded.

### **Evaluation Team**

**Robert J. Hrubes, Ph.D.** SCS Senior Vice President: Lead Auditor

**Joseph McBride, Ph.D.** Professor and Chair of the Forest Science Division of the Department of Environmental Science, Policy and Management at UC Berkeley: Ecological Expert

**Sheila Steinberg, Ph.D.** Professor of Sociology at Humboldt State University: Sociology Expert

**Kyle Meister, M.Sc.,** SCS Certification Forester: Certification Forester

### **Call for Public Participation**

SCS welcomes comments on the forest management of GDRC or other topics pertinent to their seeking FSC certification, such as whether GDRC complies with the legal, social, technical, and environmental requirements of the standard or identification of high conservation value forests<sup>[1]</sup> within their California Timber lands. Comments can be submitted via email, standard mail, or facsimile to Dr. Sheila Steinberg. The audit team can make arrangements to allow stakeholders to meet with them during the evaluation upon request. All comments and sources will be kept in strict confidence at the request of the commenter.

### **Audit Dates**

The field evaluation is scheduled to be conducted during the week of June 11<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup>.

### **Public Meeting**

A public meeting will be held to allow any interested parties to provide comments and discuss with the auditors. The public meeting will be held:

**Monday, June 11<sup>th</sup>**

**7:00pm – 8:30pm**

The Bayside Grange Hall

2297 Jacoby Creek Rd. Bayside CA

<http://baysidegrange.org>

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<sup>[1]</sup>High Conservation Value Forests possess one or more of the following attributes: a) forest areas containing globally, regionally or nationally significant: concentrations of biodiversity values (eg. endemism, endangered species, refugia); and/or 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 b) forest areas that are in or contain rare, threatened or endangered ecosystems c) forest areas that provide basic services of nature in critical situations (eg. watershed protection, erosion control) d) forest areas fundamental to meeting basic needs of local communities (eg. 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). Also see Principle 9, in the FSC Principles and Criteria.

Please arrive promptly. Light refreshments will be provided.

### Dispute Resolution Procedure

As provided by the FSC Interim Dispute Resolution Protocol and the SCS Forest Conservation Program Quality Manual, dispute resolution procedures are in place and available to interested parties at <http://www.scs-certified.com/complaints.php>

### Additional Information

More information about FSC and SCS can be obtained from [www.fsc.org](http://www.fsc.org) and [www.scs-certified.com](http://www.scs-certified.com). Information on GDRC can be found at <http://greendiamond.com/>. A copy of the Standard to be used can be requested from SCS, or found online at [www.fscus.org](http://www.fscus.org).

#### Please contact us:

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