



## The Collins Pennsylvania Forest

### Providing Public Access and Creating Positive Community Relations

by Gary Dodge, Ph.D., consultant to FSC-US

The Collins Pennsylvania Forest comprises 127,000 acres of FSC-certified forests managed for a diversity of woods but are perhaps most renowned for their highest quality cherry wood. Kane Hardwood, a division of The Collins Companies, manages the lands with goals not only for quality timber, but also for finding novel paths toward social and financial benefits from sound community relations and open public access. The Collins Pennsylvania Forest is scattered across the landscape, comprising 187 parcels ranging from 13 to 13,000 acres. The entire 127,000 acres were certified under the FSC system in 1994—the first FSC-certified lands in Pennsylvania.

Kane Hardwood has a long-standing policy of open public access, as part of a FSC-endorsed broad and comprehensive view of forest management in the forms of maximizing community benefits of the forests. Perhaps the biggest difficulty of growing quality trees in the area is the burgeoning deer herd in Pennsylvania. Browse lines, an apparent line on a forested patch where deer have eaten all the lower-hanging leaves and plants, are common throughout the understory. Deer browsing is perhaps the most severe obstacle in growing trees in the area according to Blaine Puller, forest manager of the Collins Pennsylvania Forest. With the elimination of natural predators, the deer herd is out of balance with overall wildlife and plant community health as well as with other human interests and land uses.

#### WHY FSC?

There have been occasions when wildlife management experts have suggested to Kane Hardwood to seriously consider changing from their open access policy to a hunting lease program where they might be able to have better control over the hunters and the harvest and have an extra source of income. After investigating the option, forest managers found that, in similar circumstances, lease purchasers were most often from the cities and generally not from the local communities. Due to the nature of the holdings and the multitudes of small Pennsylvania communities that border the holdings, Kane Hardwood managers insisted that maintaining the open access policy led to very supportive community relations. This in turn led to minimization of border issues and

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## FSC-Certified Hybrid Poplar and the Renaissance Project

### BRINGING A NEW SPECIES TO THE MARKET

The Renaissance building project in Corvallis, OR, is a seven-story commercial/condominium facility located on the bank of the Willamette River in the heart of Corvallis. The project's first two floors are for commercial/retail and professional offices, with the remaining five floors dedicated to high-end condominiums. The \$22 million dollar project, by Andersen Construction of Portland, OR, is the first major construction project in the U.S. to use hybrid poplar for solid wood interior product use.

The hybrid poplar lumber was supplied by Potlatch Corporation, harvested off of their 17,000 acre plantation that received FSC certification as a well-managed sustainable plantation in 2001. When Potlatch Corporation first purchased the land in 1992, it was initially conceived as a means of offsetting an anticipated shortage of pulp chips

#### GREEN BUILDING

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for the pulp and paper manufacturing industry. However, as the plantation project developed, market conditions suggested the fiber would have higher value as solid wood and veneer products rather than pulp chips. To achieve the wood quality necessary to compete in the hardwood lumber and veneer markets, the company extended rotations to 10-12 years and began thinning and pruning the poplar stands to enhance growth and increase the volume of knot-free wood.

Consistent with the rigorous standards of FSC regarding the certification of plantations, the poplar operation is not involved in operational applications of genetically modified organisms (GMOs). The selective breeding processes employed at the plantation are much like those used for centuries by horticulturists and botanists around the world to improve varieties of various crops. Current operational plantings on the land reflect the mating of selected parents from different poplar species.

The first shipments of finger-jointed, end and edge-glued lumber arrived on the Renaissance project site this past December. The lumber supplied was made from low grade poplar culled from the prunings, thinnings, and deletions coming off the plantation as Potlatch prepared the land for high-grade sawlog production. Jake Eaton, the sales and marketing manager for the Potlatch poplar program, added that, “we have not yet harvested any of our pruned material that has grown the longer rotation. This material will begin coming off the farm in the next few years and at that time we will be supplying high grade molding stock to the industry. The lumber for this project was milled from trees that had not been pruned and had been essentially managed for pulp chips. The fact that this low grade lumber made such an attractive product gives us even more

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PERSPECTIVES



FSC Certification and the Small Landowner

FSC-US recently took the opportunity to pose a number of questions to Mark Adams, the founder of the Cook County Sustainable Forestry Cooperative.

The co-op is based in Hovland, MN with member properties being in close proximity to the Boundary Waters Canoe Area. The co-op promotes sound, ecologically based forest management, local processing and sale of the products of its members’ forests. The co-op helps members manage their forests and market their products based on Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) certification standards.

Mark has been a leader in working with Co-op members and other family forest owners in northern Minnesota to get their land certified under the FSC system.

**Q: Please tell us about your work.**

I have been living in northern Minnesota since the Edmund Fitzgerald sank in 1974 and operating Horse Forest Management as a business since 1978. I have had numerous contracts and positions with the Forest Service including bridge building, trail building, freighting—all within the Boundary Waters wilderness area. Also, I have worked in a number of positions as a wild land fire fighter, logging contractor, including sensitive areas and archaeological sites, tree planting, timber stand improvement and general construction. I have been a consultant for sustainable forestry, low impact logging, non timber forest products, low impact living and an instructor for horse logging, chainsaw safety, directional felling and primitive tools. I also studied forestry at Kent State, Ohio and Colorado State Universities.

**Q: Engaging small landowners has been a challenge for FSC and for all certification programs. Do you think this is a challenge because of standards or because of the forest products marketplace?**

In my experience, standards, as expressed in the FSC Principals and Criteria, are not the problem. In fact we use them as a recruitment tool. Auditing can be a burden, especially if Principle 7 and 8 (management plans and monitoring) are not followed closely. “Appropriate to scale” is a critical concept for the landowners I work with.

Market problems seem to fall into two categories. First, target the right market; organic, tree hugging, granola eating, skinny skiers own a lot of land. Pick the low hanging fruit first. Second, the big boys—private industry and state forestry—have been poisoning the well. They know that most standing inventory is tied up in private non-industrial forests and they want to get their hands on it. They offer ‘free management plans’ that consist primarily of a timber harvesting plans. Also, they perpetuate the myth that landowners who don’t want an industrial scale timber

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## PERSPECTIVES

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harvest don't want to manage their land. We have found that our targeted market is very interested in managing for non-timber forest products and low impact short rotation multiple entry timber harvests. In a related issue, industry is lobbying for legislation that makes small scale traditional harvesting, no matter how good, impractical. Costs associated with management is also somewhat of a factor for engaging small forest owners.

**Q: FSC has tried to make it easier for small landowners to come into the FSC system. Has the Small and Low Intensity Managed Forest (Family Forest) program helped?**

To be honest, SLIMFs [known as the Family Forest Program in the U.S.] by that name has not trickled down out here in the hinterland. However, I think a SLIMFs program, scaled for very small operations and landowners, and if prominently offered would really help with recruiting and especially with retention. FSC Group Certification offered by the Community Forestry Resource Center has been a big help to us.

**Q: Do you feel that 1000 hectares is too large for defining family forests?**

In most cases, 1000 hectares or even 1000 acres represents a considerable financial investment. In that case it is probably perceived by the owner(s) to be primarily that—a financial investment, not unlike stocks or bonds. As such it should be managed for a financial return. This is not a large industrial forest and perhaps should get some kind of consideration as a small forest under FSC. However, this size of forest is most often going to be more land than one person can manage by themselves in the sense of physical work required. Satellite Imaging, GIS, GPS, and an accountant are all tax write offs at that scale. On the other hand 100 acres, or even 100 hectares can be walked around before breakfast. When you get down to 40 or 80 acres, you are looking at an investment that a factory worker, school teacher, or firefighter could aspire to. At that scale it could be managed by one person on weekends and during vacation. Sure it may be recreational, but that doesn't mean they don't want to manage it right and it doesn't mean they can't turn a profit. Especially if they manage for some non-timber forest products or a couple thousand board feet of lumber, add value on site, and market locally. This is the sort of thing green housing builders following LEED standards would fight over. On 1000 hectares you can most likely pull off a couple hundred cords of pulp a year and not make a dent in your growth. At that scale you might get a pulp contract with a mill. On 40 acres a truck load a year might be workable but you're not going to get a contract. If I walk into a bank with a deed for 1000 hectares and want to borrow the money to buy a skidder and a sawmill, no problem. Try that on 40 acres and it's a different story.

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## COLLINS PENNSYLVANIA

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The public access policy, something which is encouraged by FSC standards, is in effect year-round and is used by campers, hikers, and cross-country skiers as well as hunters.

increased community stewardship of the Collins Pennsylvania Forest. The monetary gains from leasing hunting rights would not compensate for the benefits derived from being a generous neighbor.

The public access policy, something which is encouraged by FSC standards, is in effect year-round and is used by campers, hikers, and cross-country skiers as well as hunters. The Collins Pennsylvania Forest is even more liberal in public use than are the adjacent public lands. There is never any charge, maps are provided, gates are open (unless closed for sensitive resource protection), and Kane Hardwood even accommodates personal requests, if a party wants access to camp in a remote location or to provide habitat enhancement. In addition, regarding liability of allowing public access, the agreement between the state and Kane Hardwood is subject to the Pennsylvania Landowner Liability Act. This act relieves the landowners from any liability for users when they allow public recreation on their land with no charge.

Of course open access has its risks—in the forms of individuals who choose to drive ATVs and motorcycles off-road on the private land, grow marijuana, and steal timber, among other things. This is where Kane's relationship with the state of Pennsylvania and public users is integral to management. Pennsylvania operates a program called the Forest Game Cooperator Program, where private landowners are encouraged to provide access to hunters in return for observation of the property. The state then provides signs for the property, and the PA Game Commission patrols the property to look for illegal tree harvest, use of closed roads, and resource damage in the form of vandalism, off-road vehicle use, and illegal dumping. The increased enforcement is fundamental to the successful management of the forest in the form of resource protection.

Benefits of open access are not limited to increased participation by the state; most of the public users are outwardly grateful for access and readily participate in stewardship of the lands by being extra sets of eyes and ears on the property. In addition to their tracking of the above abuses, they also provide information back to forest managers on forest conditions (e.g. blow downs) and road conditions (e.g. culvert plugs). By maximizing community benefits of the forest in terms of hunting, camping, and road use, the Collins Pennsylvania Forest reaps management benefits to accompany the flow of thank you letters that their neighbors send them.



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FSC Group Certification offered by the Community Forestry Resource Center has been a big help to us.

**Q: Does certification need the small landowner?**

If FSC did foster a relationship with small landowners they could have a very large membership base that would be capable of doing a few things that might enhance FSC's image in the marketplace, such as: peer to peer education; local sales; knowledge of the woods personally, not virtually; living on the land or visiting it often which leads to an awareness of change (i.e. invasive species, drought, insects); putting a local face to FSC; understanding community and landscape issues with out a study group; having a smaller footprint , encouraging community through cooperation; developing creative solutions for unique problems, especially in areas with microclimates and diverse stand types; relaying information to the top of the chain that only ears in the community, boots on the ground, and eyes on the weather can perceive.

FSC is not just about land it's also about people. If you control 100,000,000 acres you are a threat. If you have 100,000,000 members you are a movement & one hell of a market.

## FACTS AND FIGURES

<b>208M</b>	Acres of FSC-certified forests globally (76 countries)
<b>23M</b>	Acres of FSC-certified forests in the United States
<b>5400</b>	Chain-of-Custody certificates issued globally (74 countries)
<b>781</b>	Chain-of-Custody certificates issued in the United States

## UPCOMING EVENTS

3-5 MAY **American Institute of Architects Convention 2007**  
San Antonio, TX  
[www.aiaconvention.com](http://www.aiaconvention.com)

## Forest Stewardship Council-US Announces Search for a New President

ROGER C. DOWER TO JOIN BOARD OF FSC-US

In January, the FSC-US Board of Directors announced the resignation of Roger C. Dower, who had been President of the organization since November 2002. Following his resignation, Mr. Dower was appointed to the Board of Directors of FSC-US effective March 1, 2007.

## NEWS

Earlier this month Mr. Dower assumed the position of President of the Johnson Foundation, located in Racine, Wisconsin.

During Mr. Dower's term, FSC became the world's strongest system for linking the marketplace for forest products with superior environmental performance on the ground. Under his direction, FSC-US experienced tremendous growth in the number of acres certified under the FSC system in the U.S., as well as the number of manufacturers, distributors and retailers who make and sell FSC-labeled products for sale in the forest products marketplace. In particular, there has been a significant increase in the use of FSC-certified products in the "green building" construction sector, as well as in the paper manufacturing and distribution sectors.

Barbara Bramble, Chairperson of the Board of FSC-US, said "that the Board recognizes that losing Mr. Dower at FSC-US is an incredible gain for the Johnson Foundation, but we are pleased that he is leaving behind a strong, viable, and vibrant organization with a diverse and engaged set of members and stakeholders to continue on FSC-US's work in the forest products market."

The FSC-US Board of Directors has established a formal search process for a new President. In the interim, Ned Daly has been appointed to the position of Chief Operating Officer.

For a position description and application details, please visit:  
[http://www.fscus.org/about\\_us/search\\_for\\_president.php](http://www.fscus.org/about_us/search_for_president.php)



## HYBRID POPLAR

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optimism that in the future the poplar will find a significant place in the market."

The commercial and professional floors of the Renaissance have just been opened this winter, with the poplar used in molding and millwork throughout the interior. There was approximately 80,000 linear feet of the lumber installed in just molding applications alone.

The window shelving, molding, and hand rails employed throughout all four levels of Iovino's Restaurant are all made of this new, unique species of lumber, and were all painted black to reflect the Tuscan theme of the restaurant. On the second floor, where the professional offices are located, the poplar was painted to reflect the color theme of each office unit.

However, in the new offices of Mater Engineering on the second floor of the Renaissance, the company's president

Catherine Mater, chose to give the poplar only a natural stain to "show it off" and keep it as a visible theme throughout the offices. As a consultant to the poplar plantation project for Potlatch, and as a partner in the Renaissance project, Mater said that, although she would have specified the use FSC-certified lumber anyway, being able to use the poplar lumber in the building project was a "special opportunity for me, being involved from the beginning to the end in seeing this species come to the market as a solid wood product. It has provided me with a great deal of personal satisfaction."

For more information about the Renaissance project:  
[www.corvallisriverfront.com](http://www.corvallisriverfront.com)

For more information about the poplar plantation: [www.potlatchcorp.com](http://www.potlatchcorp.com)

**OUR MISSION:** Create a marketplace that promotes well-managed forests by ensuring forestry practices that are environmentally responsible, socially equitable, and economically viable.

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