



SmartWood

Practical conservation through certified forestry

**Public Briefing Paper for
Forest Management Certification Assessment of
J.M. Longyear, LLC
in Marquette, MI, USA
May 1, 2008**

Introduction - The SmartWood Program of the Rainforest Alliance is conducting a forest management/chain of custody certification assessment of J.M. Longyear, LLC (JML). JML is a private landowner with approximately 76,500 acres of forestlands located in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan. The assessment will be implemented from June 9-11, 2008.

Scope of the Certification Assessment – The forest management certification assessment will evaluate the environmental, silvicultural and socioeconomic aspects of forest management on JML forestlands using the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) *Revised Final Regional Forest Stewardship Standard for the Lake States-Central Hardwoods Region (USA), Version LS V3.0*. To obtain a copy of these guidelines, please visit the FSC US web site (at http://www.fscus.org/standards_criteria/regional_standards.php) or contact SmartWood directly by telephone, fax or email as listed below. SmartWood is accredited by the FSC and the assessment process used for the evaluation of JML will follow procedures which have been approved by the FSC.

Assessment Team Composition – The assessment will be conducted by:

Dan Pubanz, Team Leader, Forester. BS in Natural Resources (Forest Science), MS in forestry. Dan is certified as a silviculturist and as an Archaeological Paraprofessional with 20 years of experience. He has conducted over 50 FSC forestry and chain-of-custody assessments as a team leader and team member.

Kevin Russell, Wildlife Biologist. BS in Zoology, MS in Zoology, PhD in Forest Wildlife Management. Kevin Russell has practical experience working as a wildlife biologist for industrial timber companies and has also developed an extinguished career in academia as Assistant Professor of Wildlife Ecology and Management at University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point. Kevin has served on six SmartWood audits in Lake States.

Assessment Steps and Schedule – Following is a short description of the certification process and a tentative agenda:

- ◆ Assessment organization – The SmartWood assessors will arrive at the JML office in Marquette, MI on June 9, 2008.
- ◆ Field assessments – The assessors will visit sites on JML property from June 9-11, 2008.

- ◆ Stakeholder consultation – The assessors will conduct meetings and interviews with stakeholders prior to, during and after the assessment. The primary objectives of stakeholder consultation are to solicit comments from interested parties regarding the standards being used; to identify difficult or controversial forest stewardship issues in the region and gain an understanding of how stakeholders believe these issues should be resolved; and to gather information about the performance of JML's operation with respect to the standards used in the assessment.
- ◆ Final assessment briefing – Prior to departure the assessors will meet with JML staff to finalize their data collection and present preliminary findings.
- ◆ Draft report production – The assessors will produce a confidential draft report within 45 days of completion of the assessment that will be submitted to JML for review and comment.
- ◆ Peer Review: The SmartWood report will be submitted to review and comment by an independent peer reviewer.
- ◆ Certification decision – Upon receipt of comments on the draft report from JML and in consideration of stakeholder input and peer review, SmartWood will reach a certification decision. The SmartWood assessment process is expected to be completed by October 1, 2008.

Your Input Sought – As a part of the forest certification assessment process we invite stakeholders to offer comment and feedback on JML forest management in relation to the requirements of the forest management standard referenced above. We welcome input, either public or confidential, in whatever form is easiest and most secure for you. Your input will be valuable at any stage of the assessment process, but we would prefer to receive your comments either prior to the assessment, during the assessment, or prior to September 1, 2008 so that we can take them into consideration in reaching a certification decision by October 1, 2008. Your options for communicating your observations to us are as follows.

1. Meet with a SmartWood assessor during or shortly after the fieldwork.
2. Call and give comments to Kara Wires, the SmartWood staff person responsible for coordinating this certification assessment.
3. Submit written comments by mail, FAX or email to Kara Wires. Unless you request otherwise, these comments will be kept confidential and are solely for the purposes of assessing JML.

The source of any information provided will be kept confidential available to only the FSC and SmartWood staff.

Stakeholders who may wish to dispute any aspect of the forest certification process or decision can access SmartWood's dispute resolution procedures at www.smartwood.org.

Contacting SmartWood

- ◆ Email: kwires@ra.org
- ◆ Worldwide Website – www.smartwood.org.
- ◆ Telephone – 802-434-8708
- ◆ FAX – 802-434-3116
- ◆ Mail address – 65 Millet Street, Suite 201, Richmond, VT 05477