STATEMENT & POLICY

F&W Forestry Statement and Policy on Conversion

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POLICY STATEMENT

F&W Forestry acknowledges the many benefits of managing forests and of maintaining forests as forests. We promote these benefits in our communication with clients, in our work, and in our outreach to the broader community.

While not our usual work, in the course of providing services to our clients, F&W Forestry may be involved with projects that convert one forest type to another, or convert forest to non-forest. In such situations, F&W Forestry's involvement shall be guided by not only the desires of its client but also by all legal and professional requirements, as well as by the requirements of any certification program which may apply. If any land conversion project is incompatible with an applicable certification program, F&W Forestry shall promptly remove the project area from that certification program.

The following procedures are intended to guide F&W foresters, contractors and landowners in appropriately addressing conversion projects.

F&W COMMITS TO …

1. Follow all laws and regulations regarding land conversion projects. F&W foresters shall familiarize themselves with all compliance, permitting and operational issues, and with the requirements of any certification program which may apply, before commencing a land conversion project.
2. Communicate any pertinent compliance or environmental issues to our clients, so that they can make appropriate and informed decisions.

CERTIFICATION PROGRAM GUIDANCE

ATF *American Tree Farm*

See ATF Standard: 1.1.2 and 3.1.1

All conversions should be addressed in a management plan, and landowners should consult with a professional resource manager regarding conversions.

SFI *Sustainable Forestry Initiative*

See SFI Standard: 1.1.2 and 1.1.3

Forest types may only be converted to other forest types under certain circumstances, and only with an assessment that considers specific forest and ecosystem issues. Forestland converted to non-forest types (excluding roads, wildlife habitat, etc.) shall not be included in the certification program.

FSC *Forest Stewardship Council*

See FSC Standard C6.10

Forest conversion to plantations or non-forest land uses shall not occur, except in circumstances where conversion entails a very limited portion of the forest management unit; and does not occur on high conservation value forest areas; and will enable clear, substantial, additional, secure, long term conservation benefits across the forest management unit.