Green Certification Update

Annual Certification Review

Each fall, the Indiana Classified Forest Certified Group goes through a Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) review to make sure the group is meeting FSC standards (see left column). The review involves an independent auditor coming to Indiana, examining our records, and then visiting landowners and walking their forests.

Thank you to the landowners in northern Indiana who were part of the fall 2016 review. The report from the review and all previous reviews are available on the Division of Forestry website: dnr.IN.gov/forestry/7536.htm.

NEW: 2017 Trained Logger Requirement

As of Jan. 1, 2017, timber harvests on the certified classified forests must be done by timber-harvesting crews that meet a minimum training requirement. At least one person on the crew at an active harvest site must meet the requirements.

A minimally trained individual will have completed Indiana Cutter Level 1 training and Introduction to Best Management Practices (BMP) training. As part of the minimum training standard, each person has to have completed another cutter training course within the past three years and completed BMP training within the last three years. Additionally, each “certified” trained professional logger must take a minimum of eight hours of Indiana Logger training within two years in order to maintain certification. The Division of Forestry is currently offering free training classes to help loggers meet the new requirements.

It is your responsibility as a landowner to make sure the crew meets the training standard and knows it must have at least one person that meets that standard on site at all times when there is harvesting activity. You can check the training records for your preferred logger at dnr.IN.gov/forestry/9317.htm.

Timber!

Thinking about harvesting timber on your FSC-certified forest? Contact your district forester for the information you need to sell your timber as FSC certified. Even if you don’t plan to sell your timber as FSC certified, you still must contact your district forester in order to do a timber harvest on certified woodland.

Green Certification - It’s Your Decision

When the Division of Forestry created the Indiana Classified Forest Certified Group (ICFCG, FSC – C071226), all eligible landowners became green certified. At your next re-inspection, you will be given a Green Certification Benefit Decision form. On the form you will need to either confirm that you want to remain in the ICFCG or decline. You need to fill out only one form, not one form per tract.

Green Certification is voluntary. You can leave the certified group at any time by completing a Green Certification Departure Request form. Your district forester can provide copies.

Even if you never plan to harvest timber, you can be part of the certified group and receive the recognition of owning a well-managed forest. The choice is yours.
Learn More

For more information about Green Certification and the Indiana Classified Forest Certified Group (ICFCG), see dnr.IN.gov/forestry/7536.htm, which shows the ICFCG Umbrella Plan. This plan contains all the details and requirements for the certified group. The website also provides copies of the FSC standards, FSC policy documents and audit reports. If you don’t have access to the web, contact your district forester for the information.