


# Forest Certification: A Catalyst for Wildlife Conservation and Management



**USFWS / NCASI Meeting**  
**March 6, 2014**

# Two Points to Keep in Mind:

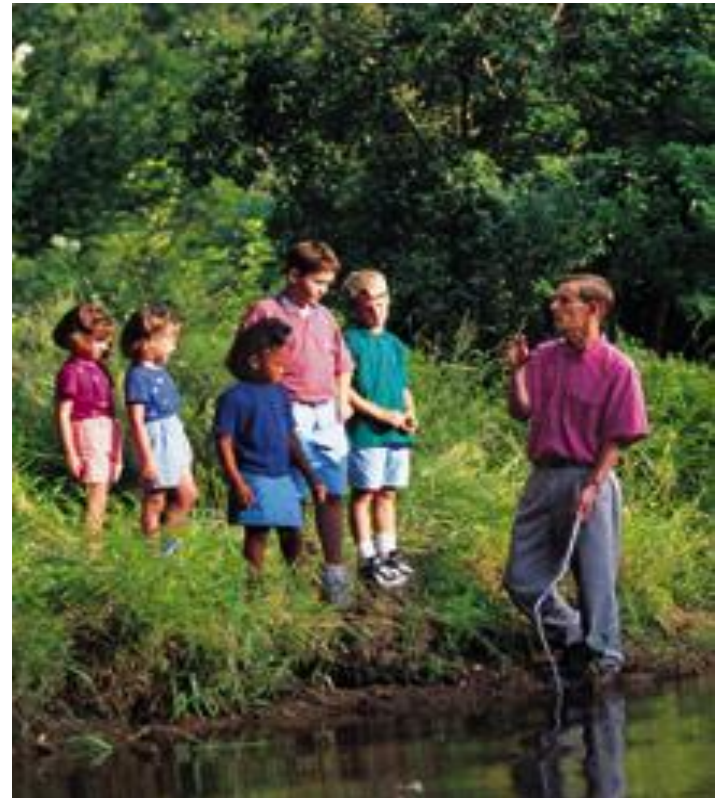


**Prior to forest certification, forest landowners strongly felt they were managing their forest lands well and prided themselves on being good stewards of forest and wildlife natural resources.**

**Without doubt, third party forest certification has improved wildlife management and conservation efforts on privately owned forestlands across the southern US.**

# Forest Certification – Core Tenets

- Responsible management of all forest values
- Change in behavior
- Continual improvement





# What's Changed on the Ground?

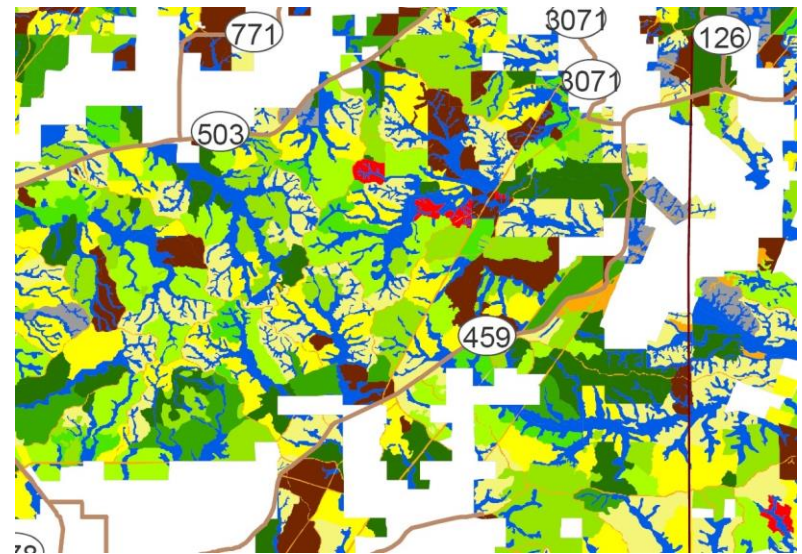
**Sustainable forest management is institutionalized for most large forest owners – a part of daily business responsibility for our foresters**



# What's Changed on the Ground?

## Wildlife/biodiversity Management & Conservation

- Landscape and stand level habitat management
- Increased emphasis on non-game species
- Partnership opportunities





# What's Changed on the Ground?

## Identification and Management of Forests for Primary Values Other Than Timber

- Identification and management of sites of conservation, ecological, geological, cultural or historic significance
- Emphasis on G1/G2, T&E, HCFV forests



# What's Changed on the Ground?

## Improved Forest Management Practices for Enhancing Wildlife Habitat

As an example, herbicide application – precision, rates, target species



# What's Changed on the Ground?



## Emphasis on Water Quality and Riparian Management

**BMP compliance is mandatory – and effective implementation of BMPs has improved steadily for the past 20 years.**

**SMZ layout and protection of riparian habitats often goes beyond BMP requirements**



# What's Changed on the Ground?

## Extension of Sustainable Forestry to Other Forest Stakeholders

**Logger training and education**

**BMPs required as a condition of sale/purchase of wood by certification participants**

**Outreach to private landowners**



# What Does Certification Offer to Conservation of At Risk Species ?



**Certification is a foundation for proactive at risk species conservation efforts – a win/win for forest owners, state wildlife agencies, the USFWS, and the wildlife resource**

**Third party certification helps provide certainty**

**Certification promotes a network integral to the success of at risk species conservation efforts**





**“Forest industry has a long history of wildlife conservation and management, dating back to the early 20<sup>th</sup> century when companies first began to acquire forestland. [Certification] has done more to promote wildlife and habitat management on industrial forestlands than any other event during that time.”**