

Eastern Ontario Model Forest – Certification Program

Memorandum of Understanding

Between: Eastern Ontario Model Forest
10 Campus Drive, Unit 3
Kemptville, Ontario
K0G 1J0
Ph: 613-258-8422

Herein after referred to as “EOMF”

And: *Each of the private woodlot and commercial forest owners within the Forest Certification Program*

Herein after referred to as the “Forest Owner”

Location, Landowner & Property Information:

The woodlot location and property owner location to be maintained on file and up-to-date by the EOMF.

Overview:

The EOMF works with government, private forest owners, industry, community forests, First Nations, and other stakeholders to sustainably manage forest resources. In 2000, the EOMF began working with private forest owners and community-based forests promoting sustainable forest management through forest certification. Participants manage their forests for economic and social benefits while maintaining the ecological integrity of the forest.

Forest certification is a process designed to encourage the sustainable management of forests throughout the world. Independent auditors evaluate forest stands to determine whether their owners are complying with sound forestry standards. Owners who meet the required standards will have their woodlots certified as well-managed. This label provides assurance to both the woodlot owners and consumers of wood products from certified forests that the certified forests are being well managed. The Forest Certification Program of the EOMF provides private forest owners and community-based forests with affordable access to independent third-party evaluation and certification of their forests and forest management practices.

To meet the requirement for a legally incorporated body, the EOMF will hold the group certificate (details below) on behalf of all participants in the program. Upon certification, members of the program who have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the EOMF will be permitted to use the certification system branding and designation to market their timber and promote their participation as a certified forest. This MOU serves as a documentation of the partnership between private forest owner and the EOMF.

Certification System: Forest Stewardship Council ® (FSC®)

Applicable Forest Management Standard: Rainforest Alliance/SmartWood Locally adapted Standards for Assessing Forest Management in the Great Lakes/Saint Lawrence Region

Certificate Information: Group Forest Management FSC® Certificate (FSC® C018800) (Herein after called “the certificate”)

The EOMF agrees to:

1. Manage the certificate in a responsible manner and be the main point of contact for certification matters.
2. Provide each private forest owner with a copy of the relevant forest management standard upon joining the certificate.
3. Provide each private forest owner with a current copy of the MOU and EOMF Policies and Procedures Manual, notification of any updates to the MOU or manual, and to keep a current copies of both on the EOMF website
4. Approve the Forest Management Plan (FMP) for the property and ensure the plan meets the certification standards.
5. Provide the private forest owners with sample agreements and contracts for various forest operations, if requested.
6. Maintain records of private forest owner properties in the certification pool, to meet certification requirements;
7. Keep all records and contact information confidential and will not distribute this information without the consent of the Forest Owner.
8. Notify the forest owner when there has been non-compliance with this agreement, and outline the steps necessary to re-establish compliance.
9. Assess each property in the certified pool as a part of the larger forest ecosystem and promote the protection of site productivity, water quality and biological diversity.

The Forest Owner agrees to:

1. Warrant that he/she is the registered owner of the property and has the absolute right to enter into this agreement, and that the boundaries of the property are known, not in contention, clearly identified and that any timber harvesting unbdertaken is legally permitted.
2. Provide the EOMF with their names, current contact information, and the locations of all certified properties, and to notify the EOMF of any changes to this information when they occur
3. Meet or exceed the requirements of the EOMF Policy and Procedures Manual
4. Review the MOU when notified of an update to the MOU
5. Commit to following the applicable forest management standards and group rules
6. Declare that the management units (woodlots) they are bringing into the group are not included in another FSC Certificate
7. Ensure the forest management plan author is a Managed Forest Plan Approver for those properties participating in the Managed Forest Tax Incentive Program or a Full or Associate member of the Ontario Professional Foresters Association. A landowner may prepare a managed forest plan for his/her own property however, it must be approved by one of the qualified individuals mentioned above.
8. Ensure the Harvest Plan for commercial operations be certified by a Full or Associate member of the Ontario Professional Foresters Association operating within their scope of practice.
9. Ensure that all forest management activities carried out on the property under his/her direction follows the FMP
10. Provide periodic reports of forest management activities when requested by the EOMF
11. Costs such as: forest management planning, tree marking, boundary establishment, and all other forestry activities, will be the responsibility of the private forest owner.
12. Pay an annual *Program Fee* and the *Forest Management Fee* to the EOMF. The *Forest Management Fee* is a payment of 4% on the total standing timber sale for commercial harvest operations on the private forest owner property.
13. Agree to allow the EOMF, certification body (auditors), FSC, and Assurance Services International to fulfill their certification responsibilities including accessing the property or relevant documents
14. Take prompt actions to rectify any non-compliance with the FMP and the certification standard.
15. Notify the EOMF in writing 60 days prior to removing property from the EOMF Forest Certification Program.

Certified Forest property sign

1. A Certified Forest property sign is available for interested forest owners for a nominal fee.
2. Upon exiting the program, it is the Forest Owner's responsibility to return the sign(s) to the EOMF.

3. The cost of the sign(s) is a rental fee. This cost is not returned to the Forest Owner upon exiting the program.

Furthermore, it is mutually agreed by the EOMF and the Forest Owner that:

1. The EOMF is not liable for any injury or damages that may be incurred by any forest workers during the duration of this forest certification program.
2. This agreement shall remain in effect for the term of the forest certification program or until a written request for removal is received by the EOMF from the Forest Owner.

Eastern Ontario Model Forest:

Glen Prevost



Name

Signature

February 3, 2023
Date