



SmartWood

Practical conservation through certified forestry

**Public Briefing Paper for
Forest Management Certification Assessment of
Langley Park Associates
in Long Lake, NY, USA
December 29, 2006**

Introduction - The SmartWood Program of the Rainforest Alliance is conducting a forest management/chain of custody certification assessment of Langley Park Associates. Langley Park Associates is a private landowner of 3,728 acres in Long Lake, NY. The property is managed by Northeast Forests, LLC of Thendara, NY. The assessment will be implemented from February 12, 2007 to February 13, 2007.

Scope of the Certification Assessment – The forest management certification assessment will evaluate the environmental, silvicultural and socioeconomic aspects of forest management on Langley Park Associates forest land, using the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) *Northeast (USA) Regional Forest Stewardship Standard, Version 9.0*. To obtain a copy of these guidelines, please visit the FSC US web site (at http://www.fscus.org/principles_criteria/) 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 Langley Park Associates will follow procedures which have been approved by the FSC.

Assessment Team Composition – The assessment will be conducted by Rob Bryan. Rob has a MS in forestry and a BS in botany and environmental studies. He is a Forest Ecologist for Maine Audubon and a Consulting Forester/Ecologist. Rob is a Licensed Maine Forester with over 20 years professional experience in forestry, forest ecology, and environmental consulting, including over 15 FSC Forest Management certification audits and assessments, certification, FSC regional and national standards development, peer review of industrial forest certification, development of state policies for forest certification, environmental impact assessment, natural resource planning, forest inventory, management planning, and timber sale administration.

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

- ◆ Assessment organization – The SmartWood assessor will arrive at Northeast Forests, LLC office in Thendara, NY on February 12, 2007.
- ◆ Field assessments – The assessor will visit sites on Langley Park Associates property from February 12-13, 2007.

- ◆ Stakeholder consultation – The assessor 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 the candidate's operation with respect to the standards used in the assessment.
- ◆ Final assessment briefing – Prior to departure the assessor will meet with Langley Park Associates to finalize their data collection and present preliminary findings.
- ◆ Draft report production – The assessor will produce a confidential draft report within 30 days of completion of the assessment that will be submitted to Langley Park Associates 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 Langley Park Associates 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 July 15, 2007.

Your Input Sought – As a part of the forest certification assessment process we invite stakeholders to offer comment and feedback on Langley Park Associates 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 July 1, 2007 so that we can take them into consideration in reaching a certification decision by July 15, 2007. 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 Langley Park Associates.

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