



**AMEX Bois Franc, AMEX West, Scierie VOG
et
PRIMEWOOD LUMBER**

**FSC® CONTROLLED WOOD
CANADA RISK ASSESSMENT
SOMMAIRE PUBLIC | PUBLIC SUMMARY
(FSC-STD-40-005 V3-1)**

MAY 14 2018

PREPARED IN SUPPORT OF THE DUE DILIGENCE SYSTEM

A. COMPANY INFORMATION

Company name	9293-8760 Québec Inc., dba Primewood Inc.
Certificate number:	SAI-COC-002514
Controlled wood Certificate number:	SAI-CW-002514
First Issue Date:	2010-11-08
Expiry Date:	2019-03-31
Country:	USA
Company address:	1150, rue Labonté Drummondville, Québec J2C 5Y4 Canada
Contact detail:	Contact person: Guillaume Genest,
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Assessment done by:	Jean-François Légaré, ing.f.
Relation to the company:	Forestry consultant
Date:	May 14, 2018
Signature	<i>JFLégaré</i>

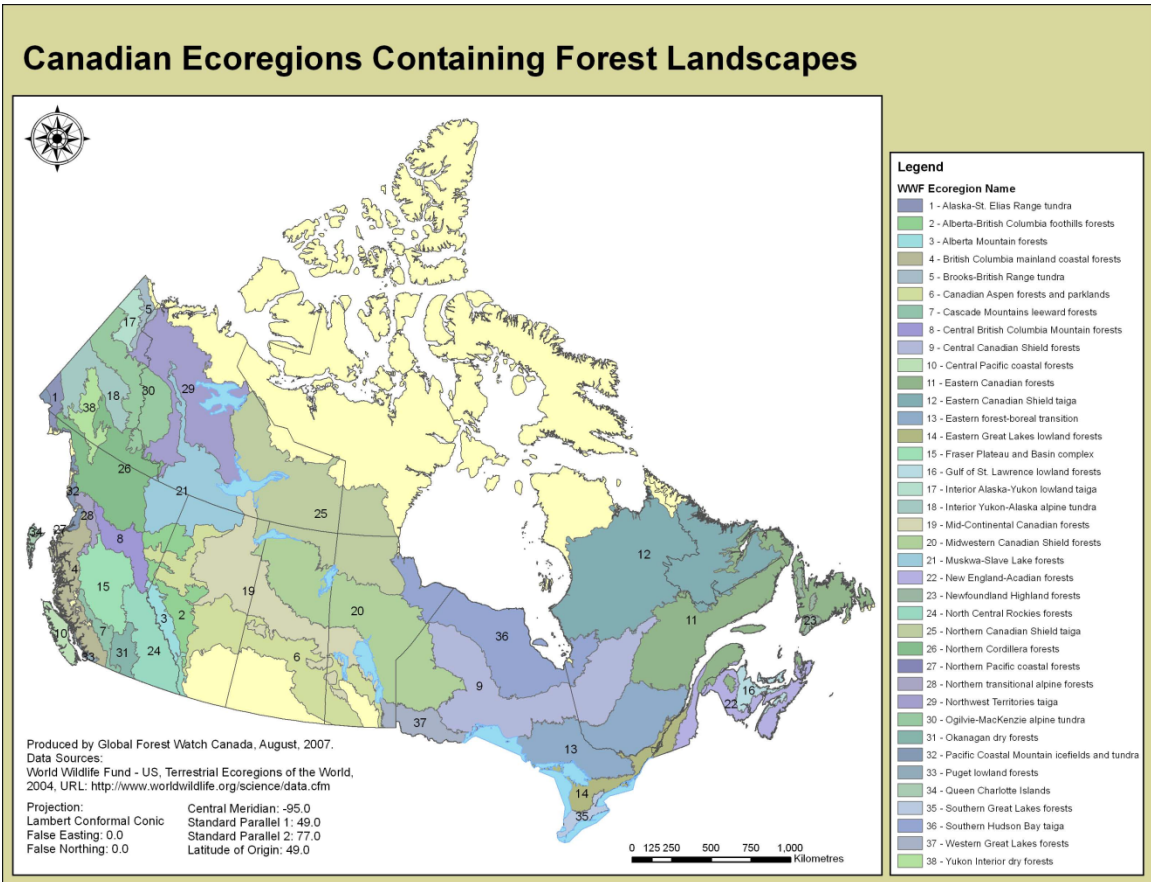
B. ORIGIN OF TIMBER

In Canada, AMEX Bois Franc, Amex West, Scierie VOG and PrimeWood Lumber source mainly in the forests of the southern regions of Quebec and Ontario. The supply area targeted by the chain of custody covers the administrative regions of the Outaouais and Montérégie for Quebec and the districts of Parry Sound, Nipissing and most of the districts of southern Ontario. Supply comes from public lands and private lands. In Ontario, certain supply territories are FSC-certified (French-Seven Forest, Bancroft Minden Forest, Mazinaw-Lanark Forest).

C. WWF ECOREGION

Country:	CANADA		
District	Province of Ontario, Quebec, New-Brunswick		
WWF Ecoregions	WWF ecoregion code	WWF ecoregion name	
	NA0406	Eastern forest-boreal transition	
	NA0407	Eastern Great Lakes lowland forests	
	NA0408	Gulf of St. Lawrence lowland forests	
	NA0410	New England-Acadian forests	
	NA0414	Southern Great Lakes forests	
Risk Assessment Level (indicate the risk for the different levels)	Country	District	FMU
	Low	Low	-

Figure 1. Ecoregions of Canada



D. COMPANY RISK ASSESSMENT

Considering that the complete national risk assessment for Canada will not be published until november 30, 2018 (<https://ca.fsc.org/en-ca/standards/national-risk-assessment-01>), the company has conducted its own risk analysis in accordance with Annex A of FSC-STD-40-005 V3- 1. Sections 1,2 and 5 of the National Risk Analysis for the United States approved by the FSC were used.

In conclusion, all supply zones and the due diligence system of AMEX Bois Franc, Amex West, Scierie VOG and PrimeWood Lumber present a **low risk** that the materials received come from unacceptable sources.

The Company risk assessment is available upon request and made public on the FSC website (<http://info.fsc.org/>) through the Registrar during the external audit.

For questions, comments, or complaints about the organization's risk assessment, please contact:

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1. ILLEGALLY HARVESTED WOOD

1.1 Evidence of enforcement of logging related laws in the supply area.

There is no additional known information, and the FSC National Office has not provided any additional information, that contradicts the assessment results provide by the **Centralized National Risk Assessment for Canada**. Therefore, the source area can be considered Low risk

Sources of information
 - FSC-CNRA-CAN V1-0 EN, section 1

Risk Assessment designation

Low risk

1.2 There is evidence in the supply area demonstrating the legality of harvests and wood purchases that includes robust and effective systems for granting licenses and harvest permits.

There is no additional known information, and the FSC National Office has not provided any additional information, that contradicts the assessment results provide by the **Centralized National Risk Assessment for Canada**. Therefore, the source area can be considered Low risk

Sources of information
 - FSC-CNRA-CAN V1-0 EN, section 1

Risk Assessment designation:

Low risk

1.3 There is little or no evidence or reporting of illegal harvesting in the supply area

There is no additional known information, and the FSC National Office has not provided any additional information, that contradicts the assessment results provide by the **Centralized National Risk Assessment for Canada**. Therefore, the source area can be considered Low risk

Sources of information
 - FSC-CNRA-CAN V1-0 EN, section 1

Risk Assessment designation:

Low risk

1.4 There is a low perception of corruption related to the granting or issuing of harvesting permits and other areas of law enforcement related to harvesting and wood trade

Accordingly to the latest studies published by Transparency International on their Web site http://www.transparency.org/news/feature/corruption_perceptions_index_2016. Canada has an excellent corruption perception index 2016 with a score of 82 - 9th rank/176.

There is no additional known information, and the FSC National Office has not provided any additional information, that contradicts the assessment results provide by the Centralized National Risk Assessment for Canada. Therefore, the source area can be considered Low risk

Sources of information

- FSC-CNRA-CAN V1-0 EN, section 1
- http://www.transparency.org/news/feature/corruption_perceptions_index_2016

Risk Assessment designation

Low risk

2 WOOD HARVESTED IN VIOLATION OF TRADITIONAL OR CIVIL RIGHTS

2.1 There is no UN Security Council ban on timber exports from the country concerned.

There is no additional known information, and the FSC National Office has not provided any additional information, that contradicts the assessment results provide by the **Centralized National Risk Assessment for Canada**. Therefore, the source area can be considered Low risk

Sources of information
 - FSC-CNRA-CAN V1-0 EN, section 2.1

Risk Assessment designation

Low risk

2.2 The country or supply area is not designated a source of conflict timber (e.g. USAID Type 1 conflict timber).

There is no additional known information, and the FSC National Office has not provided any additional information, that contradicts the assessment results provide by the **Centralized National Risk Assessment for Canada**. Therefore, the source area can be considered Low risk

Sources of information
 - FSC-CNRA-CAN V1-0 EN, section 2.1

Risk Assessment designation

Low risk

2.3 There is no evidence of child labour or violation of ILO Fundamental Principles and Rights at work taking place in forest areas in the supply area concerned.

There is no additional known information, and the FSC National Office has not provided any additional information, that contradicts the assessment results provide by the **Centralized National Risk Assessment for Canada**. Therefore, the source area can be considered Low risk

Sources of information
 - FSC-CNRA-CAN V1-0 EN, section 2.1

Risk Assessment designation

Low risk

2.4 There are recognized and equitable processes in place to resolve conflicts of substantial magnitude pertaining to traditional rights including use rights, cultural interests or traditional cultural identity in the supply area concerned.

In Canada, enforcement of laws and bylaws is supported by a legal system that acts as a warranty that traditional rights will be protected. Also, equitable processes are in place to resolve conflicts of substantial magnitude pertaining to traditional rights including use rights, cultural interests or traditional cultural identity.

On crown land in Canada, the known use rights and cultural sites of interest are identified on maps and are subject to various protection measures.

Agreements and Self-Government Agreements), with usually three steps in the negotiation process (<http://www.ainc-inac.gc.ca/>)

For Comprehensive Land Claims Agreements, there are currently 9 Framework Agreements, 9 Agreements-In-Principle and 30 Final Agreements. For Self-Government Agreements there are currently 9 Framework Agreements, 16 Agreements-In-Principle and 24 Final Agreements.

If this does not exclude the possibility of controversies surrounding traditional rights in Canada, this demonstrates that there exist “recognized and equitable processes in place to resolve conflicts of substantial magnitude pertaining to traditional rights including use rights, cultural interests or traditional cultural identity in the district concerned”.

<http://www.mern.gouv.qc.ca/lois/index.jsp>

- Sources of information
- International Labor Organization.. “Convention No. 169.” Indigenous and Tribal Peoples. <http://www.ilo.org/indigenous/Conventions/no169/lang--en/index.htm>
 - Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada.<http://www.aadnc-aandc.gc.ca/eng/1100100010002>Indigenous Peoples Organizations
 - <http://www.ainc-inac.gc.ca/al/indexeng.Asp>
 - Secrétariat aux affaires autochtones (QC): <http://www.saa.gouv.qc.ca/index.asp>
 - Ministry of Aboriginal Affairs, Ontario : <http://www.aboriginalaffairs.gov.on.ca/francais/default.asp>
 - Aboriginal Affairs Secretariat (NB): http://www2.gnb.ca/content/gnb/en/departments/aboriginal_affairs.html
 - <http://www.gov.bc.ca/arr/>
 - <http://www.for.gov.bc.ca/haa/>
 - Registre FSC « Global Forest Registry» <http://www.globalforestregistry.org/NEW/map/>

Risk Assessment designation:

Low risk

2.5 There is no evidence of violation of the ILO Convention 169 on Indigenous and Tribal Peoples taking place in the forest areas in the supply area concerned.

There is no evidence of violation of the ILO Convention 169 on Indigenous and Tribal Peoples taking place in the concerned forest areas of Canada.

Canada has not ratified ILO Convention 169 but is in overall compliance with its measures, which include: the right of tribal and indigenous peoples to enjoy fundamental human rights and freedoms without discrimination; a right to consult with the government on issues that affect them; and a right to decide their own priorities for social, cultural, and economic development.

In Canada, over time and through various instruments including treaties, court decisions, statutes, and resolutions, a framework for protection of tribal and indigenous rights has emerged.

In recent years, several Supreme Court decisions recognise Aboriginal rights and require provincial and federal governments to make better efforts to address First Nations claims.

Article 15 of Convention 169 reads as follows:

1. The rights of the people concerned to the natural resources pertaining to their lands shall be specially safeguarded. These rights include the right of these peoples to participate in the use, management and

conservation of these resources.

2. In cases in which the State retains the ownership of mineral or sub-surface resources or rights to other resources pertaining to lands, governments shall establish or maintain procedures through which they shall consult these peoples, with a view to ascertaining whether and to what degree their interests would be prejudiced, before undertaking or permitting any programmes for the exploration or exploitation of such resources pertaining to their lands. The peoples concerned shall wherever possible participate in the benefits of such activities, and shall receive fair compensation for any damages which they may sustain as a result of such activities.”

The Convention does not specify the conditions for fair distribution of benefits from, for instance, oil, mineral or forest resources. (Institut de développement durable des Premières Nations du Québec et du Labrador, 2005, « Actes du Forum forestier des Peuples autochtones », page 18.

There are new regional structures in Quebec, called Commission régionale de gestion des ressources naturelles, where First Nations are invited to participate. Furthermore, there are several FSC certification initiatives across the province, where forest managers must take First Nations concerns into consideration.

There therefore exist consultation, participation or economic distribution mechanisms and opportunities that meet the intent of Convention 169. www.ainc-inac.gc.ca/index-eng.asp.

Almost all of Ontario’s land base is covered by treaties and discussions are under way with an Anishinabe community of southeastern Ontario regarding Algonquin Park.

There exists land claims from Grassy Narrows Community in North Western Ontario (www.freegrassy.com) and Six First Nations in Grand River in Southern West Ontario. In 2006, Abitibi-Bowater accepted to stop logging on lands claimed by Grassy Narrows. In January 2010, the Ontario Superior Court had begun hearing evidence in the First Nation's case against logging on its traditional lands (<http://dogwoodinitiative.org/blog/grassy-narrows>). In October 2010, Grassy Narrows renews blockades to stop Weyerhaeuser operations on traditional lands (<http://dogwoodinitiative.org/blog/boreal-boycotts-return/?searchterm=grassy%20narrows>).

New Brunswick is a leader for consultation and agreements with First Nations in the province. Its policy to include First Nations in forestry operations on public lands is an example of this. <http://www.gnb.ca/0016/communities-e.asp>

<http://www.gnb.ca/0016/about-e.asp>

Sources of information

- International Labor Organization. “Convention No. 169.” Indigenous and Tribal Peoples. <http://www.ilo.org/indigenous/Conventions/no169/lang-en/index.htm>
- Canada Labour Code: <http://lawslois.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/L-2/>
- Aboriginal Affairs & Northern Development Canada: <http://www.ainc-inac.gc.ca/al/indexeng.asp>
- BC Human Rights Code: http://www.bclaws.ca/EPLibraries/bclaws_new/document/ID/freeside/0096210_01
- BC Human Rights Tribunal: <http://www.bchrt.bc.ca/index.htm>
- CHARTER OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND FREEDOMS, Quebec http://www2.publicationsduquebec.gouv.qc.ca/dynamicSearch/telecharge.php?type=2&file=/C_12/C12_A.htm
- Ontario Human Rights Commission : www.ohrc.on.ca/
- Commission des droits de la personnes du NB : <http://www.gnb.ca/hrc-cdp/index-f.asp>
- Registre FSC « Global Forest Registry» <http://www.globalforestregistry.org/NEW/map/>

Risk Assessment designation:
Low risk

3 WOOD HARVESTED FROM FOREST IN WHICH HIGH CONSERVATION VALUES ARE THREATENED BY MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES

3.1 Forest management activities in the relevant level (eco-region, sub-eco-region, local) do not threaten eco-regionally significant HCVs.

The risk assessment result is unspecified risk due to the presence of High Conservation Value Forests (HCVF – Critical/Endangered WWF Ecoregion, Centre of Plant Diversity, Intact Forests and Cariboo woodland habitat)

The designation of HCVFs is based from height information sources recommended by the FSC Controlled Wood Standard (FSC-STD-40-005 V3-1) for Company Risk Assessment, as follow and as summarized within the table below.

On the five ecoregions assessed within Ontario, Quebec and New Brunswick, all ecoregion contain HCVFs that are potentially at risk of impact from forest management activities (i.e. unspecified risk). Therefore, these ecoregions are assessed for the level of protection in place, in section 3.2, below. The ecoregion were identified based on WWF's ecoregion definitions and mapping.

Table 1. HCVF Summary by WWF ecoregion

Code	WWF Ecoregions Name	WWF Global 200	WWF Conservation status	Conservation International's Biodiversity Hotspot	IUCN Centre of Plant Diversity	High- Biodiversity Wilderness area.	Global Forest Watch Intact Forest	Caribou Woodland Habitat
NA0406	Eastern forest-boreal transition	-	Vulnerable	-	-	-	Yes	-
NA0407	Eastern Great Lakes lowland forests	-	Critical/Endangered	-	-	-	-	-
NA0408	Gulf of St. Lawrence lowland forests	-	Critical/Endangered	-	-	-	-	-
NA0410	New England-Acadian forests	-	Critical/Endangered	-	Serpentine	-	-	-
NA0414	Southern Great Lakes forests	-	Critical/Endangered	-	-	-	-	-

The threat to HCVFs was analysed based on the information source which provided the high value determination for the ecoregion. . For each category flagged as having an HCVF in the ecoregion, the HCVF was analysed as to whether the threat was from forest management, or not. Where the threat was not due to forest management, the overall risk was reduced to low, otherwise the risk was classified as unspecified and the ecoregion/HCVF was further evaluated for the level of protection in section 3.2, below.

Eastern forest-boreal transition (NA0406)



Description of threats

In the NA0406 ecoregion, the territory is very fragmented and heavily impacted by human activities since the arrival of Europeans in North America. It is estimated that only 10 percent of the ecoregion remains as intact habitat. Much of the area has been highly fragmented by forestry activities, settlements, summer homes and cottages, ski facilities and agriculture.

The timber industry continues to be very active in the ecoregion, particularly in the Canadian portion. There is increased mining potential throughout and tourism is beginning to create significant impacts in parts of the ecoregion.

HCVF identified as threatened

WWF Conservation status

WWF ecoregion conservation status is Vulnerable and NA0406 is not part of WWF's "Global 200 ecoregions" that require special consideration which mean a low risk of threat to HCVFs.

Global Forest Watch Intact Forest

GFW have identified Significant Intact forest within the ecoregion. The intact forests are located in boreal area of the ecoregion and outside of the supply areas of WestRock. In addition, the mainly significant intact forests are located outside of forest tenures, ensuring that they are not threatened by forest management activities. Combined with the significant protected areas and regulations in place to manage for all forest values, it is reasonable to say that forest management activities do not threaten HCVFs.

Considering that WWF ecoregion conservation status is Vulnerable and the multiple levels of protection in place ensuring that Intact forests are maintained, the overall risk of threat for this category of HCVFs from the supply's area of WestRock and forest management activities in the ecoregion NA0406 **is low**.

Eastern Great Lakes lowland forests (NA0407)



Description of threats

In the NA0407 ecoregions, the territory is highly fragmented, with effectively no connectivity in most areas and little core habitat due to edge effects. Over 95 percent of the habitat in this ecoregion has been lost to suburban development and pollution of the St. Lawrence. Montreal (population greater than 2 million), Ottawa (population greater than 700,000) and Quebec City (population greater than 700,000) are some of the larger urban centres. Widespread farming occurs on much of the rest of the landscape (along with smaller manufacturing centres). Principal crops are corn, grains, soybeans and apple orchards. Much of the remaining habitat consists of wetlands or abandoned farmlands undergoing reforestation. In some locations, recovery of abandoned agricultural land is beginning to occur, but these lands remain unprotected.

HCVF identified as threatened

WWF Conservation status

WWF ecoregion conservation status is Critical/Endangered. NA0407 is not part of WWF's "Global 200 ecoregions" that require special consideration. The majority of the ecoregion has been heavily altered by human activity, particularly suburban development and conversion to agriculture. There are some issues with the level of conservation in the ecoregion, but given the current legislative requirements regarding forest management activities (on managed forests) it is very unlikely that forest management activities (i.e., harvesting) contributes great threat to ecoregional HCVs. Management plan ensure that the remaining forests remain as working forests will likely go a long way to helping maintain existing HCVFs (limit or reverse forest conversion).

As such, the overall risk of threat to HCVFs from the supply's area of WestRock and forest management activities in the ecoregion NA0407 **is low**.

Gulf of St. Lawrence lowland forests (NA0408)



Description of threats

This ecoregion includes all of Prince Edward Island (PEI), Isles de la Madeleine, Quebec, most of east-central New Brunswick, the Annapolis Valley and the Northumberland Strait coast of Nova Scotia. It is estimated that only about 3 percent of this ecoregion can be considered as intact habitat. More than 75 percent is considered to be heavily altered. Presently, the principal reasons for habitat loss are:

- Conversion of land for agriculture (especially potatoes).
- Forest harvesting and high density road networks.
- Urban and rural housing.
- Recreational disturbance of dune vegetation in coastal areas.
- Extensive peat harvesting (especially in eastern New Brunswick)

Historically, agriculture and logging for shipbuilding destroyed much of the original forest cover of the ecoregion by the 19th century.

HCVF identified as threatened

WWF Conservation status

WWF ecoregion conservation status is Critical/Endangered. NA0408 is not part of WWF's "Global 200 ecoregions" that require special consideration. The majority of the ecoregion is heavily altered, having been heavily and repeatedly logged and now largely converted to agriculture. Most of the agriculture land have subsequently failed and are being abandoned, creating an increase in the growth of secondary forest. There are some issues with the level of conservation in the ecoregion, but given the current legislative requirements regarding forest management activities (on managed forests) it is very unlikely that forest management activities (i.e., harvesting) contributes great threat to ecoregional HCVs. Management plan ensure that the remaining forests remain as working forests will likely go a long way to helping maintain existing HCVFs (limit or reverse forest conversion).

As such, the overall risk of threat to HCVFs from the supply's area of WestRock and forest management activities in the ecoregion NA0408 **is low**.

New England-Acadian forests (NA0410)



Description of threats

Now increasingly forested, parts of the landscape in this ecoregion have changed dramatically over the past 350 years. By the middle of the 19th century farm crops or pastures covered nearly three-quarters of the arable land in southern and central New England.

Little intact habitat remains in this ecoregion, with only about 5 percent of the New England Acadian forest in presettlement condition. The major conversion and degradation threats to this ecoregion are development and logging. Development for second homes and ecotourism is a particular problem in Quebec and in the vicinity of other urban centres. High-intensity recreational development (e.g. ski hills) and mining (esp. in Quebec) combine to further reduce the remaining extent of natural habitat in this ecoregion.

Mining is a major land use in parts of the ecoregion in Quebec (Talc, Marble, Asbestos, Granite) and interest remains high for the extensive Serpentine areas of Quebec.

HCVF identified as threatened

WWF Conservation status

WWF ecoregion conservation status is Critical/Endangered. NA0410 is not part of WWF's "Global 200 ecoregions" that require special consideration. There are some issues with the level of conservation in the ecoregion, but given the current legislative requirements regarding forest management activities (on managed forests) it is very unlikely that forest management activities (i.e., harvesting) contributes great threat to ecoregional HCVs. Ensuring that the remaining forests remain as working forests will likely go a long way to helping maintain existing HCVFs (limit or reverse forest conversion).

Serpentine Flora

Serpentine Flora may be found in the New-England-Acadian forests ecoregion (NA0410). The Serpentine-de-Coleraine Ecological Reserve represents one of the rare areas in Quebec where serpentine is found. http://www.mddep.gouv.qc.ca/biodiversite/reserves/serpentine_coleraine/res_67.htm.

This area is protected under the *Regulation respecting threatened or vulnerable plant species and their habitats*, which protects the "Éboulis-de-Serpentine-du-Mont-Caribou" plant habitat. The habitat corresponds to an escarpment and talus on the eastern flank of Mont Caribou, within the Serpentine-de-Coleraine ecological reserve, in the territory of Municipalité de Saint-Joseph-de-Coleraine, Municipalité régionale de comté de l'Amiante. The habitat is identified on a chart prepared by the Ministry. Furthermore, there is no threat from forest management activities, as Serpentine Flora ecosystems do not include or support commercial forest (due to rock/ soil type).

As such, the overall risk of threat to HCVFs from the supply's area of WestRock and forest management activities in the ecoregion NA0410 **is low**

Southern Great Lakes forests (NA0414)



Description of threats

Agriculture and industrial and urban development are the predominant land uses in much of this ecoregion. Thus, the ecoregion is one of the most heavily impacted by human activities on the continent. Habitat loss is nearly complete in this ecoregion. Nearly 100 percent of the region was ranked as heavily altered. Wetland losses have been particularly severe; Ohio, for example, has lost 90 percent of its wetlands, and 80 percent of the southern tamarack swamp in Michigan has been destroyed (Noss and Peter 1995). Major urban centers include: Toronto, Hamilton, Buffalo, Rochester, Syracuse, Detroit-Windsor, Erie, Cleveland, Cincinnati, Columbus, and Indianapolis.

The remaining tiny fragments of natural habitat in the Southern Great Lakes face intense conversion pressure from development and agricultural expansion. Agricultural conversion for corn, soybeans, tobacco, grains, canola, and tender fruit has occurred. Urban sprawl threatens this region. Agricultural land and woodlots are being severed to accommodate country homes. Habitat not being converted is being degraded by pollution and exotic species. Wildlife exploitation continues and the elimination of most target species is imminent or complete.

WWF Conservation status

WWF ecoregion conservation status is Critical/Endangered. NA0414 is not part of WWF's "Global 200 ecoregions" that require special consideration. This ecoregion covers much of the industrial heartland of North America, including southern Michigan, much of Ohio and Indiana, extreme southwestern Ontario, including the lowlands of the south of Lake Ontario in Ontario and western New York State. Very little of this ecoregion is located within Canada. The area is so heavily populated and developed that essentially no large blocks of natural habitat remains. Agriculture and industrial and urban development are the predominant land uses in much of this ecoregion. Thus, the ecoregion is one of the most heavily impacted by human activities on the continent.

Within Ontario, this ecoregion is found in the most densely populated area (this area includes the city of Toronto, London and Windsor and other urban areas, as well as very significant amounts of agricultural lands). Fiber source areas however would not be from urbanized or agricultural sections of the ecoregion. Forestry is not listed as a concern/ threat.

Since the ecoregion generally lacks commercial forest lands or managed forests it is very unlikely that forest management activities (i.e., harvesting) contributes conversion, forest loss or impacts high conservation value forests.

As such, the overall risk of HCVs from forest management activities is **low**.

Sources of information

- FSC documentation on HCVs (ic.fsc.org)
- Ecoregion definition and information www.worldwildlife.org/biomes
- Global 200 Ecoregion www.worldwildlife.org/science/wildfinder
- Registre FSC « Global Forest Registry» <http://www.globalforestregistry.org/NEW/map/>
- Conservation International's Biodiversity Hotspot <http://www.conservation.org/Pages/default.aspx>
- Biodiversity Hotspot map <http://www.biodiversity-z.org/content/biodiversity-hotspots>

- Conservation Union (IUCN) as a *Centre of Plant Diversity* <http://www.biodiversitya-z.org/content/centres-of-plant-diversity-cpd>
- *Centre of Plant Diversity map* <http://www.arcgis.com/home/item.html?id=29673486d08b41a2bea0a3e19d5c573e>
- High Biodiversity Wilderness Area <http://www.biodiversitya-z.org/content/high-biodiversity-wilderness-areas-hbwa>
- World Resources Institute *Frontier Forest* <http://pdf.wri.org/lastfrontierforests.pdf>
- Intact Forests Landscapes, www.intactforests.org <http://www.globalforestwatch.org/>
- Protected area of Canada <http://www.biodiversitya-z.org/content/canada>
- Federal Species at Risk Act – Woodland Caribou Recovery Strategies (for boreal and southern mountain populations) http://www.sararegistry.gc.ca/document/default_e.cfm?documentID=2253 and <http://www.sararegistry.gc.ca/document>

Risk Assessment designation

The overall risk of HCVFs from forest management activities is **low**.

3.2 A strong system of protection (effective protected areas and legislation) is in place that ensures survival of the HCVs in the ecoregion.

Indicator 3.1 is met for ecoregion **NA0406, NA0407, NA0408, NA0410 NA0414**. There are no ecoregionally significant high conservation values in the district of origin according to independent verifiable information at the ecoregion level. **Low risk.**

Sources of information

- I Registre FSC « Global Forest Registry» <http://www.globalforestregistry.org/NEW/map/>
- Ecoregion definition and information www.worldwildlife.org/biomes
- <http://www.worldwildlife.org/ecoregions/>
- FSC National Initiatives
- Canada is signatory to the Convention on Biological Diversity <http://www.cbd.int/information/parties.shtml>
- <https://www.biodiv.org/reports/list.aspx?type=for>
- <http://www.biodivcanada.ca/default.asp?lang=fr&n=560ED58E-1>
- World Database on Protected Areas : <http://protectedplanet.net/>
- Protected Areas in Canada: <http://www.ec.gc.ca/ap-pa/>
- Aires protégées au Québec : http://www.mddep.gouv.qc.ca/biodiversite/aires_protegees/aires_quebec.htm + <http://www.mrnf.gouv.qc.ca/aires/index.jsp>
- Protected Areas Ontario : <http://www.ec.gc.ca/ap-pa/default.asp?lang=Fr&n=A0FC17AA-1> et http://www.mnr.gov.on.ca/fr/Business/Forests/2ColumnSubPage/STEL02_168562.html
- Protected Areas New-Brunswick : <http://www.ec.gc.ca/ap-pa/default.asp?lang=Fr&n=A883CFB4-1>

Risk Assessment designation:

The overall risk of HCVFs from forest management activities is **low**.

4 WOOD HARVESTED FROM AREAS BEING CONVERTED FROM FORESTS AND OTHER WOODED ECOSYSTEMS TO PLANTATIONS OR NON-FOREST USES

4.1 The supply area may be considered low risk in relation to wood from genetically modified trees when one of the following indicators is met:

- a) There is no commercial use of genetically modified trees of the species being sourced; or
- b) Licenses are required for commercial use of genetically modified trees and there are no licenses for commercial use of the species being sourced; or
- c) It is forbidden to use genetically modified trees commercially in the country concerned.

Overall, conversion is not considered a problem in Canada. Approximately 92 percent of forestland in Canada is publicly owned. Annual harvests have consistently been lower than volume available for harvest for at least the past ten years.

All provinces have a forest management regime based on natural forests and the use of native species.

The FAO's State of the World's Forests 2011 report indicate that Canada's forest cover has not changed between 1990 and 2009. (www.fao.org)

The Forests Act mandates either a reforestation levy or progressive reforestation after timber has been harvested, ensuring that harvested areas are successfully regenerated and remain as forests. Replanted forests are not necessarily considered plantations; only three percent of Canadian forests are classified as plantations, according to the latest FAO State of the World's Forests report.

Canada ranks 15th out of 17 peer countries for forest cover change over 2005 to 2010 and receive a "B" grade for performance. Canada's forest cover and wooded area has remained fairly constant over the past two decades. (<http://www.conferenceboard.ca>)

Based on a total national forest area of 347.7 million hectares (National Forest Inventory Standard Report), the net loss of forest area for Canada (i.e. the national «conversion rate») is approximately 0,01% (annual net loss of forest area/ current total forest area: 35,000 / 347.7M ha= 0,01%)

ESSA Technologies Ltd.'s 1999 report "Estimating Carbon Losses from Deforestation in Canada" gives an estimate of 80 500 ha the annual loss of natural forests, which represents 0.019% of Canada's 418,000,000 ha of forests. This is much below the 0.5% threshold.

Note: As per ther FSC Controlled Wood Information Matrix (page 28), it is concluded that managed secondary forests are not considered plantations.

Sources of information

- <http://foretscanada.rncan.gc.ca/>
- Canadian Council of Forest Ministers. 2006. "Criteria and indicators of sustainable forest management in Canada National status 2005." Ottawa, Natural Resources Canada.
- FAO. 2011. "State of the World's Forests: North America." Rome. Available at: <http://www.fao.org/docrep/011/i0350e/i0350e00.htm>
- <http://www.conferenceboard.ca>
- FSC Controlled Wood Information Matrix, FSC Canada 2007

Risk Assessment designation

Low risk

5 WOOD FROM FORESTS IN WHICH GENETICALLY MODIFIED TREES ARE PLANTED

5.1 The supply area may be considered low risk in relation to wood from genetically modified trees when one of the following indicators is met:

- a) There is no commercial use of genetically modified trees of the species being sourced; or
- b) Licenses are required for commercial use of genetically modified trees and there are no licenses for commercial use of the species being sourced; or
- c) It is forbidden to use genetically modified trees commercially in the country concerned.

There is no additional known information, and the FSC National Office has not provided any additional information, that contradicts the assessment results provide by the Centralized National Risk Assessment for Canada. Therefore, the source area can be considered Low risk

Sources of information

- FSC-CNRA-CAN V1-0 EN, section 5

Risk Assessment designation

Low risk