



- Where We Live
- What We Believe
- Finch in the Forest
- Q & A with Our Foresters
- FSC and SFI Certifications
- Environmental News
- Finch Products

Links

- Finch in the Forest Blog
- Finch Forest Management
- The Nature Conservancy (Adirondack chapter)
- Environmental Defense
- Fund Calculator

PDFs

- Finch Green Guide (pdf)
- Our Backyard (pdf)
- Finch is SFI certified (pdf)
- Finch is FSC certified (pdf)

Forestry Certifications

- SFI Forest Mngt. (pdf)
- SFI COC (pdf)
- FSC COC (pdf)
- FSC Forest Mngt. (pdf)



[« Previous](#)

[Next »](#)

Why Aren't All U.S. Forests Green Certified?

June 24th, 2010



It may come as a surprise to you, but only 10% of American forests have been third-party certified to the standards of the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) or Sustainable Forestry Initiative® (SFI).

But this doesn't mean the vast majority of American forests are managed irresponsibly. In fact, nothing could be further from the truth.

Forest owners are required to abide by forest management laws and regulations on the local, state and federal levels — and my experience has been that most people go above and beyond what's required by law.

So, why haven't more of the forests been third-party certified? It's simply reflective of the fact that more than half of the forest owners in the U. S. are private individuals or families — and many simply can't afford the costs of the third-party certification process. The FSC and SFI programs address this lack of economy of scale in their own ways.

FSC requires its certificate holders like Finch Paper to document that wood from these family-owned forests did not come from old growth forests, endangered forests or other forests with great environmental sensitivities. FSC refers to these well-managed, but non-certified, forests as "controlled wood sources."

SFI also allows the use of this family forest wood, but requires its certificate holders to provide family forest owners with education and outreach programs to help them manage their lands in the most responsible way.

I'm pleased to say that Finch foresters have been engaged in landowner outreach such as this for far longer than we've had SFI certification. I'm even more pleased to tell you that many family forest owners meet and even exceed the standards that would be required of them under a third-party certification audit. They may not have the certificate, but in most cases they're doing a responsible job nonetheless.

By allowing certified forest products companies like Finch Paper to utilize wood harvested from well-managed, but non-certified, family forests, FSC and SFI help provide family forest owners with a market for their wood,

About This Blog

Beyond labels. Beyond slogans. This is where we live; with our feet in the forest. Very few paper mills still manage forests today, and we're one of them. In this engaging forum, we will help reduce the complexity surrounding "green" paper choices. Welcome to the Finch blogosphere.

About Roger

Roger Dziengeleski is a Vice President and Senior Forester for Finch Paper LLC, the Glens Falls, NY-based uncoated paper manufacturer. ... more

Recent Posts

- Extra eyes and ears
- Why Aren't All U.S. Forests Green Certified?
- Cutting Trees (Sustainably) Saves Forests: Part IV
- Cutting Trees (Sustainably) Saves Forests: Part III
- Cutting Trees (Sustainably) Saves Forests: Part II
- Cutting Trees (Sustainably) Saves Forests: Part I
- What Kind of Trees Are Used In Finch Paper?
- Sorting Out The Facts in the Recycled vs. Certified Fiber Debate
- Biomass: Good for Energy & Forests
- Where animals find safety
- Recent Twitter Posts
- See Finch Paper on Facebook, where we can have more leisurely conversations... http://jit.ly/_y6Usq
- RT @seyboldreport Finch Paper Introduces Improved Inkjet Sheet <http://bit.ly/9tauBa>
- Finch Paper Unveils Superior Inkjet Sheet! http://jit.ly/_y9Q4A

Follow Finch on

Sign up to get email updates:

Name:

Email:

Company:

encouraging their continued adherence to responsible forestry practices, and helping keep our nation's forests as forests.

If you have questions about the FSC or SFI certification processes, please feel free to contact the [Finch forestry team](#).

Share:

Subscribe

Have a Conversation
with Our Foresters



Questions? Comments?
Opinions?
Click here to connect with our
experts

Finch Paper LLC
One Glen Street
Glens Falls, NY 12801

1-800-833-9983
info@finchpaper.com



[Site Map](#)
[Info for Lessees](#)

[Finch Forest Management](#)
[Terms and Conditions](#)

[Media Relations](#)
[Privacy Policy](#)

finchpaper|value delivered
Copyright 2010 Finch Paper, LLC. All rights reserved