

Public Notification Letter

FSC® Chain of Custody Controlled Wood Stakeholder Consultation

To: Interested Parties

From: SCS Global Services

Consultation period: 4 June 2026 – 16 July, 2026 June 2026

Re: Notification of intent to audit **Gutchess Lumber Co., Inc.** against FSC Chain of Custody Controlled Wood standard FSC-STD-40-005 V3-1

The Forest Stewardship Council® (FSC) requires that a certification body conducting an audit of a certified organization or applicant must consult stakeholders whenever the audit includes intent to source and use uncertified material in an FSC Chain of Custody (CoC) program according to the requirements in FSC-STD-40-005 V3-1 “Requirements for Sourcing FSC Controlled Wood”. Therefore, SCS Global Services (SCS) is seeking input from interested and directly affected stakeholders regarding the relevance, effectiveness, and/or adequacy of **Gutchess Lumber Co., Inc.** Due Diligence System (DDS).

An explanation of ‘FSC Controlled Wood’, as well as a copy of FSC-STD-40-005 V3-1, is available here: <https://ic.fsc.org/en/certification/types-of-certification/controlled-wood-02> ; a copy of this standard is also available from SCS upon request.

Due Diligence Systems are required for certified organizations in order to avoid the sourcing and use of material originating from unacceptable sources in their FSC CoC program.

Directly affected stakeholders include any person, group of persons, or entity that is, with high probability, subject to the effects of the activities related to an organization’s-controlled wood sourcing program, including the activities of their suppliers and sub-suppliers, as well as those who influence risk identified through the organization’s Due Diligence System.

This letter serves as SCS’ invitation to directly affected stakeholders to participate in our consultation process. This letter also serves as SCS’ public notification for any interested stakeholders, who are also invited to participate in the consultation process. Participation in this stakeholder consultation process is voluntary; stakeholders are not required to submit comments.

Scope of audit and audit details:

The audit will assess the conformity of the organization’s-controlled wood program – including Risk Assessment(s) and DDS – according to the certification requirements as per FSC-STD-40-005 V3-1.

The company’s DDS Public Summary and Risk Assessment (excluding confidential information), as well as any other information or documents deemed relevant for the purpose of this stakeholder consultation, are included as appendices to this letter—see below. For a list of the information that is required to be publicly available for stakeholder consultation by SCS, see FSC-STD-40-005 V3-1, Section 6.

Additional certificate holder information:

This single site certificate covers the production of lumber, chips, sawlogs, and pulpwood using the credit system. It also covers the purchase and sale of FSC Controlled Wood.

Options for participation and provision of comments:

Please submit written comments and evidence (where appropriate) by mail, FAX or email to SCS:

SCS Global Services
Att'n: Chain of Custody Certification Services
2000 Powell Street, Suite 600
Emeryville, CA 94608

Fax: 510-452-6882

Email: CWStakeholder@SCSGlobalServices.com

A summary of the stakeholder consultation and comments received will be made publicly available on the FSC certificate database, as per FSC-STD-20-011 V4-2. Verbatim comments will only be published with prior consent from the stakeholder and will not be associated with stakeholder names.

Note that, while SCS is required to evaluate all information and comments objectively, SCS certification decisions are affected by stakeholder comments only insofar as the comments provide evidence of conformity or nonconformity to the applicable requirements.

Within 30 days of making our certification decision, SCS will respond to all stakeholders who provided comments to explain how their comments were taken into account.

More information about FSC and SCS can be found on our respective websites: www.fsc.org and www.scsglobalservices.com.