

Forest Management Certification Assessment of Medvezhegorsky Iespromhoz LLC Republic of Karelia, Russia 07/10/2015

Introduction - NEPCon is conducting forest management and chain of custody certification assessment of the **Medvezhegorsky Iespromhoz LLC** located in Republic of Karelia, Russia. The assessment will be implemented from 30/11/2015 to 04/12/2015.

Scope of the Certification Assessment – The forest management certification assessment will assess the environmental, silvicultural and socioeconomic aspects of the forests managed by **Medvezhegorsky Iespromhoz LLC**, using the standard FSC-STD-RUS-V6-1-2012 Russia Natural and Plantations EN. To obtain a copy of the applicable guidelines or to make comments about these standards, please contact NEPCon by telephone, email or website listed below. NEPCon is accredited by FSC and this assessment process must follow procedures which have been approved.

Assessment Team Composition – The assessment team will be led by Evgeniy Vikulov (Ostashkov, Russia). The team members will be named later.

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

- ♦ Assessment organization – NEPCon team will assemble in Medvezhegorsk on 30/11/2015.
- ♦ Field assessments – The team will visit the forest management units from 30/11/2015 to 04/12/2015.
- ♦ Stakeholder consultation – Throughout the fieldwork, the team will contact local stakeholders regarding forest management in villages surrounding the forest area. This will include private interviews and discussions, and public stakeholder meetings.
- ♦ Final assessment briefing – Prior to departure the team will meet with **Medvezhegorsky Iespromhoz LLC** managers and other parties to finalize their data collection and present preliminary findings.
- ♦ Draft report production – The assessment team will produce a confidential draft report that will be circulated for comment to **Medvezhegorsky Iespromhoz LLC**. This should occur within 30 days after completion of the assessment.
- ♦ Certification decision – Upon receipt of comments on the draft report from **Medvezhegorsky Iespromhoz LLC** forest managers, and other general stakeholder comments, NEPCon will reach a certification decision. Barring unforeseen obstacles, this should occur by the December 31, 2015.

Your Input Sought – As a part of the forest certification assessment process we invite stakeholders to offer comment and feedback on forest management in relation to conformance with the requirements of the forest management standard referenced above as well as comments on the FME's management and protection of High Conservation Values within the forest under evaluation. 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 04/12/2015 so that we can take them into consideration in reaching a certification decision of December 31, 2015. Your options for communicating your observations to us are as follows.

1. Meet with a NEPCon assessment team member during or shortly after the fieldwork.
2. Call and give comments to Evgeniy Vikulov, NEPCon staff person responsible for coordinating this certification assessment from NEPCon Russia. If Evgeniy Vikulov is not in the office, please give your comments to Nikolay Tochilov.
3. Submit written comments by mail or email to Evgeniy Vikulov. Unless you request otherwise, these comments will be kept confidential and are solely for the purposes of assessing the **Medvezhegorsky Iespromhoz LLC**.

The source of any information provided will be kept confidential available to only to FSC and NEPCon staff.

Stakeholders who may wish to dispute any aspect of the forest certification process or decision can access NEPCon's Dispute Resolution Policy at www.nepcon.net

Contacting NEPCon

- ♦ Email: nt@nepcon.net for Nikolai Tochilov and ev@nepcon.net for Evgeniy Vikulov
- ♦ Worldwide Website – www.nepcon.net.
- ♦ Telephone: + 79115572080 (Nikolai Tochilov) or +7910 934 99 26 (Evgeniy Vikulov)
- ♦ Mail address: Russia, 163017, Arkhangelsk, Timme street 17, korp. 2

List of forest management units being included into the scope of certification assessment:

The unit / Description	Total area, ha
Lease agreement 87-z, Medvezhyegorsk central forestry, Republic of Karelia	414632