



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

— July 15, 2016 —

### PFS TECO Certifies Oregon Forestlands as a Responsible Source

**Cottage Grove, WI** — An evaluation and audit of the Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF) was conducted in 2015 wherein forestlands subject to the Oregon Forest Practices Act (OFPA) were certified by PFS TECO as a Responsible Source. The OFPA sets standards for all commercial activities involving the establishment, management, or harvesting of trees on Oregon's forestlands, and follows ASTM Standard D7612, *Standard Practice for Categorizing Wood and Wood-Based Products According to Their Fiber Sources*. PFS TECO personnel audited the ODF offices in Salem, Oregon, and conducted office and site interviews of ODF staff and Stewardship Foresters in different regions of the state to support the certification.

Bob Nelson, PFS TECO's Senior Vice President based in Los Angeles, California, led PFS TECO's work with ODF. "This approval is the first of its kind for the Oregon Department of Forestry, and a first in a new business line for PFS TECO," said Nelson. PFS TECO staff reviewed all appropriate documents including the OFPA along with accompanying rules and enforcement directives. ODF uses a computerized system of notification to the State Forester concerning all commercial harvesting. The system assigns a unique notification ID which is then used for traceability and enforcement by 51 Field Stewardship Foresters.

ODF has recently developed voluntary guidelines for manufacturers and third parties to trace logs from the point of sale to the production of the wood or wood-based product. Manufacturers that voluntarily follow the guidelines under the oversight of an independent third-party such as PFS TECO are eligible to label their product as coming from a Responsible Source.



*Bob Nelson (left) presents the Responsible Source certificate to John Tokarczyk, Senior Policy Analyst with the Oregon Department of Forestry at a meeting of stakeholders in Salem, Oregon.*

PFS TECO is an employee-owned, independent, third-party certification and testing agency for manufacturers of panel products, engineered wood products, building components, modular buildings, and hearth products; and is an approved IPIA/DAPIA for HUD-code manufactured housing. PFS TECO is based in Cottage Grove, WI, and maintains five other US offices—two with test laboratories—to support clients in the US, Canada, and more than a dozen other countries.

**For more information, contact:**

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