

Umbrella Certification

Frequently Asked Questions:

What is Umbrella Certification?

Umbrella Certification is a group certification method for private landowners to have their land and forest management certified under the guidelines of the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC).

What is FSC?

The Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) is an international, non-profit organization that has developed principles and criteria that define well-managed forestry. Regional standards have been developed and are used by accredited, third-party certifiers (i.e., SmartWood, SCS, and Silva) who conduct field assessments to determine if the forest management qualifies for FSC certification.

What is the benefit of being certified under FSC standards and the Umbrella?

FSC certification provides assurance that the forestry being practiced meets the highest available economic, social, and environmental standards of good forestry. Also, forest products from certified forests can be marketed using the FSC logo. The Umbrella program provides an affordable and accessible method for certification while also providing the benefit of a local support system to help with management planning and implementation.

How does Umbrella Certification work?

The Umbrella Certification system works through a cooperative relationship between the Community Forestry Resource Center (CFRC), the landowner, his or her forest manager, and his or her forestry co-op. In this relationship, all of the partners agree to communicate with CFRC about forest management activities and to allow CFRC, as the certificate holder, to review management plans, harvest plans, and field activities to assure that the regional standards are being met and maintained.

What are my obligations as a member of the Umbrella Certification program?

As a landowner participating in the Umbrella program you are obligated to provide CFRC with information about your forest management plans, notify CFRC before doing any harvest or other management activities, provide access to your property when field assessments are necessary, and pay any fees associated with your certification and forest management services. You must also show evidence that you legally own the land and sign a Memorandum of Agreement stating that you agree to the Umbrella Certification program and are committed to the FSC regional standards of management on your property.

How much does Umbrella Certification cost?

The CFRC is currently charging a fee of \$50 per year for the certification of properties up to 500 acres in size (five year contract length). This fee helps cover annual audit fees as well as expenses related to record keeping and site visits. Landowners are also responsible for any fees due to foresters, loggers or others involved in assisting with their forest management.

How do I participate?

Landowners can request membership application and eligibility materials by contacting the CFRC at 612-870-3415 or forestrycenter@iatp.org

For more information:

Community Forestry Resource Center <http://www.forestrycenter.org>, forestrycenter@iatp.org, 612-870-3415
Forest Stewardship Council www.fscus.org, Certified Forest Products Council www.certifiedwood.org