



AP Photo/Chris Carlson

This 2009 file photo shows logging equipment cutting trees near Reserve, N.M. An organization that certifies lumber and paper products as environmentally sustainable has upgraded its standards, but critics say the Sustainable Forestry Initiative standards and enforcement remain weak.

# Timber group updates green forestry standards

By JEFF BARNARD  
Associated Press

GRANTS PASS — An organization that certifies lumber and paper products as environmentally sustainable has upgraded its standards, but critics say the Sustainable Forestry Initiative standards and enforcement remain weak.

SFI President and CEO Kathy Abusow says the upgrade released Wednesday came out of a regular five-year reassessment, and tightens standards on clearing large areas of forest, damaging wetlands, and using pesticides.

The revision comes as the environmental group ForestEthics issued a report comparing SFI certification audits in Canadian forests with audits by the Forest Stewardship Council, the other leading forest certification organization. The report found SFI audits were less rigorous than FSC audits and called for fewer corrections to forest practices.

"To date, the SFI Forest Management standard has not been a sufficient measure of 'responsible' or 'sustainable' forestry, and has allowed and endorsed highly environmentally and socially damaging and controver-

sial practices," Jim Ace of Forest Ethics said in an email.

The group has been a longtime critic of SFI, going to far as to file a complaint with the Federal Trade Commission challenging the credibility of the organization. That complaint is pending. Another group, Center for Sustainable Economy, has filed a complaint with SFI against logging practices in Oregon's Coast Range by timberland owner Plum Creek Timberland, L.P.

FSC was created by environmental groups in 1993 after the Rio Earth Summit to use market forces to limit global deforestation. It is widely considered the more rigorous of the two standards. It certifies 400 million acres around the world, and 175 million acres in the U.S. and Canada. The first major publicly traded forest products company in North America to earn FSC certification was Potlatch Corp. in 2005.

SFI was created by the timber industry in 1994 to certify sustainable forests in the U.S. and Canada, but has been independent and nonprofit since 2007. It currently certifies more than 240 million acres of forest in the U.S. and Canada. Weyerhaeuser and Plum Creek Timber Co. are two of the

biggest users of SFI certification.

Both organizations also certify that wood taken from certified forests ends up in the products carrying their labels that consumers buy.

Since 2007, the number of products carrying the SFI label has gone from 50 to 6,000, and range from pizza boxes to lumber, Abusow said.

Ben Cashore, professor of environmental governance and political science at Yale University, has been studying the two organizations for 15 years, and is coming out with a report shortly that compares them. In general, FSC has more mandatory requirements to put standards on the ground, such as larger buffers to protect streams, he said. SFI feels mandatory requirements can be a strait-jacket that does not produce results, Cashore said, and gives timberland owners greater flexibility to meet sustainability goals.

The two organizations are in intense competition to win adherents, he added.

One major problem for timber companies is that it costs money to implement the standards, which opens the door to cheaper wood products from Asia, where forest practices are less restrictive, Cashore said.

## Corrections

The East Oregonian works hard to be accurate and sincerely regrets any errors. If you notice a mistake in the paper, please call 541-966-0818.

# Idaho plans to fine feds for not shipping nuclear waste

IDAHO FALLS, Idaho (AP) — Idaho plans to fine the federal government \$3,600 a day for missing a deadline to remove 900,000 gallons of liquid nuclear waste from tanks at a southeast Idaho nuclear facility, state officials said.

The state Department of Environmental Quality said it rejected a request for another extension from the U.S. Department of Energy to go past the Dec. 31 deadline to remove the radioactive waste at the Idaho National Laboratory.

Idaho officials tell the *Post Register* that three 50-year-old tanks are no longer supposed to be used for storage under federal laws governing hazardous waste.

"Although DOE has had many years to complete this milestone, DOE has failed to initiate and complete treatment of the liquid wastes in the tanks or construct new tanks," said DEQ's Hazardous Waste Compliance Manager Natalie Clough in a letter Tuesday to Richard Provencher, manager of DOE's Idaho Operations Office. "Completion of this work is a priority of the (DEQ), and further delays are of critical concern."

The state said fines will increase to \$6,000 a day if the waste isn't gone by July 1.

Department of Energy spokeswoman Danielle Miller said the agency is reviewing

the notice of violation it received. She declined to make additional comments.

The 890-square-mile nuclear facility in southeastern Idaho is known as the place where nuclear energy generated electricity for the first time, in 1951.

During the Cold War, the site also became home to millions of tons of nuclear waste generated at sites in other states.

The facility sits atop the Eastern Snake Plain Aquifer, and state officials going back decades have expressed concern about potential contamination.

Clough said the aging tanks containing the liquid nuclear waste don't meet current regulatory standards, such as a secondary containment system. But Clough said there's no immediate concern about the tanks leaking.

The Department of Energy built a facility called the Integrated Waste Treatment Unit to turn the liquid waste into a powder. But the facility has continued to run into problems trying to get beyond the testing phase. In December, though, officials said operators had better test results. But it's still unknown when the liquid waste might be removed from the tanks.

"We've always been very clear that meeting these treatment goals is a state of Idaho priority," Clough said.

# One girl dead, boy injured in Walla Walla house fire

WALLA WALLA, Wash. (AP) — Authorities say a 3-year-old girl has died and her 2-year-old brother is hospitalized after a Walla Walla house fire. A radiant space heater caught blankets on fire in a room where two small children were sleeping.

Walla Walla County Coroner Richard Greenwood said Thursday the girl died of asphyxiation due to smoke inhalation from Wednesday's fire. He told the *Union-Bulletin* her younger brother

was taken to a Spokane hospital.

Police had to help trace an incomplete emergency call from a cell phone Wednesday night, and by the time they arrived the occupants had left. There was light smoke in the home.

The parents had taken the two children as well as an infant to Providence St. Mary's Medical Center in Walla Walla. The infant had been sleeping in the parents' room.

# EAST OREGONIAN

— Founded Oct. 16, 1875 —

211 S.E. Byers Ave., Pendleton 541-276-2211  
333 E. Main St., Hermiston 541-567-6211  
Office hours: Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.  
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East Oregonian (USPS 164-980) is published daily except Sunday, Monday and Dec. 25, by the EO Media Group, 211 S.E. Byers Ave., Pendleton, OR 97801. Periodicals postage paid at Pendleton, OR. Postmaster: send address changes to East Oregonian, 211 S.E. Byers Ave., Pendleton, OR 97801. Copyright © 2014, EO Media Group

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# AccuWeather.com Forecast

TODAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
Fog in the a.m.; rather cloudy	Mostly cloudy	A rain or snow shower in spots	Times of clouds and sun	Mostly sunny

### PENDLETON TEMPERATURE FORECAST

36°	27°	38°	30°	39°	30°	38°	29°	40°	29°
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### HERMISTON TEMPERATURE FORECAST

42°	27°	40°	31°	41°	30°	40°	29°	41°	29°
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### ALMANAC

**PENDLETON**  
through 3 p.m. yesterday

TEMPERATURE	HIGH	LOW
Yesterday	33°	32°
Normals	41°	27°
Records	65° (1933)	-14° (1937)

**PRECIPITATION**  
24 hours ending 3 p.m. 0.00"  
Month to date 0.18"  
Normal month to date 0.46"  
Year to date 0.18"  
Last year to date 0.24"  
Normal year to date 0.46"

**HERMISTON**  
through 3 p.m. yesterday

TEMPERATURE	HIGH	LOW
Yesterday	36°	35°
Normals	40°	28°
Records	67° (2002)	-20° (1937)

**PRECIPITATION**  
24 hours ending 3 p.m. 0.00"  
Month to date 0.10"  
Normal month to date 0.32"  
Year to date 0.10"  
Last year to date 0.26"  
Normal year to date 0.32"

### REGIONAL FORECAST

Coastal Oregon: Mostly cloudy today. A bit of rain tonight. A passing shower tomorrow.

Eastern and Central Oregon: Mostly cloudy today; however, sunnier in the south; fog elsewhere.

Western Washington: Considerable cloudiness today; dense fog during the morning.

Eastern Washington: Mostly cloudy today; areas of morning fog across the south and toward the Cascades.

Cascades: Mostly cloudy today; areas of morning fog. A bit of snow tonight.

Northern California: Clouds and sun today. A little rain at the coast late tonight. Rather cloudy tomorrow.

### REGIONAL CITIES

	Today			Sat.		
	Hi	Lo	W	Hi	Lo	W
Astoria	54	44	c	52	41	sh
Baker City	38	24	c	35	27	c
Bend	46	29	c	48	29	c
Brookings	57	45	c	55	46	c
Burns	39	21	pc	38	25	pc
Enterprise	38	23	c	39	27	c
Eugene	51	37	c	50	40	sh
Heppner	40	29	c	42	32	c
Hermiston	42	27	c	40	31	c
John Day	44	27	c	44	31	c
Klamath Falls	52	29	c	51	33	c
La Grande	42	24	c	41	32	c
Meacham	38	24	c	39	30	c
Medford	57	35	c	54	39	c
Newport	55	45	c	53	44	sh
North Bend	57	45	c	55	45	c
Ontario	40	29	c	38	30	pc
Pasco	42	26	c	40	30	c
Pendleton	36	27	c	38	30	c
Portland	50	37	c	49	40	sh
Redmond	48	27	c	50	29	sh
Salem	50	38	c	49	40	sh
Spokane	31	26	c	34	29	c
Ukiah	42	28	c	43	31	c
Vancouver	49	36	c	49	40	sh
Walla Walla	40	32	c	40	34	c
Yakima	44	27	c	41	29	c

### WORLD CITIES

	Today			Sat.		
	Hi	Lo	W	Hi	Lo	W
Beijing	45	21	s	53	22	s
Hong Kong	65	58	s	66	59	s
Jerusalem	38	26	sn	40	38	r
London	57	52	c	56	37	c
Mexico City	66	44	pc	67	41	pc
Moscow	23	20	sn	31	24	sn
Paris	56	52	sh	55	39	sh
Rome	58	44	pc	61	49	sh
Seoul	37	21	s	38	23	s
Sydney	90	73	s	90	71	c
Tokyo	49	38	s	50	36	s

### WINDS

(in mph)	Today	Saturday
Boardman	VAR 3-6	VAR 2-4
Pendleton	NNW 3-6	N 3-6

### UV INDEX TODAY

0 0 1 0 0 0

8 a.m. 10 a.m. Noon 2 p.m. 4 p.m. 6 p.m.

0-2, Low 3-5, Moderate 6-7, High; 8-10, Very High; 11+, Extreme

The higher the AccuWeather.com UV Index™ number, the greater the need for eye and skin protection.

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### NATIONAL WEATHER TODAY

Shown are noon positions of weather systems and precipitation. Temperature bands are highs for the day.

**National Summary:** Snow and cold winds are in store from the Great Lakes to the Northeast today. Bands of heavy snow will develop downwind of the Great Lakes. Rain and ice will affect part of Texas. The West will be dry and warm.

**Yesterday's National Extremes:** (for the 48 contiguous states)  
High 78° in Palm Springs, Calif. Low -32° in Watertown, N.Y.

### NATIONAL CITIES

	Today			Sat.		
	Hi	Lo	W	Hi	Lo	W
Albuquerque	40	27	c	46	31	pc
Atlanta	40	20	pc	41	26	s
Atlantic City	38	18	pc	25	18	s
Baltimore	34	12	pc	23	11	s
Billings	16	12	s	28	17	sn
Birmingham	38	17	pc	39	26	s
Boise	39	30	pc	39	31	pc
Boston	33	16	sf	24	14	s
Charleston, SC	49	28	pc	47	29	s
Charleston, WV	27	7	pc	23	14	s
Chicago	4	-7	pc	14	12	s
Cleveland	16	-2	sf	12	6	pc
Dallas	36	24	c	40	34	r
Denver	29	19	sn	48	23	pc
Detroit	16	-1	sf	10	6	pc
El Paso	43	27	c	49	31	pc
Fairbanks	11	6	pc	13	2	c
Fargo	5	-11	pc	10	-9	s
Honolulu	79	65	s	80	65	s
Houston	41	34	r	42	38	r
Indianapolis	8	-7	pc	15	7	s
Jacksonville	55	35	c	56	48	sh
Kansas City	16	4	s	30	20	pc
Las Vegas	66	45	pc	60	44	c
Little Rock	34	18	pc	33	28	pc
Los Angeles	71	54	pc	69	54	c
Louisville	22	7	s	26	17	s
Memphis	32	16	pc	34	28	pc
Miami	78	63	pc	77	71	sh
Millwaukee	3	-7	pc	13	12	s
Minneapolis	3	-10	pc	14	3	s
Nashville	27	10	s	30	20	s
New Orleans	44	33	c	49	42	c
New York City	32	16	sf	23	16	s
Oklahoma City	30	16	pc	39	29	pc
Omaha	13	3	s	30	15	pc
Philadelphia	34	14	pc	22	13	s
Phoenix	76	52	pc	70	51	pc
Portland, ME	31	12	sn	23	9	s
Providence	33	14	sf	24	12	s
Raleigh	42	20	s	36	18	s
Rapid City	16	1	s	33	10	c
Reno	56	33	pc	57	33	c
Sacramento	64	41	pc	61	43	c
St. Louis	18	8	s	29	23	pc
Salt Lake City	42	30	pc	42	32	pc
San Diego	67	53	pc	66	56	c
San Francisco	60	46	pc	59	49	sh
Seattle	51	42	c	49	44	sh
Tucson	69	45	c	68	46	pc
Washington, DC	38	16	pc	27	19	s
Wichita	23	11	s	33	24	pc

Weather (W): s-sunny, pc-partly cloudy, c-cloudy, sh-showers, t-thunderstorms, r-rain, sf-snow flurries, sn-snow, i-ice.