

An Introduction to Certification for Private Forest Landowners

In cooperation with the Yale School of Forestry & Environmental Studies and with support from the USDA Forest Service, the Pinchot Institute for Conservation has produced, *A Guidebook to Forest Management Certification for Private Forest Landowners*.

Generally speaking, certification is a process by which private organizations measure forest management plans and practices against a range of established standards, then documents the results of that assessment. Certification attempts to offer a defensible approach to rewarding well-managed forests. According to the USDA Forest Service's Renewable Resources Planning Act's (RPA) 2000 *RPA Assessment of Forest and Range*

Lands, non-industrial, private forest landowners own 54.2% of the 747 million acres of forestlands across the United States. (As comparison, 27.4% of these 747M lands are in Federal ownership.) Our guidebook, which is an introduction to certification, was written with an eye towards addressing issues that affect these landowners with smaller holdings.

In an attempt to provide private forest landowners with pertinent, timely information about certification, our guidebook profiles the basic components (as of June 2002) of four major certification programs operating in the US: the American Tree Farm System, the Forest Stewardship Council, Green Tag Forestry, and the Sustainable Forestry Initiative.

Among other things, we have outlined the general steps of the certification process and highlighted the costs associated with each program. The guidebook also provides a list and a brief description of resources that may be of further assistance to private forest landowners contemplating whether to pursue certification. Though our guidebook does not evaluate or endorse any of the programs, it does, however, function as an objective source of information on private landowners' options and considerations for forest management certification.

For more information on the guidebook, please contact Naureen Rana at (202) 797-6584 or nrana@pinchot.org. To request your copy, please visit the Publications page of our website at www.pinchot.org (reference Policy Reports) or call (202) 797-6580.

Giltmier Receives National Forest Policy Award

As an update to a recent announcement (see the Spring 2002 issue of *The Pinchot Letter*), the Institute is pleased to announce that former Pinchot Institute executive director Jim Giltmier has been selected to receive the Society of American Foresters' 2002 Sir William Schlich Memorial Award.

The nomination letter, written by Jim's peers at colleges and non-governmental organizations across the country, hailed his "substantial impact on the development of forest policy over the last 30 years." They cited his Congressional work, which began in 1971, as a staffer with the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry and indicated how he "played an important role in developing several major pieces of legislation that now guide National Forest man-

agement and private forestry efforts." The nomination also applauded his skill at "building consensus among



James W. Giltmier

disparate groups and organizations behind the scenes," an initiative that the Pinchot Institute still undertakes

today. Jim was also further recognized for "laying the groundwork for [the Pinchot Institute's] later emergence as a prominent national forum for defining and debating forest policy issues."

The Society of American Foresters (a national scientific and educational organization representing the U.S. forestry profession) presents its Sir William Schlich Memorial Award biennially to recognize "broad and outstanding contributions to the field of forestry with emphasis on, but not limited to, policy and national or international activities." More information on the award and the Society can be found at www.safnet.org.