Paper and Sustainable Forestry

Sustainable forest management practices in North America ensure healthy and abundant forests for present and future generations, while providing renewable, natural, raw materials for the production of paper and packaging products.¹

Over the last six decades, the net total U.S. forest area has increased by over 3% and the net volume of trees on timberland has increased by 58%.²

Most harvested trees are used to make lumber, not pulp and paper. In the U.S., only 36% of annual timber harvest is used for paper and paperboard and in Canada, only 13%.³,⁴

In Canada, the forest cover has remained stable over the last two decades and the country harvests less than 0.5% of its forest resource each year.⁵

Continued use of paper and other wood products may be a key factor in maintaining a forested landscape for future generations.⁶

89% of harvested pulpwood in the U.S. comes from private land. The income landowners receive for trees grown on their land encourages them to maintain, sustainably manage and renew this valuable resource.⁷

Responsible pulp and paper operations can bring many benefits to forests, local economies and people, particularly in rural areas.⁸

Forest certification programs—including ATFS (American Tree Farm System), FSC (Forest Stewardship Council), PEFC (Program for the Endorsement of Forest Certification), and SFIa (Sustainable Forestry Initiative)—provide a set of standards and structure for sustainable forest management.²

⁸ Responsible pulp and paper operations can bring many benefits to forests, local economies and people, particularly in rural areas.⁸

Two Sides is a non-profit initiative by companies from the Graphic Communications industry. We promote the responsible production and use of print and paper, and dispel common environmental misconceptions by providing verifiable information on why print on paper is an attractive, practical and sustainable communications medium.

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