

Statement

GREENPEACE

Resolute regaining FSC certificate in northern Ontario: A first step in company's road to recovery

25 November 2015 (Toronto) – In reaction to Resolute Forest Products (RFP) regaining its Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) certificate covering 2.4 million hectares for the Black Spruce-Dog River Matawin Forest in northwestern Ontario, Shane Moffatt, Forest Campaigner at Greenpeace Canada, said:

“This sends a clear message that FSC certification is essential to access the international forest products market, and is an economically viable system for Canadian companies. What is encouraging about today's news is that it demonstrates a feasible path forward for Resolute to recover its terminated certificates for both Ontario's Caribou Forest and Quebec's *Montagnes Blanches*. With the right commitment and a collaborative approach, these jewels of biodiversity in the Boreal Forest can be protected alongside responsible forestry.”

Although this is a first step in Resolute's road to recovery, significant challenges still remain. Since 2014 the company has had three other FSC certificates, covering 5.5 million hectares, either terminated or suspended. Greenpeace has been urging Resolute to work with First Nations, provincial governments, environmentalists and impacted communities to recover its FSC certificates for these areas in a transparent and inclusive process. We also urge the company to discontinue its public undermining of the FSC system which is the only credible forest certification system that balances economic, social, environmental and Indigenous voices.

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