

Steven B. Earley, Woodlands Manager



**Woodlands**

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February 27, 2008


SmartWood Program  
Chris Gibbons, Chain-of-Custody Associate  
65 Millet Street, Suite 201  
Richmond, VT 05427

Dear Mr. Gibbons:

On February 13, 2008, Boise received a copy of the briefing document: *The law of the land: Amnesty International Canada's position on the conflict over logging at Grassy Narrows*, dated September 20, 2007. By way of that document, we were pleased to have the opportunity to learn more about the Grassy Narrows community and the challenges they have faced since before the turn of the century. Upon receipt of this document, we chose to launch our FSC Complaints Mechanism (section 14.1-14.3 of Boise document BC-DP-03) to assess whether fiber from the Whiskey Jack Forest may be considered controlled wood.

Since 2006 Boise has served as an advocate for meaningful dialogue between the Grassy Narrows community, the forest industry, Ministry of Natural Resources, and the Canadian government. For example:

- In June of 2006, Boise sent a letter to Minister Ramsey, Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources, informing him of our concerns regarding the Whiskey Jack forest concession and potential concerns of the Grassy Narrows aboriginal community.
- During the summer of 2007, Boise requested, through our supplier, a meeting with representatives of the First Nation groups. The meeting, held in Kenora, Ontario, was attended by representatives of Boise, Abitibi, the Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR), Treaty 3, and OfficeMax. The Treaty 3 representatives reviewed the history of their people and detailed their view for more equitable sharing of resources as suggested by the Treaty 3 agreement. Boise communicated our view that all sides needed to work constructively toward resolution of the issues. Boise was assured by all parties that a solution could be achieved through collaborative dialogue.
- Following the Kenora meeting, the MNR indicated that they had launched an effort to identify a credible mediator to address the concerns of the Grassy Narrows people. Former Canadian Supreme Court Justice Frank Iacobucci was identified and accepted the position as mediator. All key stakeholders are participating and all, including Chief Simon Fobister of the Grassy Narrows First Nation, indicated Mr. Iacobucci was an acceptable choice. Since this time, the "Iacobucci Process" has been working towards finding resolution through dialogue.

The FSC-controlled wood guidance document  [Civil and Traditional Rights Guidance for FSC-US v1.2](#) suggests that areas may be considered low risk in relation to the violation of traditional and civil rights provided there are, "recognized and equitable processes in place to resolve conflicts of substantial magnitude pertaining to traditional rights including use rights, cultural interests or traditional cultural identity in the district concerned." Applying this guidance during the development of our risk assessment during the fall of 2007, Boise assigned a low risk for violation of civil and traditional rights to all wood sourced into our International Falls facility.

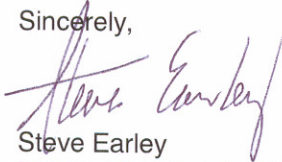
We have completed our assessment of the complaint and find that a recognized and credible process is in place for the resolution of conflict as evidenced by the Iacobucci Process. All harvests are approved by the Ministry of Natural Resources and in compliance with their open multistakeholder input process. However, we also recognize that there is no resolution to the issue at this time or evidence of progress due to the appropriately confidential nature of the discussions. In support of the ongoing dialogue, out of respect for the Grassy Narrows community and their leadership, Boise wishes to honor the request of Chief Fobister to discontinue sourcing fiber from the Traditional Use Area of Grassy Narrows. As such, Boise has decided to stand in support of Amnesty International's recommendation to Abitibi Consolidated (now AbitibiBowater) to, *"Work toward a voluntary suspension of logging in the Grassy Narrows traditional territories and/or establish alternative sources for wood fibre, taking into consideration the fact that the people of Grassy Narrows have not given their consent to large-scale logging in their traditional territory..."*

Boise will set in place policies and procedures so that:

- 1) Any fiber from Grassy Narrows included in pulp provided to Boise by our suppliers has the support of the Grassy Narrows community; or
- 2) The Grassy Narrows community supports and views as credible a process to resolve their disputes regarding resource management with the Government of Ontario; or
- 3) Our suppliers exclude Grassy Narrows fiber from any product shipped to Boise.

These policies and procedures will be ready for review by SmartWood at the time of our annual FSC Chain-of-Custody surveillance audit, but no later than June 30, 2008.

Sincerely,



Steve Earley  
Region Woodlands Manager

Cc:  
FSC Canada  
FSC USA  
Grand Chief Arnold Gardner, Treaty 3  
Chief Simon Fobister, Grassy Narrows First Nation  
Chief Leon Jourdain, Lac La Croix First Nation  
AbitibiBowater  
Amnesty International