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*Sierra Club Combats Fraud, Upholds Integrity in Forest Certification*

**Oakland, CA --** After an investigation prompted by a Sierra Club complaint, the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC)’s accreditation body, Accreditation Services International (ASI), has concluded that DuChateau, a major wood flooring importer, as well as one of its Chinese suppliers have been engaged in fraudulent use of FSC claims and trademarks, promoting and selling wood flooring as FSC-certified that is not. As a consequence, on May 21, 2018 FSC suspended DuChateau's trademark license agreement, as well as that of their supplier - a move that also triggered the suspension of both companies' Chain of Custody (CoC) certificates. The suspension will be in effect for at least 12 months, during which time DuChateau must cease using the FSC trademarks on its website and promotional materials, as well as remove FSC labels from product packaging, retail merchandising and samples.

DuChateau’s suspended certificate can be viewed on the FSC database at [this link](#).

After the 12-month suspension is up, DuChateau will not be able to simply get re-certified. While the company is suspended, ASI and the certification body (CB) for DuChateau will assess corrective actions and risks related to the case, and will provide recommendations to FSC regarding the status of
the trademark licensing agreement going forward. FSC is also still determining whether other measures will be taken or penalties applied.

The complaint was brought by Sierra Club’s Forest Certification & Green Building Team, which represents the Club at the FSC. “False claims strike at the heart of forest certification: the assurance to the buyer that their purchase of certified forest products truly supports responsible forestry,” said Forest Certification Team chair, Caroline Pufalt. “With this action, FSC has shown that it has the will and the capacity to combat fraud and preserve the integrity and credibility of certification.”

The Forest Certification & Green Building Team works to uphold high standards and combat greenwashing in forest and green building certification. More information can be found on the Team’s website.

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*About the Sierra Club*

_The Sierra Club is America’s largest and most influential grassroots environmental organization, with more than 3 million members and supporters. In addition to helping people from all backgrounds explore nature and our outdoor heritage, the Sierra Club works to promote clean energy, safeguard the health of our communities, protect wildlife, and preserve our remaining wild places through grassroots activism, public education, lobbying, and legal action. For more information, visit www.sierraclub.org._