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PRESS RELEASE

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Manomet Forest Ecologist and Program Leader Appointed to U.S. Forest Stewardship Council Board

Plymouth, MA, March 5, 2010 –John Gunn, a forest ecologist and Senior Program Leader in the Natural Capital Initiative at Manomet Center for Conservation Sciences was recently named to fill an interim position on the national board of the Forest Stewardship Council-US (FSC-US).

The Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) is an international, non-profit organization that assures environmentally appropriate, socially beneficial and economically viable forest management through independent third-party certification and labeling of wood, paper and other forest products. Based in Bonn, Germany, FSC was founded in 1993 in response to public concern about deforestation and demand for a trustworthy wood-labeling system. FSC's on-product labeling allows businesses and consumers to choose products from well-managed forests—those that are managed to meet the social, economic and ecological needs of present and future generations.

FSC is experiencing extraordinary worldwide growth in demand for certified products. FSC-certified products, such as building materials, paper and furniture can now be purchased at nearly every major national retailer. Currently 100 million acres of North American forestland is FSC-certified (290 million acres globally). More than 3,500 U.S. companies are certified under FSC's chain-of-custody standards (16,000 globally).

Dr. Gunn will be representing Manomet in the Environmental Chamber along with representatives of Greenpeace and The Nature Conservancy. Certification systems such as FSC are likely to play critical roles in the delivery of payments for ecosystem services to landowners and in providing the insurance that these services will continue to be provided while meeting society's needs for forest products. Forest certification is also a significant factor in the development of supply chain sustainability systems for retail companies like Wal-Mart.

“We’re thrilled to have John on the board,” says Corey Brinkema, president of FSC-US. “His considerable on-the-ground conservation experience, not to mention real experience with FSC forest management, is a significant asset.”

“John’s appointment to FSC-US allows Manomet to bring sound, unbiased science on issues such as carbon offsets, late-successional and old-growth forest, and new markets for ecosystem services, to a national playing field. We welcome the chance to contribute John’s expertise to the FSC certification program,” says Manomet’s President John Hagan.

As one of the nation's oldest non-profit environmental research organizations, **Manomet** is dedicated to conserving natural resources for both humans and wildlife. Through science and public engagement, Manomet works to integrate society’s social, economic, and environmental values to create sustainable systems for present and future generations. Manomet’s headquarters are in Plymouth, Massachusetts, but it also has offices in Maine, Vermont, Mexico, and Chile. Learn more about Manomet at www.manomet.org.

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