



THE SFI SMALL LANDS GROUP CERTIFICATION MODULE

A NEW PATH FOR CONSULTING FORESTERS TO GROW THEIR BUSINESS

The Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI) Small Lands Group Certification Module is a new way for members of the Association of Consulting Foresters (ACF) to build their businesses. This innovative SFI module is being piloted to help increase the supply of certified fiber from small forest or woodlot owners across the U.S. and Canada.

The SFI Small Lands Group Certification Module is built on the framework of the SFI 2015-2019 Fiber Sourcing Standard. The Module uses the infrastructure of this standard to find cost effective ways for mills or wood-procurement organizations to serve as Group Managers and engage small landowners in certification under one group certificate. Under the scope of this Module, a small forest or woodlot owner is defined as no more than 20,000 acres in total across an entire ownership.

Under the Module, any company certified to the SFI 2015-2019 Fiber Sourcing Standard may implement a landscape plan that helps achieve sustainable forest management practices on group-member lands through additional forest-management certification requirements. Wood and fiber sold from these lands qualifies as certified forest content, thus satisfying SFI labeling requirements through certified SFI Chain-of-Custody systems and giving access to the nearly 140 countries where products certified to SFI are sold.

CONSULTING FORESTERS ACT AS LANDOWNER AGENTS

Under the Module, consulting foresters may serve as Landowner Agents to bring a group of landowners together. In addition to consulting foresters, Landowner Agents may be qualified resource professionals, qualified logging professionals, certified logging professionals, wood producers or other individuals or organizations that have the legal authority to manage forestland within the wood and fiber supply area of the mill or wood-procurement organization acting as the Group Manager. Landowner Agents must have the ability to implement SFI certification requirements within the Group Manager's wood and fiber supply area.

BRINGING SMALL LANDOWNERS TOGETHER WITH SFI PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS

In 2017, 81% of SFI Program Participants reported steady or increased demand for certified products. Over 60% of the fiber for the forest products produced in the U.S. comes from small family forest landowners, yet only about 1% of these small landowners are certified to a forest management standard. Consulting foresters are encouraged to contact SFI Program Participant mills in their areas with the means to help form a group under the SFI Small Lands Group Certification Module.

GETTING STARTED — IMPLEMENTING THE SFI SMALL LANDS GROUP CERTIFICATION MODULE

The SFI Small Lands Group Certification Module is ready for implementation. To implement the Module, an SFI Program Participant must first certify to the SFI Fiber Sourcing Standard. Then the SFI Program Participant that is acting as the Group Manager, working together with Landowner Agents, ensures the requirements of the Module are implemented and that the group is prepared for third-party, independent certification. Once certified to the Module, this fiber is eligible as certified forest content for mills with SFI Chain-of-Custody certification.

THE SFI FOREST PARTNERS PROGRAM

Implementation of the SFI Small Lands Group Certification Module is also supported by the SFI Forest Partners Program, which is a partnership between SFI, Meredith, National Geographic, Pearson, Macmillan, Hearst Enterprises and Boy Scouts of America. The program is finding innovative approaches to group and coordinated certification for mills and smaller and medium-sized forest ownerships. The program also seeks opportunities for collaboration, cost effectiveness and incentives for certification.

SFI WANTS TO HEAR FROM YOU

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ABOUT THE SUSTAINABLE FORESTRY INITIATIVE INC. (SFI)

SFI® Inc. is a sustainability leader that stands for future forests. We are an independent, non-profit organization that provides supply chain assurances, delivers conservation leadership, and supports education and community engagement. SFI believes caring for forests improves everyone's quality of life. Learn more about how SFI is using group certification modules to grow certified forests: sfiprogram.org.

