



**Section 2. SFI 2015-2019 Standard
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Sustainable Forestry Initiative® 2015-2019 Standard

Principles of Sustainable Forestry [Normative]

1. *Sustainable Forestry*
2. *Forest Productivity and Health*
3. *Protection of Water Resources*
4. *Protection of Biological Diversity*
5. *Aesthetics and Recreation*
6. *Protection of Special Sites*
7. *Responsible Fiber Sourcing Practices in North America*
8. *Avoidance of Controversial Sources including Illegal Logging in Offshore Fiber Sourcing*
9. *Legal Compliance*
10. *Research*
11. *Training and Education*
12. *Public Involvement*
13. *Transparency*
14. *Continual Improvement*

Objectives of Sustainable Forestry [Normative]

Summary

Forest Land Management Objectives

- Objective 1 - Forest Management Planning
- Objective 2 - Forest *Productivity*
- Objective 3 - *Protection* and Maintenance of Water Resources
- Objective 4 - *Conservation of Biological Diversity* including *Forests with Exceptional Conservation Value*
- Objective 5 - Management of *Visual Quality* and Recreational Benefits
- Objective 6 - *Protection of Special Sites*
- Objective 7 - Efficient Use of Forest Resources
- Objective 8 - Recognize and Respect Indigenous Peoples' Rights

Fiber Sourcing Objectives

- Objective 9 – Biodiversity in Fiber Sourcing
- Objective 10 - Adherence to *Best Management Practices*
- Objective 11 - Use of *Qualified Resource* and *Qualified Logging Professionals*
- Objective 12 - Promote Conservation of Biological Diversity, Biodiversity Hotspots and High-Biodiversity Wilderness Areas
- Objective 13 - Avoidance of *Controversial Sources* including *Illegal Logging*
- Objective 14 - Avoidance of Controversial Sources including Fiber Sourcing from Areas without Effective Social Laws

Forest Land Management and Fiber Sourcing Objectives

Objective 15 - Legal and Regulatory Compliance

Objective 16 - *Forestry* Research, Science, and Technology

Objective 17 - Training and Education

Objective 18 - Community Involvement and Landowner Outreach in the Practice of *Sustainable Forestry*

Objective 19 - *Public Land* Management Responsibilities

Objective 20 - Communications and Public Reporting

Objective 21 - Management Review and Continual Improvement

Sustainable Forestry Initiative 2015-2019 Standard

Principles for Sustainable Forestry

SFI Certified Program Participants believe forest landowners have an important stewardship responsibility and a commitment to society, and they recognize the importance of maintaining viable commercial, family forest, and *conservation* forest land bases. They support *sustainable forestry* practices on forestland they manage, and promote it on other lands. They support efforts to protect private property rights, and to help all private landowners manage their forestland sustainably. In keeping with this responsibility, *SFI Certified Program Participants* shall have a written *policy* (or *policies*) to implement and achieve the following *principles*:

1. Sustainable Forestry

To practice *sustainable forestry* to meet the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs by practicing a land stewardship ethic that integrates *reforestation* and the managing, growing, nurturing and harvesting of trees for useful products and ecosystem services such as the *conservation* of soil, air and water quality, carbon, *biological diversity*, *wildlife* and *aquatic habitats*, recreation, and aesthetics.

2. Forest Productivity and Health

To provide for regeneration after harvest and maintain the productive capacity of the forest land base, and to protect and maintain *long-term* forest and soil *productivity*. In addition, to protect forests from economically or environmentally undesirable levels of wildfire, pests, diseases, *invasive exotic plants and animals* and other damaging agents and thus maintain and improve *long-term forest health* and *productivity*.

3. Protection of Water Resources

To protect water bodies and *riparian* zones, and to conform with *best management practices* to protect water quality.

4. Protection of Biological Diversity

To manage forests in ways that protect and promote *biological diversity*, including animal and plant species, *wildlife habitats*, and ecological or natural community types.

5. Aesthetics and Recreation

To manage the visual impacts of forest operations, and to provide recreational opportunities for the public.

6. Protection of Special Sites

To manage lands that are ecologically, geologically or *culturally important* in a manner that takes into account their unique qualities.

7. Responsible *Fiber Sourcing* Practices in North America

To use and promote among other forest landowners *sustainable forestry* practices that are both scientifically credible and economically, environmentally and socially responsible.

8. Avoidance of Controversial Sources including Illegal Logging in Offshore Fiber Sourcing

To avoid wood fiber from illegally logged forests when procuring fiber outside of North America, and to avoid *sourcing fiber from countries without effective social laws*.

9. Legal Compliance

Compliance with applicable federal, provincial, state, and local *forestry* and related environmental laws, statutes, and regulations.

10. Research

To support advances in sustainable forest management through *forestry* research, science and technology.

11. Training and Education

To improve the practice of *sustainable forestry* through training and education *programs*.

12. Public Involvement

To broaden the practice of *sustainable forestry* on *public lands* through community involvement.

13. Transparency

To broaden the understanding of forest certification to the *SFI 2015-2019 Standard* by documenting certification audits and making the findings publicly available.

14. Continual Improvement

To continually improve the practice of forest management, and to monitor, measure and report performance in achieving the commitment to *sustainable forestry*.

These *SFI principles* are further refined in *objectives* 1-21.

Objectives for Sustainable Forestry

Summary

Some *Certified Program Participants* own forest land, others own forest land and manufacturing facilities, and others own manufacturing facilities only. As such:

- *SFI Standard* land management *objectives* 1-8 provide measures for evaluating *Certified Program Participants'* conformance with the *SFI 2015-2019 Standard* on forest lands they own or control through *long-term* leases. Through these *objectives*, addressed in forest management plans, *Certified Program Participants* are implementing *sustainable forestry principles* by employing an array of economically, environmentally and socially sound practices in the *conservation* of forests – including appropriate *protection*, growth, harvest and use of those forests – using the *best scientific information available*.
- *SFI Standard* fiber sourcing *objectives* 9-11 and 15-21 provide measures for evaluating *Certified Program Participants'* conformance with the *SFI 2015-2019 Standard* through their *fiber sourcing programs* within the United States and Canada.
- *SFI Standard* fiber sourcing *objectives* 12-14 provide measures for evaluating *Certified Program Participants'* conformance with the *SFI 2015-2019 Standard* through their *fiber sourcing programs* outside the United States and Canada.
- *SFI Standard* land management and *fiber sourcing objectives* 15-21 provide measures for evaluating all *Certified Program Participants'* conformance with the *SFI 2015-2019 Standard* for research, training, legal compliance, public and landowner involvement, management review, and continual improvement.

A summary of *SFI 2015-2019 Standard objectives* follows:

Objective 1. Forest Management Planning

To broaden the implementation of *sustainable forestry* by ensuring *long-term* forest *productivity* and yield based on the use of the *best scientific information* available.

Objective 2. Forest Productivity

To ensure *long-term* forest *productivity*, carbon storage and *conservation* of forest resources through prompt *reforestation*, soil *conservation*, *afforestation* and other measures.

Objective 3. Protection and Maintenance of Water Resources

To protect water quality in streams, lakes and other water bodies.

Objective 4. Conservation of Biological Diversity including Forests with Exceptional Conservation Value

To manage the quality and distribution of *wildlife habitats* and contribute to the *conservation of biological diversity* by developing and implementing *stand-* and *landscape-*level measures that promote *habitat* diversity and the *conservation* of forest plants and animals, including *aquatic species*.

Objective 5. Management of Visual Quality and Recreational Benefits

To manage the visual impact of forest operations and provide recreational opportunities for the public.

Objective 6. Protection of Special Sites

To manage lands that are ecologically, geologically, or *culturally important* in a manner that takes into account their unique qualities.

Objective 7. Efficient Use of Forest Resources

To promote the efficient use of forest resources.

Objective 8. Recognize and Respect Indigenous Peoples' Rights

To recognize and respect Indigenous Peoples' rights and traditional knowledge.

Objective 9. Biodiversity in Fiber Sourcing

To broaden the practice of sustainable forestry by conserving biological diversity.

Objective 10. Adherence to Best Management Practices

To broaden the practice of *sustainable forestry* through the use of *best management practices* to *protect* water quality.

Objective 11. Use of Qualified Resource and Qualified Logging Professionals

To broaden the practice of *sustainable forestry* by encouraging forest landowners to utilize the services of forest management and harvesting professionals.

Objective 12. Promote Conservation of Biological Diversity, Biodiversity Hotspots and High-Biodiversity Wilderness Areas

To broaden the practice of *sustainable forestry* by conserving *biological diversity*, *biodiversity hotspots* and *high-biodiversity wilderness areas*.

Objective 13. Avoidance of Controversial Sources including Illegal Logging

To broaden the practice of *sustainable forestry* by avoidance of *illegal logging*.

Objective 14. Avoidance of Controversial Sources including Fiber Sourced from Areas without Effective Social Laws

To broaden the practice of *sustainable forestry* by avoiding *controversial sources*.

Objective 15. Legal and Regulatory Compliance

Compliance with applicable federal, provincial, state and local laws and regulations.

Objective 16. Forestry Research, Science, and Technology

To support *forestry* research, science, and technology, upon which sustainable forest management decisions are based.

Objective 17. Training and Education

To improve the implementation of *sustainable forestry* practices through appropriate training and education *programs*.

Objective 18. Community Involvement and Landowner Outreach in the Practice of Sustainable Forestry

To broaden the practice of *sustainable forestry* by encouraging the public and *forestry* community to participate in the commitment to *sustainable forestry*, and publicly report progress.

Objective 19. Public Land Management Responsibilities

To support and implement sustainable forest management on *public lands*.

Objective 20. Communications and Public Reporting

To broaden the practice of *sustainable forestry* by documenting progress and opportunities for improvement.

Objective 21. Management Review and Continual Improvement

To promote continual improvement in the practice of *sustainable forestry*, and to monitor, measure, and report performance in achieving the commitment to *sustainable forestry*.

SFI 2015-2019 Standard Objectives 1-8 for Forest Land Management

Objective 1. Forest Management Planning. To broaden the implementation of sustainable forestry by ensuring long-term forest productivity and yield based on the use of the best scientific information available.

Performance Measure 1.1. *Certified Program Participants* shall ensure that forest management plans include *long-term* harvest levels that are sustainable and consistent with appropriate *growth-and-yield models*.

Indicators:

1. Forest management planning at a level appropriate to the size and scale of the operation, including:
 - a. a *long-term* resources analysis;
 - b. a periodic or ongoing *forest inventory*;
 - c. a *land classification* system;
 - d. soils inventory and maps, where available;
 - e. access to *growth-and-yield modeling* capabilities;
 - f. up-to-date maps or a *geographic information system (GIS)*;
 - g. recommended sustainable harvest levels for areas available for harvest; and
 - h. a review of non-timber issues (e.g. recreation, tourism, pilot projects and economic incentive *programs* to promote water *protection*, carbon storage, *bioenergy feedstock* production, or *biological diversity conservation*, or to address climate-induced ecosystem change).
2. Documented current harvest trends fall within long term sustainable levels identified in the forest management plan.
3. A *forest inventory* system and a method to calculate growth and yield.
4. Periodic updates of *forest inventory* and recalculation of planned harvests to account for changes in growth due to *productivity* increases or decreases (e.g. improved data, *long-term* drought, fertilization, climate change, forest land ownership changes, etc.).
5. Documentation of forest practices (e.g., *planting*, fertilization, and thinning) consistent with assumptions in harvest plans.

Performance Measure 1.2. *Certified Program Participants* shall not convert one *forest type* to another *forest type*, unless in justified circumstances where the conversion:

Indicators:

1. Is in compliance with relevant national and regional policy and legislation related to land use and forest management; and

2. Would not convert native forest types that are rare and ecologically significant at the landscape level (4.3) or put any native forest types at risk of becoming rare; and
3. Does not create significant long-term adverse impacts on FECVs (4.2.2), old-growth forests (4.2.3), forests critical to threatened and endangered species (4.2.1), Special Sites (Objective 6); and
4. In the limited situations where a different *forest type* condition might be justified, an assessment considers:
 - a. Productivity/Stand Quality Conditions and impacts including economic values
 - b. Specific ecosystem issues related to the site such as invasive species, insect/disease issues, riparian protection needs and others as appropriate to site including regeneration challenges
 - c. Ecological impacts of the conversion including a review at the site and landscape scale as well as consideration for any appropriate mitigation measures

Performance Measure 1.3. *Certified Program Participants* shall not have within the scope of their certification to this SFI Standard, forest lands that have been converted to non-forest land use.

Indicator:

1. Forest lands converted to other land uses shall not be certified to this SFI Standard. This does not include forest lands used for forest and wildlife management such as wildlife food plots or infrastructure such as forest roads, log processing areas, trails etc.

Objective 2. Forest Productivity. Ensure long-term forest productivity, carbon storage, and conservation of forest resources through prompt reforestation, soil conservation, afforestation and other measures.

Performance Measure 2.1. *Certified Program Participants* shall promptly reforest after final harvest.

Indicators:

1. Designation of all harvest areas for either natural or artificial (planting or direct seeding) regeneration.
2. Documented reforestation plans and activities based on site-specific environmental ecological or forest health considerations or legal requirements. Where feasible artificial reforestation within two years or two planting seasons or by planned natural regeneration methods within five years.
3. Clear criteria to judge adequate regeneration and appropriate actions to correct understocked areas and achieve acceptable species composition and stocking rates for both *planting* and *natural regeneration*.
4. Plantings of exotic *trees species* should avoid risk on native ecosystems.

5. *Protection* of desirable or planned advanced *natural regeneration* during harvest.
6. *Planting programs* that consider potential ecological impacts of a different species or species mix from that which was harvested.
7. *Afforestation programs* that consider potential ecological impacts of the selection and *planting* of tree species in non-forested *landscapes*.

Performance Measure 2.2. *Certified Program Participants* shall *minimize* chemical use required to achieve management *objectives* while protecting employees, neighbors, the public and the environment, including *wildlife* and *aquatic habitats*.

Indicators:

1. *Minimized* chemical use required to achieve management *objectives*.
2. Use of *least-toxic and narrowest-spectrum pesticides* necessary to achieve management *objectives*.
3. Use of pesticides registered for the intended use and applied in accordance with label requirements.
4. The World Health Organization (WHO) type 1A and 1B pesticides shall be prohibited, except where no other viable alternative is available.
5. Use of *integrated pest management* where feasible.
6. Supervision of forest chemical applications by state- or provincial-trained or certified applicators.
7. Use of management practices appropriate to the situation, for example:
 - a. notification of adjoining landowners or nearby residents concerning applications and chemicals used;
 - b. appropriate multilingual signs or oral warnings;
 - c. control of public road access during and immediately after applications;
 - d. designation of streamside and other needed buffer strips;
 - e. use of positive shutoff and minimal-drift spray valves;
 - f. aerial application of forest chemicals parallel to buffer zones to *minimize* drift;
 - g. monitoring of water quality or safeguards to ensure proper equipment use and *protection* of streams, lakes and other water bodies;
 - h. appropriate transportation and storage of chemicals;
 - i. filing of required state or provincial reports; and/or
 - j. use of methods to ensure *protection* of *threatened and endangered* species.

Performance Measure 2.3. *Certified Program Participants* shall implement forest management practices to protect and maintain forest and soil *productivity*.

Indicators:

1. Use of soil maps where available to identify soils vulnerable to compaction and use of appropriate methods to avoid excessive soil disturbance.
2. Process to identify soils vulnerable to compaction, and use of appropriate methods to avoid excessive soil disturbance.
3. Use of erosion control measures to *minimize* the loss of soil and site *productivity*.
4. Post-harvest conditions conducive to maintaining site *productivity* (e.g. limited rutting, retained down woody debris, *minimized skid trails*).
5. Retention of vigorous trees during partial harvesting, consistent with scientific silvicultural standards for the area.
6. Criteria that address harvesting and site preparation to protect soil *productivity*.
7. Road construction and skidding layout to *minimize* impacts to soil *productivity*.

Performance Measure 2.4. *Certified Program Participants* shall manage so as to protect forests from damaging agents, such as environmentally or economically undesirable wildfire, pests, diseases and *invasive exotic plants and animals*, to maintain and improve *long-term forest health, productivity* and *economic viability*.

Indicators:

1. *Program* to protect forests from damaging agents.
2. Management to promote healthy and productive forest conditions to *minimize* susceptibility to damaging agents.
3. Participation in, and support of, fire and pest prevention and control *programs*.

Performance Measure 2.5. *Certified Program Participants* that deploy *improved planting stock*, including *varietal seedlings*, shall use sound scientific methods.

Indicator:

1. *Program* for appropriate research, testing, evaluation and deployment of *improved planting stock*, including *varietal seedlings*.

Objective 3. Protection and Maintenance of Water Resources. Protect the water quality of rivers, streams, lakes, wetlands and other water bodies.

Performance Measure 3.1. *Certified Program Participants* shall meet or exceed all applicable federal, provincial, state and local water quality laws, and meet or exceed *best management practices* developed under Canadian or U.S. Environmental Protection Agency–approved water quality *programs*.

Indicators:

1. *Program* to implement federal, state or provincial water quality *best management practices* during all phases of management activities.
2. Contract provisions that specify conformance to *best management practices*.
3. Plans that address wet-weather events in order to maintain water quality (e.g. *forest inventory* systems, wet-weather tracts, definitions of acceptable operating conditions).
4. Monitoring of overall *best management practices* implementation.

Performance Measure 3.2. *Certified Program Participants* shall develop and implement water, *wetland* and *riparian area* protection measures based on soil type, terrain, vegetation, ecological function, harvesting system, state BMPs, provincial guidelines and other applicable factors.

Indicators:

1. *Program* addressing management and *protection* of rivers, streams, lakes, *wetlands*, other water bodies and *riparian areas* during all phases of management, including the layout and construction of roads and skid trails to maintain water movement and water quality.
2. Mapping of rivers, streams, lakes, *wetlands* and other water bodies as specified in state or provincial *best management practices* and, where appropriate, identification on the ground.
3. Document and implement plans to manage and protect rivers, streams, lakes, *wetlands*, other water bodies and *riparian areas*.

Objective 4. Conservation of Biological Diversity. To manage the quality and distribution of wildlife habitats and contribute to the conservation of biological diversity by developing and implementing stand- and landscape-level measures that promote a diversity of types of habitat and successional stages, and conservation of forest plants and animals, including aquatic species.

Performance Measure 4.1. *Certified Program Participants* shall conserve *biological diversity*.

Indicators:

1. *Program* to incorporate the *conservation* of *native biological diversity*, including species, *wildlife habitats* and ecological community types at *stand* and *landscape* levels.

2. Development of criteria and implementation of practices, as guided by regionally based *best scientific information*, to retain *stand-level wildlife habitat* elements such as snags, stumps, mast trees, down woody debris, den trees and nest trees.
3. Take into account spatial and temporal assessments of forest cover types, age or size classes at the individual ownership level, and where credible data are available and relevant to the forest management planning level, at the landscape scale.
4. *Certified Program Participants* are knowledgeable about credible state, provincial, or regional *conservation* planning and priority-setting efforts that include Indigenous peoples, to conserve biological diversity and consideration of these efforts in forest management planning. Examples of credible priority-setting efforts could be state wildlife action plans, state forest action plans, relevant habitat conservation plans or provincial wildlife recovery plans.
5. Identification and *protection of non-forested wetlands*, including bogs, fens and marshes, and vernal pools of ecological significance.
6. Participation in *programs* and demonstration of activities as appropriate to limit the introduction, spread and impact of *invasive exotic plants and animals* that directly threaten or are likely to threaten *native* plant and animal communities.
7. Consider the role of natural disturbances in relation to biological diversity when developing forest management plans.
8. *Program* to use prescribed or natural fire where appropriate.

Performance Measure 4.2. *Certified Program Participants* shall protect *threatened and endangered species, Forests with Exceptional Conservation Values (FECV) and old growth forests*.

Indicators:

1. Program to protect *threatened and endangered* species.
2. *Program* to locate and protect known sites flora and fauna associated with viable occurrences of *critically imperiled* and *imperiled* species and communities also known as *Forests with Exceptional Conservation Value*. Plans for *protection* may be developed independently or collaboratively, and may include *Certified Program Participant* management, cooperation with other stakeholders, or use of easements, *conservation* land sales, exchanges, or other *conservation* strategies.
3. Support of and participation in plans or *programs* for the *conservation of old-growth forests* in the region of ownership.

Performance Measure 4.3. *Certified Program Participants* shall manage ecologically important sites in a manner that takes into account their unique qualities.

Indicators:

1. Use of information such as existing natural heritage data and expert advice in identifying or selecting ecologically important sites for *protection*.
2. Appropriate mapping, cataloging and management of identified ecologically important sites.

Performance Measure 4.4. *Certified Program Participants* shall apply knowledge gained through research, science, technology and field experience to manage *wildlife habitat* and contribute to the *conservation of biological diversity*.

Indicators:

1. Collection of information on *Forests with Exceptional Conservation Value* and other *biodiversity*-related data through *forest inventory* processes, mapping or participation in external *programs*, such as NatureServe, state or provincial heritage *programs*, or other credible systems. Such participation may include providing non-proprietary scientific information, time and assistance by staff, or in-kind or direct financial support.
2. A methodology to incorporate research results and field applications of *biodiversity* and ecosystem research into forest management decisions.

Objective 5. Management of Visual Quality and Recreational Benefits. To manage the visual impact of forest operations and provide recreational opportunities for the public.

Performance Measure 5.1. *Certified Program Participants* shall manage the impact of harvesting on *visual quality*.

Indicators:

1. *Program* to address *visual quality management*.
2. Incorporation of aesthetic considerations in harvesting, road, landing design and management, and other management activities where visual impacts are a concern.

Performance Measure 5.2. *Certified Program Participants* shall manage the size, shape and placement of clearcut harvests.

Indicators:

1. Average size of clearcut harvest areas does not exceed 120 acres (50 hectares), except when necessary to meet regulatory requirements or to respond to *forest health* emergencies or other natural catastrophes.
2. Documentation through internal records of clearcut size and the process for calculating average size.

Performance Measure 5.3. *Certified Program Participants* shall adopt a *green-up requirement* or alternative methods that provide for *visual quality*.

Indicators:

1. *Program* implementing the *green-up requirement* or alternative methods.
2. Harvest area tracking system to demonstrate conformance with the *green-up requirement* or alternative methods.
3. Trees in clearcut harvest areas are at least 3 years old or 5 feet (1.5 meters) high at the desired level of stocking before adjacent areas are clearcut, or as appropriate to address operational and economic considerations, alternative methods to reach the *performance measure* are utilized by the *Certified Program Participant*.

Performance Measure 5.4. *Certified Program Participants* shall support and promote recreational opportunities for the public.

Indicator:

1. Provide recreational opportunities for the public, where consistent with forest management *objectives*.

Objective 6. Protection of Special Sites. To manage lands that are, geologically or culturally important in a manner that takes into account their unique qualities.

Performance Measure 6.1. *Certified Program Participants* shall identify *special sites* and manage them in a manner appropriate for their unique features.

Indicators:

1. Use of information such as existing natural heritage data, expert advice or stakeholder consultation in identifying or selecting *special sites* for *protection*.
2. Appropriate mapping, cataloging and management of identified *special sites*.

Objective 7. Efficient Use of Fiber Resources. To promote the efficient use of fiber resources.

Performance Measure 7.1. *Certified Program Participants* shall employ appropriate forest harvesting technology and in-woods manufacturing processes and practices to *minimize* waste and ensure efficient utilization of harvested trees, where consistent with other *SFI Standard objectives*.

Indicator:

1. *Program* or monitoring system to ensure efficient utilization, which may include provisions to ensure:

- a. management of harvest residue (e.g. slash, limbs, tops) considers economic, social and environmental factors (e.g. organic and nutrient value to future forests and the potential of increased fuels build-up) and other utilization needs;
- b. training or incentives to encourage loggers to enhance utilization;
- c. exploration of markets for underutilized species and low-grade wood and alternative markets (e.g. bioenergy markets); or
- d. periodic inspections and reports noting utilization and product separation.

Objective 8. Recognize and Respect Indigenous Peoples' Rights. To recognize and respect Indigenous Peoples' rights and traditional knowledge.

Performance Measure 8.1. *Certified Program Participants* shall recognize and respect Indigenous Peoples' rights.

Indicator:

1. *Certified Program Participants* will provide a written policy acknowledging a commitment to recognize and respect the rights of Indigenous People.

Performance Measure 8.2. *Certified Program Participants* with forest management responsibilities on public lands shall confer with affected Indigenous Peoples with respect to sustainable forestry.

Indicators:

1. Program that includes communicating with affected Indigenous Peoples to enable *Certified Program Participants* to:
 - a. understand and respect traditional forest-related knowledge;
 - b. identify and protect spiritually, historically, or culturally important sites;
 - c. address the use of non-timber forest products of value to Indigenous Peoples in areas where *Certified Program Participants* have management responsibilities on public lands; and
 - d. Have a process to receive and respond to Indigenous Peoples' inquiries regarding concerns received.

Performance Measure 8.3. *Certified Program Participants* with forest management responsibilities on private lands are encouraged to communicate with and/or respond to local Indigenous Peoples with respect to sustainable forest management practices.

Indicators:

1. Acknowledge an awareness of traditional forest-related knowledge, such as known cultural heritage sites, the use of wood in traditional buildings and crafts, and flora that may be used in cultural practices for food, ceremonies or medicine.
2. Respond to Indigenous Peoples' inquiries regarding concerns received.

SFI 2015-2019 Standard Objectives 9-21 for Fiber Sourcing

Fiber sourcing within the United States and Canada (Objectives 9-11 and 15 -21 apply).

Objective 9. Biodiversity in Fiber Sourcing. To broaden the practice of sustainable forestry by conserving biological diversity.

Performance Measure 9.1. Promotion and conservation of biological diversity.

Indicators:

1. Program to address conservation of biodiversity, individually or collaboratively, which shall include some of the following:
 - a. promotion of biological diversity utilizing information from organizations such as World Resources Institute, The Nature Conservancy, Nature Serve, Conservation International, State Wildlife Action Plans, State Forest Action Plans and assessments;
 - b. conducting local and regional level landscape assessments
 - c. involvement with local or regional conservation efforts;
 - d. other credible approaches; and
 - e. relevant information on biological diversity from credible sources (such as those noted above) in approved training and education programs.

2. *Program to address Forests with Exceptional Conservation Value in harvests of purchased stumpage.*

Objective 10. Adherence to Best Management Practices. To broaden the practice of sustainable forestry through the use of best management practices to protect water quality.

Performance Measure 10.1. *Certified Program Participants* shall clearly define and implement *policies* to ensure that facility inventories and *fiber sourcing* activities do not compromise adherence to the *principles of sustainable forestry*.

Indicators:

1. *Program* to require that harvests of *purchased stumpage* comply with *best management practices*.

2. Use of written agreements for the purchase of raw material sourced directly from the forest is required and must include provisions requiring the use of *best management practices*.

3. *Program* to address adverse weather conditions *Certified Program Participants* shall clearly define their *fiber sourcing policies* in writing and make them available to *wood producers*.

Performance Measure 10.2. *Certified Program Participants* shall monitor the use of *best management practices for water quality*.

Indicators:

1. A *verifiable monitoring system* to:
 - a. monitor the use of *best management practices* utilized by *wood producers* supplying the *Certified Program Participant*; and
 - b. evaluate use of *best management practices* across the *wood and fiber supply area*.
2. Use of information from the verifiable monitoring system to maintain effective conformance to best management practices and to identify and communicate areas for improved performance.

Objective 11. Use of Qualified Resource and Qualified Logging Professionals. To broaden the practice of sustainable forestry by encouraging forest landowners to utilize the services of forest management and harvesting professionals.

Performance Measure 11.1. *Certified Program Participants* shall encourage landowners to utilize the services of *certified logging professionals* (where available), *qualified resource professionals* and *qualified logging professionals* in applying *principles* of sustainable forest management on their lands.

Indicators:

1. *Program* to promote the use of *certified logging professionals* (where available), *qualified resource professionals* and *qualified logging professionals*.
2. List of *certified logging professionals* and *qualified logging professionals* maintained by *Certified Program Participant*, state or provincial agency, loggers' association or other organization.

Fiber sourcing by facilities enrolled in the SFI program from sources outside the United States and Canada (Objectives 12-14 apply).

Objective 12. Promote Conservation of Biological Diversity, Biodiversity Hotspots and High-Biodiversity Wilderness Areas. To broaden the practice of sustainable forestry by conserving biological diversity, biodiversity hotspots and high-biodiversity wilderness areas.

Performance Measure 12.1. *Certified Program Participants* shall ensure that their *fiber sourcing programs* support the *principles* of *sustainable forestry*, including efforts to promote *conservation of biological diversity*.

Indicators:

1. *Fiber sourcing* from areas outside the United States and Canada promotes *conservation* of:
 - a. *biodiversity hotspots* and *high-biodiversity wilderness areas* utilizing information from Conservation International; and

- b. *biological diversity* utilizing information from organizations such as the World Resources Institute, the *Alliance for Zero Extinction*, World Wildlife Fund, and the International Union for Conservation of Nature.
2. *Program with direct suppliers* to promote the *principles of sustainable forestry*.
3. Documented information that includes knowledge about *direct suppliers'* application of the *principles of sustainable forestry*.

Objective 13. Avoidance of Controversial Sources including Illegal Logging. To broaden the practice of sustainable forestry by avoidance of illegal logging.

Performance Measure 13.1. *Certified Program Participants* shall ensure that their *fiber sourcing programs* support the *principles of sustainable forestry*, including efforts to reduce the risk of *illegal logging*.

(Note: additional guidance is included in Section 7 *SFI Legality Requirements and Policies for Avoidance of Illegal Logging*)

Indicators:

1. Process to assess the risk that the *Certified Program Participant's fiber sourcing program* could acquire material from *illegal logging* such as consulting information from the World Resources Institute Risk Information Tool, the World Bank, or Transparency International.
2. *Program* to address any significant risk identified under 13.1.1.
3. *Program with direct suppliers* to promote the *principles of sustainable forestry*.
4. Documented information that includes knowledge about *direct suppliers'* application of the *principles of sustainable forestry*.

Objective 14. Avoidance of Controversial Sources including Fiber Sourced from Areas without Effective Social Laws. To broaden the practice of sustainable forestry by avoiding controversial sources.

Performance Measure 14.1. *Certified Program Participants* shall avoid *controversial sources* and encourage socially sound practices.

Indicators:

1. Process to assess the risk that the *Certified Program Participant's fiber sourcing* could take place in countries without effective laws addressing the following:
 - a. workers' health and safety;
 - b. fair labor practices;
 - c. indigenous peoples' rights;

- d. anti-discrimination and anti-harassment measures;
- e. prevailing wages; and
- f. workers' right to organize.

2. *Program* to address any significant risk identified under 14.1.1.

SFI 2015-2019 Standard Objectives 15-21 for Forest Land Management and Fiber Sourcing

Objective 15. Legal and Regulatory Compliance. Compliance with applicable federal, provincial, state and local laws and regulations.

Performance Measure 15.1. *Certified Program Participants* shall take appropriate steps to avoid illegally harvested wood and to comply with applicable federal, provincial, state and local *forestry* and related social and environmental laws and regulations.

Indicators:

1. Access to relevant laws and regulations in appropriate locations.
2. System to achieve compliance with applicable federal, provincial, state or local laws and regulations.
3. Demonstration of commitment to legal compliance through *available regulatory action information*.
4. Process to assess the risk that the *Certified Program Participants* fiber sourcing program could acquire material from illegal logging by considering some of the following:
 - a. communications with suppliers;
 - b. independent research;
 - c. contract documentation; and
 - d. maintain records.
5. Program to address any significant risk identified under 15.1.4

Performance Measure 15.2. *Certified Program Participants* shall take appropriate steps to comply with all applicable social laws at the federal, provincial, state and local levels in the country in which the *Certified Program Participant* operates.

Indicators:

1. Written *policy* demonstrating commitment to comply with social laws, such as those covering civil rights, equal employment opportunities, anti-discrimination and anti-harassment measures, workers' compensation, indigenous peoples' rights, workers' and communities' right to know, prevailing wages, workers' right to organize, and occupational health and safety.

2. *Forestry enterprises* will respect the rights of workers and labor representatives in a manner that encompasses the intent of the International Labor Organization (ILO) core conventions.

Objective 16. Forestry Research, Science, and Technology. To support forestry research, science, and technology, upon which sustainable forest management decisions are based.

Performance Measure 16.1. *Certified Program Participants* shall individually and/or through cooperative efforts involving *SFI Implementation Committees*, associations or other partners provide in-kind support or funding for forest research to improve *forest health, productivity*, and sustainable management of forest resources, and the environmental benefits and performance of forest products.

Indicators:

1. Financial or in-kind support of research to address questions of relevance in the region of operations. The research shall include some of the following issues:
 - a. *forest health, productivity*, and ecosystem functions;
 - b. chemical efficiency, use rate and *integrated pest management*;
 - c. water quality and/or effectiveness of *best management practices* including effectiveness of water quality and *best management practices* for protecting the *quality, diversity and* distributions of fish and *wildlife habitats*;
 - d. *wildlife* management at *stand* and *landscape* levels;
 - e. *conservation of biological diversity*;
 - f. ecological impacts of *bioenergy feedstock* removals on *productivity, wildlife habitat, water quality* and other ecosystem functions;
 - g. climate change research for both adaptation and mitigation;
 - h. reduction of catastrophic wildfire
 - i. social issues;
 - j. forest operations efficiencies and economics;
 - k. energy efficiency;
 - l. life cycle assessment;
 - m. avoidance of *illegal logging*; and
 - n. avoidance of *controversial sources*.
2. Research on genetically engineered trees via *forest tree biotechnology* shall adhere to all applicable federal, state, and provincial regulations and international protocols ratified by the US and/or Canada depending on jurisdiction of management.

Performance Measure 16.2. *Certified Program Participants* shall individually and/or through cooperative efforts involving *SFI Implementation Committees*, associations or other partners develop or use state, provincial or regional analyses in support of their *sustainable forestry programs*.

Indicator:

1. Participation, individually and/or through cooperative efforts involving *SFI Implementation Committees* and/or associations at the national, state, provincial or regional level, in the development or use of some of the following:

- a. regeneration assessments;
- b. *growth and drain* assessments;
- c. *best management practices* implementation and conformance;
- d. *biodiversity conservation* information for family forest owners; and
- e. social, cultural or economic benefit assessments.

Performance Measure 16.3. *Certified Program Participants* shall individually and/or through cooperative efforts involving *SFI Implementation Committees*, associations or other partners broaden the awareness of climate change impacts on forests, *wildlife* and *biological diversity*.

Indicators:

1. Where available, monitor information generated from regional climate models on *long-term forest health, productivity and economic viability*.
2. *Certified Program Participants* are knowledgeable about climate change impacts on *wildlife, wildlife habitats* and *conservation of biological diversity* through international, national, regional or local *programs*.

Objective 17. Training and Education. To improve the implementation of sustainable forestry practices through appropriate training and education programs.

Performance Measure 17.1. *Certified Program Participants* shall require appropriate training of personnel and contractors so that they are competent to fulfill their responsibilities under the *SFI 2015-2019 Standard*.

Indicators:

1. Written statement of commitment to the *SFI 2015-2019 Standard* communicated throughout the organization, particularly to facility and woodland managers, *fiber sourcing* staff and field foresters.
2. Assignment and understanding of roles and responsibilities for achieving *SFI 2015-2019 Standard objectives*.
3. Staff education and training sufficient to their roles and responsibilities.
4. Contractor education and training sufficient to their roles and responsibilities.
5. *Certified Program Participants* shall have written agreements for the use of *certified logging professionals* (where available) or *wood producers* that have completed training *programs* and are recognized as *qualified logging professionals*.

Performance Measure 17.2. *Certified Program Participants* shall work individually and/or with *SFI Implementation Committees*, logging or *forestry* associations, or appropriate agencies or others in the *forestry* community to foster improvement in the professionalism of *wood producers*.

Indicators:

1. Participation in or support of *SFI Implementation Committees* to establish criteria and identify delivery mechanisms for *wood producers'* training courses and periodic continuing education that address:
 - a. awareness of *sustainable forestry principles* and the *SFI* program;
 - b. *best management practices*, including streamside management and road construction, maintenance and retirement;
 - c. *reforestation, invasive exotic plants and animals, forest resource conservation, aesthetics, and special sites*;
 - d. awareness of responsibilities under the U.S. Endangered Species Act, the Canadian Species at Risk Act, and other measures to protect *wildlife habitat* (e.g. *Forests with Exceptional Conservation Value*);
 - e. Awareness of rare forested natural communities as identified by provincial or state agencies, or by credible organizations such as NatureServe, The Nature Conservancy, etc. logging safety;
 - f. U.S. Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) and Canadian Centre for Occupational Health and Safety (COHS) regulations, wage and hour rules, and other provincial, state and local employment laws;
 - g. transportation issues;
 - h. business management;
 - i. public *policy* and outreach; and
 - j. awareness of emerging technologies.
2. The SIC-approved wood producer's training programs shall have a continuing education component with coursework that supports the current logger training programs, safety and the principles of sustainable forestry.
3. Participation in or support of *SFI Implementation Committees* to establish criteria for recognition of logger certification *programs*, where they exist, that include:
 - a. completion of *SFI Implementation Committee* recognized logger training *programs* and meeting continuing education requirements of the training *program*;
 - b. independent in-the-forest verification of conformance with the logger certification *program* standards;
 - c. compliance with all applicable laws and regulations including responsibilities under the U.S. Endangered Species Act, the Canadian Species at Risk Act and other measures to protect *wildlife habitat*;
 - d. use of *best management practices* to protect water quality;
 - e. logging safety;
 - f. compliance with acceptable *silviculture* and utilization standards;
 - g. aesthetic management techniques employed where applicable; and
 - h. adherence to a management or harvest plan that is site specific and agreed to by the forest landowner.

Objective 18. Community Involvement and Landowner Outreach in the Practice of Sustainable Forestry. To broaden the practice of sustainable forestry by encouraging the public and forestry community to participate in the commitment to sustainable forestry, and publicly report progress.

Performance Measure 18.1. *Certified Program Participants* shall support and promote efforts by consulting foresters, state, provincial and federal agencies, state or local groups, professional societies, *conservation* organizations, indigenous peoples and governments, community groups, sporting organizations, labor, universities, extension agencies, the *American Tree Farm System*[®] and/or other landowner cooperative *programs* to apply *principles* of sustainable forest management.

Indicators:

1. Support, including financial, for efforts of *SFI Implementation Committees*.
2. Support for education and outreach to forest landowners, describing the importance and providing implementation guidance on:
 - a. *best management practices*;
 - b. *reforestation* and *afforestation*;
 - c. *visual quality management*;
 - d. *conservation* of critical *wildlife habitat* elements, *biodiversity*, *threatened and endangered* species, and *Forests with Exceptional Conservation Value*;
 - e. management of harvest residue (e.g. slash, limbs, tops) considers economic, social, environmental factors (e.g. organic and nutrient value to future forests) and other utilization needs;
 - f. control of *invasive exotic plants and animals*;
 - g. characteristics of *special sites*; and
 - h. reduction of wildfire risk.
3. Participation in efforts to support or promote *conservation* of managed forests through voluntary market-based incentive *programs* such as current-use taxation *programs*, Forest Legacy Program¹ or *conservation* easements.
4. *Certified Program Participants* are knowledgeable about credible regional *conservation* planning and priority-setting efforts that include Indigenous Peoples and a broad range of stakeholders and have a *program* to take into account the results of these efforts in planning.

Performance Measure 18.2. *Certified Program Participants* shall support and promote, at the state, provincial or other appropriate levels, mechanisms for public outreach, education and involvement related to sustainable forest management.

Indicators:

1. Periodic educational opportunities promoting *sustainable forestry*, such as
 - a. field tours, seminars, websites, webinars or workshops;
 - b. educational trips;
 - c. self-guided forest management trails;

- d. publication of articles, educational pamphlets or newsletters; or
- e. support for state, provincial, and local *forestry* organizations and soil and water *conservation* districts.

2. Encourage forest landowners to participate in forest management certification *programs*.

Performance Measure 18.3. *Certified Program Participants* shall establish, at the state, provincial, or other appropriate levels, procedures to address concerns raised by loggers, consulting foresters, employees, unions, the public or other *Certified Program Participants* regarding practices that appear inconsistent with the *SFI Standard principles* and *objectives*.

Indicators:

1. Support for *SFI Implementation Committees* (e.g. toll-free numbers and other efforts) to address concerns about apparent nonconforming practices.
2. Process to receive and respond to public inquiries. *SFI Implementation Committees* shall submit data annually to *SFI Inc.* regarding concerns received and responses.

Objective 19. Public Land Management Responsibilities. To promote and implement sustainable forest management on public lands.

Performance Measure 19.1. *Certified Program Participants* with forest *management responsibilities on public lands* shall participate in the development of *public land* planning and management processes.

Indicators:

1. Involvement in *public land* planning and management activities with appropriate governmental entities and the public.
2. Appropriate contact with local stakeholders over forest management issues through state, provincial, federal or independent collaboration.

Objective 20. Communications and Public Reporting. To broaden the practice of sustainable forestry by documenting progress and opportunities for improvement.

Performance Measure 20.1. A *Certified Program Participant* shall provide a summary audit report, prepared by the *certification body*, to *SFI Inc.* after the successful completion of a certification, recertification or surveillance audit to the *SFI 2015-2019 Standard*.

Indicator:

1. The summary audit report submitted by the *Certified Program Participant* (one copy must be in English), shall include, at a minimum,
 - a. a description of the audit process, *objectives* and scope;
 - b. a description of substitute *indicators*, if any, used in the audit and a rationale for each;
 - c. the name of *Certified Program Participant* that was audited, including its *SFI* representative;

- d. a general description of the *Certified Program Participant's* forestland and manufacturing operations included in the audit;
- e. the name of the *certification body* and *lead auditor* (names of the *audit team* members, including *technical experts* may be included at the discretion of the *audit team* and *Certified Program Participant*);
- f. the dates the certification was conducted and completed;
- g. a summary of the findings, including general descriptions of evidence of conformity and any nonconformities and corrective action plans to address them, opportunities for improvement, and exceptional practices; and
- h. the certification decision.

The summary audit report will be posted on the *SFI Inc.* website (www.sfiprogram.org) for public review.

Performance Measure 20.2. *Certified Program Participants* shall report annually to *SFI Inc.* on their conformance with the *SFI 2015-2019 Standard*.

Indicators:

1. Prompt response to the *SFI* annual progress report.
2. Recordkeeping for all the categories of information needed for *SFI* annual progress reports.
3. Maintenance of copies of past reports to document progress and improvements to demonstrate conformance to the *SFI 2015-2019 Standard*.

Objective 21. Management Review and Continual Improvement. To promote continual improvement in the practice of sustainable forestry, and to monitor, measure and report performance in achieving the commitment to sustainable forestry.

Performance Measure 21.1. *Certified Program Participants* shall establish a management review system to examine findings and progress in implementing the *SFI Standard*, to make appropriate improvements in *programs*, and to inform their employees of changes.

Indicators:

1. System to review commitments, *programs* and procedures to evaluate effectiveness.
2. System for collecting, reviewing, and reporting information to management regarding progress in achieving *SFI 2015-2019 Standard objectives* and *performance measures*.
3. Annual review of progress by management and determination of changes and improvements necessary to continually improve conformance to the *SFI 2015-2019 Standard*.