



SUSTAINABLE FORESTRY INITIATIVE

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**SFI Conservation and Community Partnerships Grant Program 2010
National Council for Air and Stream Improvement: Piloting a Habitat-Based
Approach to At-risk Biodiversity Conservation on SFI-Certified Lands**

In 2010, Sustainable Forestry Initiative® (SFI®) Inc. introduced its Conservation and Community Partnerships Grant Program furthering its long-standing commitment to research and bringing together diverse partners, including SFI program participants, conservation groups, and several government agencies, to deliver conservation benefits across North America and tackle illegal logging issues globally.

Independent non-profit SFI Inc. invited applications for collaborative projects that help to implement the SFI 2010-2014 Standard, make it stronger, and show how SFI certification delivers tangible benefits on the ground and complements existing government initiatives in North America. Applicants were encouraged to address topics of current importance such as the role of certified forests in emerging bioenergy and carbon markets, improving wildlife habitat management, avoiding controversial sources of fiber such as those resulting from illegal logging, and delivering community benefits through activities involving partners such as government agencies, Aboriginal communities and universities.

In May 2010, the SFI program announced a commitment of \$675,000 to support nine projects, including \$307,500 for 2010 alone. Through the involvement of partners, these projects will leverage additional resources and achieve a total value of almost \$2.7 million.

Piloting a Habitat-Based Approach to At-risk Biodiversity Conservation on SFI-Certified Lands

The National Council for Air and Stream Improvement (NCASI) will receive \$20,000 to develop and test a habitat-based approach to protecting imperiled species and communities in the Southeast, Pacific Northwest and Great Lakes regions.

Supporting the SFI Standard

The project will support a number of indicators in the SFI 2010-2014 Standard, related to critically imperiled and imperiled species, Forests with Exceptional Conservation Value and support of training for forest professionals and outreach for forest landowners. They include Objective 8: "To broaden the practice of sustainable forestry by forest landowners through fiber sourcing programs," and Indicator 4.1.3: "Program to locate and protect known sites associated with viable occurrences of critically imperiled and imperiled species and communities also known as Forests with Exceptional Conservation Value."

Project partners

Partners include NatureServe and SFI program participant Weyerhaeuser.

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Project Details

In each of the three pilots, a regional list of imperiled species and communities of conservation concern to the forest products industry will be developed, and a relational database created describing key generalized habitat types where the species and communities are known to occur. Researchers will then summarize known occurrences of the species and communities by key habitat types and develop plans for a field test of a habitat-based approach to protecting them.

About NCASI

The National Council for Air and Stream Improvement (www.ncasi.org) is a non-profit organization that serves the forest products industry by providing technical information and scientific research needed to achieve the industry's environmental goals and principles.

About SFI Inc.

SFI Inc. is an independent 501(c)(3) non-profit charitable organization, and is solely responsible for maintaining, overseeing and improving the internationally recognized Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI) program (www.sfiprogram.org). Close to 200 million acres/80 million hectares are certified to the SFI forest management standard across North America, making it the largest single forest standard in the world. SFI chain-of-custody certification tells buyers the percentage of certified, uncertified and recycled content in a product. Unique SFI fiber sourcing requirements promote responsible forest management on all suppliers' lands in North America, whether certified or not. SFI Inc. is governed by a three-chamber board of directors representing environmental, social and economic sectors equally.

The SFI program is grounded in science and research, and based on conservation and community partnerships. Since 1995, SFI-certified organizations have invested more than \$1.1 billion US for research activities that improve the health, productivity and responsible management of forest resources. The program also responds to diverse local needs across the United States and Canada through a unique network of 37 SFI Implementation Committees. SFI Inc. values and facilitates this research and outreach work through awards and support for collaborative activities.

For more information:

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