

An aerial photograph of a forest landscape. A meandering river flows through a lush green meadow. The surrounding forest is dense and green. A green rectangular overlay is positioned in the upper left quadrant, containing white text.

CONSERVING BIODIVERSITY AND WILDLIFE HABITAT



SUSTAINABLE
FORESTRY
INITIATIVE

SFI-00001



THE SUSTAINABLE FORESTRY INITIATIVE® PROGRAM



At the Sustainable Forestry Initiative® (SFI) we believe the days of looking at a forest and only seeing trees for cutting are gone.

Today responsible forest management supports harvesting timber, as well as promoting wildlife habitats and animal populations. Managed forests also protect water quality for fish and other freshwater plants and animals while providing recreational opportunities for the public. Managed forests protect sites of cultural value and integrate community values in forestry.

Responsible forest management protects forests from catastrophic wildfire that can damage soils and habitat, disease, pests, and irresponsible over-harvesting. It's about ensuring there will be healthy forests for future generations. It helps reconnect the community with nature by providing recreational opportunities, including fishing, hunting and hiking.

Currently SFI Program Participants, along with over 500 partner organizations are involved in over 170 collaborative projects related to forest conservation.

"SFI, like science, never stops learning. It is more than words on paper. SFI and its partners deliver actual results on the ground and in communities across North America. They build knowledge and understanding."

– Charles Tattersall (Tat) Smith Jr. PhD, Professor,
Faculty of Forestry, University of Toronto

What is the SFI program?

SFI is a non-profit, third-party independent forest certification program promoting sustainable forestry across North America. SFI also supports responsible procurement of forest products worldwide. Participants who want SFI certification first have to meet and maintain a list of stringent objectives, performance measures and requirements addressing our biodiversity standards. Approximately 200 million acres/81 million hectares of forests in Canada and the U.S. are currently SFI certified.



SFI STANDARD CONSERVES BIODIVERSITY AND WILDLIFE HABITAT

“Engaging private forest owners in sustainable forest management practices is key to the long term protection of many priority bird and other wildlife species, and we are excited to be working with SFI and SFI certified companies to expand knowledge and expertise in this area.”

– Mike Burger, Audubon NY

Requirements for certification

To be SFI certified, participants must complete a third-party audit by an independently-accredited certification body. Our forest management Standard addresses key biodiversity issues such as replanting, water quality, wildlife habitat, old-growth forests and sites that have special cultural value. These are just a few of the forest values the SFI program supports. These requirements are mandatory to achieve SFI certification. You can download a full version of the SFI Standard requirements at http://www.sfiprogram.org/files/pdf/Section2_sfi_requirements_2010-2014.pdf.

Some examples of how the SFI Standard is implemented include:

- The Lyme Timber Company and the Wildlife Management Institute are creating and maintaining 11,000 new acres of brushy woodland habitat for the American woodcock in northern New York State, a species of national concern. Their goal is to maintain

more than 15,000 acres of habitat for the American woodcock and other species by 2022.

- The South Coast Conservation Program, with International Forest Products Ltd. and coastal First Nations developed fact sheets on forest-dependent plant and animal species at risk, including grizzly bears and snowshoe hares, on British Columbia’s Pacific Coastal Region. Check out their new on-line tool www.geog.ubc.ca/biodiversity/factsheets featuring 95 fact sheets on species of conservation concern.
- Port Blakely Tree Farms worked with numerous partners to reintroduce endangered Oregon spotted frogs to their historic range in Washington State.
- International Forest Products and the Nanwakolas Council representing 12 Pacific Coast First Nations in British Columbia are collaborating to identify cedar trees suitable for carving traditional canoes, poles and big houses on the company’s lands, and protecting them from harvest so they will be available for the next 300 years.

SFI 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 a diversity of types of habitat and successional stages, and conservation of forest plants and animals, including aquatic species.



SFI STANDARD REQUIRES RESEARCH

Research is necessary in order to improve forest management, and yet SFI is the only forest certification program to require participants to engage in research activities. This has already resulted in \$1.2 billion in research since 1995 through thousands of research projects with conservation organizations and government agencies.

- Sierra Pacific Industries (SPI), along with the California Department of Fish and Game, US Fish and Wildlife Service, and North Carolina State University are working together to return Pacific fishers to their historical range in Northern California. This includes a 160,000 acre tract of working SPI timberlands that supports a population of about 40 fishers. SPI is actively managing their lands to promote fisher habitat.

SFI Performance Measure 15.1. 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... The research shall include some of the following issues...wildlife management at stand and landscape levels... conservation of biological diversity.

“The SFI-supported Workshop gave me the tools I need to be a responsible landowner, a chance to meet others who are interested in managing their property for the benefit of wildlife, and knowledge to share with others.”

– Jason Spaeth, Minnesota Private Landowner

- Weyerhaeuser’s working forest lands in North Carolina are home to a breeding pair of red wolves, one of the most endangered canids in the world. As part of the Red Wolf Recovery Program, Weyerhaeuser works with the US Fish and Wildlife Service access to monitor the wolves’ progress. In 2010 the Weyerhaeuser pair became a pack when five pups were born, bringing the total Red Wolf population in the US to 74.
- The Swallow-tailed Kite is a migratory bird that resides in the southeastern United States, and is listed as a species of greatest concern in Florida. Plum Creek forestland holdings in Florida have been identified as important habitat for the kites, and so the company has modified harvesting operations; including on-going nesting site monitoring and documentation, training of staff to identify nests, restriction of harvesting during breeding season and buffering known nesting sites during harvest to support populations.



SFI SUPPORTS CONSERVATION AND COMMUNITY GRANTS

SFI funds projects directly through its Conservation and Community Partnerships Grant program which brings together a variety of interests including conservation groups, government agencies and universities. For example:

- Ducks Unlimited Canada is partnering with Louisiana Pacific Canada Ltd and Weyerhaeuser to determine best management practices for building forestry roads while protecting wetland ecosystems in the western boreal forest. In eastern Canada, this work is complemented through work by Dalhousie University to address regional differences in wetland management.
- The Ruffed Grouse Society, in cooperation with the University of Wisconsin – Extension, the Department of Forest and Wildlife Ecology at UW – Madison, and SFI Program Participant Louisiana-Pacific US, support the Wisconsin Coverts Program which educates local landowners about management strategies that result in economic wildlife habitat benefits. Participants lead by example and help others better understand their role as land stewards. Almost 80 landowners have been trained through workshops supported by SFI.

“As a result of our partnership with SFI, our Breeding Bird Atlas program has not only collected valuable new data, but also greatly increased our coverage of more remote regions thanks to the direct involvement of lands managed by SFI program participants.”

– Pete Davidson, Bird Studies Canada

- Before American chestnut trees were decimated by a blight in the early 1900s, they provided food and habitat to wildlife in the US. SFI participants Georgia-Pacific and MeadWestvaco partnered with the American Chestnut Foundation to plant and monitor about 3,000 of the most advanced and potentially blight-resistant American chestnuts. Data from this project will provide critical information in restoring the American chestnut to its historic range.

SFI revisits its Standard every five years. Current research projects like these will help inform future SFI standard requirements and guidance.



Responsible forest management meets more than the needs of humans. That's why SFI incorporates wildlife habitat protection, support for biodiversity and water quality protection among the many requirements in the SFI program.

For more information on SFI Inc., biodiversity and managing healthy forests for the future visit sfiprogram.org, email info@sfiprogram.org or call 202-596-3450.



SUSTAINABLE FORESTRY INITIATIVE

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