

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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**SFI COMMUNITY GRANTS FEATURE COLLABORATION FROM  
 50 DIFFERENT GROUPS SPANNING NORTH AMERICA**

**WASHINGTON, DC and OTTAWA, ON** — The Sustainable Forestry Initiative Inc. (SFI) announced 11 community grants today that will advance the quality of life in communities across North America. SFI is bringing together a diverse range of people from 50 organizations to support community engagement projects that put SFI at the intersection of sustainable forestry, responsible procurement and thriving communities. SFI engages local communities through a variety of initiatives including youth outreach, supporting Indigenous values, forest education programs, and green building projects for low-income families.

These grantees include leading community organizations like Scouts Canada, the Black Family Land Trust, South Dakota Project Learning Tree and Montana’s Whitefish School District. Partnerships represented by these projects reach even more broadly, including the Cree First Nation of Waswanipi, government agencies in South Carolina, British Columbia and Maine, as well as the University of Winnipeg and the University of Wisconsin. SFI Program Participants, SFI Implementation Committees, family forestland owners and brand owners are also making a difference through SFI community grants.

The grants were awarded through SFI’s Conservation and Community Partnerships Grant Program, which is dedicated to improving conservation of forests and strengthening the communities that depend on them. These projects illustrate best practices and innovative approaches for partnerships focussed on environmental sustainability and the quality of life in local communities. The projects serve to strengthen the link between responsible forest management and youth education, helping underserved communities, and enabling family landowners to improve the environmental and economic sustainability of their land.

“I’m excited to see so many groups coming together to learn about responsible forestry and building connections with local communities,” said Kathy Abusow, President and CEO of SFI Inc. “We are engaging youth, supporting family landowners and bringing Indigenous and non-Indigenous communities together to enrich forest-based communities and improve our shared quality of life because forests affect us all.”



Cree First Nation of  
**WASWANIPÍ**

**2017 SFI COMMUNITY  
 GRANT RECIPIENTS**



Fraser Basin Council



[A Tree, Is A Tree, Is A Tree 101](#), led by the [Black Family Land Trust](#), is engaging African Americans in Southside Virginia to turn family forest assets into performing assets for today, tomorrow and for generations to come.

[Center for Sustainability and Entrepreneurship](#), led by Montana's [Whitefish School District](#), will showcase new ways to develop better citizens and leaders through the center's greenhouse, a two-story classroom building, gardens, an orchard, an experimental forest, a native grass meadow, a wet meadow detention pond, and trails.

[Marten Monitoring and Youth Knowledge Transfer Program](#), is an effort led by the [Cree First Nation of Waswanipi](#) in Quebec to evaluate the impact of wildlife management guidelines on marten populations and transfer knowledge to Cree youth in the community by combining science and traditional knowledge.

[The Forestry Connects Program](#), led by [Forests Ontario](#), is connecting about 100 high school students and teachers to the boreal forest and giving them real-life experience in responsible forest management.

[A Walk in the Forest](#), led by [South Dakota Project Learning Tree](#), uses volunteers and resource professionals to provide a forest field day for students from grades three to 12 to explore their local forest, get some exercise, and learn about forestry and other natural resource professions.

[The Forest-Community Innovation Network](#), led by the [University of Winnipeg](#), is an active collaborative knowledge forum to support networking and practical research critical to engaging diverse groups, including Indigenous peoples, in fostering innovation.

[The Thompson Steelhead Community Collaboration Initiative](#), led by the [Fraser Basin Council](#), is designed to raise awareness and foster collaboration between Indigenous peoples, the commercial sport fishery and forest managers in the Thompson River watershed of British Columbia.

[Trees for Tomorrow School](#), led by [Trees for Tomorrow](#), is offering a four-day course in the U.S. Great Lakes region to increase teachers' understanding of sustainability and responsible resource management, and how to integrate these concepts into their classroom curriculum.

[The EnviroMentality Initiative](#), from [Scouts Canada](#), is a series of youth-led environmental stewardship projects across Canada focused on helping Scouts learn the skills and knowledge to be sustainability leaders in their communities.

[Wood Magic Forest Fair](#), a project led by the [South Carolina Forestry Foundation](#), is a series of four-hour programs to engage and educate fifth graders about the many environmental, social, and economic benefits provided by South Carolina's forests.

[A Guide to Harvesting Family Woodlands](#), being developed by the [Maine SFI Implementation Committee](#), will be a key tool to conserve forests, educate forest owners and build partnerships among family woodland owners and forest managers.

### **About the SFI Conservation and Community Partnerships Grant Program**

Since the program began in 2010, SFI has awarded 53 conservation and 49 community partnership grants totaling more than \$3.4 million to foster conservation and community-building projects. When leveraged with project-partner contributions, that total investment exceeds \$13.2 million.

The grant program builds on the fact that SFI is the only forest certification standard in North America that requires participants to support and engage in research activities to improve forest health,

productivity, sustainable management of forest resources, and the environmental benefits and performance of forest products. SFI uses data generated by our conservation grants to help scale best practices and inform our revisions to the SFI Standards. Through the [SFI Conservation Impact Project](#), we are developing metrics for climate change mitigation, water quality and biodiversity, to encourage forest health, conservation and sound management.

SFI also [engages local communities](#) through a variety of initiatives including youth outreach, forest education programs and green building projects for low-income families. We have memorandums of understanding and support with Habitat for Humanity International, Habitat for Humanity Canada, Boy Scouts of America, Scouts Canada, and the Canadian Council of Aboriginal Business. Our community grants represent SFI's unique role at the intersection of sustainable forestry, responsible procurement and thriving communities.

#### **About the Sustainable Forestry Initiative® Inc.**

The Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI) is a sustainability organization that stands for future forests. SFI® Inc is an independent, nonprofit organization that is solely responsible for maintaining, overseeing and improving the internationally recognized SFI Program. SFI works collaboratively with conservation groups, local communities, youth, resource professionals, landowners and countless other organizations and individuals who share our passion for and commitment to healthy forests, responsible purchasing and sustainable communities. Since 1995, SFI Program Participants have invested more than \$1.6 billion in forest-research activities. Sustainable forestry is also promoted through the SFI Fiber Sourcing Standard and the SFI Chain-of-Custody Standard. SFI on-product labels help consumers make responsible purchasing decisions. SFI Inc. is governed by an independent three-chamber [board of directors](#) representing environmental, social and economic sectors equally. Learn more at [sfiprogram.org](http://sfiprogram.org).

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## **Appendix: SFI 2017 Community Grants Partners**

### **A Tree, Is A Tree, Is A Tree 101**

- Project lead: Black Family Land Trust
- Sustainable Forestry Initiative
- Virginia Department of Forestry
- U.S. Endowment for Forestry and Communities

### **The Forestry Connects Program**

- Project lead: Forests Ontario
- Sustainable Forestry Initiative
- Canadian Institute of Forestry
- Central Canada SFI Implementation Committee
- City of Kenora
- Domtar (SFI Program Participant)
- EACOM (SFI Program Participant)
- FPIInnovations
- Resolute Forest Products (SFI Program Participant)
- Weyerhaeuser (SFI Program Participant)
- Manitoba Forestry Association

### **The Thompson Steelhead Community Collaboration Initiative**

- Project lead: Fraser Basin Council Society
- Sustainable Forestry Initiative
- BC Timber Sales (SFI Program Participant)
- Cook's Ferry Indian Band
- Secwepemc Fisheries Commission
- Stuwix Resources (SFI Program Participant)
- West Fraser Mills (SFI Program Participant)

### **A Guide to Harvesting Family Woodlands**

- Project lead: Maine SFI Implementation Committee
- Sustainable Forestry Initiative
- Maine Forest Service
- Maine Healthy Forests Program
- Maine Tree Farm Committee
- Somerset County Soil & Water Conservation District
- University of Maine, School of Forest Resources

### **Wood Magic Forest Fair**

- Project lead: South Carolina Forestry Foundation
- Sustainable Forestry Initiative
- South Carolina SFI Implementation Committee
- South Carolina Forestry Commission

### **The EnviroMentality Initiative**

- Project lead: Scouts Canada
- Sustainable Forestry Initiative
- Sears Canada

### **A Walk in the Forest**

- Project lead: South Dakota Project Learning Tree
- Sustainable Forestry Initiative

- Dakota Society of American Foresters
- Black Hill Forest Resource Association (includes SFI Program Participant Neiman Enterprises)

#### **Trees for Tomorrow School**

- Project lead: Trees for Tomorrow
- Sustainable Forestry Initiative
- Wisconsin SFI Implementation Committee
- University of Wisconsin–Stevens Point College of Natural Resources

#### **The Forest-Community Innovation Network**

- Project lead: University of Winnipeg, Centre for Forest Interdisciplinary Research
- Sustainable Forestry Initiative
- Canadian Council for Aboriginal Business

#### **Marten Monitoring and Youth Knowledge Transfer Program**

- Project lead: Cree First Nation of Waswanipi
- Sustainable Forestry Initiative
- The Gull Family
- Willie J. Happyjack Memorial School
- Waska Resources
- Cree Trappers Association
- Resolute Canada (SFI Program Participant)
- Quebec SFI Implementation Committee

#### **Whitefish Lake Institute Center for Sustainability and Entrepreneurship**

- Project lead: Whitefish School District
- Sustainable Forestry Initiative
- F.H. Stoltze Land and Lumber Company (SFI Program Participant)
- Whitefish Lake Institute
- Flathead Valley Community College