

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
August 8, 2017

SUSTAINABLE FORESTRY INITIATIVE OPENS REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS: SEEKS NEW PARTNERS FOR CONSERVATION AND COMMUNITY PROJECTS IN THE U.S. AND CANADA

WASHINGTON, DC and OTTAWA, ON - The Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI) announced today the opening of its annual request for proposals (RFP) for the SFI Conservation and Community Partnerships Grant Program. The grants program supports SFI's work to promote sustainable forest management through partnerships with conservation groups that are contributing to the understanding of critical links between forests and communities across the range of American and Canadian forests, and community groups working at the intersection of sustainable forestry, responsible procurement and thriving communities.

"SFI is proud to stand with so many partners that lead the way on positively impacting the future of our forests. This new grant cycle allows us to reassert our role as a sustainability leader that is working beyond supply chain assurances to elevate conservation value and foster community engagement," said Kathy Abusow, President and CEO of SFI Inc. "We look forward to this round of proposals and how they will contribute to our scientific understanding, long-standing commitment to forest research, and shared quality of life."

Since 2010, SFI has awarded more than 100 grants to foster conservation and community-building projects across North America. When leveraged with project partner contributions, the combined investment exceeds \$13.2 million. **Applications will be accepted until 11:59 pm EST, Tuesday, October 10, 2017.** SFI grants are available to academic institutions, non-profit organizations and Indigenous groups.

Download this year's [RFP instructions and criteria](#).

For SFI **Conservation Grant** applications, SFI Inc. is placing a priority on projects that measure, demonstrate, or establish methodologies to demonstrate, the conservation-related values of SFI-certified forestlands, or values promoted by the SFI Fiber Sourcing Standard. Particular attention will be paid to applications focused on conservation values in the areas of water, climate change (including both carbon attributes and forest resiliency), and biodiversity.

SFI's **Community Partnerships Grant Program** is focused on elevating and enriching the links between people and forests. SFI awards grants to collaborative community-based projects, activities or events that support SFI's core mission to connect communities to forests. Applications that feature creative partnerships or high degrees of leverage (e.g., matching funds, scale of impact, etc.) are preferred.

In 2016 and 2017, SFI provided 13 [conservation grants](#) to academic and non-profit institutions, including the American Bird Conservancy, Foothills Research Institute, Laval University Faculty of Forestry - Geography and Geomatics, Nature Conservancy of Canada, Saskatchewan Research Council, The Nature Conservancy - Georgia Chapter, University of Georgia, University of Northern British Columbia, The Boreal Avian Modelling Project, GreenBlue, Manomet, NatureServe, and Saskatchewan Research Council.

And, in 2016 and 2017, SFI provided 16 [community grants](#) to partners including Cornell University, Earth Rangers, Muckleshoot Tribe, National Wild Turkey Federation, San Carlos Apache Forest Resources Program, Black Family Land Trust, Cree First Nation of Waswanipi, Forests Ontario, Fraser Basin Council Society, Maine SFI Implementation Committee, Scouts Canada, South Carolina Forestry Foundation, South Dakota Project Learning Tree, The Greening of Detroit, Trees for Tomorrow, and Whitefish Montana School District.

Several highlights of these grants include:

- The **Canadian Forest Carbon Assessment, led by the Saskatchewan Research Council**, is building a roadmap to conduct a comprehensive carbon-stock assessment for well-managed forests, including those certified to SFI. This project will quantify carbon storage in different forest ecosystems using national and regional data and examine forest management practices that influence carbon stocks.
- The **Conservation Values of Forests Project, led by NatureServe**, will help consolidate and illustrate the biodiversity-related conservation value of forests certified to SFI, ultimately helping stakeholders to understand and communicate conservation outcomes. Findings will also help forest managers improve wildlife habitat across large landscapes.
- **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.
- **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.
- **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.

Learn more about the SFI [Conservation](#) and [Community](#) Partnerships Grant Program, read about current and past grant projects, and review the [RFP](#) process on our website. For additional questions, please contact [Rocco Saracina, Manager of Conservation Partnerships](#).

About the Sustainable Forestry Initiative® Inc.

The Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI) is a sustainability leader that stands for future forests. SFI® is an independent, non-profit organization dedicated to promoting forest sustainability and supporting the links between sustainable forests and communities through grant programs, carefully targeted research, youth education, supply chain assurances, and partnerships that effectively contribute to multiple conservation objectives. Forests certified to the SFI Forest Management Standard cover 285 million acres/115 million hectares, while millions more acres benefit from the SFI Fiber Sourcing Standard. SFI's Forest Management, Fiber Sourcing and Chain of Custody Standards facilitate good purchasing decisions, and help to ensure the health and future of forests. SFI works collaboratively with conservation groups, brand owners, local communities, Indigenous communities, youth, resource professionals, land managers and countless other organizations and individuals who share our passion for and commitment to healthy forests, responsible purchasing and sustainable communities. Project Learning Tree (PLT) became a program of SFI in 2017, bringing over forty years of experience in developing students' awareness, knowledge, and appreciation of the environment. SFI Inc. is governed by an independent three-chamber board of directors representing environmental, social and economic sectors equally.

Media Contact

Daniel Pellegrom
Senior Director, Communications
Sustainable Forestry Initiative
202-596-3452
daniel.pellegrom@sfiprogram.org