

Sustainable Forestry Initiative, Inc.
2014 Conservation and Community Partnerships Grant Program

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Figure 1: US geographic distribution of all conservation grants submitted.

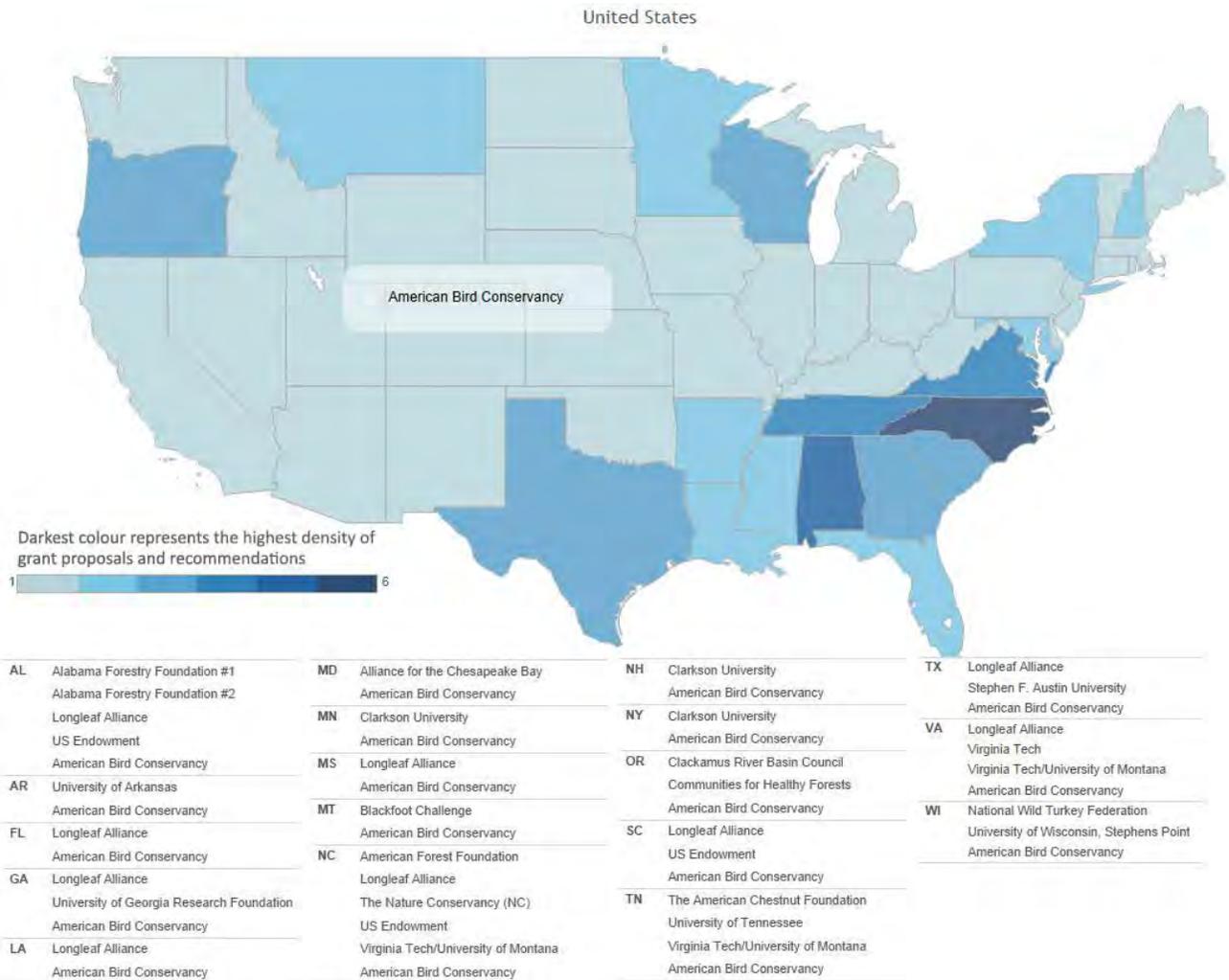
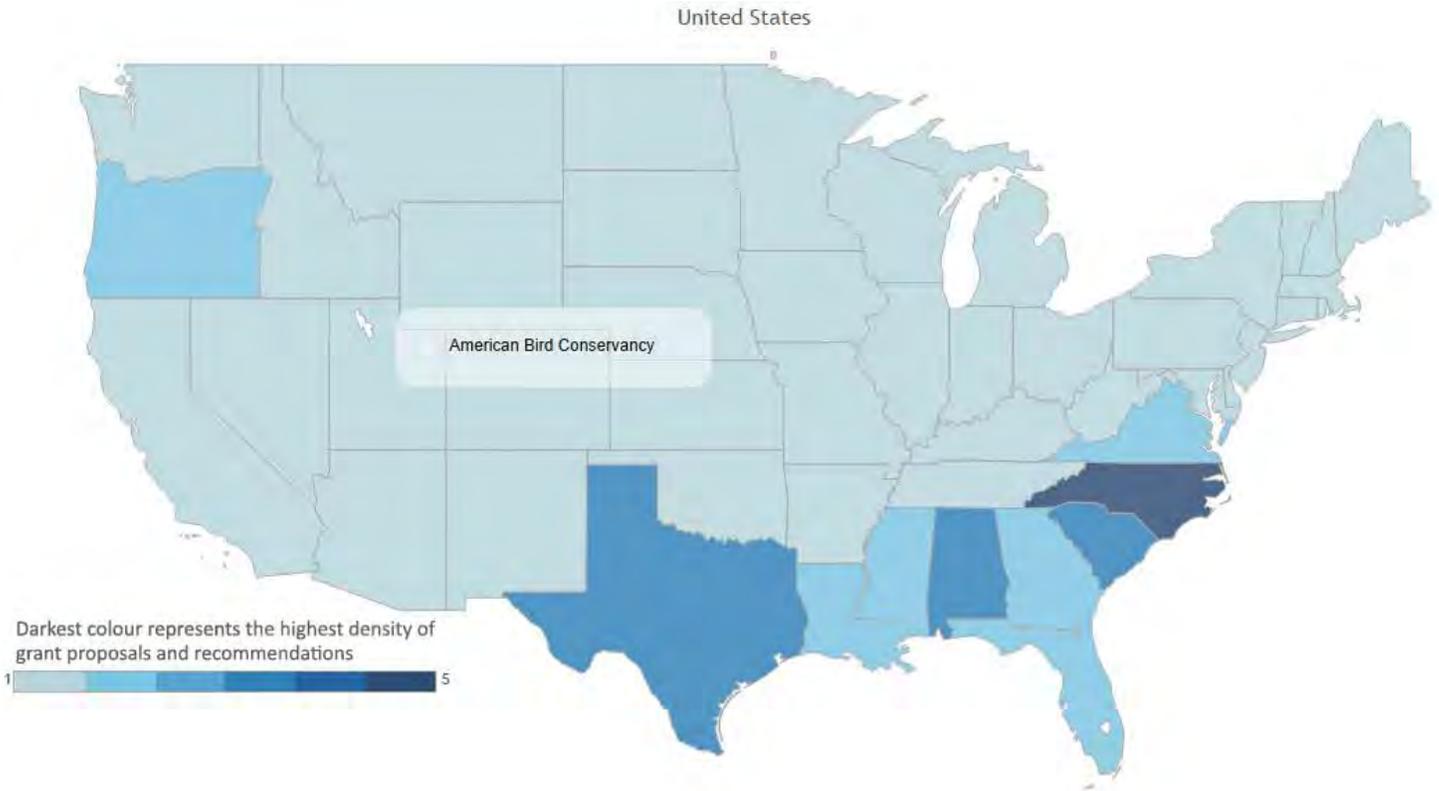


Figure 2: US geographic distribution for recommended conservation grants.



AL	Longleaf Alliance US Endowment American Bird Conservancy	MD	American Bird Conservancy	NH	American Bird Conservancy	TX	Longleaf Alliance
AR	American Bird Conservancy	MN	American Bird Conservancy	NY	American Bird Conservancy		Stephen F. Austin University
FL	Longleaf Alliance American Bird Conservancy	MS	Longleaf Alliance American Bird Conservancy	OR	Communities for Healthy Forests American Bird Conservancy		American Bird Conservancy
GA	Longleaf Alliance American Bird Conservancy	MT	American Bird Conservancy	SC	Longleaf Alliance US Endowment American Bird Conservancy	VA	Longleaf Alliance American Bird Conservancy
LA	Longleaf Alliance American Bird Conservancy	NC	American Forest Foundation Longleaf Alliance The Nature Conservancy (NC) US Endowment American Bird Conservancy	TN	American Bird Conservancy	WI	American Bird Conservancy

Figure 3: Canadian geographic distribution of all conservation grants submitted.

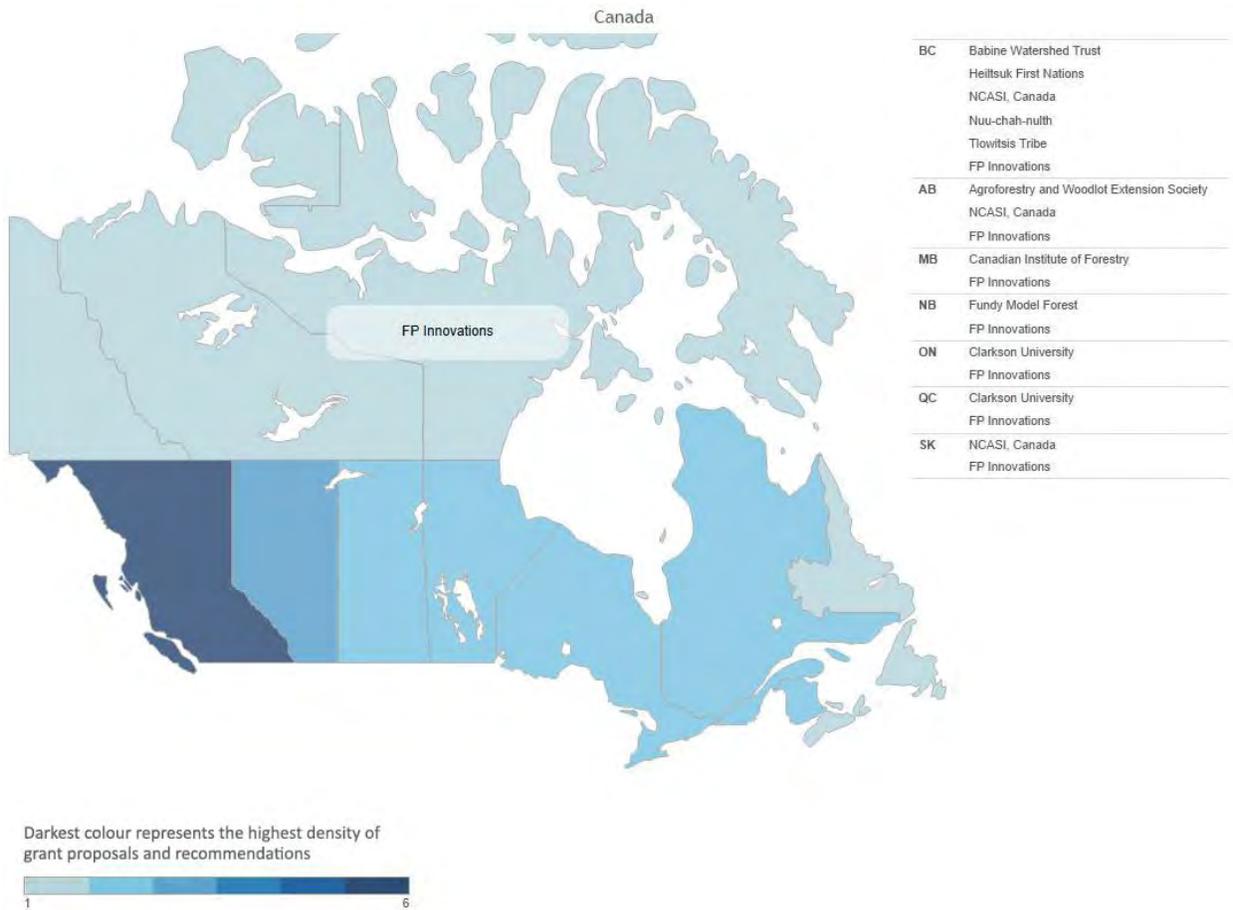
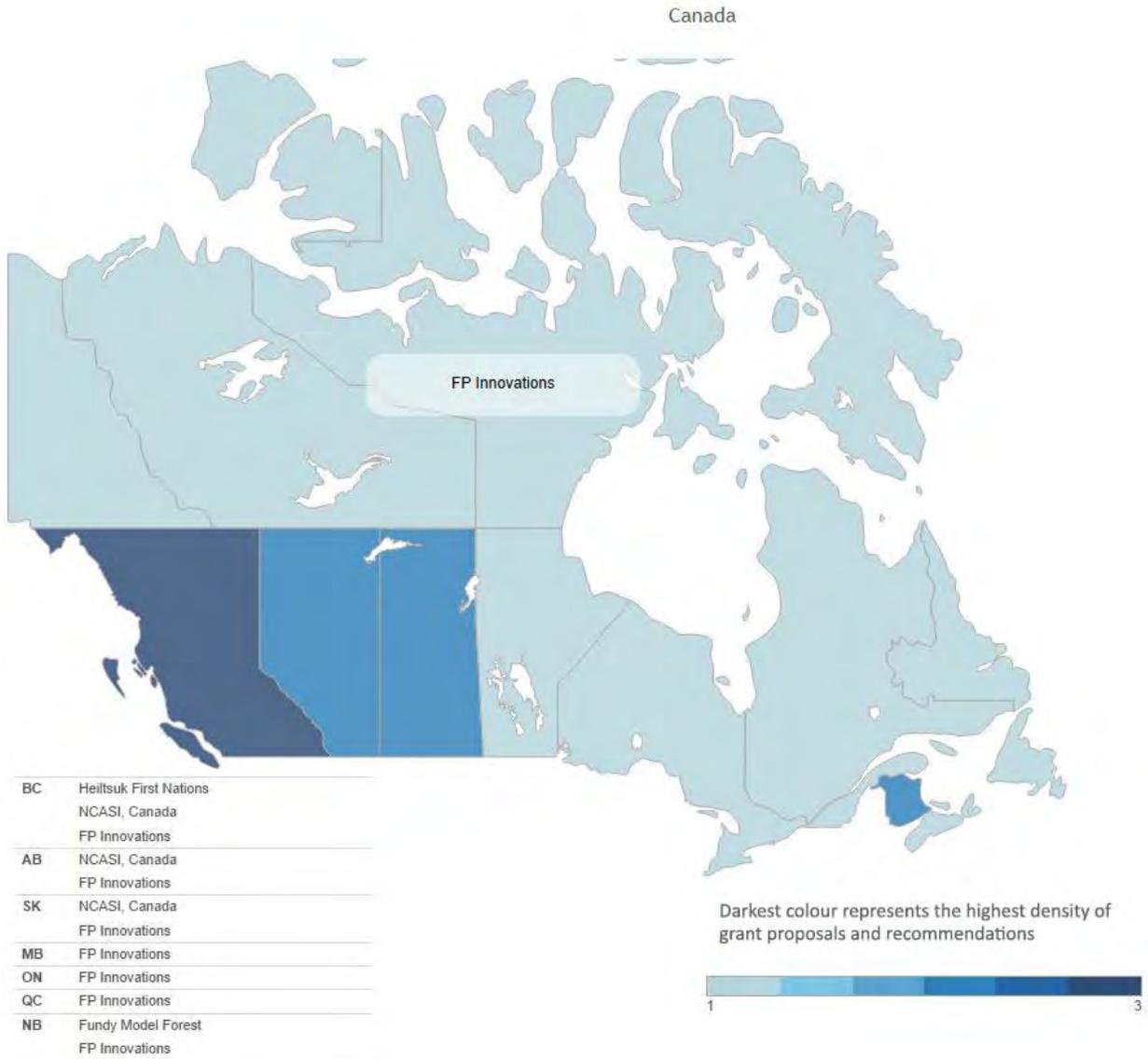


Figure 4: Canadian geographic distribution for recommended conservation grants.



2014 Conservation Partnerships Grant Proposal Summary

Lead Organization Name: Nuu-chah-nulth/WCVI Aquatic Management Society

Title of Proposal: *Fish habitat, aboriginal capacity building and carbon sequestration opportunities within Marine Log Handling Tenures.*

Project Partners: Island Timberlands, MC Wright & Associates, Aquatrust Research and Education Society (a First Nations organization).

Geographic Location: British Columbia (Coast)

Technical Overview: This project will research a restoration strategy that uses unutilized portions of marine log handling tenures to simultaneously restore impacted aquatic species habitat, build capacity, create economic opportunities for aboriginal people, and sequester carbon. It builds on successful pilot research, and further evaluates the potential for coastwide (BC, Alaska, Washington) expansion by testing two study sites.

Plain Language Summary: This project aligns with SFI interests to build capacity with First Nations and helps address an important marine ecosystem that has been damaged by forestry activities. The ability of SFI Program Participants to use Marine Log Handling Tenures, an important feature of the BC Coastal industry for helicopter log drops and booming of logs, could be enhanced through this project. The marine restoration perspective helps demonstrate the broader ecosystem interests of SFI and its partners, and our work to conserve and restore ecosystems. Publicity opportunities are intriguing due to the unique and creative nature of the project. The proposal is well written and well scoped. The project is scalable to near shore marine ecosystems on the west coast. But direct linkage to SFI standards are low and the project is relatively expensive.

Total SFI Funds Requested: \$227,000 **Total Leveraged Funds:** \$315,250

Funding Timeline: *Note proposal outlines work until 2017 but does not provide a timeline for expenditures.:

2014	2015	2016	2017
\$56,750	\$56,750	\$56,750	\$56,750

Feedback to Applicant: An excellent proposal, but with low direct linkage to SFI standards. However, SFI sees the merit of marine restoration in areas affected by forest management and is willing to provide seed funding and assist in seeking additional funding partners. Specifically, we would seek to add SFI Program Participants, other coastal forest industry, the Federal Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO), and the provincial Ministry of Forests.

2014 Conservation Partnerships Grant Proposal Summary

Lead Organization Name: University of Tennessee

Title of Proposal: *Tennessee Natural Capital*

Project Partners: ecoReata, Tennessee SIC (Chair: Thomas Kain, Domtar)

Geographic Location: Tennessee

Technical Overview: This project will establish functional methods for quantifying and valuing ecosystem services for primarily five regulatory and voluntary markets including fiber, watershed services, carbon sequestration, biodiversity and recreation, through open-source, geo-imagery, field collected data, and geo-spatial analysis data-mining. Additionally it will determine the feasibility of developing tools and/or practices for maintaining and delivering this information cost-effectively.

Plain Language Summary: Increasingly, managed forests are being valued for their role in ecosystem services. However, it can be costly to consistently and effectively quantify these values. This proposal seeks to use a small (2,260 acres) American Tree Farm certified working forest at the University of Tennessee to develop a web-based system to assess a range of ecosystem services. The results will provide land-owners and managers a simple tool to assess these services. If this pilot proves successful it could, with additional development, assist SFI in its overall endeavor to evaluate and illustrate the ecosystem service values accruing from the quarter billion acres under SFI management. The proposal is well written, adequately scoped and has a strong study team. It is not clear from the proposal how this work will build on previous similar work (e.g., that completed by the state of Georgia).

Total SFI Funds Requested: \$45,191 **Total Leveraged Funds:** \$83,840

Funding Timeline:

2014	2015	2016	2017
\$25,191	\$20,000		

Feedback to Applicant: SFI needs to be clear on how this works relates to work previously done by the University of Georgia and other partners, and to clarify potential synergies between the two projects. Additional partners from state, federal or ENGOs would be helpful.

2014 Conservation Partnerships Grant Proposal Summary

Lead Organization Name: Babine Watershed Trust

Title of Proposal: *Water Quality: Cumulative Effects of Forest Development and Climate Change on Temperature and Sediment*

Project Partners: BC Timber Sales, West Fraser, Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations.

Geographic Location: BC

Technical Overview: This project examines the cumulative effects of development (e.g., forest harvest, roads) and climate change (e.g., glacial melt, changes in rainfall intensity) on two elements of water quality in a watershed world-renowned for fisheries values.

Plain Language Summary: Water quality is an important aspect of forest management activities, particularly in areas with high fisheries values such as the Babine watershed. Like other studies this work will examine the role of water temperature and sediment in this glacier-fed mountain environment. In addition this study will examine the possible role of climate change and how this may influence forest management activities such as road construction and riparian leave areas. It is this examination of climate change related impacts that differentiate this work from other similar studies. This proposal is highly relevant to the SFI standard (Objective 3), and the project is scalable to other SFI locations in mountainous regions. There may be some learnings applicable to broader water quality concepts, and there are positive communications opportunities due to the climate change connection to fisheries. The proposal is well written, well scoped and has a strong study team and partners.

Total SFI Funds Requested: \$40,000 **Total Leveraged Funds:** \$101,000

Funding Timeline:

2014	2015	2016	2017
\$20,000	\$20,000		

Feedback to Applicant: The addition of an aboriginal partner could strongly enhance this proposal. Communications and reporting should emphasize the *climate-related* aspects of the work (because the proposed project activities are broader).

2014 Conservation Partnerships Grant Proposal Summary

Lead Organization Name: University of Wisconsin, Stephens Point

Title of Proposal: *Forest Management at Wisconsin Nature Centers and Camps*

Project Partners: Wisconsin SIC, Upham Woods Outdoor Learning Center, Central Wisconsin Environmental Station, Riveredge Nature Center

Geographic Location: Wisconsin

Technical Overview: Forestry and environmental education faculty will mentor students from UWSP to assist Wisconsin nature centers and camps in the preparation or revision of land management plans, implementation of forest management practices, and design of educational programming to highlight land management practices. The project will work with 12 organizations (6/year).

Plain Language Summary: This project provides direct linkage between University students, and the certification of nature camps under ATFS. Forestry students would be mentored and assisted in the development of management plans and certification of the various camp lands. The impact should be long-lasting, with long-term educational opportunities afforded by certification of the camp lands. Publicity opportunities are positive. The work may be better suited to SFI Community Grants Program, though its price tag is too high for that program. There is no real scalability or methodology gained from this project. While the proposal is admirable there is little direct linkage to SFI.

Total SFI Funds Requested: \$120,000

Total Leveraged Funds: \$180,103

Funding Timeline:

2014	2015	2016	2017
\$60,000	\$60,000		

Feedback to Applicant: Funding from additional partners would help, plus addition of SFI Program Participants, and greater clarity of relevance to SFI. Alternatively the project could be scaled to fit the community grants program.

2014 Conservation Partnerships Grant Proposal Summary

Lead Organization Name: Agroforestry & Woodlot Extension Society (AWES)

Title of Proposal: *AWES Landowner Outreach Program*

Project Partners: To be Confirmed

Geographic Location: Alberta

Technical Overview: The project primarily involves education of landowners and land stewards regarding sustainable forest management practices for the benefit of economic, ecological and social values that are provided by forests. There are 3.6 million hectares of privately owned forest in Alberta and each processing facility in Alberta relies to some extent on these private forests. Improving the education of these forest owners will contribute to the improved management of Alberta forests.

Plain Language Summary: The project illustrates the role of SFI Fiber Sourcing in the Alberta, where current outreach activities could be improved. This organization may prove to be a fertile opportunity for the Canadian Small Landowners project. The Alberta landscape is highly impacted by industrial operations (oil and gas, forestry), making it all the more important to highlight the importance of private forests to Alberta's overall forest land base. The proposal is well written and thought out, but there are no program participants identified, and cost seems high.

Total SFI Funds Requested: \$170,000 **Total Leveraged Funds:** \$170,000

Funding Timeline:

2014	2015	2016	2017
\$56,000	\$56,000	\$56,000	

Feedback to Applicant: Program Participants need to be identified and the proposed budget needs to be reduced, perhaps to a 1 year initial proposal.

2014 Conservation Partnerships Grant Proposal Summary

Lead Organization Name: University of Arkansas

Title of Proposal: *Conservation and Management of Eastern Baccharus, a Rapidly Expanding Native Shrub*

Project Partners: USDA Forest Service, Plum Creek Timber Company, Arkansas Forest Resources Center Cooperative Extension Service

Geographic Location: Arkansas

Technical Overview: This project will examine the causes and potential consequences of EB invasion across the WGCP through literature reviews and empirical observations. We plan outreach to draw attention to the problem and present solutions. Results should improve the conservation of forests and help landowners meet SFI reforestation requirements.

Plain Language Summary: This proposal is very well-conceived and written, and offers an investigative approach to determining the impact and proposing potential control of this invasive species. The proposal addresses the problems created by a specific invasive species, including both ecological impact and recommended control, plus elements of subsequent outreach. Though it is good science, the proposal is hampered by the fact that this a native species turned invasive by forest practices – specifically the proliferation of loblolly pine plantations. One could argue that it wouldn't be invasive if it were not for prevailing plantation management practices. This places the problem outside the purview of the ecological dilemmas typically posed by invasive species, and more in the category of a management/production problem.

Funding Timeline: Total: \$102,411 Total Leveraged Funds: \$210,033

2014	2015	2016	2017
\$34,000	\$34,000	\$34,411	

Feedback to Applicant: Utilize this scientific methodology and holistic approach on an exotic invasive that affects native forests of conservation importance (eg. Cogongrass in longleaf pine, or hemlock wooly adelgid in the Southern Appalachian region, etc.)

2014 Conservation Partnerships Grant Proposal Summary

Lead Organization Name: Alabama Forestry Foundation (#2)

Title of Proposal: *Promoting Stewardship and Expanding Forest Certification in High Priority Landscapes in Alabama*

Project Partners: Alabama Forestry Association, The Westervelt Company, Alabama Loggers Council, Alabama Tree Farm Committee, Alabama Forests Forever Foundation

Geographic Location: Alabama

Technical Overview: Project will leverage resources of sponsors and partners to promote sustainable management, enhance forest productivity, promote biological diversity, and increase forest certification across Alabama. Project will target landowners located in ecologically important landscapes and key watersheds around the state.

Plain Language Summary: This project proposes to support expansion of the American Tree Farm System in Alabama, using the basic approach of identifying significant landscapes, and locating and communicating with landowners in those places. Because the project extends the use of past practices for engaging landowners, it lacks the leverage of the AFF project currently being funded by SFI in North Carolina, and by other projects utilizing innovative outreach approaches in Mississippi and Wisconsin. The project speaks to landowner outreach, and general advancement of sustainable forestry as it relates to fiber sourcing, with additional elements of ATFS certification.

Total SFI Funds Requested: \$30,000

Total Leveraged Funds: \$64,300

Funding Timeline:

2014	2015	2016	2017
\$30,000			

Feedback to Applicant: With fewer than 10% of NIPF landowners having a forest management plan, and fewer still engaged in certification, innovation and leverage are critical to the success of a proposal on this topic. Some clarity of the intersection and opportunities posed by the SFI Forest Partners program would also strengthen the proposal.

2014 Conservation Partnerships Grant Proposal Summary

Lead Organization Name: University of Georgia Research Foundation

Title of Proposal: *How do Various Silvicultural Practices Affect Carbon Savings at the Stand Level and the Carbon Intensity of Wood Pellets at the Landscape Level.*

Project Partners: Georgia SIC

Geographic Location: Georgia

Technical Overview: This research will substantially increase the capacity of southern forestland owners in evaluating impacts of silvicultural practices on overall carbon savings at the stand level by considering carbon sequestered on forestlands, carbon in wood products and present in landfills, and avoided carbon emissions over time. Impact of various silvicultural practices on the carbon intensity of wood pellets at landscape level will help in ensuring the sustainability of emerging transatlantic wood pellet trade. An economic analysis will explain tradeoffs.

Plain Language Summary: This highly technical proposal suggests a strategy, building on past work at University of Georgia, to examine the impact of silvicultural practices on the carbon properties of wood pellets. The proposal also has a component related to studying carbon life cycle to bolster the argument for the sustainability of forests grown for this purpose. This project holds promise for informing LCA related to carbon and wood pellet creation/use, and additionally makes the direct connection between silvicultural practices in the field, and carbon sequestered. However, the proposal is hampered by the difficult and highly technical nature of the subject, and the difficulty of conveying the potential impacts of project outcomes. Also, many of the questions to be addressed fall within the category of business analysis, rather than conservation impact. Funding leverage is low and partners lacking.

Total SFI Funds Requested: \$36,404 Total Leveraged Funds: \$42,904

Funding Timeline:

2014	2015	2016	2017
\$18,202	\$18,202		

Feedback to Applicant: Bring in more partners and greater leverage of funds. Clarify and emphasize the conservation impact in more easily understood terms.

2014 Conservation Partnerships Grant Proposal Summary

Lead Organization Name: American Forest Foundation

Title of Proposal (Original): *The Phase 2 – Using Social Marketing to Engage North Carolina Woodlands Owners in ATFS and Longleaf Restoration*

Project Partners: North Carolina Tree Farm Committee

Geographic Location: North Carolina

Technical Overview: This project is the second phase of an existing project that focuses on outreach to family forestland owners to motivate certification under the American Tree Farm System. This effort further refines the data from Phase I and includes a full campaign that will potentially return a significantly higher percentage of landowners who opt to participate in ATFS Certification and Longleaf restoration, as compared to traditional, less-targeted approaches.

Plain Language Summary: The project provides an important linkage between certified lands and conservation of biological diversity at landscape-scale, through the intersection of outreach and targeted work within a significant longleaf landscape. This is characterized as a continuation of last year's grant, without any new elements specified. Without any progress reports yet submitted, it's difficult to assess progress toward stated goals on the 2013 grant at this time – in light of the high competition for grant dollars, it makes sense to evaluate performance on the first grant before making another. Additionally, there are no SFI partners listed,

Total SFI Funds Requested: \$50,000 Total Leveraged Funds: \$100,000

Project Timeline:

2014	2015	2016	2017
\$25,000	\$25,000		

Feedback to Applicant: While we believe in the potential value of this project, it will help to have more clarity on how this builds on information gained in Phase 1, plus more detail on the innovative practices to be employed in this phase. Adding SFI Program Participant partners is critical.

2014 Conservation Partnerships Grant Proposal Summary

Lead Organization Name: Virginia Tech

Title of Proposal: *Evaluation of an SFI Logger Training Program for Protecting Water Quality*

Project Partners: Virginia SIC

Geographic Location: Virginia

Technical Overview: This project will evaluate the most effective methods for training loggers and others that implement BMPs to protect water quality and will evaluate the ability of logger training programs to improve implementation of BMPs for water quality.

Plain Language Summary: The proposal suggests a study to determine whether different logger training methods actually render different results in the way they implement BMPs on the ground. Logger Training is an important aspect of SFI's Fiber Sourcing, and this project speaks to Objective 3 – Protection and Maintenance of Water Quality; Objective 10 – Adherence to Best Management Practices; Objective 16 – Training and Education. Though the project attempts to link efficacy of training to efficacy of implementation, the linkage is insufficiently clear. More importantly, the match is expressed as tuition, and unrecovered indirect costs. Very little actual match money is balanced against the SFI dollars, and partners are lacking.

Total SFI Funding Requested: \$59,173

Total Leveraged Funds: \$120,616

Project Timeline:

2014	2015	2016	2017
\$22,500	\$22,500	\$14,193	

Feedback to Applicant: More partners, and more investment would both help this project. The scientific construct may be sound, but it's difficult to ascertain that there would be clear linkage to enable improvement and scaling up of training as a result.

2014 Conservation Partnerships Grant Proposal Summary

Lead Organization Name: Virginia Tech, University of Montana

Title of Proposal: *Forest Regeneration Tools for Appalachian Landowners*

Project Partners: Virginia Tech, University of Montana, Plum Creek Timber Company, USDA Forest Service, Virginia Department of Forestry

Geographic Location: Southern Appalachians

Technical Overview: Lack of knowledge about regeneration outcomes after forest disturbance remains one of the most critical problems facing Appalachian landowners. We propose to create tools that will enable forest landowners to accurately predict the suite of regeneration species that will successfully grow to maturity after forest cuttings and natural disturbances.

Plain Language Summary: This proposal suggests that lack of understanding regarding regeneration outcomes is a vexing problem that must be solved in the Southern Appalachians, and that landowners desperately need and desire a solution. The solution offered here is the development of a growth and yield modeling tool to be used by landowners (presumably industrial landowners, primarily). Though the project does seem to meet the test of relevancy to certain SFI standards related to productivity and regenerations, the fundamental problem is more along the lines of a business/productivity problem, than a conservation question appropriate for the application of these funds.

Total SFI Funds Requested: \$60,000 Total Leveraged Funds: \$142,000

- Note that the timeframe unclear, but implies completion 2017

2014	2015	2016	2017
\$15,000	\$15,000	\$15,000	\$15,000

Feedback to Applicant: This is a second submission of the same project from last year. They made a good effort to improve, but the premise seems flawed – that “reforestation and by extension tree composition and forest structure are THE most critical forest landowner information needs.” This could be true for corporate forest landowners, but it is a business challenge to work out (rather than a conservation challenge).

2014 Conservation Partnerships Grant Proposal Summary

Lead Organization Name: The American Chestnut Foundation

Title of Proposal: *Reforestation of Surface-Mined Land to Native Hardwoods*

Project Partners: Green Forests Work, Molpus Timberlands Management,

Geographic Location: Tennessee

Technical Overview: This project will return 15 acres of reclaimed surface mine to native hardwoods, including TACF's potentially blight-resistant American chestnuts. The area has been reclaimed in the traditional manner of compacting the soil and seeding competitive non-native grasses and legumes.

Plain Language Summary: Former strip-mined lands often remain unproductive for generations, partly as a consequence of requirements by the Bureau of Mined Land Reclamation regarding shaping and compaction of the site. Silviculturalists have been wrestling with this issue for the last couple decades or more, trying to develop both policy and forest management strategies to address the problem. This project is pretty straightforward, and suggests using American Chestnut hybrid seedlings developed by TACF to attempt restoration of a former mined site. The project melds the objectives of returning a lost species to the landscape, with the objective of restoring native forest under very difficult circumstances. Though both objectives seem initially appealing, replicability is extremely limited, and the cost per acre is sufficiently high to limit future interest by other landowners, making the project inherently difficult to scale upward.

Total SFI Funds Requested: \$39,138

Total Leveraged Funds: \$66,884

- Note that timing of distribution unclear – bulk of expenses may be front-loaded due to site preparation costs

2014	2015	2016	2017
\$25,000	\$14,138*		

Opportunities for Improvement: If the project were expanded to include elements of restoration of the full range of biodiversity of the original ecosystem, it would be more attractive, but probably even more cost-prohibitive. American Chestnut reintroduction is likely to be more scalable in natural forest conditions.

2014 Conservation Partnerships Grant Proposal Summary

*** Grants Management Committee members will note that the proposal from the Canadian Institute of Forestry presents a potential Conflict of Interest, as Tat Smith is listed as an advisor. Any discussion of this grant will require that Dr. Smith be recused from the discussion. We will flag that situation at the appropriate time.**

Lead Organization Name: Canadian Institute of Forestry

Title of Proposal: *An environmental and economic analysis for the sustainable procurement of wood fibre for bioenergy.*

Project Partners: Pineland Forest Nursery, University of Manitoba, University of Winnipeg, Manitoba Hydro, Manitoba Conservation, University of Toronto, Manitoba Forestry Association, SFI CCSIC (Chair: Mike Maxfield, Resolute), Weyerhaeuser, Louisiana Pacific, Manitoba Model Forest

Geographic Location: Manitoba

Technical Overview: A bioenergy case study analysis and synthesis of the fundamental differences between biomass harvests compared to current harvest practices contrasted with natural disturbances. The study will focus on the economic viability, ecological integrity and social benefits of utilizing forest harvest residues, and residual trees for bioenergy- using the Pineland Nursery model.

Plain Language Summary: The proposal addresses the very topical area of forest harvesting for biomass use and the eventual use on-site by a combined heat and power system of the Pineland Nursery in Manitoba. The proposal would examine a number of harvest sites for biodiversity and forest health impacts relevant to two control sites, a conventional harvest and a whole tree biomass harvest. The proposal also suggests commenting on international policy. The study aligns with several aspects of the SFI standard including forest health. The review team feels that the proposal is too broad in scope, ranging from site specific harvesting impacts to influencing international policy on bioenergy. The suggested outcomes may not be achievable within the scope of the project.

Total SFI Contribution: \$85,000 **Total Project Budget:** \$190,000

Funding Timeline:

2014	2015	2016	2017
\$40,000	\$45,000		

Feedback to Applicant: The topic of the proposal and the potential partners are strong. The scope should be narrowed to ensure completion. Because complete tree removal represents an extreme example of biomass harvesting, SFI suggests the project examine more conventional harvesting scenarios. There should be more clarity regarding roles of each of the partners as some seem to be extensively involved and others less so.

2014 Conservation Partnerships Grant Proposal Summary

Lead Organization Name: Clarkson University

Title of Proposal: *Identifying best management practices for improving boreal bird species diversity in managed forests of the northeast.*

Project Partners: New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, State University of New York College at Potsdam

Geographic Location: New York (with application in Ontario, Quebec, ME, NH)

Technical Overview: This project focuses on identifying best management practices for boreal birds by incorporating results of evaluations of boreal bird diversity and abundance in multiple sites managed to varying degrees and varying time since management. Best management practices will also incorporate stakeholder input and meet SFI standards.

Plain Language Summary: The project would survey bird abundance and diversity in managed and unmanaged boreal forest in New York. The surveys would assist in understanding forest management regimes for species such as the rare spruce grouse and boreal songbirds. This project speaks to habitat protection and wildlife management objectives, as elements of the SFI standard. The proposal is well-written, well scoped and has a strong project team including New York state as a Program Participant. However, the work is redundant to work SFI is already doing with Audubon, and considering with ABC. Tuition costs are characterized as matching funds, so leverage is not as great as portrayed.

Total SFI Funds Requested: \$54,135 Total Leveraged Funds: \$147,797

Funding Timeline:

2014	2015	2016	2017
\$33,360	\$10,388	\$10,387	

Feedback to Applicant: This is an excellent proposal but we are already heavily engaged with bird partners in the New York area. Once our work with Audubon and/or ABC is further along, Clarkson could be considered a partner in the next phase of work with one or both of those partners.

2014 Conservation Partnerships Grant Proposal Summary

Lead Organization Name: National Wild Turkey Federation

Title of Proposal: *Driftless Network Landowner Outreach: Testing and Implementing Landowner Outreach to Address Declining Early Successional Oak Habitat*

Project Partners: Aldo Leopold Foundation, American Forest Foundation, Wisconsin DNR

Geographic Location: Wisconsin

Technical Overview: Develop new strategies, drawing from the principles of social marketing, to inform and encourage landowners to carry out sustainable practices that favor regeneration of oak forests, a declining habitat across the Eastern U.S.

Plain Language Summary: This project parallels work of AFF and partners in Mississippi and North Carolina, with a focus on early successional oak habitat, rather than longleaf pine. The heart of the strategy is the application of new database and marketing methods to reach landowners more efficiently, to lead them to sustainable forest management, and ATFS certification. Specifically, this work builds on past work of partners in the Driftless Network. Though the landscape, the partners and the project itself seem worthy, this project proposes to test the same targeted marketing techniques being tested in the North Carolina project already being funded by SFI, and lacks the specific linkage to SFI Program Participants.

Total SFI Funds Requested: \$60,000 Total Leveraged Funds: \$118,485

Project Timeline:

2014	2015	2016	2017
\$30,000	\$30,000		

Feedback to Applicant: Specific linkage between this project, including its proposed innovative approach, and Program Participants would help to strengthen, but it still appears redundant to the project currently funded by SFI through AFF in North Carolina. The specific linkage to declining habitat is a plus, but not sufficient to compete with other proposals. Partners should consider an over-arching proposal with linkage across multiple landscapes (eg. WI, MS and NC).

2014 Conservation Partnerships Grant Proposal Summary

Lead Organization Name: Tlowitsis Tribe

Title of Proposal: *Assessment of Non Timber Resources on Tlowitsis Traditional Territory.*

Project Partners: Western Forest Products (PEFC not SFI)

Geographic Location: British Columbia

Technical Overview: The goal of this project is to develop protocols with tenure holders to maximize asset recovery prior to harvesting. Method: Search for and catalogue non timber assets within Tlowitsis traditional territory, which is located in the Great Bear Rain Forest and on Vancouver Island. Negotiate protocols as above and develop harvesting business in conjunction with an existing entity.

Plain Language Summary: This proposal would assist SFI in building relations with First Nations, and it has direct relevance to the standard (Performance Measure 18.2). The proposal is similar to work completed by Tk'emlups in 2013 and proposed by the Heiltsuk for 2014. However, the proposal is very brief and offers little indication on how proposal objectives will be achieved, and the requested funding is very high. In addition, no SFI Program Participants have been identified as partners.

Total SFI Funds Requested: \$170,000 **Total Leveraged Funds:** \$250,000

Funding Timeline:

2014	2015	2016	2017
\$85,000	\$85,000		

Feedback to Applicant: Greater clarity on how proposal objectives will be achieved. Suggest a lower cost, and require identification of a SFI Program participant.

2014 Conservation Partnerships Grant Proposal Summary

Lead Organization Name: Alabama Forestry Foundation #1

Title of Proposal: *Improving Wildlife Habitat Through Forest Management Practices*

Project Partners: Mississippi Forestry Association, The Westervelt Company, Alabama Loggers Council, Alabama Tree Farm Committee

Geographic Location: Mississippi and Alabama

Technical Overview: Develop DVD-based educational material for landowners, foresters and loggers demonstrating how forest management practices can be used to improve wildlife habitat and promote biological diversity. Material will be developed for two states and will be produced in a way that can be used in other southern states.

Plain Language Summary: This project proposes developing a DVD-based program to demonstrate sustainable forest management for landowners. This project would support fiber sourcing and specifically Objective 8 – Landowner Outreach, Objective 16 – Training and Education, Objective 17 – Community Involvement in Sustainable Forestry. Producing a DVD is an idea that’s been explored by others before, without significant long-term impact on forest management practices or long-term behavior. The project only achieves “scale” through distribution, but the distribution suggested in this proposal lacks creativity.

Total SFI Funds Requested: \$60,000 Total Leveraged Funds: \$83,000

Project Timeline:

2014	2015	2016	2017
\$30,000	\$30,000		

Feedback to Applicant: Finding a means to leverage the basic “video” idea through social media, creative voices (eg. Celebrity spokespersons), or other creative means, would help. Additionally, it would help to have a clearly articulated plan for creative distribution in a way that is both innovative and replicable.

2014 Conservation Partnerships Grant Proposal Summary

Lead Organization Name: Alliance for Cheseapeake Bay

Title of Proposal: *Maryland Public Television Sustainable Forestry Program*

Project Partners: Maryland Forest Service, University of Maryland Extension, Maryland Tree Farm Committee.

Geographic Location: Maryland

Technical Overview: The project will be a 30 minute TV program depicting sustainable forest management. It will highlight a forest landowner that is a member of the ATFS, potentially a mill that uses sustainable forest products, and in general informs the public about opportunities for sustainable forest management.

Plain Language Summary: The project proposes production and distribution of a television program promoting sustainable forest management. Development of a television program for public consumption an idea which has been tried before, and promises limited impact without innovate production and distribution. The suggested distribution approach is through public television, but it's unclear how broader distribution will be achieved, or how the production will raise interest and compete for consumers' attention. No SFI Program Participant partners are identified. The linkage to Chesapeake Bay could be compelling, but is not a central part of this proposal, beyond being submitted by that organization.

Total SFI Funds Requested: \$48,000 Total Leveraged Funds: \$60,000

2014	2015	2016	2017
\$24,000	\$24,000		

Feedback to Applicant: Consider creating public education programs that utilize social media in innovative ways, perhaps to include celebrity voices, or other ways to compel audiences. Leverage through distribution is also important, and should be made clear in the proposal. Be sure to include SFI PPs.

2014 Conservation Partnerships Grant Proposal Summary

Lead Organization Name: Blackfoot Challenge

Title of Proposal: *Blackfoot Community Conservation Area (BCCA)- Best Management Practice Project*

Project Partners: Pyramid Mountain Lumber, Inc., The Nature Conservancy, MT Dept Natural Resources and Conservation, MT Fish, Wildlife, and Parks, Big Blackfoot Chapter of Trout Unlimited, and US Fish and Wildlife Service

Geographic Location: US North West – Montana

Technical Overview: The project aims to improve and maintain water quality and aquatic organism passage to Warren Creek through the implementation of BMPs along the historic Haul Road. The project will also increase awareness of BMPs and develop a framework among multiple road users to sustain BMP standards into the future.

Plain Language Summary: This project has a number of relevant partners, is well scoped and well written. However, the project scope is limited to 4.2 miles of road and 7 stream/wetland crossings, using existing BMPs. The efforts to increase awareness would be limited to signs in the local area and outreach to the local community. The proposal could be significantly enhanced by broader public education efforts, more innovative approaches to BMPs or a desire to research the effectiveness of the BMP practices employed.

Total SFI Contribution: \$28,510 **Total Funds Leveraged:** \$58,380

Funding Timeline:

2014	2015	2016	2017
\$23,000	\$5,510		

Feedback to Applicant: The proposal could have sought opportunities to quantify the impact of BMPs, look for ways to provide learnings to other watersheds, investigate other impacts in the watershed (e.g., climate change, cumulative effects), or utilize innovative (rather than traditional) approaches to BMP crossings.

2014 Conservation Partnerships Grant Proposal Summary

Lead Organization Name: Clackamas River Basin Council

Title of Proposal: *Collaborative Stewardship Capacity Building Project*

Project Partners: Interfor U.S., Inc.

Geographic Location: US North West – Oregon

Technical Overview: This project will evaluate CSP financial support alternatives; include prioritized components into ongoing strategic planning activities and produce a multi-year CSP business plan that expands, diversifies and stabilizes financial support sufficient to implement the strategic plan.

Plain Language Summary: The proponent is seeking for us to fund the development of their business plan. While we understand the need, SFI does not provide financing for the development of business plans. There is also no funding leverage for this project.

Total SFI Funds Requested: \$24,000 **Total Leveraged Funds:** \$24,000

Funding Timeline:

2014	2015	2016	2017
\$6,000	\$8,000	\$10,000	n/a

Feedback to Applicant: The proponent should focus future efforts on specific elements that relate to SFI programs, or conservation implementation. A quick review of their website indicated many possible opportunities including work with Tribes, Invasive plants etc.