



SUSTAINABLE FORESTRY INITIATIVE

Founded in 1995, the Sustainable Forestry Initiative® is an independent, non-profit organization dedicated to promoting sustainable forest management. While we develop and oversee standards for forest management and the forest products supply chain, we are more than a set of standards — we are a community that stands for future forests. SFI works at the intersection of thriving forests, sustainable communities and responsible procurement.

SFI® Inc. is governed by the SFI Board, which sets SFI's strategic direction and is responsible for overseeing and improving the internationally recognized SFI Program and SFI Standards. The Board's three chambers represent environmental, social and economic sectors equally.

Forests certified to the SFI Forest Management Standard cover more than a quarter-billion acres/100 million hectares, stretching from Canada's boreal forest to the U.S. South.

These forests contribute to the overall quality of life of millions of people throughout the United States and Canada, and generate forest products utilized in more than 120 countries worldwide.

Ninety percent of the world's forests are not certified to any forest standard. In the U.S. and Canada, SFI elevates sustainable forestry on non-certified lands through our Fiber Sourcing Standard. The rigorous SFI Chain-of-Custody requirements track fiber from certified forest content, certified sourcing and post-consumer recycled material, with third party audits to verify performance. Together, these standards form the foundation of SFI's approach. By engaging with our grassroots SFI Implementation Committees and organizations participating in the SFI Conservation and Community Grants Program, SFI has nurtured a community that reaches across the range of values and outputs generated by sustainably managed forests.

SFI works to ensure the health and future of our forests, because forests are a part of our everyday lives. Growing this future will require a broad range of partnerships and expertise. SFI brings landowners and brand owners from across the supply chain together with communities, government agencies, conservation groups and other key interests to advance understanding and ensure a better future for all of us.

SFI's Strengths	How We Do It
SFI Board of Directors	<p>SFI started as an industry-led initiative to promote sustainable forestry practices. Over the past two decades, it has evolved into an internationally endorsed forest certification program. Similarly, those who use the SFI Standards have grown from just industry users to a diverse group including conservation organizations, community groups, the public sector, universities, indigenous peoples, and many more. Now a fully independent, multi-stakeholder organization, SFI is widely regarded as a leader in promoting responsible forestry, conservation and sustainable communities.</p> <p>SFI is an independent, registered charitable organization under section 501(c)(3) of the United States Internal Revenue Code. It promotes sustainable forest management across North America and responsible fiber procurement globally.</p> <p>SFI Inc.'s 18-member multi-stakeholder Board of Directors comprises three chambers, representing environmental, economic and social interests equally, so it can meet the many needs of forests and communities. Board members include representatives of environmental, conservation, professional and academic groups, independent professional loggers, family forest owners, public officials, labor and the forest products industry. This diversity reflects the variety of interests in the forestry community.</p>

SFI External Review Panel	<p>The SFI External Review Panel is an independent body of experts that provides diverse perspectives and expertise to the SFI program while contributing to quality assurance and continuous improvement. This volunteer panel is made up of 15 to 18 external experts representing conservation, environmental, forestry, academic, public and government organizations.</p> <p>The panel's oversight helps ensure SFI Inc.'s annual progress report and the data in it are objective, meaningful and credible.</p> <p>The panel also monitors the SFI Standard revision process, which happens every five years, to ensure it is open and fair. Independent oversight was provided at each stage of the revision process by the SFI External Review Panel. The SFI External Review Panel reviewed every public comment submitted to ensure that all comments were considered, and to guarantee the Standard revision process was transparent, objective and credible. The SFI External Review Panel selects its own members for their individual expertise and experience, following an election process set out in its charter. It develops its own agenda to represent the public interest as an outside observer of the SFI program.</p>
Unique SFI Fiber Sourcing Standard	<p>Unique to SFI is SFI's Fiber Sourcing Standard. No other forest certification program takes a proactive approach in addressing the non-certified fiber in a supply chain. The SFI Fiber Sourcing Standard is purposefully designed to influence millions of additional landowners through promotion, education, training, and outreach. For sources originating from within the United States and Canada, SFI Program Participants must comply with all applicable laws and also broaden the practice of responsible forestry. This is accomplished in multiple ways, including addressing the conservation of biodiversity for Forests with Exceptional Conservation Value in harvests of purchased stumpage, and utilizing the services of qualified logging professionals, certified logging professionals and resource professionals. SFI Program Participants must also invest in forestry research, science and technology, and develop verifiable monitoring systems to evaluate the use of best management practices across the wood and fiber supply area.</p>
Research Requirements	<p>SFI is the only forest certification program in North America that requires participants to support research to improve forest health, productivity, conservation understanding, and sustainable management of forest resources.</p> <p>Supporting research is a central tenet of the SFI program. We see it as a way to further the conservation value of SFI-certified forests and lands subject to SFI's fiber-sourcing requirements.</p> <p>Since 1995, SFI Program Participants have directly invested nearly \$1.5 billion in forest research. In 2014, nearly 80% of these investments were allocated to conservation-related objectives.</p>
Best Management Practices for Water Quality	<p>SFI has a very comprehensive program to protect water quality. First, SFI mandates the use of best management practices (BMPs) to protect water quality in lakes and streams and other water bodies. These BMPs must meet or exceed federal, provincial, state and local water quality laws. State BMP Programs are developed through a public process and these serve the "backbone" of water quality protection.</p> <p>In addition, SFI also requires Program Participants to develop and fully implement a comprehensive program addressing management and protection of rivers, streams, lakes, wetlands, other water bodies and riparian areas during <u>all</u> phases of forest management. A new requirement in the 2015-2019 SFI Standard is for SFI Program Participants to, "implement water, wetlands, and riparian protection measures based on soil type, terrain, vegetation, ecological function, harvesting system, state BMPs, provincial guidelines and other applicable factors."</p> <p>Since the majority of the fiber in the U.S. comes from non-certified lands, as an added layer of water protection, SFI requires Program Participants who buy logs from non-certified lands</p>

	to comply with best management practices to protect water quality on that fiber supply as well. As a result, the use of BMPs extends well beyond the lands that Program Participants own or control directly.
Training of Logger and Resource Management Professional	<p>Training of Logger and Resource Management Professionals remains a core priority of SFI Implementation Committees, in partnership with universities, state forestry associations and government agencies.</p> <p>In 1995, 34% of all fiber brought to SFI Program Participant mills was delivered by harvesting professionals who had been trained in sustainable forestry practices. Today that percentage is more than 95%. Training programs of SFI Implementation Committees are widely recognized by government agencies and academics as a primary reason for higher rates of water quality best management practice implementation — now at an all-time high.</p>
Landowner Outreach	SFI is the only Standard that requires certified organizations to provide education and outreach to forest landowners describing the importance of best management practices; reforestation and afforestation; visual quality management; conservation objectives, such as of critical wildlife habitat elements, biodiversity, threatened and endangered species, and Forests with Exceptional Conservation Value and other important measures to ensure all forestland is managed in a responsible way.
SFI Implementation Committees (SIC)	<p>SFI Implementation Committees are our strongest asset when it comes to community leadership. This grassroots network works with local conservation groups, government agencies, forestry and professional associations, landowner groups and many others to conduct landowner outreach and community engagement activities.</p> <p>SFI has 34 SFI Implementation Committees representing close to 1,000 volunteers in 43 states and provinces. They are a critical part of our work promoting the SFI Standards, collaborating on the training of harvesting professionals and connecting people and communities to the forest.</p>
SFI Forest Partners Program	In 2010, four market leaders — Time Inc., the National Geographic Society, Macmillan Publishers and Pearson — founded the SFI Forest Partners® Program with additional support from Hearst Enterprises. The commitment of these market leaders is to increase certification across the supply chain, helping to safeguard environmental values, support sustainable communities and expand market access. The SFI Forest Partners Program has a goal of certifying 10 million acres/4 million hectares by the end of 2017, starting in the U.S. South.
Community Grants	The SFI Community Grants Program has awarded 25 community-based grants to date covering a range of topics including youth initiatives, helping underserved communities, professional development, supporting Tribal and Aboriginal values and promoting SFI Standards. The projects support SFI's core mission to connect communities to forests and to educate the next generation of future forest leaders.
Conservation Grants	<p>Since 2010, SFI has awarded more than 50 SFI Conservation and Community Partnerships grants totaling more than \$1.9 million to foster research and to pilot efforts to better inform future decisions about our forests. When leveraged with project partner contributions, that total investment exceeds \$7.1 million. Grant recipients include organizations like Audubon Society, Nature Conservancy of Canada, Heiltsuk First Nation, the American Bird Conservancy and World Resources Institute.</p> <p>SFI Conservation Grants vary as dramatically as the forests that they touch. Past projects have included research to better understand the nutrition requirements of woodland caribou, to support longleaf pine ecosystem restoration in the U.S. South, and to develop best practices for bird habitat management in forests of the northeastern U.S. and the Rocky Mountain region. Grant projects also helped identify the value of SFI programs in improving water quality and ensure that forested wetlands continue to provide healthy habitat for waterfowl.</p>
Aboriginal & Tribal Lands	SFI certified forestland with Aboriginal and Tribal partners covers an area greater than 6.8 million acres (2.7 million hectares) — that's bigger than the forested lands of New Hampshire and Connecticut, and more than any other certification standard in North America. Over 30

	<p>Aboriginal and Tribal communities and businesses work to maintain SFI certification on these lands.</p> <p>SFI also has indigenous interests represented on the SFI Board of Directors through the appointment of David Walkem, Chief of the Cooks Ferry Indian Band in southern British Columbia, President of Stuwix Resources Joint Venture which manages a forest license for eight shareholder First Nations in British Columbia.</p>
Recreational Opportunities	<p>Forests certified to the SFI Forest Management Standard are widely available for outdoor recreation. In fact, since 2007, the forests available for outdoor enthusiasts has grown more than threefold, from 70 million acres to more than 230 million acres, representing 97% of all forestlands certified to the SFI Forest Management Standard. The SFI Program creates wildlife habitat and promotes best management practices for water quality so that your community, which is our community, can have vibrant spaces and places to recreate.</p> <p>Every year millions of hunters and anglers, hikers, birdwatchers, campers and other outdoor enthusiasts use more than 230 million acres of forestlands that are certified to the SFI Standard.</p>
Boy Scouts of America and Scouts Canada	<p>In 2012, the Boy Scouts of America and SFI signed a memorandum of mutual support agreeing to work together to demonstrate forest stewardship and environmental education for America's youth. The MOU encourages more SFI program participants, including members of community-based SFI Implementation Committees, to volunteer as merit badge counselors, providing expertise through talks or tours for individual scouts or local scouting units who want to earn elective Forestry, Environmental Science, and Pulp and Paper merit badges. In addition to its merit badges, the Boy Scouts of America has certified its Philmont Scout Ranch in New Mexico to the SFI 2010-2014 Standard, and its <i>Scouting</i> and <i>Boys' Life</i> magazines are printed on SFI chain-of-custody certified paper.</p> <p>In 2013, SFI and Scouts Canada announced a new partnership aimed at strengthening and expanding the organizations mutual goals for environmental stewardship. This MOU builds on SFI's relationship with Scouts Canada, teaching youth about sustainable forestry, environmental conservation, and using natural resources wisely, all while having fun.</p>
Habitat for Humanity	<p>SFI and Habitat for Humanity International signed a memorandum of understanding to encourage the use of wood products certified to the SFI Standard on Habitat for Humanity construction sites.</p> <p>Through partnerships with Habitat for Humanity affiliates across North America, the SFI program has played a role in putting low-income working families into their own homes. These efforts have included more than 4,000 volunteer hours and many certified building materials such as panel products, lumber and engineered wood products. Some projects have even tracked the wood used to build the home back to the forest where the wood was grown, helping homeowners understand the link between their new home and sustainable forest management. SFI has also worked with the National Association of Home Builders and Built Green Canada to support green building certification of Habitat homes.</p> <p>Working with Habitat for Humanity is just one of the important ways that SFI Implementation Committees promote the SFI Standard as a means to broaden the practice of responsible forestry and make progress on the ground.</p>
SFI as Low Risk Fiber	<p>The SFI standard applies to forest management in the U.S and Canada. SFI does not certify forestland operations in other parts of the world. Because of this, SFI offers low risk fiber from countries with strong legal and regulatory frameworks in place.</p>