

**SFI Inc. Conservation and Community Grant Program**

**2016 COMMUNITY GRANT PROPOSAL SUMMARIES**

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**Lead Organization Name:** Black Family Land Trust Inc.

**Title of Proposal:** Sustainable Forestry African American Land Retention Project/A Tree Is A Tree

**Key Priority Area:** This project aligns with SFI's community engagement priority of "support of underserved communities through forestry."

**Headline:** African American Forest Landowners Receive Support for Maintaining Working Forests

**Geographic Location:** US - Virginia

**Project Overview:** To retain the woodland assets of Southside Virginia African American tobacco farmers that participated in the USDA buyout program with 20 or more acres of land or family clusters of contiguous land that cumulatively equals 20 or more acres of land.

**Project Partners:** Virginia Department of Forestry, US Endowment for Forestry & Communities

**Funding Timeline:** 36 months

**Total SFI Funding requested:** \$30,000

2017	2018	2019
\$10,000	\$10,000	\$10,000

**Leveraged Funds:** \$280,000

**Relevancy to SFI:** This project aligns well with the SFI Community engagement priority of "support of underserved communities through forestry," and will help SFI Inc. meet our strategic goals on African American land retention.

**Communication Opportunity:** SFI Inc. will work with the lead organization and partners to promote the project in newsletters, press releases and social media, as appropriate.

**Comments:** As noted in the proposal, "Southside Virginia has one of the highest concentrations of forested and farm land held by African Americans in the state." This project would seek to retain African American land in working forests, and assist those landowners in understanding the many benefits forestland can bring to a family. BFLT is a key leader in this issue area, and it would serve SFI Inc. well to partner with them on this project. SFI Inc. will also connect BFLT with the Virginia SFI Implementation Committee, as they are currently not involved as a project partner. SFI Inc. has requested a more detailed project budget, outlining the total project activities and associated budget. The budget provided with their application listed only the portion they were asking of SFI Inc. SFI Inc. is estimating the additional leveraged funds, as SFI Inc. based on our knowledge of other dollars for the project from partner organizations.

**Lead Organization Name:** Centre for Forest Interdisciplinary Research (C-FIR), University of Winnipeg

**Title of Proposal:** Sharing the Boreal

**Key Priority Area:** Indigenous

**Headline:** SFI Grant Funds Canadian National Research Network

**Geographic Location:** Canada - Winnipeg

**Project Overview:** Sharing the Boreal involves the creation of an active collaborative knowledge forum to support ongoing networking and practical research extension work critical to engaging diverse forest groups in processes of innovation.

**Project Partners:** Canadian Council of Aboriginal Business

**Funding Timeline:** 6 months

**Total SFI Funding request:** \$ 10,000

2017	2018	2019
\$ 10,000		

**Leveraged Funds:** \$ 18,074

**Relevancy to SFI:** This project is a natural fit with several of the focal areas outlined for SFI's Community Grant opportunity. In particular, the proposed network is directly concerned with education and training for professionals and practitioners. Conventional forestry training is evolving and the network of partners needed to address complex forest issues is expanding and becoming more diverse. This is demonstrated by the rebranding exercises that have swept across Canada's forestry schools, associations, institutes, and government agencies. More importantly perhaps is the co-learning that now takes place as a result of the collaborative engagements involving Aboriginal groups, towns, firms and government, for example. Ultimately, successful SSHRC proposals will create further opportunities to collaboratively investigate and develop training and education modules specified to sustainable forest management issues (i.e., which could include items relevant to SFI).

The network will also support and promote Aboriginal values through maintaining close partnerships with Aboriginal organizations and representatives. Aboriginal engagement has been part of this effort from step one and remains ongoing. The partnership will benefit from the guidance of Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal partners who are committed to working together and have experience in cross-cultural collaborative forestry settings. Our network initiative will also enable Aboriginal partners and other communities to enhance community and forest sustainability.

Our partnership is designed to serve underserved communities and so is a close fit with this SFI objective. For example, the research network is meant to link forest users of many stripes to knowledge and resources for improving sustainable management of forests. Target users are

typically Indigenous and non-Indigenous community groups that do not have ready access to forest management extension services and expertise. The network will thus fill a significant capacity and training gap, but do so in a way that mobilizes and augments community resources to build much-needed capacity. Part of linking communities and local practitioners with resources will include promoting awareness for the importance of forest certification.

This SFI seed funding, if granted, will provide on-the-ground and on-line support opportunities to kick-start the Sharing the Boreal partnership. We have achieved a leveraging of 1:1.8 matching cash and in-kind support (i.e., SFI to partner) for this project and anticipate that our collaboration with SFI will lead to a successful SSHRC LOI award to support work on the Partnership Grant proposal (note: a successful LOI would boost leveraged contributions to 1:3.8).

**Communications Opportunity:** If this SFI grant is awarded, Centre for Forest Interdisciplinary Research (C-FIR), University of Winnipeg will immediately craft a media press release to promote the C-FIR - CCAB - SFI partnership. As a major deliverable of this project is to develop an online platform and face-to-face roundtable to serve the larger partnership initiative, we will link the website across our existing networks to extend its reach. As noted earlier, a Facebook page will also be created to further link partners and supporters via social media. We will then have a demonstration of the Sharing the Boreal website at UW at the same time the workshop is held. As noted earlier, a workshop proposal discussion paper will then be produced and later posted on the project website. We will also share this document with would-be partners and supporters who we reach out to for the SSHRC Partnership Grant and future activities. This will be an effective way to illustrate the efficient use of SFI and partner funds, and entice potential partners with early deliverables to show that the partnership is active. We will launch the website in February and a second press release at that time will revisit the progress made through the project. This will elevate the profile of our partnership with SFI on campus and more importantly within Manitoba and across Canada. Furthermore, we will also submit a press release announcement to Forestry Chronicle for national promotion. A presentation about the C-FIR - CCAB - SFI partnership will also be given at the C-FIR Research Symposium in March/April 2017, which will provide exposure to public, private and civic stakeholders from across Manitoba, and Canada (note: a research associate has already been hired with UW cash and is already advancing the work described above).

**Comments:** The grant is acting as seed funding to help launch a \$2.5 million (Social Science and Humanities Research Council- SSHRC) 7-year research proposal, as well as a Canada Research Chair to Dr. Ryan Bullock. SFI can position itself at the start of what may become a significant forestry-indigenous research proposal. The goal of the work is to bring to scale significant education capacity around indigenous and non-indigenous forestry in the boreal forest. The CCAB is a key partner in this work and other partners have been identified including FP Innovations, 5 Canadian Universities, federal and provincial governments. The C-FIR team has given thought to communications including traditional and social media.

**Lead Organization Name:** Cree First Nation of Waswanipi

**Title of Proposal:** Marten Monitoring Program as an indicator of habitat quality and knowledge transfer to the youth of Waswanipi

**Key Priority Area:** Indigenous

**Headline:** First Nations Youth Learn Valuable Wildlife Management Skills **OR** Furry critters bring science and indigenous knowledge together in Waswanipi

**Geographic Location:** Canada – Quebec

**Project Overview:** implementation of Cree standards and wildlife habitat management guidelines on category 1A and 1B land to protect small game, marten and moose habitat. A monitoring program has been proposed to the community of Waswanipi, in order to evaluate the impact of the wildlife management guidelines on marten populations. The monitoring program combines western science and traditional knowledge aimed to transfer knowledge to the Cree youth in the Community. The monitoring program will support the implementation of Cree standards and wildlife management for Cree wildlife sites of interest (25%) on Waswanipi category II and III lands.

**Project Partners:** Gull Family, Willie Happyjack Memorial School, Waska Resources, Cree Trappers Assoc., Resolute FP Canada, Quebec SIC

**Funding Timeline:** 18 Months

**Total SFI Funding Request:** \$ 30,000 - SFI Inc. to propose \$15,000 in 2017 only.

2017	2018	2019
\$ 15,000		

**Leveraged Funds:** \$ 114,150

**Relevancy to SFI:** *1. Connect Youth to Forests and 2. Train and Educate Current and Future Practitioners and Professionals:*

The project will connect the youth to the forest by bringing them on the trap line to monitor wildlife in an educational way, using scientific and traditional knowledge. They will participate to all the steps of the monitoring, from the elaboration of measuring instruments to the analysis of data, and will learn from the proven tracking methods of their forefathers, in a natural setting as much as possible, with their peers. The monitoring program will also include Cree trainees at the FAD in order to provide them training with wildlife monitoring techniques, so that they can be able to apply them on category 1 land and abroad over the Cree Waswanipi territory.

*3. Support and promote Aboriginal, Tribal and Heritage Values:*

The marten monitoring program aims to support the implementation of the Cree standards and wildlife management guidelines pilot project on category 1A and 1B land to protect small games, marten and moose habitat. These Cree standards and wildlife management guidelines have been updated in order to enhance the General Forest Management Plan (1999-2024) for

category 1 land. This project has numerous advantages to the Cree community of Waswanipi, including:

- Maintaining forest harvesting income while increasing wildlife protection;
- Develop Cree standards;
- Develop wildlife monitoring techniques;
- Promote exchanges between the scientific approach and the traditional local knowledge;
- Bring practical experience to support Cree standards and wildlife management guidelines;
- Implementation in Cree wildlife site of interest on category II and III lands
- Promote jobs opportunities in the field of forest and wildlife management at the community level;
- Support Cree standards and wildlife management guidelines for the 2018-2023 Tactical Integrated Forest Management Plan (TIFMP) on category 2-3 land on Waswanipi territory.

**Communication Opportunity:** Most of the activities related to the project will be carried out at the local level by the Community. This project was presented at the general assembly of the Cree First Nation of Waswanipi in June 2016. The first results of the project are expected to be presented at the next general assembly in June 2017. The project will also be presented at the regional level to the Integrated Land Resources Management Panel and the bi-annual Cree–Quebec Joint Working Group meetings. Others events to promote the project will also be considered such as the SFI annual meeting, the ACFAS2 annual meeting and others. SFI Inc. will work with the Cree First Nation to promote this project through press releases, SFI in Brief newsletter articles, and social media, as appropriate.

**Comments:** The project has strong partners and would help position SFI proactively in Quebec and with the Cree Nation of Waswanipi. This project may help open the door to future collaboration between SFI Program Participants and the Cree (e.g., Habitat for Humanity has identified this community as a key opportunity for on-reserve housing renovations, caribou work etc.). The project has strong internal communications including reporting to the Cree-Quebec Working Group. The Cree report annually on the Paix de Braves Agreement which is distributed to a wide variety of stakeholders in Quebec and the Federal government, if this grant is awarded we could seek to have this project profiled in that Annual Report.

**Lead Organization Name:** Forests Ontario

**Title of Proposal:** Forestry Connects- Boreal Forest

**Key Priority Area:** Project directly relates to the following Community Grant Criteria:

- Connect youth to forests
- Train and educate current and future practitioners and professionals
- Support and promote Aboriginal values
- Support underserved rural community
- Promote best practices for using forest products certified to SFI standards
- Demonstrate the conversation values of SFI-certified forests

**Headline:** Central Canada High Schoolers Experience the Boreal Forest Through SFI Grant

**Geographic Location:** Canada – Manitoba and Ontario

**Project Overview:** Forestry Connects offers high school students the opportunity to visit forestry dependent communities and participate in workshops led by forestry professionals. Forests Ontario and partners in Kenora and Eastern Manitoba will organize educational resources highlighting forest management in the region. Tours and workshops will highlight forest management in the boreal and how operations support social, economic, and ecological benefits.

**Project Partners:** Manitoba Forestry Association, Resolute Forest Products, Central Canada SFI Implementation Committee, City of Kenora, EACOM, Canadian Institute of Forestry, Weyerhaeuser Company, FP Innovations and Domtar

**Funding Timeline:** 10 months

**Total SFI Funding Requested:** \$12,000

2017	2018	2019
\$12,000	\$0	\$0

**Leveraged Funds:** \$14,000

**Relevancy to SFI:** Project supports multiple SFI Community engagement criteria areas, as well as Objectives 11 and 12 of the SFI Standard.

**Communication Opportunity:** Photos will be taken during the event and promoted through social media where we reach over 15,000 followers across several networks. In addition, a feature article will be developed and included in Our Forest Magazine –reaching over 1,000 members and general public with each issue. The outcomes will also be highlighted in our Annual Report. Partners will also share images and stories through their own channels. Finally, Forests Ontario will conduct outreach to local media in the region who will be invited to cover the Forestry Connects program, interviewing participants and those leading workshops and tours. SFI Inc. will partner with Forests Ontario to promote the project, as appropriate, via press release, social media and newsletter articles.

**Comments:** The Forestry Connects project will bring approx. 100 students and teachers into the forest to learn more about sustainable forest management. The project lead is a well-respected organization, with many solid project partners. The organization also has a huge social media presence with over 15,000 followers in their network.

**Lead Organization Name:** Fraser Basin Council Society

**Title of Proposal:** Raising Awareness and Collaborating on Steelhead Values with the Forest Industry in the Thompson River Watershed

**Key Priority Area(s):**

- Train and educate current and future practitioners and professionals, notably resource managers – this project directly engages forest management planners in addressing values that they must consider on Crown land in BC
- Support and promote Aboriginal, Tribal and Heritage Values – this project will directly convey the importance of steelhead to the culture and food sustenance of Nlaka’pamux and Secwepemc peoples
- Support underserved communities through forestry – addressing the decline in steelhead, and helping recover populations will ultimately result in a return of a sport fishery for communities such as Spence’s Bridge. It is estimated that up to two-thirds of the economic value of the sport fishery in small communities such as Spence’s Bridge has been lost with the decline of steelhead over the last few decades.

**Headline:** Thompson Steelhead to Benefit from SFI Community Grants Program

**Geographic Location:** Canada – British Columbia

**Project Overview** Thompson Steelhead are in decline, in part as a result of forest management activities in upper portions of the watersheds in which Thompson steelhead reside. This project will engage SFI-certified forest licensees about First Nations values of steelhead, identify modified forest management practices, and seek future opportunities to collaborate.

**Project Partners:** Cook’s Ferry Indian Band, Secwepemc Fisheries Commission, BC Ministry of Forests, Lands and National Resource Operations, West Fraser Mills, BC Timber Sales, Stuwix Resources

**Funding Timeline:** 9 months

**Total SFI Funding requested:** \$10,000

2017	2018	2019
\$10000.00	\$	\$

**Leveraged Funds:** \$18,500

**Relevancy to SFI:** Identification of forest management impacts within the Thompson River watershed are identified as a likely source of some habitat impacts. The basic methodology is to engage the forest industry that operate within watersheds with Thompson steelhead (Nicola, Deadman, Bonaparte) about the importance of steelhead to First Nations, their current status, and the work of the Thompson Steelhead Working Group. Many forest licensee forest

stewardship plans (the legal plan required to operate on Crown land in BC) are expiring and are due for renewal in 2017, so the timing is ideal to engage them in discussion about what their current commitments are to address steelhead values, what more they could do, and opportunities for future research or collaboration.

**Communication Opportunity:** Outcomes of the project and SFI involvement will be communicated to all interested stakeholders in the annual Thompson Steelhead Assembly, and posted on the website ([www.thompsonsteelhead.ca](http://www.thompsonsteelhead.ca)). SFI Inc. will coordinate press releases, newsletter articles and social media posts, as appropriate.

**Comments:** This project is a nice First Nations project with watershed component working with key partners and program participants.

**Lead Organization Name:** Maine SFI Implementation Committee

**Title of Proposal:** What Will My Timber Harvest Look Like?

**Key Priority Area:** this project doesn't neatly fall into the key priority areas, but could fall under "train and educate current and future practitioners and professionals."

**Headline:** Practical Guide Helps Maine Family Forest Landowners Achieve Successful Harvests

**Geographic Location:** US - Maine

**Project Overview:** A guide to harvesting family woodlands will lead family woodland owners and the professionals they work with through decisions to achieve a successful harvest. The guide will utilize photos and video to illustrate different silvicultural prescriptions featuring various types of harvesting equipment on 10 different forest stand types typical of southern and central Maine, in language easily understood. Project partners will also host up to 10 workshops, statewide, based on case studies from a range of successful family woodland operations.

**Project Partners:** Maine Forest Service, Maine Healthy Forests Program, Maine Tree Farm Committee, University of Maine – School of Forest Resources' University Forest, and Somerset County Soil & Water Conservation District

**Funding Timeline:** 24 months (September 2016 – June 2018)

**Total:** \$5,000

2017	2018	2019
\$2,500	\$2,500	\$-

**Leveraged Funds:** \$41,112

**Relevancy to SFI:** Landowner outreach and education is a key indicator in the SFI Fiber Sourcing Standard, and a requirement of all SFI Implementation Committees. This project will engage in landowner outreach and engagement, helping landowners make decisions regarding achievement of successful harvesting operations. This is a key issue for Maine family forest landowners, and ensuring harvests meet their aesthetics and recreation goals.

**Communication Opportunity:** Regular promotion at SFI sponsored events, trainings, workshops, and with the press. SFI program participants will be encouraged to use the guide in addressing the standards requirements. The guide and educational workshops will be promoted through the collaboration of partners involved with the Maine Healthy Forests Program, with over a dozen participating groups. SFI Inc. will promote through newsletters, press releases and social media, as appropriate. SFI Inc. will also promote this project with SFI Implementation Committees for potential replication.

**Comments:** For the funding amount requested, this project would provide multiple benefits to the State of Maine and its SIC. Additionally, a key outcome for the project is "replicable

workshop program," which could be replicated by other SICs and State Tree Farm Committees. The entire project could be beneficial to those committees, where aesthetics and recreation values are highest priority of family forest landowners. If funded, SFI Inc. would ask Maine SIC to prepare a "How To" guide for other logger SICs and State Tree Farm Committees.

**Lead Organization Name:** Scouts Canada

**Title of Proposal:** EnvironMentality

**Key Priority Area:** Connect Youth to Forests

**Headline:** SFI Grant Program Fosters Environmental Stewardship Among Canadian Scouts

**Geographic Location:** Canada – Nationwide

**Project Overview:** Scouts learn about the deep interdependence with nature which leads to engaging local communities in fostering a culture of environmental stewardship amongst youth. By embracing environmental stewardship across the Scouting movement, Scouts will participate in environmental stewardship initiatives and develop an appreciation for the fragile balance between human and nature. 20 EnvironMentality projects would be selected through an open call for proposals among Scouts Canada membership. Their goal would be to deploy youth-led projects across Canada that enable us to introduce new environmental leadership training and experiences to Scouting youth. SFI employees, families and friends would certainly be welcome to participate in these projects, and proponent's plans for engaging community members outside of Scouting and local partners (for donation of materials or manpower) would be a positive factor in our selection criteria.

**Project Partners:** Sears Canada

**Funding Timeline:** 12 months

**Total SFI Funding requested:** \$10,000

2017	2018	2019
\$10,000	\$	\$

**Leveraged Funds:** \$42,789

**Relevancy to SFI:** Throughout the coming year, Scouts Canada will focus on building its environmental program capacity and leveraging its connection to the environment through stewardship opportunities –Scouts will be encouraged to learn about and interact with nature and the environment as well as caring for, and protecting the environment. As all Scouts understand the deep interdependence we have with the environment, this lends itself to a campaign designed to engage local communities in developing a culture of environmental stewardship amongst youth. We will embrace environmental stewardship across the Scouting movement, and invite all Scouts to participate in environmental stewardship initiatives and develop an appreciation for the fragile balance between human and nature.

**Communication Opportunity:** To maximize awareness of our efforts, Scouts Canada will lead, develop and execute a public relations strategy promoting SFI and Scouts Canada – EnvironMentality. Nationally, we will work to generate high-level coverage of SFI and our partnership in strengthening a culture of environmental stewardship among youth across Canada. Scouts Canada and our public relations agency will take the lead on media relations

however, we would coordinate with SFI's public affairs team in developing and executing the project's media relations plan. We will promote local Environmental projects with a goal of building awareness, engagement and partnerships in local communities that will lead to project sustainability.

**Comments:** This is a good proposal that has national exposure potential, if executed properly. SFI will want to ensure the environmental initiatives chosen for implementation feature sustainable forest management, forest certification, etc.

**Lead Organization Name:** South Carolina Forestry Foundation of the South Carolina Forestry Association (SCFA)

**Title of Proposal:** Wood Magic Forest Fair (WMFF) Revision and Expansion

**Key Priority Area:**

- Connect youth to forests;
- Support underserved communities through forestry

**Headline:** SFI Community Grant Project Introduces South Carolina Third Graders to the Magic of Wood

**Geographic Location:** South Carolina

**Project Overview:** Since 1999, over 31,500 fourth graders have learned about sustainable forestry in South Carolina through WMFF. Recent updates to the SC Standards of Learning for science now align WMFF with third grade standards, necessitating a revision of the program. The revision will include updating or replacing original program supplies. In 2017, the WMFF curriculum will be revised and offered to 3rd grade students to better suit the new South Carolina Department of Education Science Standards.

**Project Partners:** South Carolina Forestry Commission (SCFC), SC SFI Implementation Committee (SIC)

**Funding Timeline:** 12 months

**Total SFI Funding Request:** \$5,600

2017	2018	2019
\$5,600	\$N/A	\$N/A

**Leveraged Funds:** Total Matching Funds = \$17,320; In-Kind Contributions = \$19,280

**Relevancy to SFI:** SFI involvement in the project will be highlighted on the initial WMFF packet that is sent to all South Carolina Schools elementary schools and on all revised program supplies (banners and station supplies); SFI listed in SCFC Annual Report. Thousands of students are exposed to SFI and sustainable forestry education.

**Communication Opportunity:** Both the SC Forestry Commission and the SC Forestry Association include updates and photos from the events on their social media pages and websites. The S.C. Forestry Association includes an article on the event and its sponsors in their bi-monthly journal and annual magazine. SFI Inc. will coordinate with the SC Forestry Commission on press releases, newsletter articles and social media posts, as necessary.

**Comments:** This proposal is for an expansion of a well-established program with a proven track record of youth education with emphasis on impoverished rural and urban areas with a high percentage of minority students.

**Lead Organization Name:** South Dakota Project Learning Tree (SDPLT)

**Title of Proposal:** A Walk in the Forest

**Key Priority Area:** Project directly relates to connecting youth to forests, however there are components which would satisfy “support for underserved communities” and “support for Aboriginal, Tribal and Heritage values.”

**Headline:** Kids Take a Walk in South Dakota’s Forests as Part of an SFI Community Grant Project

**Geographic Location:** US – South Dakota

**Project Overview:** Walk in the Forest utilizes community forests and resource professionals to provide a forest field day. Students rotate through “stations” which address forest management, tree identification, and tools of the trade. Foresters provide active learning experiences allowing students to explore the forest, learn about forestry and other natural resource professions.

**Project Partners:** Dakota Society of American Foresters, Black Hill Forest Resource Association

**Funding Timeline:** 9 months

**Total SFI Funding Request:** \$5,000

2017	2018	2019
\$5,000	\$0	\$0

**Leveraged Funds:** \$10,000

**Relevancy to SFI:** Project Learning Tree (PLT) is a key partner of the SFI Program, and provides environmental education tools for teachers and educators, as well as locally supports and hosts forestry tours for teachers and students. Through our growing partnership and strategic direction, SFI Inc. seeks to promote community engagement through organizations like PLT. This project would also satisfy SFI Standard requirements regarding Community Involvement and Landowner Outreach. If we can get Neiman Enterprises directly involved, the tour could potentially visit one of their production facilities, so kids can see how wood products are used and manufactured.

**Communication Opportunity:** SDPLT will work with local partners to promote the program, as well as work with local school systems to encourage participation. SFI Inc. will promote through newsletters, press releases and social media, as appropriate. SFI Inc. will also work with the National PLT program to promote the project broadly, for potential replication elsewhere.

**Comments:** This project is in a region we have traditionally and historically not focused. There is one Program Participant in the area, Neiman Enterprises, and serves as chair of the Central Rockies SFI Implementation Committee. This is a key geography for Native American

populations however, and there is a component to involve students from the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation.

**Lead Organization Name:** The Greening of Detroit

**Title of Proposal:** Green Corps Youth Employment Program

**Key Priority Area:** Project satisfies two community grant key priority areas – “connect youth to forests” and “support underserved communities”.

**Headline:** Detroit Teens Visit Rural Michigan to Experience Forest Management First Hand

**Geographic Location:** US - Michigan

**Project Overview:** The Green Corps provides Detroit teens with meaningful summer jobs as they maintain city trees. To help participants make stronger connections between their summer experience and future environmental careers, youth will take a three-day field trip to Roscommon, Michigan and learn about forestry work done outside their familiar urban setting.

**Project Partners:** Weyerhaeuser, Michigan DNR – Forest Resources Division, Michigan Association of Timbermen, Michigan SIC, and Michigan Tech University

**Funding Timeline:** 12 months (January – December 2017)

**Total:** \$10,000

2017	2018	2019
\$10,000	\$0	\$0

**Leveraged Funds:** \$18,500

**Relevancy to SFI:** The trip to Roscommon will provide youth with an opportunity to see sustainable forest management outside the urban environment. For many youth, the field trip will be their first rural experience, helping them to put their summer outdoor work in a larger context while also connecting them to forests beyond the city's limits. Field trip activities will be specifically planned to expose them to a full-circle view of forestry management and forest product industries. Teens will tour Hartwick Pines State Park to learn about Michigan's legacy of logging and tree planting and the significance of old-growth preservation. They also will join Department of Natural Resources foresters to see an active timber harvest on state forest land certified to the SFI Forest Management Standard, and visit AJD Forest Products, a green hardwood lumber mill, to see lumber produced from round logs, as well as total utilization of all byproducts. Students will stay at the DNR Ralph A. MacMullan Conference Center in Roscommon, and attend evening presentations by resource professionals to expose youth to natural resource career opportunities that exist in Michigan.

**Communication Opportunity:** The Greening of Detroit's Community Relations Director will implement a communications plan to promote the project and acknowledging the involvement of project partners, including SFI. Components of this plan will include recognition at key Green Corps events (media events, field trips, college/career fair, graduation, e.g.), including an opportunity for an SFI senior leader to offer remarks; and acknowledgement in printed materials; in a press release issued by The Greening of Detroit; in newsletters and blogs;

through announcements, videos and photos posted on the organization's website and in social media (20,000 combined friends/followers); and acknowledgement in The Greening's 2017 Annual Report (distributed to over 5,000 environmental supporters). SFI Inc. will promote project through newsletters, press releases and social media, as appropriate. SFI Inc. will also promote the project with other SFI Implementation Committees for potential replication in other urban areas.

**Comments:** SFI Inc. has funded Greening of Detroit projects for the past two years, including this same project in 2016. Please note, close to 50% of the funding comes for SFI Inc. We know this project will be successful given the close partnership with Weyerhaeuser staff and the Michigan SFI Implementation Committee.

**Lead Organization Name:** Trees For Tomorrow

**Title of Proposal:** 4-Day Elementary/Middle School Teacher Workshops

**Key Priority Area(s):**

- Connecting youth to forests (through teachers)
- Training and educating professionals (teachers to educate youth on sustainability and responsible resource management).

**Headline:** Educating the educators on the importance of sustainable resource management and responsible forestry.

**Geographic Location:** Wisconsin, US

**Project Overview:** Forty classroom teachers from the Great Lakes region will participate in a four-day course to increase their understanding of sustainability and responsible resource management, and learn how to implement these principals in their classroom curriculum. Through peer-to-peer group collaboration, participants will create a lesson or series of lessons, that can be implemented back in the classroom that incorporates sustainability education using their local outdoor setting. The results will be reported to the Instructor on Record and graded.

**Project Partners:** WI SFI Implementation Committee, University of Wisconsin Stevens Point

**Funding Timeline:** 18 months

**Total:** \$10,000

2017	2018	2019
\$10,000	NA	NA

**Leveraged Funds:** \$10,964

**Relevancy to SFI:**

Connecting Youth to Forests – By training teachers in different techniques and strategies in outdoor learning, this workshop gives them the tools to connect their students to the natural world. The idea is not just to make teachers “better teachers” but to give them the tools to incorporate sustainability education into their students’ experiences, and in turn make those experiences more fulfilling. This project serves to connect youth to the forests through increasing teacher knowledge and techniques. Teachers will be better equipped to facilitate their students’ learning about local ecology, inspire a curiosity in them to explore and better understand the natural world, and develop further questions for exploration.

Train and Educate Current and Future Practitioners and Professionals – Teachers need the field experience, knowledge, training and materials to be able to teach the next generation about sustainability and balance in our ecosystem using modern techniques used in outdoor learning.

Our vision is to prepare today's youth to be tomorrow's stewards of our natural world. By guiding teachers through this advanced learning process, our intent is to offer students the opportunity to better understand how humans rely on natural resources for survival and quality of life. Our natural resource base is limited and demand is increasing. Proper management and responsible use is essential. Natural resources must be managed for multiple use, and for the long-term benefit of everyone. One resource cannot be managed without considering the effect on all others: Forest, water, wildlife, soils and others. Our ultimate goal is to motivate students to seek a path toward a career in responsible natural resources management, and to become the next generation of natural resource professionals.

Support Underserved Communities – All teachers across the Great Lakes region, from both rural and urban areas, will be invited to participate in this course. This course offers field investigations that are applicable in any outdoor setting, including urban forests, allowing teachers to take the methodologies learned back to inner city communities. The lessons and implementation plans will be individualized to the resources available in their school's unique community. Exploration of our natural world is not limited based on economic background or locale, and the ideas and techniques learned in this workshop can be used by teachers in diverse communities, bringing the outdoors to students of all areas.

**Communication Opportunity:** Communications opportunities are somewhat limited due to geographic location. SFI would push the story out via our social media channels as well as a geographic press release. The story could be combined with other youth/education related grants in a Treehugger story or other.

**Comments:** This project is limited to Michigan, but the story is good and I like the idea of educating the educators on the importance of responsible use of forest resources.

**Pros:** Links to SFI's core community priorities: connecting youth to the forest and educating the younger generation about environmental and forest stewardship; and Project is established already with positive track-record.

**Cons/Opportunities/Questions:** Limited in geography and scope.

**Lead Organization Name:** Whitefish School District

**Title of Proposal:** Center for Sustainability and Entrepreneurship (CSE)

**Key Priority Area:**

- Connect Youth to Forests
- Train and Educate Current and Future Practitioners and Professionals
- Promote Best Practices for Using Forest Products Certified to the SFI Standard.
- Demonstrate the Conservation Values of SFI-certified Forests through Community-Related Projects.

**Headline:** Montana School District Builds Educational Center with SFI Community Grant Funding

**Geographic Location:** Whitefish School District, Whitefish, Montana

**Project Overview:** Construction of a “state of the art” Center for Sustainability and Entrepreneurship (CSE) with community collaboration to include an experimental forest and applicable curriculum to teach K–12 students forest sustainability. CSE is an innovative educational center at Whitefish Schools, providing hands on learning experiences for K-12 students in sustainable energy, agriculture, forestry, natural resources, and entrepreneurship. The fundamental objective of the program is to prepare Whitefish students for college, career and citizenship by immersing them in interdependent, real-world programs.

**Project Partners:** FH Stoltze Lumber Co., Whitefish Lake Institute, Flathead Valley Community College

**Funding Timeline:** 36 months

**Total SFI Funding Requested:** \$30,000

2017	2018	2019
\$10,000	\$10,000	\$10,000

**Leveraged Funds:** \$1,870,000

**Relevancy to SFI:** Forestry curriculum for CSE allows all students to engage in forest-based research and sustainable forestry practices. Helping future generations to understand the importance of forest management by engaging them in meaningful learning experiences is at the heart of Sustainable Forestry curriculum in the CSE. Help train and educate future practitioners in forest management best practices through direct experience by developing an applied forest management plan. CSE will exemplify use of forest products that are certified to the SFI standard with the majority of lumber supplied by SFI-certified F.H. Stoltze Land & Lumber Company. The experimental forest will be a model for promoting SFI’s forest certification program. K-12 forestry related curriculum content will align to SFI best practices.

**Communication Opportunity:** A public relations firm has been hired to publicize our story and promote our partnerships to local, regional, and national audiences, with success in several

newspaper and television stories. Sustainability events will also be planned to promote CSE and SFI involvement.

**Comments:** Although the geographic scope is limited, the potential to reach a lot of students and adults over time is great. The project is comprehensive by combining SFI-certified products in the building construction, establishing a demonstration/experimental forest (no mention of seeking SFI-certification of it), and creating curriculum to support the education of sustainable forestry practices as well as opportunities for tours, job shadows, mentoring, internships, capstone experiences, and other instructional opportunities. SFI Inc. will work with grantee to ensure signage incorporates the SFI program logo and information about sustainable forest management, as well as our grant funding.