



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Contact: Karen Brandt, VP, Market Affairs

703 875-9500 ext 28

SFI INC. HOSTS STANDARD REVIEW WORKSHOPS

ARLINGTON, VA – The independent Sustainable Forestry Initiative® (SFI) Inc. has scheduled seven regional workshops across the United States and Canada as part of its 2010-2014 SFI® Standard development process. The Standard development process enhances the current 2005-2009 SFI Standard through public comment.

“Our standard development process is as open as possible because we know there are a lot of people who care about forests across North America,” SFI President and CEO Kathy Abusow said today. “We have already invited more than 2,000 individuals and organizations to comment, as well as publicizing the process so anyone can send us their input. If you want to ensure healthy forests for generations to come and want access to forest products from well-managed forests, you will want to participate in our workshops.”

The non-profit forest certification program will hold workshops:

- February 18 in Sacramento, California
- February 19 in Vancouver, British Columbia
- March 3 in Minneapolis, Minnesota
- March 26 in Charleston, South Carolina
- April 2 in Little Rock, Arkansas
- April 7 in Portland, Maine
- April 16 in Montreal, Quebec

Interested individuals can register on-line at www.sfiprogram.org to attend a workshop. At the end of January, SFI Inc. will also post a draft new standard on its website, incorporating comments received during an earlier 60-day round of public consultation conducted in the summer of 2008. The release of the draft Standard will kick off a 30-day public review period, with written comments invited through an on-line survey that will open once the draft is posted.

“The SFI standard will continue to be strong and reflect the latest science and emerging values as long as organizations and individuals who truly care about forests work with us,” said Larry Selzer, president and CEO of The Conservation Fund and a member of the SFI Inc. Board of Directors. “Our program gains so much when a variety of constructive views are offered, and all forest values benefit as a result.”

The standard development workshops will be facilitated by The Keystone Center, a non-profit organization dedicated to providing leadership in addressing environmental issues. In addition, members of the SFI Resources Committee, who are responsible for developing the 2010-2014 SFI Standard, will attend to lead discussions and answer questions.

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Like the three-chamber SFI Board of Directors, which is solely responsible for the SFI program and the standard development process, the SFI Resources Committee has balanced representation from environmental, social and economic sectors. The SFI External Review Panel, an independent group of volunteer experts who advise the SFI Inc. Board on ways to improve the SFI program, is also monitoring the review process.

This is the third public review of the SFI Standard, and each has led to enhancements. The 2005-2009 Standard included new provisions to conserve old-growth forests; to strengthen procurement from jurisdictions outside of North America and supply chain monitoring; and to address invasive exotic species. It also introduced new performance measures and indicators related to the certification of public forestlands, including requirements to confer with affected indigenous peoples.

The 2002-2004 Standard introduced, among other things, measures to protect Forests with Exceptional Conservation Value, and provisions to help prevent illegal logging and to promote the conservation of biodiversity hotspots and major tropical wilderness areas.

For further information about the standard development process and the regional workshops, contact Allison Welde at Allison.Welde@sfiprogram.org or call 703 875-9500, ext. 24.

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About SFI Inc.

SFI Inc. is a 501c(3) non-profit charitable organization, and is solely responsible for maintaining, overseeing and improving the Sustainable Forestry Initiative program (www.sfiprogram.org), that is internationally recognized and among the largest in the world. It is one of the fastest-growing forest certification programs with 150 million acres (60 million hectares) of SFI-certified forests across North America. The SFI Standard also includes unique fiber sourcing requirements that promote responsible forest management on all suppliers' lands and a chain-of-custody certification, which can communicate to buyers how much certified fiber is in a specific product. The SFI forest standard is endorsed by the Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification, a global umbrella organization that has strict requirements for endorsement. SFI Inc. is governed by a three-chamber board of directors representing environmental, social and economic sectors equally.