



***SFI* Definitions  
(Section **143**)**

**May 1, 2020**

The following definitions apply to *italicized* words in the *Requirements for the SFI 2022-2019 Standards and Rules*.

**afforestation:** ~~Establishment of forest through planting and/or deliberate seeding on land that, until then, was under a different land use, implies a transformation of land use from non-forest to forest (source: FAO 2018). The establishment of a forest or *stand* in an area where the preceding vegetation or land use was not forest.~~

**Commented [SFI 1]:** Adopt the FAO definition which also aligns with PEFC definition of afforestation.

~~**Alliance for Zero Extinction:** A global initiative of *biodiversity conservation* organizations, which aims to prevent extinctions by identifying and safeguarding key sites where species are in imminent danger of disappearing. The goal of the Alliance is to create a front line of defense against extinction by eliminating threats and restoring *habitat* to allow species populations to rebound.~~

**Commented [SFI 2]:** With the removal of off-shore Fiber Sourcing Objectives in the SFI Fiber Sourcing Standard this organization is no longer referenced in Guidance Section 7.

**American Tree Farm System® (ATFS):** A national *program* that promotes the sustainable management of forests through education and outreach to private forest landowners.

**aquatic habitat:** An area where water is the principal medium and that provides the resources and environmental conditions to support occupancy, survival and reproduction by individuals of a given species.

**aquatic species:** Animals that live on or within water during some stage of their development.

**auditor:** A person with the competence to conduct an audit (ISO 19011:2002, 3.8).

**audit team:** One or more *auditors* conducting an audit, supported if needed by *technical experts* (ISO 19011:2002, 3.9).

**available regulatory action information:** Statistics or regulatory compliance data collected by a federal, state, provincial, or local government agency. Note: Although conformance with laws is the intent, *certification bodies* are directed to look for a spirit and general record of compliance rather than isolated or unusual instances of deviation.

**best management practices (BMPs):** A practice or combination of practices for *protection* of water quality that is determined by a federal, provincial, state, or local government or other responsible entity, after problem assessment, examination of alternative practices, and appropriate public participation, to be the most effective and practicable (including technological, economic, and institutional considerations) means of conducting a forest management operation while addressing any environmental considerations.

**best scientific information:** Available factual information that is generally accepted by the broad scientific community. It includes but is not limited to peer-reviewed scientific information obtainable from any source, including government and non-governmental sources, that have been verified by field testing to the maximum extent feasible.

~~**Biodiversity hotspots:** A biogeographic *conservation* region with more than 1,500 endemic plant species and less than 30 percent of its historical extent. (Further information can be found under Descriptions of *Biodiversity Hotspots* and *High Biodiversity Wilderness Areas* in Section 6 —Guidance to *SFI 2015-2019 Standards*.)~~

**Commented [SFI 3]:** This guidance has been removed from Section 6, definition removed to align.

**bioenergy feedstock:** Biomass used for the production of renewable energy. Biomass includes any organic products and byproducts derived from trees, plants and other biological organic matter, including limbs, bark and other cellulosic material, organic byproducts from wood pulping, and other biologically derived materials.

**biological diversity, biodiversity:** The variety and abundance of life forms, processes, functions, and structures of plants, animals and other living organisms, including the relative complexity of species, communities, gene pools and ecosystems at spatial scales that range from local to regional to global.

**certification body:** An independent *third party* that is accredited by:

- ANSI-ASQ National Accreditation Board (ANAB) as being competent to conduct certifications to the *SFI 2022-15-2019 Forest Management Standard, and SFI Fiber Sourcing Standard, SFI Chain of Custody Standard or SFI Certified Sourcing Standard.*
- ~~American National Standards Institute (ANSI) as being competent to conduct certifications to the *SFI 2015-2019 Chain of Custody Standard.*~~
- Standards Council of Canada (SCC) as being competent to conduct certifications to the *SFI 2022-15-2019 Forest Management Standard, SFI Fiber Sourcing Standard, SFI Chain of Custody Standard or SFI Certified Sourcing Standards.*

**certified content:** Raw material that can count towards the calculation of *certified content* percentages in chain of custody tracking. Below are the acceptable *certified content* sources.

**certified forest content:** Raw material from lands third-party certified to *acceptable forest management standards.*

**acceptable forest management standards:** These standards are all endorsed in the United States and Canada by the Program for the Endorsement of Forest Certification schemes (PEFC).

- *SFI 2022-15-2019 Forest Management Standard*
- Canadian Standards Association (CAN/CSA-Z809)
- Canadian Standards Association (CAN/CSA-Z804)
- *American Tree Farm System (ATFS) individual and group certification*

~~Material diverted from the waste stream during a manufacturing process. It does not include materials such as rework, regrind or scrap generated in a process and capable of being reclaimed within the same process.~~

~~Any claims about pre-consumer recycled content by Program Participants Certified Organizations or label users shall be accurate and consistent with applicable law. Program Participants and label users are encouraged to consult the U.S. Federal Trade Commission's guidelines on environmental claims in product advertising and communication and the guidelines on environmental labeling and advertising issued by the Fair Business Practices Branch of Industry Canada's Competition Bureau, as appropriate, and to seek additional information and direction from national accreditation bodies, national standards bodies and national, state and provincial consumer protection and competition laws.~~

~~certified logging professional: A qualified logging professional~~

**Commented [SFI 4]:** Definition of pre-consumer appears below – do not need it repeated

~~who has successfully completed and is a member in good standing, of a credible logger certification that includes an independent in forest verification of the *Certified Logging Professional* program recognized by the *SFI Implementation Committee* as meeting the criteria of Performance Measure 11.2 in the *SFI 2015-2019 Forest Management Standard* or Performance Measure 6.2 in the *SFI 2015-2019 Fiber Sourcing Standard*.~~

**Commented [SFI 5]:** This definition to be removed following adoption of the definition for 'certified logging company'.

**certified logging company:** A *Wood Producer* that is recognized as a *qualified logging professional* who has successfully completed and is a participant member in good standing of a credible logger certification program recognized by the *SFI Implementation Committee* as meeting the criteria of PM 12.3 in the *SFI Forest Management Standard* or PM 6.3. in the *SFI Fiber Sourcing Standard*.)

**Commented [SFI 6]:** New definition developed by Fiber Sourcing Task Group. Intended to replace definition of *certified logging professional*.

**certified area:** The forest area covered by a *SFI 2022 Forest Management Standard* or *SFI Small-Scale Forest Management Module for Indigenous Peoples, Families and Communities* certificate. In the group certification context the certified area is the sum of forest areas of the participants and covered by a group forest certificate.

**Commented [SFI 7]:** Definition adapted from PEFC definition of "certified area". Needed for group forest management certification organizations.

**Certified Organization: Program Participant:** An organization certified by an accredited certification body to be in conformance with the *SFI 2022-15-2019 Forest Management Standard*, and/or *SFI 2022-15-2019 Fiber Sourcing Standard* and/or *SFI 2022-15-2019 Chain of Custody Standard* and/or the *SFI 2022 Certified Sourcing Standard*.

**certified sourcing:** Raw material sourced from the following sources confirmed by a certification body:

- Fiber that conforms with the *SFI 2022-15-2019 Fiber Sourcing Standard*; and/or
- **Pre-Consumer Recycled Content:** ~~Material diverted from the waste stream during a manufacturing process. It does not include materials such as rework, regrind or scrap generated in a process and capable of being reclaimed within the same process.~~ Any claims about *pre-consumer recycled content* by *Program Participants* *Certified Organizations* or *label users* shall be accurate and consistent with applicable law. *Program Participants* *Certified Organizations* and *label users* are encouraged to consult the U.S. Federal Trade Commission's guidelines on environmental claims in product advertising and communication and the guidelines on environmental labeling and advertising issued by the Fair Business Practices Branch of Industry Canada's Competition Bureau, as appropriate, and to seek additional information and direction from national accreditation bodies, national standards bodies and national, state and provincial consumer protection and competition laws; and/or
- **Post-consumer recycled content:** ~~Material generated by households or by commercial, industrial and institutional facilities in their role as end-users of the product, which can no longer be used for its intended purpose.~~ Any claims about *post-consumer recycled content* by *Program Participants* *Certified Organizations* and *label users* shall be accurate and consistent with applicable law. *Program Participants* *Certified Organizations* and *label users* are encouraged to consult the U.S. Federal Trade Commission's guidelines on environmental claims in product advertising and communication and the guidelines on environmental labeling and advertising issued by the Fair Business Practices Branch of Industry Canada's Competition Bureau, as appropriate, and to seek additional

**Commented [SFI 8]:** Definition of pre-consumer is below in Section 13.

**Commented [SFI 9]:** Definition of post-consumer is below in Section 13.

information and direction from national accreditation bodies, national standards bodies, and national, state and provincial consumer protection and competition laws; and/or

- *Certified forest content*: Includes content from specific forest tracts that are third-party certified to conform with the *SFI 202215-2019 Forest Management Standard* or other *acceptable forest management standards* (e.g., CAN/CSA-Z809, CAN/CSA-Z804, and ATFS); and/or
- *Non-controversial sources*: If the raw material is sourced from outside of the United States and Canada, the organization shall establish adequate measures to ensure that the labeled products do not come from *controversial sources*. See Section 4, Part 4 on the process to avoid *controversial sources*. Up to one third of the supply for *secondary producers* can come from *non-controversial sources* for use of the *Certified Sourcing* label; the other two-thirds must come from the sources defined under the *certified sourcing* definition— fiber that conforms with the *SFI 202215-2019 Fiber Sourcing Standard*, and/or *pre-consumer recycled content*, and/or *post-consumer recycled content*, and/or *certified forest content*.

**claim period**: Time period for which the chain of custody claim applies.

**climate change**: A change in the state of the climate that can be identified (e.g., by using statistical tests) by changes in the mean and/or the variability of its properties and that persists for an extended period typically decades or longer. *Climate change* may be due to natural internal processes or external forcing's or to persistent anthropogenic changes in the composition of the atmosphere or in land use. *Note: Taken from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPPC).*

**conservation**: 1. *Protection* of plant and animal *habitat*. 2. The management of a renewable natural resource with the objective of sustaining its *productivity* in perpetuity while providing for human use compatible with sustainability of the resource.

**controversial sources:**

- ~~Forest activities which are not in compliance with applicable state, provincial, federal, or international laws.~~
  - ~~Forest activities which are contributing to regional declines in *habitat conservation* and species *protection* (including *biodiversity* and *special sites, threatened and endangered species*).~~
  - ~~Conversion sources originating from regions experiencing forest area decline.~~
  - ~~Forest activities where the spirit of the ILO Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at work (1998) are not met.~~
  - ~~Forest activities where the spirit of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (2007) are not met.~~
  - ~~Fiber sourced from areas without effective social laws~~
  - ~~Illegal Logging including trade in CITES (The Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora) listed species.~~
  - ~~Conflict Timber.~~
  - ~~Genetically modified trees via forest tree biotechnology.~~
- ~~a. Forest activities which are not in compliance with applicable state, provincial or federal laws, particularly as they may relate to:~~

**Commented [SFI 10]**: Expanded definition aligns with PEFC definition of Controversial Sources.

- ~~conversion sources;~~
- ~~legally required protection of threatened and endangered species;~~
- ~~requirements of CITES (The Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora)~~
- ~~legally required management of areas with designated high environmental and cultural values;~~
- ~~labor regulations relating to forest workers;~~
- ~~Indigenous Peoples' property, tenure and use rights.~~

b. ~~Fiber sourced from illegal logging.~~

c. ~~Fiber sourced from areas without effective social laws.~~

**illegal logging:** Harvesting and trading of wood fiber in violation of applicable laws and regulations in the country of harvest (including trade in CITES (The Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora) listed species:

**fiber sourced from areas without effective social laws:** The United States and Canada have a strong legal framework. Fiber from countries without effective laws addressing the following will need a risk assessment:

1. workers' health and safety;
2. fair labor practices;
3. *Indigenous Peoples'* rights;
4. anti-discrimination and anti-harassment measures;
5. prevailing wages; and
6. workers' right to organize.

**conflict timber:** "Timber that has been traded at some point in the chain of custody by armed groups, be they rebel factions or regular soldiers, or by a civilian administration involved in armed conflict or its representatives, either to perpetuate conflict or take advantage of conflict situations for personal gain. (...) Conflict timber is not necessarily illegal."

Note: Definition in quotations as used by United Nations Environment Programme

**Commented [SFI 11]:** Alignment with the PEFC controversial sources definition.

**conversion sources:** Roundwood and/or chips produced from conversion of forestland to other land uses resulting in regional forest area decline. ~~Manufacturers cannot include it when calculating certified forest content.~~

**Commented [SFI 12]:** Definition edited to align with new definition of controversial sources.

**critically imperiled:** A plant or animal or community, often referred to as G1, that is globally extremely rare or, because of some factor(s), especially vulnerable to extinction. Typically, five or fewer occurrences or populations remain, or very few individuals (<1,000), acres (<2,000 acres or 809 hectares), or linear miles (<10 miles or 16 kilometers) exist. (Further information can be found under *Forests with Exceptional Conservation Value* in Section 6 – Guidance to *SFI 2015-2019 Standards*.)

**culturally important:** Having significance for or being representative of human activities or beliefs (e.g., documented areas such as cemeteries, sacred sites).

**degree:** A professional academic *degree* (e.g., bachelor's) or equivalent.

**direct supplier:** An individual or organization with whom a *Certified Organization Program Participant* has a direct contractual relationship for *fiber sourcing*.

**ecologically important:** Ecologically important can be defined as applying to *natural communities*, biological, ecological or physical features which, either by themselves or in a network, contribute significantly to an ecosystem's productivity, *biodiversity*, and resilience. Ecologically important areas may be so identified by the inclusion of species or *natural communities* that are integral to the identity or function of an ecosystem, but which may be relatively uncommon on the landscape, including species with a high "S-Rank" or "G-Rank" from NatureServe, subject to the discretion of the *Certified Organization*.

Commented [SFI 13]: Forest Management Task Group developed this definition.

**economic viability:** The economic incentive necessary to keep forest ownerships profitable and competitive, and to keep people gainfully employed.

**ecosystem services:** Components of nature, directly enjoyed, consumed, or used to yield human well-being.

**exotic tree species:** A tree species introduced from outside its natural range. This does not include species that have become naturalized in an area and have a naturally reproducing population. (Note: Hybrids of *native* species or *native* plants that have been derived from genetic tree improvement and biotechnology *programs* are not considered exotic species.)

**fiber sourcing:** Acquisition of roundwood (e.g., sawlogs or pulpwood) and field-manufactured or primary-mill residual chips, pulp and veneer to support a forest products facility.

**forest cover type:** Classification of a forest *stand* by the dominant tree species or combination of tree species present. Unless required to use a regulatory system of *forest cover type* classification the *Certified Organization Program Participant* shall use the Society of American Foresters Forest Cover Types of the United States and Canada (Eyre, 1980).

**forest health:** The perceived condition of a forest derived from concerns about such factors as its age, structure, composition, function, vigor, presence of unusual levels of insects or disease, and resilience to disturbance.

**forest inventory:** 1. A set of objective sampling methods that quantify the spatial distribution, composition and rates of change of forest parameters within specified levels of precision for management purposes. 2. The listing of data from such a survey.

**Forest Legacy Program:** The Forest Legacy Program, a voluntary U.S. government program in partnership with the states, supports state efforts to *protect* environmentally sensitive forest lands that are privately owned.

**forest tree biotechnology:** As commonly used, *forest tree biotechnology* encompasses structural and functional studies of genes and genomes (including development and application of genetic markers); various methods of vegetative reproduction such as micropropagation, tissue culture, and somatic embryogenesis; and genetic **engineering modification** (GEM), which is the physical manipulation and asexual insertion of genes into organisms.

**forestry:** The profession embracing the science, art and practice of creating, managing, using and conserving forests and associated resources for human benefit and in a sustainable manner to meet desired goals, needs and values.

**forestry enterprise:** A business engaged in the management of forestland, having its own functions and administration and comprising one or more operating units (this does not include independent contractors).

**Forests with Exceptional Conservation Value:** *Critically imperiled (G1) and imperiled (G2) species and ecological communities.*

**critically imperiled:** A plant or animal or community, often referred to as G1, that is globally extremely rare or, because of some factor(s), especially vulnerable to extinction. Typically, five or fewer occurrences or populations remain, or very few individuals (<1,000), acres (<2,000 acres or 809 hectares), or linear miles (<10 miles or 16 kilometers) exist (Further information can be found under *Forests with Exceptional Conservation Value* in Section 6 of the *SFI 2022 Standards and Rules*).

**imperiled:** A plant or animal or community, often referred to as G2, that is globally rare or, because of some factor(s), is very vulnerable to extinction or elimination. Typically, six to 20 occurrences, or few remaining individuals (1,000 to 3,000), or acres (2,000 to 10,000 acres or 809 to 4,047 hectares), or linear miles (10 to 50 miles or 16 to 80.5 kilometers) exist. (Further information can be found under *Forests with Exceptional Conservation Value* in Section 6 of the *SFI 2022 Standards and Rules*.)

**geographic information system (GIS):** An organized collection of computer systems, personnel, knowledge and procedures designed to capture, store, update, manipulate, analyze, report and display forms of geographically referenced information and descriptive information.

**green-up requirement:** Previously clearcut harvest areas must have trees at least 3 years old or 5 feet (1.5 meters) high at the desired level of stocking before adjacent areas are clearcut.

**group certification organization:** A specific type of multi-site organization where forest owners, forest owners' organizations, forest managers, forest products manufacturers or forest products distributors without a pre-existing legal or contractual link can form a group for the purposes of achieving certification and gaining eligibility for a sampling approach to certification audits.

**group member:** A forest owner/manager, manufacturing or processing organization covered by the group certificate, who has the ability to implement the requirements of the certification standard.

**growing stock:** All the trees growing in a forest or in a specified part of it that meet specified standards of size, quality and vigor; generally expressed in terms of number or volume.

**growth and drain:** The average annual net increase in the volume of trees during the period between inventories (including the increment in net volume of trees at the beginning of the specific year surviving to its end, plus the net volume of trees reaching the minimum size class during the year, minus the volume of trees that died during the year, and minus the net volume of trees that became cull trees during the year) minus the net volume of *growing stock* trees removed from the *forest inventory* during a specified year by harvesting, cultural operations such as timber *stand* improvement, or land clearing.

**Commented [SFI 14]:** Definition moved from SFI Section 10 – Appendix 2: Audits of Group Certification Organizations.

**Commented [SFI 15]:** Adapted from PEFC ST 1002-2018 Group Forest Management Certification. Needed for group certification organizations.



**growth-and-yield model:** A set of relationships, usually expressed as equations and embodied in a computer program or tables, that provides estimates of future *stand* development given initial *stand* conditions and a specified management regime.

**habitat:** 1. A unit area of environment. 2. The place, natural or otherwise (including climate, food, cover and water) where an individual or population of animals or plants naturally or normally lives and develops.

**high-biodiversity wilderness areas:** The world's largest-remaining tracts of tropical forest that are more than 75 percent intact. These areas are characterized by extraordinary biological richness, including exceptional concentrations of endemic species, and are also of crucial importance to climate regulation, watershed *protection*, and maintenance of traditional Indigenous lifestyles (Further information can be found under *Descriptions of Biodiversity Hotspots and High Biodiversity Wilderness Areas* in Section 6 of the *SFI requirements document*).

**Commented [SFI 16]:** Guidance for biodiversity hotspots removed from Section 6 so definition revised accordingly.

**illegal logging:** Harvesting and trading of wood fiber in violation of applicable laws and regulations in the country of harvest (including trade in CITES (The Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora) listed species).

**Commented [SFI 17]:** Definition updated to include CITES for alignment with new 'controversial sources' definition.

**imperiled:** A plant or animal or community, often referred to as G2, that is globally rare or, because of some factor(s), is very vulnerable to extinction or elimination. Typically, six to 20 occurrences, or few remaining individuals (1,000 to 3,000), or acres (2,000 to 10,000 acres or 809 to 4047 hectares), or linear miles (10 to 50 miles or 16 to 80.5 kilometers) exist. (Further information can be found under *Forests with Exceptional Conservation Value* in *SFI Section 6 - Guidance to SFI 20215-2019 Standards*.)

**improved planting stock:** Products of tree improvement *programs* in which the parent trees were selected through Mendelian crosses for increased growth, pest resistance, or other desirable characteristics.

**indicator:** In the *SFI program*, a specific metric that provides information about an organization's *forestry* and environmental performance, and that is integral to assessing conformance to the *SFI 20215-2019 Standards' objectives and performance measures*.

**Indigenous Peoples:** Inclusive of all *Indigenous Peoples* residing in Canada and the United States. More specifically, "*Indigenous Peoples*" is defined in the United States as members of federally recognized tribes and in Canada as those peoples that are *recognized/defined* by section 35(2) of the *Constitution Act, 1982*.

**Commented [SFI 18]:** Definition updated with current URLs of federally recognized tribes/FNs. New paragraph regarding the Metis in Canada added.

In the United States, the US Department of Interior: Bureau of Indian Affairs publishes a list of each of the 57366 federally recognized tribes. The list is found at the following address:  
<http://www.bia.gov/WhoWeAre/BIA/OIS/TribalGovernmentServices/TribalDirectory/>  
<https://www.bia.gov/bia/ois/tribal-leaders-directory/>

In Canada, *Aboriginal Indigenous Affairs* and Northern *Affairs/Development* Canada provides a list of the 61933 *recognized/registered First Nations/Indian Bands*. The list of *First Nations/Indian Bands* divided by province is found at:  
<http://psc5-esd5.aicn-inac.gc.ca/fnp/Main/Search/SearchFN.aspx?lang=eng>  
<https://fnp-ppn.aadnc-aandc.gc.ca/fnp/Main/Search/SearchFN.aspx?lang=eng>

Rights-holding Métis communities in Canada, as per S. 35(2) of the *Constitution Act, 1982*, include but are not limited to governing members of the Métis National Council as well as the Métis Settlements General Council.”

**integrated pest management:** ~~The maintenance of destructive agents, including insects at tolerable levels, by the planned use of a variety of preventive, suppressive or regulatory tactics and strategies that are ecologically and economically efficient and socially acceptable. The careful consideration of all available pest control techniques and subsequent integration of appropriate measures that discourage the development of pest populations and keep pesticides and other interventions to levels that are economically justified and reduce or minimize risks to human health and the environment (source: FAO 2018).~~

**Commented [SFI 19]:** FAO definition for Integrated Pest Management. Also used by PEFC.

**invasive ~~species~~exotic plants and animals:** Species introduced from another country or geographic region outside its natural range that may have fewer natural population controls in the new environment, becoming a pest or nuisance species.

**label users:** Any *Program Participant*, label licensee, secondary manufacturer, publisher, printer, retailer or distributor who has obtained a license to use the label; met *Section 5 - Rules For Use Of SFI On-and Off-Product Labels*; and obtained approval from the *SFI Office of Label Use and Licensing* to use the *SFI* on-product label for at least one product or manufacturing unit.

**land classification:** The process of designating areas of land into classes or strata that are sufficiently homogeneous in their physical, vegetative and development attributes.

**landscape:** 1. A spatial mosaic of multiple ecosystems, landforms, and plant communities across a defined area irrespective of ownership or other artificial boundaries and repeated in similar form throughout. 2. An area of land characterized by:

- similar biogeoclimatic conditions that influence site potential;
- similar historical disturbance regimes that influence vegetation structure and species composition; and
- sufficient size to provide the range of *habitat* conditions for naturally occurring communities (except for a few megafauna with large spatial needs, e.g., wolves).

**lead auditor:** An *auditor* appointed to lead an *audit team*. Also referred to as an *audit team leader* (ISO 19011:2018, 3.149, note 1).

**least-toxic and narrowest-spectrum pesticide:** A chemical preparation used to control site-specific pests that *minimizes* impact to non-target organisms and causes the least impact to while meeting management objectives. The management objectives should consider the target pest, the degree of control needed, cost, and other issues, such as season and timing of application, rates and methods, terrain, forest conditions, and the presence or absence of water bodies.

**local** (when used in Objective 109 Forest Management Standard and Objective 4 Fiber Sourcing Standard): a level of government below federal, state or province such as county, district, city, township, municipality, town or parish.

**Commented [SFI 20]:** Proposed definition for when local is used in a Forest Management Objective 9 & Fiber Sourcing Objective 4.

**long-term:** Extending over a relatively long time period – for the *SFI 2022-15-2019 Standards*, this means the length of one forest management rotation or longer.

**major nonconformity:** One or more of the *SFI 2022-15-2019 Standard(s) performance measures* or *indicators* has not been addressed or has not been implemented to the extent that a systematic failure of a *Program Participant's Certified Organization's SFI system* to meet an *SFI objective, performance measure* or *indicator* occurs.

**management responsibilities on public lands:** Accountability for developing plans and translating public agencies' missions, goals and *objectives* to an organized set of actions.

**minimize:** To do only that which is necessary and appropriate to accomplish the task or *objective* described.

**minor nonconformity:** An isolated lapse in *SFI 2022-15-2019 Standard(s) program* implementation which does not indicate a systematic failure to consistently meet an *SFI objective, performance measure* or *indicator*.

**multi-site organization:** An organization having an identified central function (hereafter referred to as a central office – but not necessarily the headquarters of the organization) at which certain activities are planned, controlled or managed and a network of local offices or branches (sites) at which such activities are fully or partially carried out.

**Commented [SFI 21]:** Definition moved from SFI Section 9 – Appendix 1: Audits of Multi-site Organizations.

**native:** Species of ecological communities occurring naturally in an area, as neither a direct or indirect consequence of recent human activity.

**natural community:** Natural communities are combinations of native plants and animals that are regularly found together in particular settings, where human-caused changes to composition have been minimal, or the natural community has recovered from that disturbance. (adopted from the US National Vegetation Classification).

**Commented [SFI 22]:** New definition recommended by Forest Management Task Group. Adapted from the US National Vegetation Classification.

**natural regeneration:** Establishment of a plant or a plant age class from natural seeding, sprouting, suckering or layering.

**neutral sources:** Raw material that is not counted towards or against the calculation of the *certified content* percentages in chain of custody tracking or *certified sourcing* tracking in *SFI* Sections 3 and 4. Below are the acceptable *neutral sources*.

- Agricultural products (e.g., cotton or other non-wood fibers and biomass from wood fiber legally classified as agricultural by state, provincial or local government) and agricultural residues.
- *Post-consumer recycled content* and *pre-consumer recycled content* may be tracked as a *neutral source* when not making post-consumer or pre-consumer claims about the product.

**non-forested wetland:** A transitional area between aquatic and terrestrial ecosystems that does not support tree cover and is inundated or saturated for periods long enough to produce hydric soils and support hydrophytic vegetation.

**non-timber forest products (NTFPs):** Products derived from forests other than round wood or wood chips. Examples include, but are not limited to, seeds, fruits, nuts, honey, maple syrup and mushrooms.

**objective:** In the *SFI 2022-2019 Forest Management Standard* and *SFI 2022-2019 Fiber Sourcing Standard*, a fundamental goal of sustainable forest management.

**Office of Label Use and Licensing:** Provides administrative support and oversight of the *SFI* on-product labeling *program*, and serves as the depository for *SFI 2022-2019 Standards* certificates *SFI 2022-2019* Section 5 On-product label use certificates and PEFC ST 2002:2020-2013 Chain of Custody of Forest Based Products-Requirements, February 14-May 24, 2020-13 certificates, and other documents that must be submitted to receive approval for use of the *SFI* on-product labels and claims.

**old-growth forests:** A forested ecosystem distinguished by old trees and related structural attributes, such as tree size, down woody debris, canopy levels, and species composition. *Program Participants* *Certified Organizations* should utilize a definition specific to their region and particular forest types.

**origin:** The attributes of the raw material used in the product. This can be *certified forest content*, *certified sourcing* or *pre-consumer* or *post-consumer recycled content*.

**organization:** Person or group of people that has its own functions with responsibilities, authorities and relationships to achieve its objectives.

Commented [SFI 23]: PEFC definition, ST 1003.

**other credible chain of custody standards:** Standards capable of tracking fiber back to a forest certified to the *SFI 2022-2019 Forest Management Standard* or other acceptable standards recognized by the *SFI program*. They include:

- PEFC ST 2002:2020-2013 Chain of Custody of Forest Based Products-Requirements, February 14-May 24, 2020-13
- Additional *programs* may apply for similar recognition or be recognized by the *SFI program* in the future. The criteria used to assess other chain of custody standards can be found in *SFI* Section 4 (Appendix 3).

**other wood supplier:** A person who or organization that infrequently supplies wood fiber on a small scale, such as farmers and small-scale land-clearing operators.

**outsourcing:** Practice of activities relevant for an *organization's* chain of custody being performed by another legal entity, without continuous supervision or control from the organization. Not considered as outsourcing are transportation, (un-)loading and warehousing of materials/products, unless there is a risk that materials with different material categories or certified content are mixed with each other.

Commented [SFI 24]: Definition adapted from PEFC 2002-2020 CoC Standard definition for Outsourcing. The CoC Task Group determined this was a more complete definition.

**performance measure:** In the *SFI program*, a means of judging whether an *objective* has been fulfilled.

**planting:** The establishment of a group or *stand* of young trees created by direct seeding or by *planting* seedlings or plantlets.

**policy:** A written statement of commitment to meet an *objective* or to implement a defined *program* or plan to achieve an *objective* or outcome.

**practice(s):** the actual application or use of an idea, belief, or method, as opposed to theories relating to it.

**post-consumer recycled content:** Material generated by households or by commercial, industrial and institutional facilities in their role as end users of the product, which can no longer be used for its intended purpose. Forest and tree-based material generated by households or by commercial, industrial and institutional facilities in their role as end-users of the product which can no longer be used for its intended purpose. This includes returns of material from the distribution chain and material from salvage from demolition.

**pre-consumer recycled content:** Material diverted from the waste stream during a manufacturing process. It does not include materials such as rework, regrind or scrap generated in a process and capable of being reclaimed within the same process. Forest and tree-based material recovered from waste during a manufacturing process. Excluded is reutilization of materials such as rework, regrind or scrap generated in a process and capable of being reclaimed within the same process that generated it. Excluded are by-products resulting from primary production processes, such as sawmilling by-products (sawdust, chips, bark, etc.) or forestry residues (bark, chips from branches, roots, etc.) as they are not considered waste.

**primary producers:** Manufacturing units that manufacture forest products and source 50 percent or more (by weight) of their wood-based raw materials directly from *primary sources*. *Primary producers* can include companies that manufacture roundwood, wood chips, and/or composite products.

**primary sources:** Roundwood (logs or pulpwood) and wood chips. Wood chips include:

- Field Manufactured Chips - chips produced from roundwood in the forest.
- Primary Chips - chips produced from roundwood other than in the forest or as residuals from production of other wood products.
- Mill Residual Chips - chips produced from slabs or other residuals from a primary operation.

**principle:** In the *SFI program*, the vision and direction for sustainable forest management as embodied in the *principles* of the *SFI 2022-15-2019 Standards*.

**product group:** Set of products manufactured or traded in the specified processes which are covered by the organization's chain of custody. Product groups can cover several sites.

**productivity:** The inherent capacity of a particular site or ecosystem to produce a crop or tree *stand*, often measured in volume or height.

**program:** An organized system, process or set of activities to achieve an *objective* or *performance measure*.

**Commented [SFI 25]:** New definition to clarify the use of a frequently used term in the Standards.

**Commented [SFI 26]:** Moved from underneath the *certified sourcing* definition.

**Commented [SFI 27]:** PEFC Definition from ST 2002. The CoC Task Group determined this was a more complete definition.

**Commented [SFI 28]:** Added to the PEFC definition to capture materials from salvage of buildings.

**Commented [SFI 29]:** Moved from underneath the *certified sourcing* definition.

**Commented [SFI 30]:** Aligns with PEFC Definition from ST 2002. The CoC Task Group determined this was a more complete definition.

**Commented [SFI 31]:** Taken from PEFC definition of "product group".

**protection (or protect):** Maintenance of the status or integrity, over the *long term*, of identified attributes or values including management where appropriate and giving consideration to historical disturbance patterns, fire risk and *forest health* when determining appropriate *conservation* strategies.

**Commented [SFI 32]:** Forest Management Task Group developed this edit to the definition to strengthen requirements where 'protect' is used and where it has the same intent as 'protection'.

**public land:** Land enrolled in the *SFI program* that is owned or administratively managed by a government entity (federal, state, provincial, county or local), excluding easements or other encumbrances held by a government entity on private land.

**purchased stumpage:** Standing timber under a contractual agreement that gives the *Certified Organization/Program Participant* the right and obligation to harvest the timber.

**qualified logging professional:** A person with specialized skills in timber harvesting ~~gained through experience or formal training~~ who has successfully completed *wood producer training programs* and continued education requirements recognized by *SFI Implementation Committees* as meeting the spirit and intent of *performance measure* under Objective 11 in the *SFI 2022+5-2019 Forest Management Standard* or Objective 6 in the *SFI 2022+5-2019 Fiber Sourcing Standard*.

- a. Each crew must include a *qualified logging professional* who (1) has completed the *SFI Implementation Committee approved wood producer training program*; (2) is an owner of, employee of, or contracted by the *wood producer*; (3) has direct responsibility and is on-site regularly to consistently carry out the roles and responsibilities of the *qualified logging professional* under the *SFI 2022+5-2019 Standard(s)* (e.g., safety, protection of soils, streams and other water bodies).
- b. ~~All of the components of an SFI Implementation Committee approved wood producer training program could take several years to carry out.~~ To be considered a *qualified logging professional*, an individual must complete the required training appropriate to their level of responsibility (e.g., owner, supervisor, employee) within the specified time period required by their *SFI Implementation Committee*. *SFI Implementation Committees* have the flexibility to require different training requirements for owners of logging businesses versus training requirements for other employees (e.g., supervisors). Once classified as a *qualified logging professional*, the individual must complete the required *SFI Implementation Committee* maintenance training within the prescribed time period to retain their status as a *qualified logging professional*.

**Commented [SFI 33]:** Edits as per Fiber Sourcing Task Group logger training discussions.

**qualified resource professional:** A person who by training and experience can make forest management recommendations. Examples include foresters, soil scientists, hydrologists, forest engineers, forest ecologists, fishery and *wildlife* biologists or technically trained specialists in such fields.

**recycled content:** *Pre-consumer recycled content* and *post-consumer recycled content*.

**reforestation:** The reestablishment of forest cover either naturally or by seeding or *planting* of seedlings.

**riparian area:** Transition zone characterized by vegetation or geomorphology adjacent to rivers, streams, lakes, *wetlands* and other water bodies.

**secondary producers:** Manufacturing units that produce forest products and source 50 percent or more (by weight) of their wood-based raw materials from *secondary sources*. *Secondary producers* can include manufacturers of finished forest products, such as plywood, furniture, windows, magazines, printers or catalogs, and manufacturers using market pulp.

**secondary sources:** Semi-finished solid wood, paper, market pulp, recycled wood fiber, or composite products obtained from a *primary producer* and/or a *secondary producer*.

**SFI ~~2015–2019~~2022 Audit Procedures and Auditor Qualifications and Accreditation:** The *principles* and guidelines that detail specific requirements to ~~*Program Participants Certified Organizations*~~ and *certification bodies* for conducting audits to the ~~*SFI 2022–15–2019 Forest Management, Fiber Sourcing and Chain of Custody Standards*~~.

**SFI 2022 Certified Sourcing Standard:** The requirements that detail processes for the use of the SFI Certified Sourcing label and claims.

**SFI ~~2015–2019~~2022 Chain of Custody Standard:** The requirements that detail processes for tracking fiber content from *certified forest content*, *recycled content* and *certified sourcing*.

**SFI ~~2015–2019~~2022 Fiber Sourcing Standard:** The *principles, objectives, performance measures* and *indicators* that detail specific *fiber sourcing* requirements for ~~*Program Participants Certified Organizations*~~.

**SFI ~~2015–2019~~2022 Forest Management Standard:** The *principles, policies, objectives, performance measures* and *indicators* that detail specific forest management requirements for ~~*Program Participants Certified Organizations*~~.

**SFI certification:** A systematic and documented verification process to obtain and evaluate evidence objectively to determine whether a ~~*Program Participant's Certified Organization's SFI program*~~ conforms to the requirements of ~~*SFI 2022–15–2019 Standards and Rules*~~.

**SFI Implementation Committee (SIC):** A state, provincial, or regional committee organized by ~~*SFI Program Participants Certified Organizations*~~ to facilitate or manage the *programs* and alliances that support the growth of the *SFI program*, including sustainable forest management.

**silviculture:** The art and science of controlling the establishment, growth, composition, health, and quality of forests and woodlands to meet the diverse needs and values of landowners and society on a sustainable basis.

**site:** A site is a permanent location where an organization carries out work or a service.

**Commented [SFI 34]:** Definition moved from SFI Section 9 – Appendix 1: Audits of Multi-site Organizations.

**skid trail:** A temporary path through the woods to transport felled trees or logs to a collection area for further transportation.

**soil health:** the continued capacity of soil to function as a vital living ecosystem that sustains plants, animals, and humans. (USDA)

**Commented [SFI 35]:** New definition from USDA as per Forest Management Task Group.

**special sites:** Sites that include geologically unique or *culturally important* features.



**stakeholder:** A person, group, community or *organisation* with an interest in the subject of the standard.

**Commented [SFI 36]:** Adapted from PEFC definition for stakeholder, PEFC ST 1003.

**stand:** A contiguous group of trees sufficiently uniform in age, composition, and structure, and growing on a site of sufficiently uniform quality, to be a distinguishable unit.

**sustainable forestry:** To meet the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs by practicing a land stewardship ethic that integrates *reforestation* and the managing, growing, nurturing, and harvesting of trees for useful products and *ecosystem services* such as the *conservation* of soil, air and water quality, carbon, *biological diversity*, *wildlife* and *aquatic habitats*, recreation and aesthetics.

**Sustainable Forestry Initiative Inc. (SFI):** *SFI Inc.* is a 501c(3) non-profit charitable organization, and is solely responsible for maintaining, overseeing and improving the Sustainable Forestry Initiative *program*. *SFI Inc.* directs all elements of the Sustainable Forestry Initiative *program* including the *SFI Standard(s)*, including forest management, *fiber sourcing*, and chain of custody certifications, and labeling and marketing. *SFI Inc.* is overseen by a three-chamber board of directors representing social, environmental and economic sectors.

**technical expert:** A person who provides specific knowledge or expertise to the *audit team* (ISO 19011 2018~~02~~, 3.16~~0~~).

**third-party certification:** An assessment of conformance to the *SFI 2022-2019 Standards and Rules* conducted according to the requirements of *SFI Section 9 SFI 2015-2019 Audit Procedures and Auditor Qualifications and Accreditation*, and ISO 19011 by a qualified *certification body*.

**threatened and endangered:** Listed under The U.S. Endangered Species Act or The Canadian Species at Risk Act and listed under applicable state or provincial laws requiring *protection*.

**traditional forest-related knowledge:** Forest-related knowledge owned and maintained by *Indigenous Peoples* as a result of their traditional use of or tenure on forestland.

**varietal seedlings:** Genetically identical individuals produced through vegetative reproduction methods, such as micropropagation, tissue culture or somatic embryogenesis.

**verifiable monitoring system:** A system capable of being audited by a *third party* that includes:

- a. a means to characterize the *Program Participant's Certified Organization's wood and fiber supply area*, which may include sources certified to a standard that requires conformance with *best management practices*, including those sources from *certified logging professionals*;
- b. a process to identify and use sources of available data (e.g., state or provincial monitoring *programs*, certification status of suppliers) in the use of *best management practices*; and
- c. a method to assess supplier performance, if needed, to supplement available data.

**vernal pool:** A seasonal *wetland* with sufficient water present during amphibian breeding season, absence of fish, and presence of *wetland* obligate fauna.



**visual quality:** The seen aspects of both the land and the activities that occur upon it.

**visual quality management:** Minimization of the adverse visual effects of forest management activities.

**wetland:** (1) seasonally or permanently water-logged areas characterized by vegetation adapted for life in saturated /flooded conditions; (2) *wetlands* can be forested, shrubby or open and include bogs, fens, swamps, marshes, ~~and~~ shallow open water areas or non-forested wetlands; (3) *wetlands* may be stagnant systems (e.g., bogs, vernal pools), slow flowing (e.g., fens, swamps) or have fluctuating water levels (e.g., marshes, shallow open water).

**Commented [SFI 37]:** Definition edited to include *non-forested wetland* and *vernal pools*.

**wildlife:** Aquatic (marine and freshwater) and terrestrial fauna.

**wood and fiber supply area:** The geographic area from which a Certified Organization Program Participant procures, over time, most of its wood and fiber from *wood producers*.

**wood producer:** A person or organization, including loggers and wood dealers, involved in harvesting or regularly supplying wood fiber directly from the forest for commercial purposes.