



SFI 2022 Forest Management Standard
(Section 2)

May 1, 2020

Table of Contents

1. GENERAL	3
1.1 SCOPE	3
1.2 ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS	3
1.3 REFERENCES	3
1.4 FOREST MANAGEMENT STANDARD PRINCIPLES	4
1.5 FOREST MANAGEMENT STANDARD <i>OBJECTIVES</i>	5
1.6 SFI 2022 FOREST LAND MANAGEMENT REQUIREMENTS	7
OBJECTIVE 1. FOREST MANAGEMENT PLANNING	7
OBJECTIVE 2. <i>FOREST HEALTH AND PRODUCTIVITY</i>	9
OBJECTIVE 3. <i>PROTECTION AND MAINTENANCE OF WATER RESOURCES</i>	11
OBJECTIVE 4. <i>CONSERVATION OF BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY</i>	12
OBJECTIVE 5. MANAGEMENT OF VISUAL QUALITY AND RECREATIONAL BENEFITS.	13
OBJECTIVE 6. PROTECTION OF SPECIAL SITES.	14
OBJECTIVE 7. EFFICIENT USE OF FIBER RESOURCES.	15
OBJECTIVE 8. RECOGNIZE AND RESPECT INDIGENOUS PEOPLES' RIGHTS.	15
OBJECTIVE 9. CLIMATE SMART FORESTRY.	16
OBJECTIVE 10. LEGAL AND REGULATORY COMPLIANCE.	17
OBJECTIVE 11. <i>FORESTRY RESEARCH, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY.</i>	17
OBJECTIVE 12. TRAINING AND EDUCATION.	18
OBJECTIVE 13. COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT AND LANDOWNER OUTREACH.	20
OBJECTIVE 14: <i>PUBLIC LAND MANAGEMENT RESPONSIBILITIES.</i>	21
OBJECTIVE 15. COMMUNICATIONS AND PUBLIC REPORTING.	22
OBJECTIVE 16. MANAGEMENT REVIEW AND CONTINUAL IMPROVEMENT.	23

1. General

1.1 Scope

What the Forest Management Standard Does

The *SFI 2022 Forest Management Standard* promotes *sustainable forestry* based on XX Principles, 16 Objectives, XX Performance Measures and XXX Indicators. These requirements include measures to *protect water quality, biodiversity, wildlife habitat, species at risk and Forests with Exceptional Conservation Value.*

What the Forest Management Standard Covers

The *SFI 2022 Forest Management Standard* applies to any organization that owns or has management authority for forestlands.

Geographic Application of the Forest Management Standard

The *SFI 2022 Forest Management Standard* applies to organizations in the United States and Canada.

1.2 Additional Requirements

SFI Certified Organizations with fiber sourcing programs (acquisition of roundwood and field-manufactured or primary-mill residual chips, pulp and veneer to support a forest products facility), must also conform to the *SFI 2022 Fiber Sourcing Standard*.

Use of the *SFI* on-product labels and claims shall follow Section 6 - Rules for Use of *SFI* On-Product Labels and Off-Product Marks as well as ISO 14020:2000.

1.3 References

This standard incorporates, by dated or undated reference, provisions from other publications. These normative and informative references are cited at the appropriate places in the text and the publications are listed hereafter. For dated and undated references, the latest edition of the publication applies.

Normative References

- i. ISO/IEC 17021:2015 - Conformity Assessment - Requirements for bodies providing audit and certification of management systems
- ii. ISO/IEC Guide 2:2004 Standardization and related activities - General vocabulary
- iii. Section 8 -SFI Policies
- iv. Section 10 – SFI 2015-2019 Audit Procedures and *Auditor* Qualifications and Accreditation
- v. Section 11 - Communications and Public Reporting
- vi. Section 14 - SFI Definitions
- vii. Interpretations for the Requirements for the SFI 2022 *Program*

For the purposes of this standard, the relevant definitions given in ISO/IEC Guide 2:2004 apply, together with the definitions in the SFI Definitions (Section 14).

Informative References

- i. ISO 14001:2015 Environmental Management Systems - Specification with guidance for use
- ii. PEFC ST 1003:2018 Sustainable Forest Management Requirements, November 28, 2018
- iii. PEFC ST 1002:2018 Group Forest Management Certification, November 28, 2018
- iv. Section 7 - Guidance to *SFI 2022* Standards
- v. Section 9 - SFI Standards Development and Interpretations Process
- vi. Section 12 - Public Inquiries and Official Complaints
- vii. Section 13 - Optional Modules

1.4 Forest Management Standard Principles

SFI Certified Organizations believe forest landowners have an important stewardship responsibility and a commitment to society, and they recognize the importance of maintaining viable commercial, family forest, and *conservation* forest land bases. They support *sustainable forestry* on forestland they manage, and promote it on other lands. They support efforts to safeguard private property rights, and to help all private landowners manage their forestland sustainably. In keeping with this responsibility, *SFI Certified Organizations* shall have a written *policy* (or *policies*) to implement and achieve the following *principles*:

1. Sustainable Forestry

To practice *sustainable forestry* to meet the needs of the present while promoting 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, climate change mitigation, *biological diversity*, *wildlife* and *aquatic habitats*, recreation and aesthetics.

2. Forest Productivity and Health

To provide for regeneration after harvest and maintain the productive capacity of the forest land base, and to *protect* and maintain *long-term* forest and soil *productivity*. In addition, to *protect* forests from economically or environmentally undesirable levels of wildfire, pests, diseases, *invasive species* and other damaging agents and thus maintain and improve *long-term forest health* and *productivity*.

3. Protection of Water Resources

To *protect* water bodies and *riparian areas*, and to conform with forestry *best management practices* to *protect* water quality, to meet the needs of both human communities and ecological systems.

4. Protection of Biological Diversity

To manage forests in ways that *protect* and promote *biological diversity*, including animal and plant species, *wildlife habitats*, *ecologically important* species and native *forest cover types*.

5. Aesthetics and Recreation

To manage the visual impacts of forest operations, and to provide recreational opportunities for the public.

6. Protection of Special Sites

To manage lands that are ecologically important, geologically or *culturally important* in a manner that takes into account their unique qualities.

7. Responsible Fiber Sourcing in North America

To use and promote among other forest landowners *sustainable forestry* that is both scientifically credible and economically, environmentally and socially responsible.

8. Legal Compliance

To comply with applicable federal, provincial, state, and local *forestry* and related environmental laws, statutes, and regulations.

9. Research

To support advances in sustainable forest management through *forestry* research, science and technology.

10. Training and Education

To improve the practice of *sustainable forestry* through training and education *programs*.

11. Community Involvement and Social Responsibility

To broaden the practice of *sustainable forestry* on all lands through community involvement, socially responsible practices, and through recognition and respect of *Indigenous Peoples' rights* and *traditional forest-related knowledge*.

12. Transparency

To broaden the understanding of forest certification to the *Forest Management Standard* by documenting certification audits and making the findings publicly available.

13. Continual Improvement

To continually improve the practice of forest management, and to monitor, measure and report performance in achieving the commitment to *sustainable forestry*.

1.5 Forest Management Standard Objectives

A Summary of the *SFI 2022 Forest Management Standard Objectives* follows:

Objective 1. Forest Management Planning

To ensure forest management plans include *long-term* sustainable harvest levels and measures to avoid forest conversion.

Objective 2. Forest Health and Productivity

To ensure *long-term* forest *productivity*, carbon storage and *conservation* of forest resources through prompt *reforestation*, *afforestation*, *minimized* chemical use, soil *conservation*, and protecting forests from damaging agents.

Objective 3. Protection and Maintenance of Water Resources

To *protect* the water quality and water quantity of rivers, streams, lakes, *wetlands* and other water bodies through meeting or exceeding *best management practices*.

Objective 4. Conservation of Biological Diversity

To maintain or advance the *conservation* of *biological diversity* at the *stand-* and *landscape-* level and across a diversity of *habitats* and successional stages including the *conservation* of forest plants and animals, *aquatic species*, *threatened and endangered* species, *Forests with Exceptional Conservation Value*, *old-growth forests* and *ecologically important* sites.

Objective 5. Management of Visual Quality and Recreational Benefits

To manage the visual impact of forest operations and provide recreational opportunities for the public.

Objective 6. Protection of Special Sites

To manage lands that are geologically or *culturally important* in a manner that takes into account their unique qualities.

Objective 7. Efficient Use of Fiber Resources

To *minimize* waste and ensure the efficient use of fiber resources.

Objective 8. Recognize and Respect Indigenous Peoples' Rights

To recognize and respect *Indigenous Peoples'* rights and traditional knowledge.

Objective 9: Climate Smart Forestry

To ensure forest management activities address climate change adaptation and mitigation measures.

Objective 10. Legal and Regulatory Compliance

To comply with all applicable laws and regulations including, international, federal, provincial, state and *local*.

Objective 11. Forestry Research, Science and Technology

To invest in *forestry* research, science and technology, upon which sustainable forest management decisions are based..

Objective 12. Training and Education

To improve the implementation of *sustainable forestry* through appropriate training and education *programs*.

Objective 13. Community Involvement and Landowner Outreach

To broaden the practice of *sustainable forestry* through public outreach, education, and involvement, and to support the efforts of *SFI Implementation Committees*.

Objective 14. *Public Land Management Responsibilities*

To participate and implement sustainable forest management on *public lands*.

Objective 15. *Communications and Public Reporting*

To increase transparency and to annually report progress on conformance with the *SFI Forest Management Standard*.

Objective 16. *Management Review and Continual Improvement*

To promote continual improvement in the practice of *sustainable forestry* by conducting a management review and monitoring performance.

1.6 SFI 2022 Forest Land Management Requirements

Objective 1. *Forest Management Planning*

To ensure forest management plans include *long-term* sustainable harvest levels and measures to avoid forest conversion.

Performance Measure 1.1. *Certified Organizations* shall ensure that forest management plans include *long-term* harvest levels that are sustainable and consistent with appropriate *growth-and-yield models*.

Indicators:

1. Forest management planning at a level appropriate to the size and scale of the operation, such as:
 - a. a *long-term* resources analysis;
 - b. a periodic or ongoing *forest inventory*;
 - c. a *land classification* system;
 - d. *biodiversity* at *landscape* scales;
 - e. soils inventory and maps, where available;
 - f. access to *growth-and-yield modeling* capabilities;
 - g. up-to-date maps or a *geographic information system (GIS)*;
 - h. recommended sustainable harvest levels for areas available for harvest; and
 - i. a review of non-timber issues (e.g., recreation, tourism, pilot projects and economic incentive *programs* to promote water *protection*, carbon storage, *bioenergy feedstock* production, or *biological diversity conservation*, or to address climate-induced ecosystem change).
2. Documented current harvest trends fall within *long-term* sustainable levels identified in the forest management plan.
3. A *forest inventory* system and a method to calculate growth and yield.
4. Periodic updates of *forest inventory* and recalculation of planned harvests to account for changes in growth due to *productivity* increases or decreases, such as: improved data, *long-term* drought, fertilization, *climate change*, changes in forest land ownership and tenure, or *forest health*.

5. Documentation of forest management (such as: *planting*, fertilization and thinning) consistent with assumptions in harvest plans.
6. Assessment of the social, environmental and economic impacts of forest management operations contained in the forest management plan.

Performance Measure 1.2. *Certified Organizations* shall not convert one *forest cover type* to another *forest cover type*, unless an assessment has been conducted to determine ecological impacts and provide appropriate justification..

Indicators:

1. *Certified Organizations* shall not convert one *forest cover type* to another *forest cover type*, unless the conversion:
 - a. does not convert *native forest cover types* that are rare, *ecologically important*, or which put any *native forest cover types* at risk of becoming rare; and
 - b. does not create significant *long-term* adverse impacts on *Forest with Exceptional Conservation Value*, *old growth forests*, forest critical to *threatened and endangered species*, or *special sites*; and
 - c. includes objectives for *long-term* outcomes that support maintaining *native forest cover types* and ecological function; and
 - d. is in compliance with relevant national and regional policy and legislation related to land use and forest management.
2. Any proposed conversion deemed appropriate per 1.2.1, and which has considered impacts relative to scale, may be implemented subject to an assessment that considers:
 - a. a response to address *forest health* issues such as pests or pathogens, or proactive consideration of anticipated impacts of fire or climate change, reforestation challenges, or riparian *protection* needs, provided that such justification is supported by credible science.
 - b. site *productivity*, economics, and/or stand quality.
 - c. ecological impacts of the conversion at the site and *landscape* scale, as well as consideration for any appropriate mitigation measures; and
 - d. appropriate consultation with local communities, *Indigenous People*, and other *stakeholders* who could be affected by such activities.

Performance Measure 1.3. *Certified Organizations* shall not have within the scope of their certification to this *SFI Standard*, forest lands that have been converted to non-forest land use.

Indicator:

1. Forest lands converted to other land uses shall not be certified to this *SFI Standard*. This does not apply to forest lands used for forest and *wildlife* management such as *wildlife* food plots or infrastructure such as forest roads, log processing areas, trails etc.

Objective 2. Forest Health and Productivity

To ensure *long-term* forest *productivity*, *forest health*, carbon storage and *conservation* of forest resources through prompt *reforestation*, *afforestation*, *minimized* chemical use, soil *conservation*, and protecting forests from damaging agents.

Performance Measure 2.1. *Certified Organizations* shall promptly reforest after final harvest.

Indicators:

1. Documented *reforestation* plans, including designation of all harvest areas for either natural, planted or direct seeded regeneration and prompt *reforestation*, unless delayed for site-specific environmental or *forest health* considerations or legal requirements, through *planting* within two years or two *planting* seasons, or by planned *natural regeneration* methods within five years.
2. Clear criteria to judge adequate regeneration and appropriate actions to correct understocked areas and achieve acceptable species composition and stocking rates for *planting*, *direct seeding* and *natural regeneration*.
3. *Plantings* of *exotic tree species* should not increase risk to *native* ecosystems.
4. *Protection* of desirable or planned advanced *natural regeneration* during harvest.
5. Any planned *afforestation* activity should include a plan that considers potential ecological impacts of the selection and *planting* of tree species in non-forested *landscapes*.

Performance Measure 2.2. *Certified Organizations* shall have a *program* to *minimize* chemical use required to achieve management *objectives* while protecting employees, neighbors, the public and the environment, including *wildlife* and *aquatic habitats*.

Indicators:

1. Use of *integrated pest management* shall be preferred.
2. *Minimized* chemical use required to achieve management *objectives*.
3. Use of *least-toxic and narrowest-spectrum pesticides* necessary to achieve management *objectives*.
4. Use of pesticides registered for the intended use and applied in accordance with label requirements.
5. The World Health Organization (WHO) type 1A and 1B pesticides shall be prohibited, except where no other viable alternative is available.
6. Use of pesticides banned under the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (2001) shall be prohibited.
7. Supervision of forest chemical applications by state- or provincial-trained or certified applicators.

8. Use of management practices appropriate to the situation, such as:
 - a. notification of adjoining landowners or nearby residents concerning applications and chemicals used;
 - b. appropriate multilingual signs or oral warnings;
 - c. control of public road access during and immediately after applications;
 - d. designation of streamside and other needed buffer strips;
 - e. use of positive shutoff and minimal-drift spray valves;
 - f. aerial application of forest chemicals parallel to buffer zones to limit drift;
 - g. monitoring of water quality or safeguards to ensure proper equipment use and *protection* of streams, lakes and other water bodies;
 - h. appropriate transportation and storage of chemicals;
 - i. filing of required state or provincial reports; and/or
 - j. use of methods to ensure *protection* of *threatened and endangered* species.

Performance Measure 2.3. *Certified Organizations* shall implement practices which *protect* and maintain forest and soil *productivity* and *soil health*.

Indicators:

1. Process to identify soils vulnerable to compaction, and use of appropriate methods, including the use of soil maps where available, to avoid excessive soil disturbance.
2. Use of erosion control measures to *minimize* the loss of soil and impacts to site *productivity*.
3. Post-harvest conditions conducive to maintaining site *productivity* (such as: retained down woody debris and *minimized skid trails*).
4. Retention of vigorous trees during partial harvesting, consistent with scientific silvicultural standards for the area.
5. Criteria that address harvesting and site preparation to *protect* soil *productivity* and *soil health*.
6. Road construction, skidding layout, and harvest plan designed to *minimize* impacts to soil *productivity* and *soil health*.

Performance Measure 2.4. *Certified Organizations* shall manage so as to *protect* forests from damaging agents, such as environmentally or economically undesirable wildfire, pests, diseases and *invasive species*, to maintain and improve *long-term forest health, productivity* and *economic viability*.

Indicators:

1. *Program* to *protect* forests from damaging agents.
2. Management to promote healthy and productive forest conditions to reduce susceptibility to damaging agents.
3. Participation in, and support of, fire and pest prevention and control *programs*.

Performance Measure 2.5. *Certified Organizations* that deploy *improved planting stock*, including *varietal seedlings*, shall use best scientific methods.

Indicator:

1. *Program* for appropriate research, testing, evaluation and deployment of *improved planting stock*, including *varietal seedlings*.

Objective 3. Protection and Maintenance of Water Resources

To *protect* the water quality and water quantity of rivers, streams, lakes, *wetlands* and other water bodies through meeting or exceeding *best management practices*.

Performance Measure 3.1. *Certified Organizations* shall meet or exceed all applicable federal, provincial, state and local water quality laws, meet or exceed all applicable federal, provincial, state, and local water quantity regulatory requirements, and meet or exceed *best management practices* developed under Canadian or U.S. Environmental Protection Agency–approved water quality *programs*.

Indicators:

1. *Program* to implement federal, state or provincial water quality *best management practices* during all phases of management activities.
2. Contract provisions that specify conformance to *best management practices*.
3. Monitoring of overall *best management practices* implementation.

Performance Measure 3.2. *Certified Organizations* shall implement water, *wetland* and *riparian protection programs* based on soil type, terrain, vegetation, ecological function, harvesting system, state *best management practices (BMPs)*, provincial guidelines and other applicable factors.

Indicators:

1. *Program* addressing management and *protection* of water quality and quantity of rivers, streams, lakes, *wetlands*, other water bodies and *riparian areas* during all phases of management.
2. Mapping of rivers, streams, lakes, *wetlands* and other water bodies as specified in state or provincial *best management practices* and, where appropriate, identification on the ground.
3. Document and implement *programs* to manage and *protect* rivers, streams, lakes, *wetlands*, other water bodies and *riparian areas*.
4. *Programs* that address wet-weather events in order to maintain water quality (such as: *forest inventory* systems, wet-weather tracts and definitions of acceptable operating conditions).

Objective 4. Conservation of Biological Diversity

To maintain or advance the *conservation of biological diversity* at the *stand*- and *landscape*-level and across a diversity of forest and vegetation cover types and successional stages including the *conservation* of forest plants and animals, *aquatic species, threatened and endangered species, Forests with Exceptional Conservation Value, old-growth forests* and *ecologically important* sites.

Performance Measure 4.1. *Certified Organizations* shall conserve *biological diversity*.

Indicators:

1. *Program* to incorporate the *conservation of biological diversity*, including *native* species, *wildlife habitats* and ecological community types at *stand* and *landscape* levels, through the use of *best scientific information* including the incorporation of research results.
2. Development of criteria and implementation of practices, as guided by regionally based *best scientific information*, to retain *stand*-level *wildlife habitat* elements such as snags, stumps, mast trees, down woody debris, den trees and nest trees.
3. *Program* to individually or collaboratively support diversity of *native forest cover types* and age or size classes that enhance *native biological diversity*, by incorporating the results of analysis of documented diversity at *landscape* and ownership/tenure levels, to ensure the contribution of the managed area to the diversity of conditions that promote *biodiversity*.
4. *Certified Organizations* shall participate in or incorporate the results of state, provincial, or regional *conservation* planning and priority-setting efforts to conserve biological diversity and incorporate the results of these efforts in forest management planning. Credible priority-setting efforts include state and provincial *wildlife* action plans, state forest action plans, relevant *habitat conservation* plans, provincial *wildlife* recovery plans, or ecoregional plans.
5. *Program* to address *conservation of ecologically important* species and *natural communities*, including those that are locally rare.
6. Identification and *protection of non-forested wetlands*, including bogs, fens and marshes, and *vernal pools* that are *ecologically important*.
7. Participation in *programs* and demonstration of activities as appropriate to limit the introduction, spread and impact of *invasive species* that directly threaten or are likely to threaten *native* plant and animal communities.
8. Consider the role of natural disturbances, including the use of prescribed or natural fire where appropriate, and *forest health* threats in relation to *biological diversity* when developing forest management plans.

Performance Measure 4.2. *Certified Organizations* shall *protect threatened and endangered* species, *critically imperiled* and *imperiled* species and *natural communities (Forests with Exceptional Conservation Values)*, and *old-growth forests*.

Indicators:

1. *Program* to *protect threatened and endangered* species.
2. *Program* to locate and *protect* known sites flora and fauna associated with viable occurrences of *critically imperiled* and *imperiled* species and ecological communities, defined as *Forests with Exceptional Conservation Value*. *Programs for protection* may be developed independently or collaboratively, and may include *Certified Organization* management, cooperation with other *stakeholders*, or use of easements, *conservation* land sales, exchanges, or other *conservation* strategies.
3. Support of and participation in *programs* for the *conservation* of *old-growth forests* in the region of ownership or forest tenure.

Performance Measure 4.3. *Certified Organizations* shall manage to *protect ecologically important* sites in a manner that takes into account their unique qualities.

Indicators:

1. Use of information such as existing NatureServe or natural heritage data or expert advice in identifying or selecting ecologically important sites for *protection*.
2. Appropriate mapping, cataloging and management of identified ecologically important sites.

Performance Measure 4.4. *Certified Organizations* shall apply knowledge gained through research, science, technology and field experience to manage *wildlife habitat* and contribute to the *conservation* of *biological diversity*.

Indicators:

1. Collection of information on *Forests with Exceptional Conservation Value* and other *biodiversity*-related data through *forest inventory* processes, mapping or participation in external *programs*, such as NatureServe, state or provincial heritage *programs*, or other credible systems. Such participation may include providing non-proprietary scientific information, time and assistance by staff, or in-kind or direct financial support.
2. A methodology to incorporate data collected, research results and field applications of *biodiversity* and ecosystem research into forest management decisions.
3. Individually or collaboratively participate in or support research that clarifies the *conservation* outcomes resulting from management strategies.

Objective 5. Management of Visual Quality and Recreational Benefits.

To manage the visual impact of forest operations and provide recreational opportunities for the public.

Performance Measure 5.1. *Certified Organizations* shall manage the impact of harvesting on *visual quality*.

Indicators:

1. *Program* to address *visual quality management*.

2. Incorporation of aesthetic considerations in harvesting, road, landing design and management, and other management activities where visual impacts are a concern.

Performance Measure 5.2. *Certified Organizations* shall manage the size, shape and placement of clearcut harvests.

Indicators:

1. Average size of clearcut harvest areas does not exceed 120 acres (50 hectares), except when necessary to meet regulatory requirements, achieve ecological *objectives* or to respond to *forest health* emergencies or other natural catastrophes.
2. Documentation through internal records of clearcut size and the process for calculating average size.

Performance Measure 5.3. *Certified Organizations* shall adopt a *green-up requirement* or alternative methods that provide for *visual quality*.

Indicators:

1. *Program* implementing the *green-up requirement* or alternative methods.
2. Harvest area tracking system to demonstrate conformance with the *green-up requirement* or alternative methods.
3. Trees in clearcut harvest areas are at least 3 years old or 5 feet (1.5 meters) high at the desired level of stocking before adjacent areas are clearcut, or as appropriate to address operational and economic considerations, alternative methods to reach the *performance measure* are utilized by the *Program Participant*.

Performance Measure 5.4. *Certified Organizations* shall support and promote recreational opportunities for the public.

Indicator:

1. Provide recreational opportunities for the public, where consistent with forest management *objectives*.

Objective 6. Protection of Special Sites.

To manage lands that are geologically or *culturally important* in a manner that takes into account their unique qualities.

Performance Measure 6.1. *Certified Organizations* shall have a *program* to identify *special sites* and manage them in a manner appropriate for their unique features.

Indicators:

1. Use of information such as existing natural heritage data, expert advice or *stakeholder consultation*, and consultation with *Indigenous Peoples* in identifying or selecting *special sites for protection*.
2. Appropriate mapping, cataloging and management of identified *special sites*.

Objective 7. Efficient Use of Fiber Resources.

To *minimize* waste and ensure the efficient use of fiber resources.

Performance Measure 7.1. *Certified Organizations* shall employ appropriate forest harvesting technology and in-woods manufacturing processes to *minimize* waste and ensure efficient utilization of harvested trees, where consistent with other *SFI Standard objectives*.

Indicator:

1. *Program* or monitoring system to ensure efficient utilization, using provisions such as:
 - a. management of harvest residue (such as: slash, limbs, tops) considers economic, social and environmental factors (such as organic and nutrient value to future forests and the potential of increased fuels build-up) and other utilization needs;
 - b. training or incentives to encourage loggers to enhance utilization;
 - c. exploration of markets for underutilized species and low-grade wood and alternative markets (such as bioenergy markets); or
 - d. periodic inspections and reports noting utilization and product separation.

Objective 8. Recognize and Respect Indigenous Peoples' Rights.

To recognize and respect *Indigenous Peoples'* rights and traditional knowledge.

Performance Measure 8.1. *Certified Organizations* shall recognize and respect *Indigenous Peoples'* rights.

Indicators:

1. *Certified Organizations* shall develop and implement a written *policy* acknowledging a commitment to recognize and respect the rights of *Indigenous Peoples*. This *policy* shall provide reference to a *program* that includes:
 - a. use of available resources and information to identify the *Indigenous Peoples* whose rights may be affected by the *Certified Organization's* forest management activities.
 - b. recognition of the established framework of legal, customary and traditional rights such as outlined in:
 - i. the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples
 - ii. federal, provincial and state laws and regulations
 - iii. treaties, agreements or other constructive arrangements among governments and *Indigenous Peoples*.
 - c. appropriate training of personnel and contractors so that the *Certified Organization* is competent to fulfill their responsibilities under Objective 8 of the Forest Management Standard.
2. The written *policy* shall be publicly available.

Performance Measure 8.2. *Certified Organizations* with forest *management responsibilities on public lands* shall confer with *Indigenous Peoples* whose rights may be affected by the *Certified Organization's* forest management practices.

Indicator:

1. *Program* that includes communicating with affected *Indigenous Peoples* to enable *Certified Organizations* to:
 - a. understand and respect *traditional forest-related knowledge*;
 - b. identify and *protect* spiritually, historically, or *culturally important* sites;
 - c. address the use of *non-timber forest products* of value;
 - d. communicate through processes that respect their representative institutions, using appropriate protocols;
 - e. provide opportunities to review forest management practices; and
 - f. respond to inquiries and concerns received.

Performance Measure 8.3. *Certified Organizations* are encouraged to communicate with and shall respond to *Indigenous Peoples* whose rights may be affected by forest management practices on their private lands.

Indicators:

1. *Certified Organizations* are aware of *traditional forest-related knowledge*, such as known cultural heritage sites, the use of wood in traditional buildings and crafts, and flora that may be used in cultural practices for food, ceremonies or medicine.
2. Respond to *Indigenous Peoples* inquiries and concerns received.

Objective 9. Climate Smart Forestry.

To ensure forest management activities address climate change adaptation and mitigation measures.

Performance Measure 9.1. *Certified Organizations* shall develop a *program* to identify and address the climate change risk to forests and forest operations and develop appropriate adaptation objectives and strategies based on analysis of available regional climate models, research, and scenario analysis.

Indicators:

1. Based on *best scientific information*, *Certified Organizations* shall identify climate change risks and prioritize them based on the likelihood, nature, scale and longevity of their expected impact to their forest lands or forest tenures.
2. *Certified Organizations* shall develop an adaptation plan to address priority climate change risks, which considers approaches for potential adaptive management.
3. *Certified Organizations* shall document how their adaptation plan objectives and strategies fit within broader regional climate adaptation strategies and plans, where they exist.

Performance Measure 9.2. *Certified Organizations* shall have a *program* to identify and address opportunities for climate change mitigation associated with its forest operations.

Indicators:

1. Based on *best scientific information*, *Certified Organizations* shall identify and address opportunities to enhance carbon sequestration on the forests they own or manage considering factors such as:

- a. improved growth rates toward the enhancement of forest carbon pools (e.g., through improved seed selection, plantation survival, stocking levels, choice of species, thinning, competition reduction, fertilization), *reforestation* and/or *afforestation*,
 - b. silvicultural activities to limit the impacts from wildfire, disease or forest pests,
 - c. adjustments to forest management *practices*, as appropriate.
2. Based on *best scientific information*, *Certified Organizations* shall identify and develop a *program* to address greenhouse gas emissions.

Objective 10. Legal and Regulatory Compliance.

To comply with all applicable laws and regulations including, international, federal, provincial, state and *local*.

Performance Measure 10.1. *Certified Organizations* shall comply with applicable federal, provincial, state and local *forestry* and related social and environmental laws and regulations.

Indicators:

1. Access to relevant laws and regulations in appropriate locations.
2. System to achieve compliance with applicable federal, provincial, state, or local laws and regulations.
3. Demonstration of commitment to legal compliance through *available regulatory action information*.

Performance Measure 10.2. *Certified Organizations* shall take appropriate steps to comply with all applicable social laws at the federal, provincial, state and local levels in the country in which the *Certified Organization* operates.

Indicators:

1. Written *policy* demonstrating commitment to comply with social laws, such as those covering civil rights, equal employment opportunities, gender equality, diversity inclusion, anti-discrimination and anti-harassment measures, workers' compensation, *Indigenous Peoples'* rights, workers' and communities' right to know, prevailing wages, workers' right to organize, and occupational health and safety.
2. *Forestry enterprises* will respect the rights of workers and labor representatives in a manner that encompasses the intent of the International Labor Organization (ILO) core conventions.

Objective 11. Forestry Research, Science and Technology.

To invest in *forestry* research, science and technology, upon which sustainable forest management decisions are based.

Performance Measure 11.1. *Certified Organizations* shall individually and/or through cooperative efforts involving *SFI Implementation Committees*, associations or other partners provide in-kind support or funding for forest research to improve *forest health, productivity* and

sustainable management of forest resources, and the environmental benefits and performance of forest products.

Indicators:

1. Financial or in-kind support of research to address questions of relevance in the region of operations. Examples could include, but are not limited to, areas of forest *productivity*, water quality, biodiversity, *landscape* ecology, community issues, support for Forest Inventory Analysis (FIA), SFI's Conservation Grant Program, or similar areas which build broader understanding of the benefits and impacts of forest management.
2. Research on genetically modified trees via *forest tree biotechnology* shall adhere to all applicable federal, state, and provincial regulations and international protocols ratified by the United States and/or Canada depending on jurisdiction of management.
3. Consider the sharing of knowledge gained through research in appropriate formats to influence sustainable forest management.

Performance Measure 11.2. *Certified Organizations* shall individually and/or through cooperative efforts involving *SFI Implementation Committees*, associations or other partners develop or use state, provincial or regional analyses in support of their *sustainable forestry programs*.

Indicator:

1. Participation, individually and/or through cooperative efforts involving *SFI Implementation Committees* and/or associations at the national, state, provincial or regional level, in the development information such as:
 - a. regeneration assessments;
 - b. *growth and drain* assessments;
 - c. *best management practices* implementation and conformance;
 - d. *biodiversity conservation* information for family forest owners; and
 - e. social, cultural or economic benefit assessments.

Objective 12. Training and Education.

To improve the implementation of *sustainable forestry* through appropriate training and education *programs*.

Performance Measure 12.1. *Certified Organizations* shall require appropriate training of personnel and contractors so that they are competent to fulfill their responsibilities under the *SFI 2015-2019 Forest Management Standard*.

Indicators:

1. Written statement of commitment to the *SFI 2022 Forest Management Standard* communicated throughout the organization, particularly to facility and woodland managers, and field foresters.
2. Assignment and understanding of roles and responsibilities for achieving *SFI 2022 Forest Management Standard objectives*.

3. Staff education and training sufficient to their roles and responsibilities.
4. Contractor education and training sufficient to their roles and responsibilities.
5. *Certified Organizations* shall have written agreements for the use of *qualified logging professionals* and/or *certified logging companies* (where available) and/or *wood producers* that have completed training *programs* and are recognized as *qualified logging professionals*.

Performance Measure 12.2. *Certified Organizations* shall work individually and/or with *SFI Implementation Committees*, logging or *forestry* associations, or appropriate agencies or others in the *forestry* community to foster improvement in the professionalism of *wood producers* specific to *qualified logging professionals*.

Indicators:

1. Participation in or support of *SFI Implementation Committees* to establish criteria and identify delivery mechanisms for *wood producer* core training courses that address:
 - a. awareness of *sustainable forestry principles* and the *SFI program*;
 - b. *best management practices*, including streamside management and road construction, maintenance and retirement;
 - c. awareness of responsibilities under the U.S. Endangered Species Act, the Canadian Species at Risk Act, *Forests with Exceptional Conservation Value (critically imperiled and imperiled species and ecological communities)*, and other measures to *protect biodiversity and wildlife habitat*; logging safety;
 - e. U.S. Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) and Canadian Centre for Occupational Health and Safety (CCOHS) regulations, wage and hour rules, and other provincial, state and local employment laws.
2. Participation in or support of *SFI Implementation Committees* to establish criteria and identify delivery mechanisms for *wood producer* continuing education training courses at least once every two years that address one or more of the following topics:
 - a. *reforestation, invasive species, forest resource conservation, aesthetics and special sites*;
 - b. awareness of rare forested *natural communities* as identified by provincial or state agencies, or by credible organizations such as NatureServe and The Nature Conservancy;
 - c. transportation issues;
 - d. business management;
 - e. public policy and outreach;
 - f. awareness of emerging technologies;
 - g. logging safety;
 - h. trends related to the effectiveness of the *SFI Implementation Committee* approved *wood producer* training programs.

Performance Measure 12.3. *Certified Organizations* shall work individually and/or with *SFI Implementation Committees*, logging or *forestry* associations, or appropriate agencies or others in the *forestry* community to foster improvement in the professionalism of *wood producers* specific to *certified logging companies* where they exist.

1. Participation in or support of *SFI Implementation Committees* to establish criteria for recognition of logger certification *programs*, where they exist, that include:
 - a. completion of *SFI Implementation Committee* recognized logger training *programs* and meeting continuing education requirements of the training *program* of key personnel;
 - b. independent in-the-forest verification of conformance with the logger certification *program* standards;
 - c. compliance with all applicable laws and regulations including responsibilities under the U.S. Endangered Species Act, the Canadian Species at Risk Act and other measures to *protect wildlife habitat including Forest with Exceptional Conservation Value (critically imperiled and imperiled species and ecological communities)*;
 - d. use of *best management practices* to *protect* water quality;
 - e. adherence to a logging safety *program*;
 - f. compliance with acceptable *silviculture* and utilization standards;
 - g. aesthetic management techniques employed where applicable; and
 - h. adherence to a management or harvest plan that is site specific and agreed to by the forest landowner.
 - i. independent verification that each crew includes an individual who:
 - i. has completed the *SFI Implementation Committee* approved *wood producer* training program,
 - ii. is an owner of, employee of, or contracted by the *wood producer*, and
 - iii. has direct responsibility and is on-site regularly to consistently carry out the roles and responsibilities of the *wood producer*.

Objective 13. Community Involvement and Landowner Outreach.

To broaden the practice of *sustainable forestry* through public outreach, education, and involvement, and to support the efforts of *SFI Implementation Committees*.

Performance Measure 13.1. *Certified Organizations* shall support and promote efforts by consulting foresters, state, provincial and federal agencies, state or local groups, professional societies, *conservation* organizations, *Indigenous Peoples* and governments, community groups, sporting organizations, labor, universities, extension agencies, the *American Tree Farm System*[®] and/or other landowner cooperative *programs* to apply *principles* of sustainable forest management.

Indicators:

1. Support, including financial, for efforts of *SFI Implementation Committees*.
2. Support, individually or collaboratively, education and outreach to forest landowners describing the importance and providing implementation guidance on:
 - a. *best management practices*;
 - b. *reforestation* and *afforestation*;
 - c. *visual quality management*;
 - d. *conservation objectives*, such as critical *wildlife habitat* elements, *biodiversity*, *threatened and endangered* species, and *Forests with Exceptional Conservation Value*;

- e. management of harvest residue (e.g., slash, limbs, tops) considers economic, social, environmental factors (e.g., organic and nutrient value to future forests) and other utilization needs;
 - f. control of *invasive species*;
 - g. characteristics of *special sites*; and
 - h. reduction of wildfire risk.
3. Participation in efforts to support or promote *conservation* of managed forests through voluntary market-based incentive *programs* such as current-use taxation *programs*, *Forest Legacy Program*, *conservation* easements federal, state, or provincial cost share programs, or the SFI Conservation Grant Program.

Performance Measure 13.2. *Certified Organizations* shall support and promote, at the state, provincial or other appropriate levels, mechanisms for public outreach, education and involvement related to sustainable forest management.

Indicator:

1. Periodic educational opportunities for the public promoting *sustainable forestry*, such as
 - a. field tours, seminars, websites, webinars or workshops;
 - b. educational trips;
 - c. self-guided forest management trails;
 - d. publication of articles, educational pamphlets or newsletters; or
 - e. support for national, state, provincial, and local *forestry* organizations and soil and water *conservation* districts.
 - f. engagement and support of teachers and/or students through programs such as Project Learning Tree.

Performance Measure 13.3. *Certified Organizations* shall establish, at the state, provincial, or other appropriate levels, procedures to address concerns raised by loggers, consulting foresters, employees, unions, the public or other *Certified Organizations* regarding management that appears inconsistent with the *SFI Standard principles* and *objectives*.

Indicators:

1. Support for *SFI Implementation Committees* (e.g., toll-free numbers and other efforts) to address concerns about apparent nonconformance.
2. Process to receive and respond to public inquiries. *SFI Implementation Committees* shall submit data annually to *SFI Inc.* regarding concerns received and responses.

Objective 14: Public Land Management Responsibilities.

To participate and implement sustainable forest management on *public lands*.

Performance Measure 14.1. *Certified Organizations* with forest *management responsibilities on public lands* shall participate in the development of *public land* planning and management processes.

Indicators:

1. Involvement in *public land* planning and management activities with appropriate governmental entities and the public.
2. Appropriate contact with local *stakeholders* over forest management issues through state, provincial, federal or independent collaboration.

Objective 15. Communications and Public Reporting.

To increase transparency and to annually report progress on conformance with the *SFI Forest Management Standard*.

Performance Measure 15.1. A *Certified Organization* shall provide a summary audit report, prepared by the *certification body*, to *SFI Inc.* after the successful completion of a certification, recertification or surveillance audit to the *SFI 2022 Forest Management Standard*.

Indicator:

1. The summary audit report submitted by the *Certified Organization* (one copy must be in English), shall include, at a minimum,
 - a. a description of the audit process, *objectives* and scope;
 - b. a description of substitute *indicators*, if any, used in the audit and a rationale for each;
 - c. the name of *Certified Organization* that was audited, including its *SFI* representative;
 - d. a general description of the *Certified organization's* forestland included in the audit;
 - e. the name of the *certification body* and *lead auditor* (names of the *audit team* members, including *technical experts* may be included at the discretion of the *audit team* and *Program Participant*);
 - f. the dates the audit was conducted and completed;
 - g. a summary of the findings, including general descriptions of evidence of conformity and any nonconformities and corrective action plans to address them, opportunities for improvement, and exceptional management ; and
 - h. the certification decision.

The summary audit report will be posted on the *SFI Inc.* website (www.sfiprogram.org) for public review.

Performance Measure 15.2. *Certified Organizations* shall report annually to *SFI Inc.* on their conformance with the *SFI 2022 Forest Management Standard*.

Indicators:

1. Prompt response to the *SFI* annual progress report survey.
2. Record keeping for all the categories of information needed for *SFI* annual progress report surveys.
3. Maintenance of copies of past survey reports to document progress and improvements to demonstrate conformance to the *SFI 2022 Forest Management Standard*.

Objective 16. Management Review and Continual Improvement.

To promote continual improvement in the practice of *sustainable forestry* by conducting a management review and monitoring performance.

Performance Measure 16.1. *Certified Organizations* shall establish a management review system to examine findings and progress in implementing the *SFI 2022 Forest Management Standard*, to make appropriate improvements in *programs*, and to inform their employees of changes.

Indicators:

1. System to review commitments, *programs* and procedures to evaluate effectiveness.
2. System for collecting, reviewing, and reporting information to management regarding progress in achieving *SFI 2022 Forest Management Standard objectives* and *performance measures*, including measures to reduce the negative impacts from forest management operations.
3. Annual review of progress by management and determination of changes and improvements necessary to continually improve conformance to the *SFI 2022 Forest Management Standard*.