



**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.	14
OBJECTIVE 6. PROTECTION OF SPECIAL SITES.	15
OBJECTIVE 7. EFFICIENT USE OF FIBER RESOURCES.	15
OBJECTIVE 8. RECOGNIZE AND RESPECT INDIGENOUS PEOPLES' RIGHTS.	16
OBJECTIVE 9. CLIMATE SMART FORESTRY.	17
OBJECTIVE 10. LEGAL AND REGULATORY COMPLIANCE.	17
OBJECTIVE 11. <i>FORESTRY</i> RESEARCH, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY.	18
OBJECTIVE 12. TRAINING AND EDUCATION.	19
OBJECTIVE 13. COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT AND LANDOWNER OUTREACH.	21
OBJECTIVE 14: <i>PUBLIC LAND</i> MANAGEMENT RESPONSIBILITIES.	22
OBJECTIVE 15. COMMUNICATIONS AND PUBLIC REPORTING.	23
OBJECTIVE 16. MANAGEMENT REVIEW AND CONTINUAL IMPROVEMENT.	24

## 1. General

### 1.1 Scope

#### What the Forest Management Standard Does

The *SFI 2022-15-2019 Forest Management Standard* promotes sustainable forestry practices based on ~~13XX~~ Principles, ~~1516~~ Objectives, ~~37XX~~ Performance Measures and ~~101XXX~~ Indicators. These requirements include measures to protect water quality, biodiversity, wildlife habitat, species at risk and *Forests with Exceptional Conservation Value*.

Commented [SFI 1]: Will update once all revisions are final.

#### What the Forest Management Standard Covers

The *SFI 2022-15-2019 Forest Management Standard* applies to any organization that owns or has management authority for forestlands.

#### Geographic Application of the Forest Management Standard

The *SFI 2022-15-2019 Forest Management Standard* applies to organizations in the United States and Canada.

### 1.2 Additional Requirements

*SFI Program Participants 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 2022-15-2019 Fiber Sourcing Standard*.

Use of the *SFI* on-product labels and claims shall follow Section ~~65~~ - 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~~1~~ - 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 ~~87~~ -SFI Policies
- iv. Section ~~109~~ – SFI 2015-2019 Audit Procedures and Auditor Qualifications and Accreditation
- v. Section ~~119~~ - Communications and Public Reporting
- vi. Section ~~143~~ - SFI Definitions
- vii. Interpretations for the Requirements for the *SFI 2022-15-2019 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 143).

#### Informative References

- i. ISO 14001:2015~~04~~ Environmental Management Systems - Specification with guidance for use
- ii. PEFC ST 1003:2018~~0~~ Sustainable Forest Management Requirements, November 28~~6~~, 2018~~0~~
- iii. PEFC ST 1002:2018~~0~~ Group Forest Management Certification, November 28~~6~~, 2018~~0~~
- iv. Section 76 - Guidance to *SFI 2022+5-2019* Standards
- v. Section 98 - SFI Standards Development and Interpretations Process
- vi. Section 124 - Public Inquiries and Official Complaints
- vii. Section 132 - Optional Modules

### 1.4 Forest Management Standard Principles

*SFI Program-Participants 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* ~~protect~~ private property rights, and to help all private landowners manage their forestland sustainably. In keeping with this responsibility, *SFI Program-Participants 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~~ ~~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, ~~climate change mitigation~~ ~~carbon~~, *biological diversity*, *wildlife* and *aquatic habitats*, recreation and aesthetics.

Commented [SFI 2]: Linkage to the new Objective 9 – Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation

#### 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* ~~exotic~~ ~~species~~ ~~plants~~ ~~and~~ ~~animals~~ 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 and ecological or natural community 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 Practices in North America**

To use and promote among other forest landowners *sustainable forestry practices* that ~~*are 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 20~~22~~15-2019 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 ~~manage the quality and distribution of wildlife habitats and contribute to the conservation of biological diversity at the~~ *by developing and implementing stand- and landscape-level* and across ~~measures that promote~~ a diversity of ~~types of habitats~~ and successional stages including ~~and~~ the *conservation* of forest plants and animals, including aquatic species, as well as 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 109. Legal and Regulatory Compliance**

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

**Objective 119. Forestry Research, Science and Technology**

To invest in *forestry* research, science and technology, upon which sustainable forest management decisions are based. and broaden the awareness of climate change impacts on forests, wildlife and biological diversity.

**Objective 124. Training and Education**

**Commented [SF13]:** The new Climate Change Objective captures the intent of this requirement.

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

**Objective 132. 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 143. Public Land Management Responsibilities**

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

**Objective 154. Communications and Public Reporting**

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

**Objective 165. 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 15-2019~~ 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.** *Program-Participants 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 including:
  - 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, ~~including but not limited to~~ 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 practices~~ (such as: e *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.**

**Commented [SFI 4]:** This was an interpretation which is now incorporated into the Standard. (Interpretation #2, Part 1).

**Performance Measure 1.2.** *Program Participants 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. ~~ed circumstances.~~

Indicators:

1. *Program Participants 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;~~ is in compliance with relevant national and regional policy and legislation related to land use and forest management; 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;~~ Would not convert native forest types that are rare and ecologically significant at the landscape level or put any native forest types at risk of becoming rare; and
  - c. ~~includes objectives for long-term outcomes that support maintaining native forest cover types and ecological function; and Does not create significant long-term adverse impacts on Forests with Exceptional Conservation Value, old growth forests, forests critical to threatened and endangered species, and special sites.~~
  - 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 ~~Where a Program Participant intends to convert another forest cover type;~~ 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. ~~Productivity and stand quality conditions and impacts which may include social and economic values;~~

b. ~~site productivity, economics, and/or stand quality. Specific ecosystem issues related to the site such as invasive species, insect or disease issues, riparian protection needs and others as appropriate to site including regeneration challenges; and~~

c. ~~ecological impacts of the conversion including a review~~ 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.

**Commented [SFI 5]:** Staff developed guidance regarding appropriate stakeholder consultation.

**Performance Measure 1.3.** ~~Program Participants~~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.** ~~Program Participants~~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~~ *minimize* risk to *native* ecosystems.
4. *Protection* of desirable or planned advanced *natural regeneration* during harvest.
5. Any planned *A*fforestation activity should include a plan ~~programs~~ that considers potential ecological impacts of the selection and *planting* of tree species in non-forested *landscapes*.

**Commented [SFI 6]:** This requirement aligns with PEFC requirement for afforestation (ST 1003: 8.15, 8.2.4, 8.4.5, 8.4.6)

**Performance Measure 2.2.** ~~Program Participants~~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, ~~for examplesuch 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 ~~minimize~~ 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.** ~~Program-Participants~~Certified Organizations shall implement ~~forest management~~ practices ~~which to 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: e.g., limited rutting, retained down woody debris and *minimized skid trails*).
4. Retention of vigorous trees during partial harvesting, consistent with scientific silvicultural standards for the area.

**Commented [SFI 7]:** Definition of 'integrated pest management' was edited to align with PEFC's definition which is adopted from FAO. Section 13 reflects this edit.

**Commented [SFI 8]:** Task Group determined that a new term 'soil health' should be adopted to highlight values in the soil other than the soils ability to grow trees.

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

5. Criteria that address harvesting and site preparation to *protect* soil *productivity* and soil health.
6. Road construction, ~~and~~ skidding layout, and harvest plan designed to *minimize* impacts to soil *productivity* and soil health.

**Performance Measure 2.4.** ~~Program-Participants~~Certified Organizations shall manage so as to *protect* forests from damaging agents, such as environmentally or economically undesirable wildfire, pests, diseases and *invasive* ~~species~~ exotic plants and animals, 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 ~~minimize~~ reduce susceptibility to damaging agents.
3. Participation in, and support of, fire and pest prevention and control *programs*.

**Performance Measure 2.5.** ~~Program-Participants~~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.** ~~Program-Participants~~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.** ~~Program-Participants~~Certified Organizations shall implement water, *wetland* and *riparian protection* ~~programs~~ measures 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, ~~including the layout and construction of roads and skid trails to maintain water reach, flow and quality.~~
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~~ation~~ and implement~~ation~~ *programs of plans* to manage and *protect* rivers, streams, lakes, *wetlands*, other water bodies and *riparian areas*.
4. ~~Programs Plans~~ that address wet-weather events in order to maintain water quality (~~such as: e.g., forest inventory systems, wet-weather tracts and~~ definitions of acceptable operating conditions).

#### Objective 4. Conservation of Biological Diversity

To ~~maintain or advance~~ ~~manage the quality and distribution of wildlife habitats and contribute to the conservation of biological diversity at the~~ ~~by developing and implementing stand- and landscape-level~~ ~~and across~~ ~~measures that promote~~ a diversity of types of ~~forest and vegetation cover types~~ ~~habitats~~ and successional stages ~~including,~~ ~~and~~ the conservation of forest plants and animals, ~~including aquatic species, as well as threatened and endangered species, Forests with Exceptional Conservation Value, old-growth forests and~~ ~~ecologically important~~ sites.

**Performance Measure 4.1.** ~~Program Participants~~ *Certified Organizations* shall conserve biological diversity.

Indicators:

1. *Program* to incorporate the conservation of ~~native~~ 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.~~ Document diversity of forest cover types and age or size classes at the individual ownership or forest tenure level, and where credible data are available, at the landscape scale.

**Commented [SF19]:** New defined term.

**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.

**Commented [SFI 10]:** The use of "native" has been moved this sentence because it does not apply to the term or concept of "biodiversity". Biodiversity is the variety and [variability of life on Earth](#), typically measured as the variation at the genetic, species, and ecosystem level. As such it does not have a locality. The term "native" is better applied to species, or biota, or flora and fauna, e.g. the black spruce is a native species of the boreal forest.

**Commented [SFI 11]:** Staff has developed guidance to address: the use of credible sources; the link between assessments and informing management practices to aid in landscape-level outcomes; various sources and means to engage with credible partners toward these goals.

**Commented [SFI 12]:** Staff developed guidance to clarify and offer examples of conditions that can affect biodiversity by virtue of condition, age and/or size classes.

~~Working individually or collaboratively to support diversity of native forest cover types and age or size classes that enhance biological diversity at the landscape scale.~~

4. ~~Program Participants~~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~~ consider these efforts in forest management planning. ~~Examples of credible~~ priority-setting efforts include state and provincial *wildlife* action plans, state forest action plans, relevant *habitat conservation* plans, ~~or provincial wildlife~~ recovery plans, or ecoregional plans.
5. ~~Program to address conservation of known sites with viable occurrences of significant species of concern, 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 ~~of ecological significance~~.
7. Participation in *programs* and demonstration of activities as appropriate to limit the introduction, spread and impact of ~~invasive species exotic plants and animals~~ 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.

**Commented [SFI 13]:** Guidance developed relative to incorporating results into forest management planning.

**Commented [SFI 14]:** Guidance has been developed clarify the relationship between the new term “ecologically important” and the concept of “viable occurrences of significant species of concern”, essentially an effort to make language more clear and consistent. Guidance includes attention to species that are vulnerable and/or locally rare.

**Commented [SFI 15]:** *Natural Communities* is now a defined term, to better reflect terminology employed by conservationists and ecologists.

**Commented [SFI 16]:** Guidance was developed to clarify the relationship between these wetland areas the concept of “natural communities”.

**Commented [SFI 17]:** This change was made to better reflect current terminology.

**Performance Measure 4.2.** ~~Program Participants~~Certified Organizations shall *protect* ~~threatened and endangered~~ species, ~~critically imperiled and imperiled~~ species and natural communities (*Forests with Exceptional Conservation Values*)~~(FECV)~~, 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 also known as *Forests with Exceptional Conservation Value*. ~~Programs~~ Plans for *protection* may be developed independently or collaboratively, and may include ~~Program-Certified Organization Participant~~ management, cooperation with other *stakeholders*, or use of easements, *conservation* land sales, exchanges, or other *conservation* strategies.
3. Support of and participation in ~~plans or programs~~ for the *conservation* of *old-growth* forests in the region of ownership or forest tenure.

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

**Commented [SFI 18]:** ‘to protect’ added here in the PM to strengthen the requirement for protection of ecologically important sites.

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.** *Program-ParticipantsCertified 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.** *Program-ParticipantsCertified 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.** *Program-ParticipantsCertified 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.** *Program-ParticipantsCertified 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.** ~~Program Participants~~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.** ~~Program Participants~~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*.

**Commented [SFI 19]:** Now a defined term.

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

### **Objective 7. Efficient Use of Fiber Resources.**

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

**Performance Measure 7.1.** ~~Program Participants~~Certified Organizations shall employ appropriate forest harvesting technology and in-woods manufacturing processes ~~and practices~~ 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, ~~which may include using~~ provisions such as to ensure:
  - a. management of harvest residue (such as: e-g-7, slash, limbs, tops) considers economic, social and environmental factors (such as e-g-7, 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 e-g-7, 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.** ~~Program Participants~~Certified Organizations shall recognize and respect *Indigenous Peoples'* rights.

Indicators:

1. ~~Program Participants~~Certified Organizations ~~will~~ shall develop and implement ~~provide~~ 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.

**Commented [SFI 20]:** This was an interpretation which is now incorporated into the Standard. (Interpretation #1, Part 1).

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

Indicator:

1. *Program* that includes communicating with affected *Indigenous Peoples* to enable ~~Program Participants~~ 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 ~~to *Indigenous Peoples* in areas where *Program Participants* have management responsibilities on public lands;~~
  - d. communicate through processes that respect their representative institutions, using appropriate protocols;
  - e. provide opportunities to review forest management practices; and
  - f. respond to *Indigenous Peoples'* inquiries and concerns received.

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

Indicators:

1. ~~Program Participants~~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 109. Legal and Regulatory Compliance.**

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

**Commented [SFI21]:** Local: a level of elected government below state or province such as county, district, city, township, municipality, town or parish.

**Performance Measure 109.1.** ~~Program-Participants~~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 109.2.** ~~Program-Participants~~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-Program-Participant 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.

**Commented [SFI 22]:** Alignment with PEFC requirements.

### **Objective 119. Forestry Research, Science and Technology.**

To invest in *forestry* research, science and technology, upon which sustainable forest management decisions are based, and broaden the awareness of climate change impacts on forests, wildlife and biological diversity;

**Commented [SFI 23]:** The new Climate Change Objective will capture the intent of this requirement.

**Performance Measure 119.1.** ~~Program-Participants~~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 engineered 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.

**Commented [SFI 24]:** Adopting the term 'genetically modified' trees to align with PEFC terminology.

~~3. Consider the sharing of knowledge gained through research in appropriate formats to influence sustainable forest management.~~

**Commented [SFI 25]:** New indicator to encourage knowledge sharing.

**Performance Measure 119.2.** ~~Program-Participants~~*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 ~~or use of some of the following 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.

~~**Performance Measure 10.3.** Program-Participants~~*Certified Organizations* shall individually and/or through cooperative efforts involving *SFI Implementation Committees*, associations or other partners ~~broaden the awareness of climate change impacts on forests, wildlife and biological diversity.~~

~~Indicators:~~

- ~~1. Where available, monitor information generated from regional climate models on long term forest health, productivity and economic viability.~~
- ~~2. Program-Participants~~*Certified Organizations* are knowledgeable about *climate change impacts on wildlife, wildlife habitats and conservation of biological diversity* through *international, national, regional or local programs.*

**Commented [SFI 26]:** This Performance Measure is no longer needed due to the new Climate Change Objective.

### **Objective 121. Training and Education.**

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

**Performance Measure 121.1.** ~~Program-Participants~~*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 20215-2019 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 20215-2019 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. ~~Program Participants~~Certified Organizations shall have written agreements for the use of qualified logging professionals and/or ~~certified logging companies professionals~~ (where available) and/or wood producers that have completed training programs and are recognized as qualified logging professionals.

**Commented [SFI 27]:** New definition proposed by to replace certified logging professional.

**certified logging company:** A qualified logging professional 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.

**Performance Measure 12.1.2.** ~~Program Participants~~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 and periodic continuing education 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. reforestation, invasive exotic plants and animals, forest resource conservation, aesthetics and special sites;~~
  - ~~d.~~ 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 (e.g., Forests with Exceptional Conservation Value); logging safety;
  - ~~e.g.~~ 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.
  - ~~f. transportation issues;~~
  - ~~g. business management;~~
  - ~~h. public policy and outreach; and~~
  - ~~i. awareness of emerging technologies.~~

**Commented [SFI 28]:** Moved to PM 11.3, Indicator 2 under continuing education requirements.

**Commented [SFI 29]:** Moved to continuing education – PM 11.3, Indicator 2

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: The SIC approved wood producer training programs shall have a continuing education component with coursework that supports the current training programs, safety and the principles of sustainable forestry:

**Commented [SFI 30]:** New Indicator to call out Continuing Education for Qualified Logging Professionals.

- a. reforestation, invasive species exotic plants and animals, 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;

**Commented [SFI 31]:** New Definition:  
**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).

- f. awareness of emerging technologies;
- g. logging safety; and
- h. trends related to the effectiveness of the SFI Implementation Committee approved wood producer training programs.

**Performance Measure 124.3.** *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* ~~professionals where they exist.~~

**Commented [SFI 32]:** New Performance Measure to emphasize Certified Logging Companies.

13. 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 132. 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 132.1.** ~~Program Participants~~ *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/exotic plants and animals*;
  - 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 132.2.** *Program-Participants/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 132.3.** *Program-Participants/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 *Program-Participants/Certified Organizations* regarding management practices 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 nonconforming practices.
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 143: Public Land Management Responsibilities.**

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

**Performance Measure 143.1.** ~~Program-Participants~~*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 154. Communications and Public Reporting.**

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

**Performance Measure 154.1.** A ~~Certified Organization~~*Program-Participant* 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 2022-15-2019 Forest Management Standard*.

Indicator:

1. The summary audit report submitted by the ~~Certified Organization~~*Program-Participant* (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~~*Program-Participant* that was audited, including its *SFI* representative;
  - d. a general description of the ~~Program-Participant's~~*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 practices*; 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 154.2.** ~~Program-Participants~~*Certified Organizations* shall report annually to *SFI Inc.* on their conformance with the *SFI 2022-15-2019 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 2022-15-2019 Forest Management Standard*.

**Objective 165. 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 165.1.** *Program-Participants Certified Organizations* shall establish a management review system to examine findings and progress in implementing the *SFI 2022-15-2019 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 2022-15-2019 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 2022-15-2019 Forest Management Standard*.

**Commented [SFI 33]:** This was an interpretation which is now incorporated into the Standard. (Interpretation #2, Part 1).