

# SFI 2022 Forest Management Edition Compliance Matrix (SF61)

## SFI 2022 Forest Management Standard

### 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 or afforestation of ecologically important areas.

**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.

*Indicator 1* Forest management planning at a level appropriate to the size and scale of the operation, 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 and use of 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. consideration of non-timber issues such as 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.

*Indicator 2* Documented current harvest trends fall within long-term sustainable levels identified in the forest management plan.

*Indicator 3* A forest inventory system and a method to calculate growth and yield is used to determine annual and/or periodic harvest levels.

*Indicator 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: improved data, long-term drought, fertilization, climate change, changes in forest land ownership and tenure, or forest health.

*Indicator 5* Documentation of forest management (such as: planting, fertilization and thinning) consistent with assumptions in harvest plans.

*Indicator 6* Assessment of the local or regional social, environmental, and economic effects 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.

*Indicator 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 that put any native forest cover types at risk of becoming rare; and b. does not create significant adverse impacts on Forests with Exceptional Conservation Value, old growth forests, forest critical to threatened and endangered species, or special sites or ecologically important non-forest eco-systems; 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.

*Indicator 2* A proposed conversion deemed appropriate per 1.2.1, and which has considered impacts relative to scale, may be implemented subject to a landscape 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 the best scientific information. 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 Peoples, 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.

**Performance Measure 1.4** Certified Organizations shall not afforest in locations which negatively impact ecologically important natural communities, threatened and endangered species, or native natural communities which could be at risk of becoming rare.

*Indicator 1* Any afforestation activity must include an evaluation of the proposed site to determine the presence of: a. ecologically important natural communities, or b. threatened and endangered species, or c. native natural communities that could be at risk of becoming rare.

*Indicator 2* Afforestation shall not occur on that location if the evaluation determines a negative impact to: a. ecologically important natural communities, or b. threatened and endangered species, or c. native natural communities which could be at risk of becoming rare.

## **Objective 2. Forest Health and Productivity**

To ensure long-term forest productivity and conservation of forest resources through prompt reforestation, afforestation, deploying integrated pest management strategies, minimized chemical use, soil conservation, and protecting forests from damaging agents.

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

*Indicator 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.

*Indicator 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.

*Indicator 3* Plantings of native or non-invasive naturalized tree species are preferred. In exceptional circumstances where exotic tree species are being planted, they should not increase risk to native ecosystems.

*Indicator 4* Protection of desirable or planned advanced natural regeneration during harvest.

**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.

*Indicator 1* Pest management shall be implemented through the use of integrated pest management.

*Indicator 2* Minimized chemical use required to achieve management objectives.

*Indicator 3* Use of least-toxic and narrowest-spectrum pesticides necessary to achieve management objectives.

*Indicator 4* Use of pesticides registered for the intended use and applied in accordance with label requirements.

*Indicator 5* The World Health Organization (WHO) type 1A and 1B pesticides shall be prohibited, except where no other viable alternative is available.

*Indicator 6* Use of pesticides banned under the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (2001) shall be prohibited.

*Indicator 7* Supervision of forest chemical applications by state- or provincially trained or certified applicators.

*Indicator 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. use of spill response plans and chemical spill kits; j. filing of required state or provincial reports; and/or k. use of methods to ensure protection of threatened and endangered species.

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

*Indicator 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.

*Indicator 2* Use of erosion control measures to minimize the loss of soil and impacts to site productivity.

- Indicator 3* Post-harvest conditions conducive to maintaining site productivity (such as: retained down woody debris and minimized skid trails).
- Indicator 4* Retention of vigorous trees during partial harvesting, consistent with scientific silvicultural standards for the area.
- Indicator 5* Practices that address harvesting and site preparation to protect soil productivity and soil health.
- Indicator 6* Road construction, skidding layout, and harvest plans designed to minimize impacts to soil productivity and soil health.

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

- Indicator 1* Program to protect forests from damaging agents.
- Indicator 2* Management to promote healthy and productive forest conditions to reduce susceptibility to damaging agents.
- Indicator 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.

**Performance Measure 3.1** Certified Organizations shall meet or exceed all applicable federal, provincial, state and local water quality laws and meet or exceed best management practices.

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

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

- Indicator 1* Program addressing management and protection of water quality of rivers, streams, lakes, wetlands, other water bodies and riparian areas during all phases of management.
- Indicator 2* Program to protect water quantity during all phases of management.
- Indicator 3* Programs that address wet-weather events in order to maintain water quality such as: forest inventory systems, identification of 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.

- Indicator 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.
- Indicator 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.

- Indicator 3* Program to individually and/or through cooperative efforts such as SFI Implementation Committees, support diversity of native forest cover types and age or size classes that enhance 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.
- Indicator 4* Certified Organizations shall individually and/or through cooperative efforts such as SFI Implementation Committees, participate in or incorporate the results of credible, relevant 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, Indigenous planning processes or ecoregional plans.
- Indicator 5* Program to address conservation of ecologically important species and natural communities.
- Indicator 6* Identification and protection of non-forested wetlands, including bogs, peatlands, fens and marshes, and vernal pools that are ecologically important.
- Indicator 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.
- Indicator 8* Consider the role of natural disturbances, including opening size, structural retention, 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 (Forests with Exceptional Conservation Values), and natural communities, and old-growth forests.

- Indicator 1* Program to protect threatened and endangered species.
- Indicator 2* Program to locate and protect known sites of 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 and/or through cooperative efforts involving SFI Implementation Committees and may include Certified Organization managers of Certified Organizations, cooperation with other stakeholders, or use of easements, conservation land sales, exchanges, or other conservation strategies.
- Indicator 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.

- Indicator 1* Use of information such as existing NatureServe or natural heritage data or expert advice in identifying or selecting ecologically important sites for protection.
- Indicator 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, field experience and the results of monitoring of the effectiveness of conservation-related programs to manage wildlife habitat and contribute to the conservation of biological diversity.

- Indicator 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 reputable organizations. Such participation may include providing non-proprietary scientific information, time, and assistance by staff, or in-kind or direct financial support.
- Indicator 2* A program to incorporate data collected, research results and field applications of biodiversity and ecosystem research into forest management decisions.
- Indicator 3* Individually or collaboratively participate in or support research that demonstrates 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.

- Indicator 1* Program to address visual quality management.

*Indicator 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.

*Indicator 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.

*Indicator 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.

*Indicator 1* Program implementing the green-up requirement or alternative methods.

*Indicator 2* Harvest area tracking system to demonstrate conformance with the green-up requirement or alternative methods.

*Indicator 3* Trees in clearcut harvest areas are at least three years old or five 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 Certified Organization.

**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 and protect them in a manner appropriate for their unique features.

*Indicator 1* Use of information such as existing natural heritage data, expert advice or stakeholder consultation, or consultation with Indigenous Peoples in identifying or selecting special sites for protection.

*Indicator 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 forest resources 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.

*Indicator 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.

*Indicator 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 plans and 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 the Certified Organization's private lands.

*Indicator 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.

*Indicator 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 individually and/or through cooperative efforts involving SFI Implementation Committees or other partners identify and address the climate change risks to forests and forest operations and develop appropriate adaptation objectives and strategies. Strategies are based on best scientific information.

*Indicator 1* Based on best scientific information, Certified Organizations shall identify climate change risks and prioritize them based on the likelihood, nature, severity of their expected impact to their forest lands or forest tenures.

*Indicator 2* Certified Organizations shall develop an adaptation plan to address priority climate change risks, via effective implementation of the SFI 2022 Forest Management Standard requirements for potential adaptive management including: a. periodic updates of forest inventory and recalculation of planned harvests as appropriate to account for changes in growth due to productivity increases or decreases, including improved data, long-term drought, fertilization, climate change, or forest health; b. access to growth and yield modeling capabilities; c. documented harvest trends within long-term sustainable levels identified in the forest management plan, and d. appropriate research, testing, evaluation, and deployment of improved planting stock, including varietal seedlings.

*Indicator 3* Certified Organizations shall document how their adaptation plan objectives and strategies fit within broader regional climate adaptation strategies and plans, where they exist.

*Indicator 4* Certified Organizations shall report annually to SFI Inc. their progress towards achieving climate change adaptation strategies and plans.

**Performance Measure 9.2** Certified Organizations shall individually and/or through cooperative efforts involving SFI Implementation Committees or other partners identify and address opportunities to mitigate the effects associated with its forest operations on climate change.

*Indicator 1* Based on best scientific information, Certified Organizations shall identify and address opportunities to enhance the climate benefits associated with forest management operations on the forests they own or manage via effective implementation of the SFI 2022 Forest Management Standard requirements such as: a. Objective 2 – Forest Health and Productivity; Objective 10 – Fire Smart Forestry; and/or other silvicultural or operational practices to enhance the climate benefits associated with their forest operations.

*Indicator 2* Based on best scientific information, Certified Organizations shall identify and address opportunities to enhance ecosystem resilience for the forests they own or manage via effective implementation of the SFI 2022 Forest Management Standard requirements including: a. prompt reforestation or planned natural reforestation as per Indicator 2.2.1; b. adequate regeneration and appropriate actions to correct understocked areas, and c. evaluation for afforestation of areas that are not ecologically important, and d. protection of desirable or planned advanced regeneration during harvest and the retention of vigorous trees during partial harvest.

*Indicator 3* Based on best scientific information, Certified Organizations shall develop a program to identify and address greenhouse gas emissions within their operational control.

*Indicator 4* Certified Organizations shall report annually to SFI Inc. their measures to mitigate climate change associated with forest operations.

## **Objective 10. Fire Resilience and Awareness**

To limit susceptibility of forests to undesirable impacts of wildfire and to raise community awareness of fire benefits, risks, and minimization measures.

**Performance Measure 10.1** On the forests they own or manage, Certified Organizations shall limit susceptibility to undesirable impacts of wildfire, promote healthy and resilient forest conditions through management techniques, actions and/or policies, and support restoration of forests following wildfire damage.

*Indicator 1* Program to evaluate the risk of undesirable impacts of wildfire and the role of fire on the forests they own or manage.

*Indicator 2* Use of stand and landscape level management techniques, actions and/or policies to promote forest health and resilience, and to mitigate the likelihood of undesirable impacts of wildfire, such as, prescribed fire, cultural burning, thinning, or hazardous fuel reduction where appropriate based on risk.

*Indicator 3* Use of management techniques to address wildfire damage, mitigate negative impacts to water and soils, and to promote forest restoration and future forest resilience.

**Performance Measure 10.2** Certified Organizations shall individually and/or through cooperative efforts involving government agencies, SFI Implementation Committees, Project Learning Tree, or other partners, engage in efforts to raise awareness of and take action towards benefits of fire management and minimization of undesirable impacts of wildfire.

*Indicator 1* Participation in, or support of, local, state, provincial, federal, or Indigenous fire management and prevention programs.

*Indicator 2* Participation in, or support of, programs to promote benefits of fire management, and raise awareness about the environmental, economic, and social risks of undesirable impacts of wildfire to values such as carbon emissions, water quality and quantity, air quality, species habitat, public safety, and human health.

## **Objective 11. Legal and Regulatory Compliance**

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

**Performance Measure 11.1** Certified Organizations shall comply with applicable federal, provincial, state, and local forestry and environmental laws and regulations.

*Indicator 1* Access to relevant laws and regulations.

*Indicator 2* System to achieve compliance with applicable federal, provincial, state, or local laws, and regulations.

*Indicator 3* Demonstration of commitment to legal compliance through available regulatory action information.

**Performance Measure 11.2** Certified Organizations shall comply with all applicable social laws at the federal, provincial, state, and local levels in the country in which the Certified Organization operates.

*Indicator 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.

*Indicator 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 12. Forestry Research, Science and Technology**

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

**Performance Measure 12.1** 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 sustainable management of forest resources, and the environmental benefits and performance of forest products.

*Indicator 1* Financial or in-kind support of research, collaboratives, or knowledge transfer to address key themes of relevance in the region of operations as identified by Certified Organizations, local stakeholders, communities and/or Indigenous Peoples. Examples could include, but are not limited to, the following topics: a. climate change adaptation and mitigation; b. water quality and quantity; c. biodiversity, Forests with Exceptional Conservation Value, and species maintenance and recovery; d. landscape ecology; e. Indigenous traditional forest-related knowledge; f. ecosystem services or non-timber forest products; g. community engagement; h. forest health and productivity; i. support for Forest Inventory Analysis (FIA); j. SFI sponsored conservation research; k. the role of forests in the bioeconomy, and l. or similar themes which build broader understanding of the benefits and effects of sustainable forest management or sustainable supply chains.

*Indicator 2* Ensure that knowledge gained through research is shared, to the extent possible, to positively influence sustainable forest management.

**Performance Measure 12.2** Certified Organizations shall individually and/or through cooperative efforts involving SFI Implementation Committees, associations or other partners develop, contribute to, or use national, 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 of 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; e. social, cultural, or economic benefit assessments; and f. landscape-scale biodiversity assessments which clarify the contributory role of sustainable forest management.

### **Objective 13. Training and Education**

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

**Performance Measure 13.1** Certified Organizations shall require appropriate training of personnel and contractors so that they are competent to fulfill their responsibilities under the SFI 2022 Forest Management Standard.

*Indicator 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.

*Indicator 2* Assignment and understanding of roles and responsibilities for achieving SFI 2022 Forest Management Standard objectives.

*Indicator 3* Staff education and training sufficient to their roles and responsibilities.

*Indicator 4* Contractor education and training sufficient to their roles and responsibilities.

*Indicator 5* Certified Organizations shall have written agreements for the use of qualified logging professionals, or wood producers that have completed training programs and are recognized as qualified logging professionals and/or certified logging companies.

**Performance Measure 13.2** Certified Organizations shall work individually and/or through cooperative efforts involving 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.

*Indicator 1* Participation in or support of SFI Implementation Committees to establish criteria and identify delivery mechanisms for wood producer core training courses that allow individuals to attain qualified logging professional status. These criteria shall address at least the following: a. awareness of sustainable forestry principles and SFI's work across four pillars: standards, conservation, community, and education; 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; d. 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, and f. other topics identified by Certified Organizations and/or SFI Implementation Committees that improve their responsibilities in meeting the SFI 2022 standards.



*Indicator 2* Participation in or support of SFI Implementation Committees to establish criteria and identify delivery mechanisms for wood producer continuing education training courses that shall be taken by qualified logging professionals at least once every two years to maintain their status. The continuing education training course(s) shall address one or more of the following topics: a. awareness of sustainable forestry principles and SFI's work across four pillars: standards, conservation, community, and education; b. best management practices, including streamside management and road construction, maintenance, and retirement; c. reforestation, invasive species management, forest resource conservation, aesthetics and special sites; d. awareness of rare forested natural communities as identified by provincial or state agencies, or by credible organizations such as NatureServe and The Nature Conservancy; e. transportation issues; f. business management; g. public policy and outreach; h. awareness of emerging technologies; i. logging safety; or j. other topics identified by Certified Organization and/or SFI Implementation Committees that improve their responsibilities in meeting the SFI 2022 Standards.

## **Objective 14. 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 14.1** 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.

*Indicator 1* Support, including financial, for efforts of SFI Implementation Committees.

*Indicator 2* Support, individually and/or through cooperative efforts involving SFI Implementation Committees, 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; i. use of qualified logging professionals, qualified resource professionals and/or certified logging companies; j. awareness of SFI, and k. reporting of inconsistent practices.

*Indicator 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 SFI Conservation Grants.

**Performance Measure 14.2** Certified Organizations shall individually and/or through cooperative efforts involving SFI Implementation Committees 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 14.3** Certified Organizations shall, individually and/or through cooperative efforts including SFI Implementation Committees, establish, at the state, provincial, or other appropriate levels, procedures to address concerns raised by loggers, consulting foresters, employees, unions, stakeholders, the public or other Certified Organizations regarding management that appears inconsistent with the SFI standards principles and objectives.

*Indicator 1* Support for SFI Implementation Committees (e.g., toll-free numbers and other efforts) to address concerns about apparent nonconformance.

*Indicator 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 15. Public Land Management Responsibilities**

To participate and implement sustainable forest management on public lands.

**Performance Measure 15.1** Certified Organizations with forest management responsibilities on public lands shall participate in the development of public land planning and management processes.

*Indicator 1* Involvement in public land planning and management activities with appropriate governmental entities and the public.

*Indicator 2* Appropriate contact with local stakeholders over forest management issues through state, provincial, federal, or independent collaboration.

## Objective 16. Communications and Public Reporting

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

**Performance Measure 16.1** 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 Organizations (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 Certified Organization); 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.forests.org](http://www.forests.org)) for public review.

**Performance Measure 16.2** Certified Organizations shall report annually to SFI Inc. on their conformance with the SFI 2022 Forest Management Standard.

*Indicator 1* Prompt response to the SFI annual progress report survey.

*Indicator 2* Record keeping for all the categories of information needed for SFI annual progress report surveys.

*Indicator 3* Maintenance of copies of past survey reports to document progress and improvements to demonstrate conformance to the SFI 2022 Forest Management Standard.

## Objective 17. 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 17.1** 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.

*Indicator 1* System to review commitments, programs, and procedures to evaluate effectiveness.

*Indicator 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.

*Indicator 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.

# SFI 2022 Forest Management Standard

## 1.4 Forest Management Standard Principles

### Principle 1. Sustainable Forestry

To practice sustainable forestry means meeting 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 for the provision of ecosystem services such as the conservation of soil, air and water quality and quantity, climate change adaptation and mitigation, biological diversity, wildlife and aquatic habitats, recreation and aesthetics.

**Principle 2. Forest Productivity and Health**

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

**Principle 3. Protection of Water Resources**

To protect and maintain the water quality and quantity of 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.

**Principle 4. Protection of Biological Diversity**

To manage forests in ways that protect and promote biological diversity, including animal and plant species, wildlife habitats, ecologically and culturally important species, threatened and endangered species (i.e., Forest with Exceptional Conservation Values) and native forest cover types at multiple scales.

**Principle 5. Aesthetics and Recreation**

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

**Principle 6. Protection of Special Sites**

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

**Principle 7. Legal Compliance**

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

**Principle 8. Research**

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

**Principle 9. Training and Education**

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

**Principle 10. Community Involvement and Social Responsibility, and Respect for Indigenous Rights**

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.

**Principle 11. Transparency**

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

**Principle 12. Continual Improvement**

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

**Principle 13. Responsible Fiber Sourcing**

To use and promote sustainable forestry across a diversity of ownership and management types in the United States and Canada that is both scientifically credible and socially, environmentally, and economically responsible and to avoid sourcing from controversial sources both domestically and internationally.