



# SUSTAINABLE FORESTRY INITIATIVE

SFI-00001

## **SECTION 14: SFI DEFINITIONS**

**March 1, 2021  
SFI 2022 Standards and Rules**



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## SFI Definitions

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

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

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

**adaptation:** Climate change adaptation refers to actions that reduce the negative impact of climate change, while taking advantage of potential new opportunities. It involves adjusting policies and actions because of observed or expected changes in climate.

**afforestation:** Establishment of forest through planting and/or deliberate seeding on land that, until then, was under a different land use, implies a transformation of land use from non-forest to forest (source: FAO 2018).

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**best management practices (BMPs):** A practice or combination of practices for *protection* of water quality that is determined by a federal, provincial, state, or local government or other responsible entity, after problem assessment, examination of alternative practices, and appropriate public participation, to be the most effective and practicable (including

technological, economic, and institutional considerations) means of conducting a forest management operation while addressing any environmental considerations.

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

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

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

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

- ANSI-ASQ National Accreditation Board (ANAB) as being competent to conduct certifications to the SFI 2022 Forest Management Standard, SFI Fiber Sourcing Standard, SFI Chain-of-Custody Standard or SFI Certified Sourcing Standard, SFI Small Lands Group Certification Module, or SFI Small Scale Forest Management Module for Indigenous Peoples, Families and Communities.
- Standards Council of Canada (SCC) as being competent to conduct certifications to the SFI 2022 Forest Management Standard, SFI Fiber Sourcing Standard, SFI Chain-of-Custody Standard or SFI Certified Sourcing Standard, SFI Small Lands Group Certification Module, or SFI Small Scale Forest Management Module for Indigenous Peoples, Families and Communities.

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

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

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

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

- SFI 202215-2019 Forest Management Standard
- Canadian Standards Association (CAN/CSA-Z809)
- Canadian Standards Association (CAN/CSA-Z804)
- American Tree Farm System (ATFS) individual and group certification.

**post-consumer recycled content:** Material generated by households or by commercial, industrial and institutional facilities in their role as end-users of the product, which can no longer be used for its intended purpose. Any claims about post-consumer recycled content by Program Participants or label users shall be accurate and consistent with applicable law. Program Participants and label users are encouraged to consult the U.S. Federal Trade Commission's guidelines on environmental claims in product advertising and communication and the guidelines on environmental labeling and advertising issued by the Fair Business Practices Branch of Industry Canada's Competition Bureau, as appropriate, and to seek additional information and direction from national accreditation bodies, national standards bodies and national, state and provincial consumer protection and competition laws.

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

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

**certified logging company:** An entity that holds independent, in-the-forest verification of conformance with a logger certification program. The logger certification program shall require its members to:

- a. require its key personnel to complete *SFI Implementation Committee* approved *qualified logging professional* logger training *program(s)*;
- b. comply with all applicable laws and regulations and measures to protect *wildlife habitat* including *Forest with Exceptional Conservation Value* (critically imperiled and imperiled species and ecological communities);
- c. use *best management practices* to protect water quality;
- d. adhere to a logging safety *program*;
- e. comply with acceptable silviculture and utilization standards;
- f. use aesthetic management techniques where applicable, and
- g. adhere to a management or harvest plan that is *site* specific and agreed to by the forest landowner.

**Certified Organization:** An organization certified by an accredited *certification body* to be in conformance with the *SFI 2022 15-2019 Forest Management Standard*, *SFI Small-Scale Forest Management Module for Indigenous Peoples, Families and Communities* and/or *SFI 2022 15-2019 Fiber Sourcing Standard* and/or *SFI 2022 15-2019 Chain of Custody Standard* and/or *the SFI 2022 Certified Sourcing Standard*.

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

- Fiber that conforms with the SFI 2022 Fiber Sourcing Standard; and/or
- Pre-Consumer Recycled Content: Forest and tree-based material recovered from waste during a manufacturing process. Excluded is reutilization of materials such as rework, regrind or scrap generated in a process and capable of being reclaimed within the same process that generated it. Excluded are by-products resulting from primary production processes, such as sawmilling by-products (sawdust, chips, bark, etc.) or forestry residues (bark, chips from branches, roots, etc.) as they are not considered waste.

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

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

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

- *Certified forest content*: Includes content from specific forest tracts that are third-party certified to conform with the *SFI 2022 Forest Management Standard* or other *acceptable forest management standards* (e.g., CAN/CSA-Z809, CAN/CSA-Z804, and ATFS); and/or
- *Non-controversial sources*: If the raw material is sourced from outside of the United States and Canada, the organization shall establish adequate measures to ensure that the labeled products do not come from *controversial sources*. See Section 4, Part 7 or Section 5, Part 7 on the process to avoid *controversial sources*. Up to one third of the supply for *secondary producers* can come from *non-controversial sources* for use of the *Certified Sourcing* label; the other two-thirds must come from the sources defined under the *certified sourcing* definition — fiber that conforms with the *SFI 2022 Fiber Sourcing Standard*, and/or *pre-consumer recycled content*, and/or *post-consumer recycled content*, and/or *certified forest content*.

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

**climate change:** A change in the state of the climate that can be identified (e.g., by using statistical tests) by changes in the mean and/or the variability of its properties and that persists for an extended period typically decades or longer. *Climate change* may be due to natural

internal processes or external forcing's or to persistent anthropogenic changes in the composition of the atmosphere or in land use. Note: Taken from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPPC).

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

**controversial sources:**

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

**illegal logging:** Harvesting and trading of wood fiber in violation of applicable laws and regulations in the country of harvest.

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

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

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

**conversion sources:** Roundwood and/or chips produced from conversion of forestland to other land uses resulting in regional forest area decline.

**crew:** An organized group of forest workers under the leadership of a designated person at a single site. A crew might contain a single person or dozens depending on the task and operation involved.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

- a. workers' health and safety;
- b. fair labor practices;
- c. Indigenous Peoples' rights;
- d. anti-discrimination and anti-harassment measures;



- e. prevailing wages; and
- f. workers' right to organize.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**critically imperiled:** A plant or animal or community, often referred to as G1, that is globally extremely rare or, because of some factor(s), especially vulnerable to extinction. Typically, five or fewer occurrences or populations remain, or very few individuals (<1,000), acres (<2,000 acres or 809 hectares), or linear miles (<10 miles or 16 kilometers) exist (Further information can be found under *Forests with Exceptional Conservation Value* in Section 7 of the *SFI 2022 Standards and Rules*).

**imperiled:** A plant or animal or community, often referred to as G2, that is globally rare or, because of some factor(s), is very vulnerable to extinction or elimination. Typically, six to 20 occurrences, or few remaining individuals (1,000 to 3,000), or acres (2,000 to

10,000 acres or 809 to 4,047 hectares), or linear miles (10 to 50 miles or 16 to 80.5 kilometers) exist. (Further information can be found under *Forests with Exceptional Conservation Value* in Section 7 of the *SFI 2022 Standards and Rules*.)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**high-biodiversity wilderness areas:** The world's largest-remaining tracts of tropical forest that are more than 75% intact. These areas are characterized by extraordinary biological richness, including exceptional concentrations of endemic species, and are also of crucial importance to climate regulation, watershed *protection*, and maintenance of traditional Indigenous lifestyles.

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

**imperiled:** A plant or animal or community, often referred to as G2, that is globally rare or, because of some factor(s), is very vulnerable to extinction or elimination. Typically, six to 20 occurrences, or few remaining individuals (1,000 to 3,000), or acres (2,000 to 10,000 acres or 809 to 4047 hectares), or linear miles (10 to 50 miles or 16 to 80.5 kilometers) exist. (Further information can be found under *Forests with Exceptional Conservation Value* in *SFI* Section 6 — Guidance to *SFI 2022 Standards*.)

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

**indicator:** A specific metric that provides information about an organization's *forestry* and environmental performance, and that is integral to assessing conformance to the *SFI 2022 Standards' objectives* and *performance measures*.

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

In the United States, the U.S. Department of Interior: Bureau of Indian Affairs publishes a list of each of the [573 federally recognized tribes](#).

In Canada, Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada provides a list of the [619 recognized First Nations](#) by province. Rights-holding Métis communities in Canada, as per S. 35(2) of the *Constitution Act, 1982*, include but are not limited to governing members of the Métis National Council as well as the Métis Settlements General Council.

**integrated pest management:** The careful consideration of all available pest control techniques and subsequent integration of appropriate measures that discourage the development of pest populations and keep pesticides and other interventions to levels that are economically justified and reduce or minimize risks to human health and the environment (source: FAO 2018).

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

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

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

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

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

**lead auditor:** An *auditor* appointed to lead an *audit team*. Also referred to as an *audit team leader* (ISO 19011:2018, 3.14, note 1).

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

**local** (when used in Objective 11 Forest Management Standard and Objective 4 Fiber Sourcing Standard): a level of government below federal, state or province such as county, district, city, township, municipality, town, or parish.

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

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

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

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

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

**mitigation:** Climate change mitigation consists of actions to limit the magnitude or rate of global warming and its related effects. This generally involves reductions in human emissions of greenhouse gases.

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

**native:** Species of ecological communities occurring naturally in an ecological region, as neither a direct or indirect consequence of recent human activity. (Ecological Regions of North America: Levels I-II)

**natural community:** Natural communities are combinations of *native* plants and animals that are regularly found together in particular settings. Human-caused disturbances have been minimal, consistent with historical disturbance regimes (e.g., prescribed fire), or the natural community has recovered from that disturbance, or the human-caused disturbance falls within the range of natural disturbance. (Adapted from NatureServe).

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**other credible chain-of-custody standards:** Standards capable of tracking fiber back to a forest certified to the *SFI 2022 Forest Management Standard*, the *SFI Small-Scale Forest Management Module for Indigenous Peoples, Families and Communities* or other acceptable standards recognized by SFI. They include:

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

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

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

**performance measure:** A means of judging whether an *objective* has been fulfilled.

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

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

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

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

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

**pre-consumer recycled content:** Forest and tree-based material recovered from waste during a manufacturing process. Excluded is reutilization of materials such as rework, regrind or

scrap generated in a process and capable of being reclaimed within the same process that generated it. Excluded are by-products resulting from primary production processes, such as sawmilling by-products (sawdust, chips, bark, etc.) or forestry residues (bark, chips from branches, roots, etc.) as they are not considered waste.

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

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

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

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

**principle:** The vision and direction for sustainable forest management as embodied in the *principles* of the *SFI 2022 Standards*.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**SFI certification:** A systematic and documented verification process to obtain and evaluate evidence objectively to determine whether a *Certified Organization* conforms to the requirements of *SFI 2022 Standards and Rules*.

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



**SFI Small-Scale Forest Management Module for Indigenous Peoples, Families and Communities:** The *principles, policies, objectives, performance measures and indicators* that detail specific forest management requirements for *Certified Organizations*.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Sustainable Forestry Initiative Inc. (SFI):** *SFI Inc.* is a 501c(3) non-profit charitable organization, and is solely responsible for maintaining, overseeing and improving the Sustainable Forestry Initiative. *SFI Inc.* directs all elements of the Sustainable Forestry Initiative

including the *SFI Standard(s)*, including forest management, *fiber sourcing*, and chain-of-custody certifications, *and* labeling and marketing. *SFI Inc.* is overseen by a three-chamber board of directors representing social, environmental, and economic sectors.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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