SFI 2022 Forest Management Standard (Section 2)

November 14, 2020
Table of Contents

1. GENERAL ________________________________________________________________ 3
1.1 SCOPE _________________________________________________________________ 3
1.2 ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS ______________________________________________ 3
1.3 REFERENCES ___________________________________________________________ 3
1.4 FOREST MANAGEMENT STANDARD PRINCIPLES ______________________________ 4
1.5 FOREST MANAGEMENT STANDARD OBJECTIVES ______________________________ 65
1.6 SFI 2022 FOREST LAND MANAGEMENT REQUIREMENTS __________________________ 87

    OBJECTIVE 1. FOREST MANAGEMENT PLANNING ___________________________________ 87
    OBJECTIVE 2. FOREST HEALTH AND PRODUCTIVITY _________________________________ 109
    OBJECTIVE 3. PROTECTION AND MAINTENANCE OF WATER RESOURCES ________________ 1311
    OBJECTIVE 4. CONSERVATION OF BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY _____________________________ 1412
    OBJECTIVE 5. MANAGEMENT OF VISUAL QUALITY AND RECREATIONAL BENEFITS. ___________ 1613
    OBJECTIVE 6. PROTECTION OF SPECIAL SITES. ______________________________________ 1714
    OBJECTIVE 7. EFFICIENT USE OF FIBER RESOURCES. ________________________________ 1715
    OBJECTIVE 8. RECOGNIZE AND RESPECT INDIGENOUS PEOPLES’ RIGHTS. ________________ 1815
    OBJECTIVE 9. CLIMATE SMART FORESTRY. _____________________________________ 1916
    OBJECTIVE 10. LEGAL AND REGULATORY COMPLIANCE. ______________________________ 2017
    OBJECTIVE 11. FORESTRY RESEARCH, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY. _____________________ 2117
    OBJECTIVE 12. TRAINING AND EDUCATION. ________________________________________ 2218
    OBJECTIVE 13. COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT AND LANDOWNER OUTREACH. ________________ 2520
    OBJECTIVE 14: PUBLIC LAND MANAGEMENT RESPONSIBILITIES. ______________________ 2621
    OBJECTIVE 15. COMMUNICATIONS AND PUBLIC REPORTING. ____________________________ 2722
    OBJECTIVE 16. MANAGEMENT REVIEW AND CONTINUAL IMPROVEMENT. _________________ 2823
1. General

1.1 Scope

What the Forest Management Standard Does

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

What the Forest Management Standard Covers

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

Geographic Application of the Forest Management Standard


1.2 Additional Requirements

SFI Program Participants Certified Organizations with fiber sourcing programs (acquisition of roundwood and field-manufactured or primary-mill residual chips, pulp and veneer to support a forest products facility), must also conform to the SFI 2022-15-2019 Fiber Sourcing Standard.

Use of the SFI on-product labels and claims shall follow Section 65 - Rules for Use of SFI On-Product Labels and Off-Product Marks as well as ISO 14020:2000.

1.3 References

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

Normative References

i. ISO/IEC 17021:2015 - Conformity Assessment - Requirements for bodies providing audit and certification of management systems

ii. ISO/IEC Guide 2:2004 Standardization and related activities - General vocabulary

iii. Section 87 - SFI Policies

iv. Section 106 - SFI 2015-2019 Audit Procedures and Auditor Qualifications and Accreditation

v. Section 116 - Communications and Public Reporting

vi. Section 143 - SFI Definitions

vii. Interpretations for the Requirements for the SFI 2022-15-2019 Program
In the context of this standard, the definitions given in ISO/IEC Guide 2:2004 apply, together with the definitions in the SFI Definitions (Section 143).

### Informative References

2. PEFC ST 1003:2018 Sustainable Forest Management Requirements, November 2018
3. PEFC ST 1002:2018 Group Forest Management Certification, November 2018
4. Section 76 - Guidance to SFI 2022 Standards
5. Section 98 - SFI Standards Development and Interpretations Process
6. Section 124 - Public Inquiries and Official Complaints
7. Section 132 - Optional Modules

### 1.4 Forest Management Standard Principles

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

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

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

3. **Protection of Water Resources**
   - To protect 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 and quantity to meet the needs of both human communities and ecological systems.
4. **Protection of Biological Diversity**
To manage forests in ways that protect and promote biological diversity, including animal and plant species, wildlife habitats, ecologically and culturally important species, threatened and endangered species (i.e. Forest with Exceptional Conservation Values) and native forest cover types at multiple scales and ecological or natural community types.

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

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

7. **Responsible Fiber Sourcing Practices in North America**
To use and promote among other forest landowners sustainable forestry practices that are both scientifically credible and economically, environmentally and socially responsible.

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

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

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

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

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

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

14. **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.

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Commented [SFI5]: Requirements now rolled into P. 4.

Commented [SFI6]: Edit to retain P6 with edit to align with inclusion of “ecologically important” in P4.

Commented [SFI7]: Now addressed in P. 12.

Commented [SFI8]: Edit broadens the scope of what is being considered for research.

Commented [SFI9]: New Principle to align with new Objective which applies in the U.S., Canada and internationally.
1.5 Forest Management Standard Objectives

A Summary of the SFI 2022-2019 Forest Management Standard Objectives follows:

Objective 1. Forest Management Planning
To ensure forest management plans include long-term sustainable harvest levels and measures to avoid forest conversion or afforestation of ecologically important areas.

**Why it Matters:** Ensures that we grow more trees than we harvest, guaranteeing that forests will last for future generations.

Objective 2. Forest Health and Productivity
To ensure long-term forest productivity, carbon storage 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.

**Why it Matters:** Ensures that forests remain healthy and resilient which means better forest productivity including providing a reliable and renewable source of sustainably managed fiber for consumer products.

Objective 3. Protection and Maintenance of Water Resources
To protect the water quality and water quantity of rivers, streams, lakes, wetlands and other water bodies through meeting or exceeding best management practices.

**Why it Matters:** Protects water quality and quantity helps provide safe and abundant drinking water for all.

Objective 4. Conservation of Biological Diversity
To maintain or advance the quality and distribution of wildlife habitats and contribute to the conservation of biological diversity at the by developing and implementing stand- and landscape-level measures that promote a diversity of types of forest and vegetation cover types, habitats and successional stages including, and the conservation of forest plants and animals, including aquatic species, as well as threatened and endangered species, Forests with Exceptional Conservation Value, old-growth forests and ecologically important sites.

**Why it Matters:** Ensures that forests are managed to protect wildlife habitat and conserve biological diversity.

Objective 5. Management of Visual Quality and Recreational Benefits
To manage the visual impact of forest operations and provide recreational opportunities for the public.

**Why it Matters:** Ensures that the public can continue to enjoy the aesthetic values and recreation opportunities of forests.
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.

**Why it Matters:** Protects special sites that have important geological or cultural values.

Objective 7. Efficient Use of Fiber Resources
To minimize waste and ensure the efficient use of fiber resources.

**Why it Matters:** Ensures the economic well-being of communities that live and work near forests.

Objective 8. Recognize and Respect Indigenous Peoples’ Rights
To recognize and respect Indigenous Peoples’ rights and traditional knowledge.

**Why it Matters:** Recognizing and respecting the Indigenous Peoples’ rights supports relationship building and shared benefits from sustainably managed forests.

Objective 9: Climate Smart Forestry
To ensure forest management activities address climate change adaptation and mitigation measures.

**Why it Matters:** Ensures that SFI-certified forests make an important contribution to addressing the effects of climate change.

Objective 10. Legal and Regulatory Compliance
To comply with all applicable laws and regulations including, international, federal, provincial, state, and local laws and regulations.

**Why it Matters:** Compliance with all laws ensures the protection of the environmental and social values of forests.

Objective 11. Forestry Research, Science and Technology
To invest in forestry research, science and technology, upon which sustainable forest management decisions are based, and broaden the awareness of climate change impacts on forests, wildlife and biological diversity.

**Why it Matters:** Forest research means healthier, more productive forests.

Objective 12. Training and Education
To improve the implementation of sustainable forestry practices through appropriate training and education programs.

**Why it Matters:** Training and educating foresters means forest management plans are more accurately implemented, ensuring the well-being of our forests.

Objective 13. Community Involvement and Landowner Outreach

Commented [SFI14]: Forest Conservation Subgroup edit
Commented [SFI15]: The new Climate Change Objective captures the intent of this requirement.
To broaden the practice of sustainable forestry through public outreach, education, and involvement, and to support the efforts of SFI Implementation Committees.

**Why it Matters:** Outreach and education improves the public’s understanding of how important sustainable forestry is to local and global issues.

**Objective 143. Public Land Management Responsibilities**
To participate and implement sustainable forest management on public lands.

**Why it Matters:** Protects the environmental, social, and economic values of public forests.

**Objective 154. Communications and Public Reporting**
To increase transparency and to annually report progress on conformance with the SFI Forest Management Standard.

**Why it Matters:** Reporting the results of third-party audits increases the public’s understanding of forest certification.

**Objective 165. Management Review and Continual Improvement**
To promote continual improvement in the practice of sustainable forestry by conducting a management review and monitoring performance.

**Why it Matters:** Encourages continual improvement of sustainable forestry practices, a cornerstone of sustainable forestry.

### 1.6 SFI 2022-2019 Forest Land Management Requirements

**Objective 1. Forest Management Planning**
To ensure forest management plans include long-term sustainable harvest levels and measures to avoid forest conversion or afforestation of ecologically important areas.

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

Indicators:
1. Forest management planning at a level appropriate to the size and scale of the operation, including:
   a. a long-term resources analysis;
   b. a periodic or ongoing forest inventory;
   c. a land classification system;
   d. biodiversity at stand and 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);

Commented [SFI 16]: Edit to reflect incorporating the topic of afforestation in Obj 1, moving it from Obj 2.

Commented [SFI 17]: Edit to revert to original text. Retaining ‘stand’ implies an inventory is needed at the stand level which is not the intent of the requirement.

Commented [SFI 18]: Edit to recognize use of G&Y modeling.
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 incentives, to promote water protection, carbon storage, bioenergy feedstock production, or biological diversity conservation, or to address climate-induced ecosystem change.

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

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

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.

5. Documentation of forest management practices, such as planting, fertilization, and thinning, consistent with assumptions in harvest plans.

6. Assessment of the local or regional social, environmental and economic effects impacts of forest management operations contained in the forest management plan, and consideration of how the results can be incorporated into the forest management plan.

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

Indicators:

1. Program Participants Certified Organizations shall not convert one forest cover type to another forest cover type, unless the conversion:
   a. does not convert native forest cover types that are rare, ecologically important, or which put any native forest cover types at risk of becoming rare, and in compliance with relevant national and regional policy and legislation related to land use and forest management; and
   b. does not create significant long-term adverse impacts on Forests with Exceptional Conservation Value, old growth forests, forest critical to threatened and endangered species, or special sites or ecologically important non-forest ecosystems; and
   c. includes objectives for long-term outcomes that support maintaining native forest cover types and ecological function; and
   d. does not create significant long-term adverse impacts on Forests with Exceptional Conservation Value, old growth forests, forest critical to threatened and endangered species, and special sites.
d. is in compliance with relevant national and regional policy and legislation related to land use and forest management.

2. Any proposed conversion deemed appropriate per 1.2.1, and which has considered impacts relative to scale, may be implemented subject to where a Program Participant intends to convert another forest cover type, an 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. productivity and stand quality conditions and impacts which may include social and economic values;
   c. site productivity, economics, and/or stand quality. Specific ecosystem issues related to the site such as invasive species, insect or disease issues, riparian protection needs and others as appropriate to site including regeneration challenges; and
   d. ecological impacts of the conversion including a review at the site and landscape scale, as well as consideration for any appropriate mitigation measures; and
   e. appropriate consultation with local communities, Indigenous People, and other stakeholders who could be affected by such activities.

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

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

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 which could be at risk of becoming rare.

2. Afforestation shall not occur on that location if the evaluation determines a negative impact to the presence of:
   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, forest health, carbon storage 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. Program Participants Certified Organizations shall promptly reforest after final harvest.

Indicators:
1. Documented reforestation plans, including designation of all harvest areas for either natural, planted or direct seeded regeneration and prompt reforestation, unless delayed for site-specific environmental or forest health considerations or legal requirements, through planting within two years or two planting seasons, or by planned natural regeneration methods within five years.

2. Clear criteria to judge adequate regeneration and appropriate actions to correct understocked areas and achieve acceptable species composition and stocking rates for planting, direct seeding and natural regeneration.

3. Plantings of exotic tree species should minimize risk to native ecosystems.

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

5. Any planned afforestation activity should include an evaluation and program that considers potential ecological impacts of the selection and planting of tree species in non-forested landscapes.

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

Indicators:
1. Pest management shall be implemented through the use of integrated pest management shall be preferred.

2. Minimized chemical use required to achieve management objectives.

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

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

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


7. Supervision of forest chemical applications by state- or provincial-trained or certified applicators.

8. Use of management practices appropriate to the situation, for example such as:

Commented [SFI 33]: Afforestation now has its own PM – PM 1.4.

Commented [SFI 34]: Definition of ‘integrated pest management’ was edited to align with PEFC’s definition which is adopted from FAO. Section 13 reflects this edit.

Commented [SFI35]: Edit to improve auditability of the requirement – ‘shall be preferred’ is subjective and hard to audit.
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/minimum 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
kj. use of methods to ensure protection of threatened and endangered species.

**Performance Measure 2.3.** Program Participants/Certified Organizations shall implement forest management practices which to protect and maintain forest and soil productivity and soil health.

**Indicators:**

1. Process to identify soils vulnerable to compaction, and use of appropriate methods, including the use of soil maps where available, to avoid excessive soil disturbance.

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

3. Post-harvest conditions conducive to maintaining site productivity (such as: e.g., limited rutting, retained down woody debris and minimized skid trails).

4. Retention of vigorous trees during partial harvesting, consistent with scientific silvicultural standards for the area.

5. Criteria Practices that address harvesting and site preparation to protect soil productivity and soil health.

6. Road construction, and-skidding layout, and harvest plans designed to minimize impacts to soil productivity and soil health.

7. Protection of residual trees from material damage resulting from harvesting, stand tending, road or trail construction or construction of in-woods log-processing areas.

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

**Indicators:**

1. Program to protect forests from damaging agents.

2. Management to promote healthy and productive forest conditions to minimize/reduce susceptibility to damaging agents.
3. Participation in, and support of, fire and pest prevention and control programs.

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

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

**Objective 3. Protection and Maintenance of Water Resources**

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

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

Indicators:
1. Program to implement federal, state, or provincial water quality best management practices during all phases of management activities.
2. Program to implement federal, state or provincial water quantity regulatory requirements and best management practices during all phases of management activities.
3. Contract provisions that specify conformance to best management practices.

**Performance Measure 3.2.** Program Participants (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.

Indicators:
1. Program addressing management and protection of water quality and quantity of rivers, streams, lakes, wetlands, other water bodies and riparian areas during all phases of management, including the layout and construction of roads and skid trails to maintain water reach, flow and quality.
2. Program to protect water quantity during all phases of management. Mapping of rivers, streams, lakes, wetlands and other water bodies as specified in state or provincial best management practices and, where appropriate, identification on the ground.

Commented [SFI41]: Subgroup edit – water quantity now addressed in PM 3.2.
Commented [SFI 42]: Edit to remove “Canadian” in the PM text. Existing text “meeting or exceeding provincial water quality laws” adequately addresses the CDN context. Best management practices does not have the same water quality context as in the US.
Commented [SFI43]: TG edit Oct 15.
Commented [SFI44]: Sept 23 call – decided to move to PM 3.2 where other water protections will be address in one PM.
Commented [SFI 45]: Edit to add ‘climate’ to list of factors.
Commented [SFI46]: Sept 23 call – new Water Quantity indicator.
3. **Documentation and implementation of plans to manage and protect rivers, streams, lakes, wetlands, other water bodies and riparian areas.**

34. Programs that address wet-weather events in order to maintain water quality (such as e.g., forest inventory systems, identification of wet-weather tracts and definitions of acceptable operating conditions).

5. Programs to address the impacts of any planned salvage operations to water quality and water quantity at the stand and landscape level when conducting forest management activities to address tree mortality due to factors such as wildfire, forest pests, disease, wind and/or ice damage or flooding, to include measures to limit any negative impacts.

**Objective 4. Conservation of Biological Diversity**

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

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

Indicators:

1. Program to incorporate the conservation of native biological diversity, including native species, wildlife habitats and ecological community types at stand and landscape levels, through the use of best scientific information including the incorporation of research results.

2. Development of criteria and implementation of practices, as guided by regionally based best scientific information, to retain stand level wildlife habitat elements such as snags, stumps, mast trees, down woody debris, den trees and nest trees.

3. Program to individually 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.

   Document diversity of forest cover types and age or size classes at the individual ownership or forest tenure level, and where credible data are available, at the landscape scale.

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

4. Program Participants Certified Organizations shall 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. Examples of credible priority-setting efforts include state and provincial wildlife action plans, state forest action plans, relevant habitat conservation plans, Indigenous planning processes or ecoregional plans.

5. **Program to address conservation of known sites with viable occurrences of significant species of concern, ecologically important species and natural communities, including those that are locally rare.**

6. Identification and protection of non-forested wetlands, including bogs, peatlands, fens and marshes, and vernal pools that are ecologically important of ecological significance.

7. Participation in programs and demonstration of activities as appropriate to limit the introduction, spread and impact of invasive species exotic plants and animals that directly threaten or are likely to threaten native plant and animal communities.

8. Consider the role of natural disturbances, including 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. Utilize planning tools such as opening size, harvest layout, and structural retention designed in proportions and configurations that are consistent with the characteristic natural disturbance regimes in at the landscape level.

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

**Indicators:**
1. **Program to protect threatened and endangered species.**

2. **Program to locate and protect known sites flora and fauna associated with viable occurrences of critically imperiled and imperiled species and ecological communities, defined also known as Forests with Exceptional Conservation Value.** Programs may be developed independently and/or collaboratively through cooperative efforts involving such as SFI Implementation Committees, and may include management, cooperation with other stakeholders, or use of easements, conservation land sales, exchanges, or other conservation strategies.

3. **Support of and participation in plans or programs for the conservation of old-growth forests in the region of ownership or forest tenure.**

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

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

**Performance Measure 4.4.** Program Participants Certified Organizations shall apply knowledge gained through research, science, technology, and 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.

**Indicators:**
1. Collection of information on Forests with Exceptional Conservation Value and other biodiversity-related data through forest inventory processes, mapping or participation in external programs, such as NatureServe, state or provincial heritage programs, or other credible reputable systems organizations. Such participation may include providing non-proprietary scientific information, timet ime, and assistance by staff, or in-kind or direct financial support.

2. A program methodology to incorporate data collected, research results and field applications of biodiversity and ecosystem research into forest management decisions.

3. Individually or collaboratively participate in or support research that demonstrates clarifies the conservation outcomes resulting from management strategies.

**Objective 5. Management of Visual Quality and Recreational Benefits.**
To manage the visual impact of forest operations and provide recreational opportunities for the public.

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

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

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

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

**Indicators:**
1. Average size of clearcut harvest areas does not exceed 120 acres (50 hectares), except when necessary to meet regulatory requirements, achieve ecological objectives or to respond to forest health emergencies or other natural catastrophes.

2. Documentation through internal records of clearcut size and the process for calculating average size.

**Performance Measure 5.3.** Program Participants Certified Organizations shall adopt a green-up requirement or alternative methods that provide for visual quality.
Indicators:
1. Program implementing the green-up requirement or alternative methods.
2. Harvest area tracking system to demonstrate conformance with the green-up requirement or alternative methods.
3. Trees in clearcut harvest areas are at least 3 years old or 5 feet (1.5 meters) high at the desired level of stocking before adjacent areas are clearcut, or as appropriate to address operational and economic considerations, alternative methods to reach the performance measure are utilized by the Certified Organization Program Participant.

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

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

Objective 6. Protection of Special Sites.
To manage lands that are geologically or culturally important in a manner that takes into account their unique qualities.

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

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

Objective 7. Efficient Use of Fiber Resources.
To minimize waste and ensure the efficient use of fiber resources.

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

Indicator:
1. Program or monitoring system to ensure efficient utilization, which may include using provisions such as:
   a. management of harvest residue (such as: e.g., slash, limbs, tops) considers economic, social and environmental factors (such as: e.g., organic and nutrient value
to future forests and the potential of increased fuels build-up) and other utilization needs;

b. training or incentives to encourage loggers to enhance utilization;

c. exploration of markets for underutilized species and low-grade wood and alternative markets (such as e.g., bioenergy markets); or

d. periodic inspections and reports noting utilization and product separation.

To recognize and respect Indigenous Peoples’ rights and traditional knowledge.

Performance Measure 8.1. Program Participants Certified Organizations shall recognize and respect Indigenous Peoples’ rights.

Indicators:

1. Program Participants Certified Organizations 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; and/or

      ii. federal, provincial, and state laws and regulations; and/or

      iii. treaties, agreements or other constructive arrangements among governments and Indigenous Peoples;

   c. appropriate training of personnel and contractors so that the Certified Organization is competent to fulfill their responsibilities under Objective 8 of the Forest Management Standard.

2. The written policy shall be publicly available.

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

Indicator:

1. Program that includes communicating with affected Indigenous Peoples to enable Program Participants Certified Organizations to:

   a. understand and respect traditional forest-related knowledge;

   b. identify and protect spiritually, historically, or culturally important sites;

   c. address the use of non-timber forest products of value to Indigenous Peoples in areas where Program Participants have management responsibilities on public lands;

   d. communicate through processes that respect their representative institutions, using appropriate protocols;

   e. provide opportunities to review forest management plans and forest management practices; and

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

Indicators:
1. Program Participants Certified Organizations are aware of traditional forest-related knowledge, such as known cultural heritage sites, the use of wood in traditional buildings and crafts, and flora that may be used in cultural practices for food, ceremonies or medicine.

2. Respond to Indigenous Peoples' inquiries and concerns received.

Objective 9. Climate Smart Forestry.
To ensure forest management activities address climate change adaptation and mitigation measures.

Performance Measure 9.1 Certified Organizations shall individually and/or through cooperative efforts involving SFI Implementation Committees or other partners develop a program to 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 based on analysis of available regional climate models, research, and scenario analysis.

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

2. Certified Organizations shall develop an adaptation plan to address priority climate change risks, via effective implementation of the SFI 2022 Forest Management Standard requirements for which considers approaches 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; shifting southern latitude seed zones incrementally northward and upward in elevation, as appropriate, to account for predicted warming;
   b. access to growth and yield modeling capabilities silvicultural activities to limit the impacts from wildfire, disease or forest pests; and
   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.

3. Certified Organizations shall document how their adaptation plan objectives and strategies fit within broader regional climate adaptation strategies and plans, where they exist.
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 have a program to individually and/or through cooperative efforts involving SFI Implementation Committees or other partners identify and address opportunities to mitigate the effects of climate change mitigation associated with its forest operations.

Indicators:
1. Based on best scientific information, Certified Organizations shall identify and address opportunities to enhance carbon sequestration on the forests they own or manage via effective implementation of the SFI 2022 Forest Management Standard requirements considering factors such as including:
   a. improved growth rates toward the enhancement of forest carbon pools (e.g., through improved seed selection, plantation survival, stocking levels, choice of species, thinning, competition reduction, fertilization), and;
   b. protection of forests from the impacts from more frequent of wildfire, disease, or forest pest outbreaks as per Performance Measure 2.4. — Silvicultural activities to limit the impacts from wildfire, disease or forest pests, and;
   c. adjustments to forest management practices, as appropriate.

   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 within two planting seasons or by planned natural reforestation within five years as per Indicator 2.2.1;
   b. adequate regeneration and appropriate actions to correct understocked areas, and
   c. protection of desirable or planned advanced regeneration during harvest and the retention of vigorous trees during partial harvest.

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

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

Objective 109. Legal and Regulatory Compliance.
To comply with all applicable laws and regulations including, international, federal, provincial, state, and local laws and regulations.

Performance Measure 109.1. Program Participants Certified Organizations shall comply with applicable federal, provincial, state, and local forestry and related social and environmental laws and regulations.

Commented [SFI89]: New Indicator for reporting progress to SFI Inc.
Commented [SFI90]: Edit to remove “develop a program” as PM requires more than just developing a program.
Commented [SFI91]: Edit to highlight a potential role for SICs as an example of cooperative efforts.
Commented [SFI92]: Edit to add specificity to the desired outcome for PM 9.2.

Commented [SFI93]: Subgroup edit.
Commented [SFI94]: Revisit the language and check vs. PM 2.4.
Commented [SFI95]: Oct 15 edit.
Commented [SFI96]: Edit to call out existing elements in the FM Standard that help contribute to carbon sequestration.

Commented [SFI97]: Oct 15 edit.
Commented [SFI98]: Subgroup edit to recognized role of afforestation and new afforestation PM in Objective 1.
Commented [SFI99]: Edit to call out existing elements in the FM Standard that help address mitigation through ecosystem resilience.

Commented [SFI100]: Edit following Board review Oct 21 of the new Objective 9.
Commented [SFI101]: Edit to clarify the scope of the requirement.
Commented [SFI102]: New Indicator for reporting progress to SFI Inc.
Commented [SFI103]: Local: a level of elected government below state or province such as county, district, city, township, municipality, town or parish.
Commented [SFI104]: Edit deleting “social” as it is addressed in more detail in PM 10.2.
Indicators:

1. Access to relevant laws and regulations in appropriate locations.

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

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

**Performance Measure 109.2.** Program Participants Certified Organizations shall take appropriate steps to comply with all applicable social laws at the federal, provincial, state and local levels in the country in which the Certified Organization Program Participant operates.

Indicators:

1. Written policy demonstrating commitment to comply with social laws, such as those covering civil rights, equal employment opportunities, gender equality, diversity inclusion, anti-discrimination and anti-harassment measures, workers’ compensation, Indigenous Peoples’ rights, workers’ and communities’ right to know, prevailing wages, workers’ right to organize, and occupational health and safety.

2. Forestry enterprises will respect the rights of workers and labor representatives in a manner that encompasses the intent of the International Labor Organization (ILO) core conventions.

**Objective 110. Forestry Research, Science and Technology.**

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

**Performance Measure 110.1.** Program Participants Certified Organizations shall individually and/or through cooperative efforts involving SFI Implementation Committees, associations or other partners provide in-kind support or funding for forest research to improve forest health, productivity and sustainable management of forest resources, and the environmental benefits and performance of forest products.

Indicators:

1. Financial or in-kind support of research, collaboratives, or knowledge transfer to address questions 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, areas of the following topics:
   a. forest productivity, 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 issues, engagement;
h. forest health and productivity;
i. support for Forest Inventory Analysis (FIA);
j. SFI sponsored Conservation Grant Program research;
k. the role of forests in the bioeconomy, and
l. or similar areas themes which build broader understanding of the benefits and
effects impacts of sustainable forest management and forest sustainability or sustainable supply chains.

2. Research on genetically modified engineered trees via forest tree biotechnology shall adhere
to all applicable federal, state, and provincial regulations and international protocols ratified
by the United States and/or Canada depending on jurisdiction of management.

23. Ensure that knowledge gained through research is shared, to the extent possible, to
positively influence sustainable forest management. Consider the sharing of knowledge
gained through research in appropriate formats to influence sustainable forest management.

Performance Measure 110.2. Program Participants 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 some of the following information such as:
   a. regeneration assessments;
   b. growth and drain assessments;
   c. best management practices implementation and conformance;
   d. biodiversity conservation information for family forest owners; and
   e. social, cultural or economic benefit assessments; and
   f. landscape-scale biodiversity assessments which clarify the contributory role of
      sustainable forest management.

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

Indicators:
1. Where available, monitor information generated from regional climate models on long-term
   forest health, productivity and economic viability.

2. Program Participants Certified Organizations are knowledgeable about climate change
   impacts on wildlife, wildlife habitats and conservation of biological diversity through
   international, national, regional or local programs.

Objective 121. Training and Education.
To improve the implementation of sustainable forestry practices through appropriate
training and education programs.

Commented [SFI 113]: Edit to better illustrate the range of
potential topics for research.

Commented [SFI114]: Subgroup edit to include sustainable
supply chains.

Commented [SFI 115]: Edit to delete this clause and place
reliance of the SFI Forest Tree Technology Policy. Policy to be
updated for Board review.

Commented [SFI 116]: Edit to strengthen the requirement.

Commented [SFI 117]: Edit to bring more specificity to the
Performance Measure.

Commented [SFI 118]: Edit to expand the list of assessments
that could be considered.

Commented [SFI 119]: This Performance Measure is no longer
needed due to the new Climate Change Objective.

Commented [SFI 120]: Edits to the requirements to Objective
12 will mirror those decided in the Fiber Sourcing Subgroups
discussion for FS Objective 6.
Performance Measure 121.1. Program ParticipantsCertified Organizations shall require appropriate training of personnel and contractors so that they are competent to fulfill their responsibilities under the SFI 202215-2019 Forest Management Standard.

Indicators:
1. Written statement of commitment to the SFI 202215-2019 Forest Management Standard communicated throughout the organization, particularly to facility and woodland managers, and field foresters.
3. Staff education and training sufficient to their roles and responsibilities.
4. Contractor education and training sufficient to their roles and responsibilities.
5. Program ParticipantsCertified Organizations shall have written agreements for the use of qualified logging professionals, certified logging professionals (where available), and/or wood producers that have completed training programs and are recognized as qualified logging professionals and/or certified logging companies.
6. Program ParticipantsCertified Organizations can choose to use the services of certified logging companies to foster improvement in wood producers. Certified Organizations shall encourage the use of certified logging companies where they are available and after consideration of other factors involved in developing contractual relationships.

Performance Measure 121.2. Program ParticipantsCertified Organizations shall work individually and/or through cooperative efforts involving with SFI Implementation Committees, logging or forestry associations, or appropriate agencies or others in the forestry community to foster improvement in the professionalism of wood producers specific to qualified logging professionals.

Indicators:
1. Participation in or support of SFI Implementation Committees to establish criteria and identify delivery mechanisms for wood producer core training courses that allow individuals to attain qualified logging professional status. These criteria shall address at least the following and periodic continuing education that address:
   a. awareness of sustainable forestry principles and the SFI program;
   b. best management practices, including streamside management and road construction, maintenance and retirement;
   c. reforestation, invasive exotic plants and animals, forest resource conservation, aesthetics and special sites;
   d. awareness of responsibilities under the U.S. Endangered Species Act, the Canadian Species at Risk Act, Forests with Exceptional Conservation Value (critically imperiled and imperiled species and ecological communities), and other measures to protect biodiversity and wildlife habitat (e.g., Forests with Exceptional Conservation Value);
   e. logging safety

Commented [SFI121]: Edit from Logger Training Subgroup. Edit aligns with same text in Fiber Sourcing PM 3.2.2.
Commented [SFI122]: Edit to align with decision in the Logger Training Subgroup discussion.
Commented [SFI 123]: Loggers Training Subgroup edit to call out requirements need to attain trained status.
Commented [SFI 124]: Moved to PM 12.2, Indicator 2 under continuing education requirements.
eg. 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,

h. transportation issues;

i. business management;

j. public policy and outreach; and

k. awareness of emerging technologies.

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:

- least once every two years that address shall address one or more of the following topics:

  a. awareness of sustainable forestry principles and the SFI program;
  b. best management practices, including streamside management and road construction, maintenance, and retirement;
  c. reforestation, invasive species management, exotic plants and animals, 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,

k. trends related to the effectiveness of the SFI Implementation Committee-approved wood producer training programs.

Performance Measure 121.3. Certified Organizations shall work individually and/or with SFI Implementation Committees, logging or forestry associations, or appropriate agencies or others in the forestry community to foster improvement in the professionalism of wood producers specific to certified logging companies/organizations where they exist.

13. Participation in or support of SFI Implementation Committees to establish criteria for recognition of logger certification programs, where they exist, that include:

Commented [SFI 125]: Edit to call out option to recognize other topics for as Core training.

Commented [SFI 126]: Moved to continuing education – Indicator 12.2.

Commented [SFI 127]: Logger Training Subgroup edit to call out requirements to retain “trained” status.

Commented [SFI 128]: New Indicator to call out Continuing Education for Qualified Logging Professionals.

Commented [SFI 129]: Aligns with comment above – repetition of core topics in CE for reinforcement.

Commented [SFI 130]: Edit to call out options to recognize other topics for as Core training.

Commented [SFI 131]: Logger Training Subgroup edit. Replaced by (j).

Commented [SFI 132]: New Performance Measure to emphasize Certified Logging Companies.
Objective 132. Community Involvement and Landowner Outreach.

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

Performance Measure 132.1. Program Participants/Certified Organizations shall support and promote efforts by consulting foresters, state, provincial and federal agencies, state or local groups, professional societies, conservation organizations, Indigenous Peoples and governments, community groups, sporting organizations, labor, universities, extension agencies, the American Tree Farm System® and/or other landowner cooperative programs to apply principles of sustainable forest management.

Indicators:
1. Support, including financial, for efforts of SFI Implementation Committees.

2. Support, individually and/or collaboratively, 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; exotic plants and animals;
g. characteristics of special sites; and
h. reduction of wildfire risk;
i. use of qualified logging professionals, and qualified resource professionals and/or certified logging companies;
j. awareness of SFI, and
k. reporting of inconsistent practices.

3. Participation in efforts to support or promote conservation of managed forests through voluntary market-based incentive programs such as current-use taxation programs, Forest Legacy Program, conservation easements federal, state, or provincial cost share programs, or the SFI Conservation Grant Program.

Performance Measure 132.2. Program ParticipantsCertified Organizations shall individually and/or through cooperative efforts involving membership in a SFI Implementation Committee(s) 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
   - field tours, seminars, websites, webinars or workshops;
   - educational trips;
   - self-guided forest management trails;
   - publication of articles, educational pamphlets, or newsletters; or
   - support for national, state, provincial, and local forestry organizations and soil and water conservation districts.
   - engagement and support of teachers and/or students through programs such as Project Learning Tree.

Performance Measure 132.3. Program ParticipantsCertified Organizations shall, individually and/or through cooperative efforts including membership in a SFI Implementation Committee(s), 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 Program ParticipantsCertified Organizations regarding management practices that appear inconsistent with the SFI Standard principles and objectives.

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

Objective 143: Public Land Management Responsibilities.
To participate and implement sustainable forest management on public lands.
**Performance Measure 143.1.** Program Participants: Certified Organizations with forest management responsibilities on public lands shall participate in the development of public land planning and management processes.

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

**Objective 154. Communications and Public Reporting.**
To increase transparency and to annually report progress on conformance with the SFI Forest Management Standard.

**Performance Measure 154.1.** A Certified Organization Program Participant shall provide a summary audit report, prepared by the certification body, to SFI Inc. after the successful completion of a certification, recertification or surveillance audit to the SFI 2022-15-2019 Forest Management Standard.

Indicator:
1. The summary audit report submitted by the Certified Organization Program Participant (one copy must be in English), shall include, at a minimum,
   a. a description of the audit process, objectives and scope;
   b. a description of substitute indicators, if any, used in the audit and a rationale for each;
   c. the name of Certified Organization Program Participant that was audited, including its SFI representative;
   d. a general description of the Program Participant’s 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 Program Participant);
   f. the dates the audit was conducted and completed;
   g. a summary of the findings, including general descriptions of evidence of conformity and any nonconformities and corrective action plans to address them, opportunities for improvement, and exceptional management practices; and
   h. the certification decision.

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

**Performance Measure 154.2.** Program Participants: Certified Organizations shall report annually to SFI Inc. on their conformance with the SFI 2022-15-2019 Forest Management Standard.

Indicators:
1. Prompt response to the SFI annual progress report survey.
2. Record keeping for all the categories of information needed for SFI annual progress report surveys.


**Objective 165. Management Review and Continual Improvement.**

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

**Performance Measure 165.1. Program Participants/ Certified Organizations** shall establish a management review system to examine findings and progress in implementing the SFI 2021-2019 Forest Management Standard, to make appropriate improvements in programs, and to inform their employees of changes.

Indicators:

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

2. System for collecting, reviewing, and reporting information to management regarding progress in achieving SFI 2021-2019 Forest Management Standard objectives and performance measures, including measures to reduce the negative impacts from forest management operations.

3. Annual review of progress by management and determination of changes and improvements necessary to continually improve conformance to the SFI 2021-2019 Forest Management Standard.

**Commented [SFI 137]:** This was an interpretation which is now incorporated into the Standard. (Interpretation #2, Part 1).