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1. General

1.1 Scope

What the Forest Management Standard Does

The SFI 2022 45-2019 Forest Management Standard promotes sustainable forestry practices based on 13 Principles, 175 Objectives, 4137 Performance Measures and 1,1491 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 45-2019 Forest Management Standard applies to any Certified Organization that owns or has management authority for forestlands.

Geographic Application of the Forest Management Standard

The SFI 2022 45-2019 Forest Management Standard applies to organizations in the United States and Canada.

1.2 Additional Requirements

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 45-2019 Fiber Sourcing Standard.

Use of the SFI on-On-product 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 109 — SFI 2015-2019 Audit Procedures and Auditor Qualifications and Accreditation

v. Section 110 — Communications and Public Reporting

vi. Section 143 — SFI Definitions
vii. Interpretations for the Requirements for the SFI 2022 Program
For the purposes of this standard, the relevant definitions given in ISO/IEC Guide 2:2004 apply, together with the definitions in the SFI Definitions (Section 14).

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

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

1. Sustainable Forestry
To practice sustainable forestry means meeting the needs of the present while promoting the ability of future generations to meet their own needs by practicing a land stewardship ethic that integrates reforestation and the managing, growing, nurturing and harvesting of trees for useful products, and for the provision of ecosystem services such as the conservation of soil, air and water quality, and quantity, climate change adaptation and mitigation, biological diversity, wildlife and aquatic habitats, recreation and aesthetics.

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 or socially undesirable impacts of wildfire, pests, diseases, invasive exoticspecies-plants and animals and other damaging agents and thus maintain and improve long-term forest health and productivity.

3. Protection of Water Resources
Commented [SFI 1]: Edit to expand beyond private forest land to reflect public forest tenures.
Commented [SFI 2]: Linkage to the new Objective 9 – Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation
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, and Respect for Indigenous Rights
To broaden the practice of sustainable forestry on all lands through community involvement, socially responsible practices, and through recognition and respect of Indigenous Peoples’ rights and traditional forest-related knowledge.

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

Commented [SFI3]: Edit to retain P6 with edit to align with inclusion of 'ecologically important' in P4.

Commented [SFI4]: Now addressed in P. 12.

Commented [SFI 5]: Edit broadens the scope of what is being considered for research.
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. 1.5 Forest Management Standard Objectives

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

Objective 1. Forest Management Planning
To ensure forest management plans include long-term sustainable harvest levels and measures to avoid forest conversion 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, manage the quality and distribution of wildlife habitats and contribute to the conservation of biological diversity at the landscape level and across measures that promote a diversity of types of forest and vegetation cover types 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. Fire Resilience and Awareness**
To limit susceptibility of forests to undesirable impacts of wildfire and to raise community awareness of fire benefits, risks, and minimization measures.

**Why It Matters:** Ensures that forests are managed proactively relative to fire risk in the face of climate change, so that they can continue to store carbon, provide habitat for wildlife, and are a source of clean air and water while protecting public safety and human health.

**Objective 11. Legal and Regulatory Compliance**
To comply with all applicable laws and regulations including, international, federal, provincial, state, and local, laws and regulations.

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

**Objective 12. 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 131. 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 142. 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.

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

Objective 153. 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 164. 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 175. 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 2022-15-2019 Forest Land Management Requirements

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

Performance Measure 1.1. Certified Organizations Program Participants 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:

Commented [SFI 15]: Edit to reflect incorporating the topic of afforestation in Obj 1, moving it from Obj 2.
a. a long-term resources analysis;
b. a periodic or ongoing forest inventory;
c. a land classification system;
d. biodiversity at landscape scales;
e. soils inventory and maps, where available;
f. access to land use of growth-and-yield modeling capabilities;
g. up-to-date maps or a geographic information system (GIS);
h. recommended sustainable harvest levels for areas available for harvest; and
  i. consideration of non-timber issues such as: recreation, tourism, pilot projects and economic incentive programs to promote water protection, carbon storage, bioenergy feedstock production, or biological diversity conservation, or to address climate-induced ecosystem change.
  j. consideration of bioenergy feedstock production;
  k. consideration of pilot projects and economic incentive programs to promote water protection, carbon storage, 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. Certified Organizations Program Participants shall not convert one forest cover type to another forest cover type, unless an assessment has been conducted to determine ecological impacts and provide appropriate justification.

Indicators:

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

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

Performance Measure 1.3. Certified Organizations Program Participants 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 that 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

SFI 2022 Forest Management Standard (Section 2) March 1, 2021
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. Certified Organizations Program Participants 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 native or non-invasive naturalized exotic tree species are preferred. In exceptional circumstances where exotic tree species are being planted, they should not increase risk to native ecosystems.

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

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

Performance Measure 2.2. Certified Organizations Program Participants 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.

Commented [SFI 26]: New Performance Measure to address the topic of afforestation more thoroughly.

Commented [SFI 27]: Item now addressed in Objective 9.


Commented [SFI 30]: Afforestation now has its own PM – PM 1.4.

Commented [SFI 31]: Definition of ‘integrated pest management’ was edited to align with PEFC’s definition which is adopted from FAO. Section 13 reflects this edit.

Commented [SFI 32]: Edit to improve auditability of the requirement – ‘shall be preferred’ is subjective and hard to audit.
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 provincially-trained or certified applicators.

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

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

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

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

3. Post-harvest conditions conducive to maintaining site productivity (such as: 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.

Commented [SFI 33]: New sub indicator to reference spill prevention.

Commented [SFI 34]: Task Group determined that a new term ‘soil health’ should be adopted to highlight values in the soil other than the soil’s ability to grow trees.

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

Commented [SFI35]: Subgroup determined that existing requirements in Obj 2, 3 & 4 meet the intent.
Performance Measure 2.4. Certified Organizations Program Participants 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. Certified Organizations Program Participants that deploy improved planting stock, including varietal seedlings, shall use best scientific methods.

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

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

Performance Measure 3.1. Certified Organizations Program Participants 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. Certified Organizations Program Participants shall implement water, wetland, and riparian protection programs measures 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.

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

**Objective 4. Conservation of Biological Diversity**

To maintain or advance 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 types of forest and vegetation cover types, habitats and successional stages including, and the conservation of forest plants and animals, including aquatic species, as well as threatened and endangered species, Forests with Exceptional Conservation Value, old-growth forests, and ecologically important sites.

**Performance Measure 4.1.** Certified Organizations Program Participants 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 native biological diversity, by incorporating the results of analysis of documented diversity at landscape and ownership/tenure levels, to ensure the contribution of the managed area to the diversity of conditions that promote biodiversity. Document diversity of forest cover types and age or size classes at the individual ownership or forest tenure level, and where credible data are available, at the landscape scale. 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. Certified Organizations Program Participants 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.

Performance Measure 4.2. Certified Organizations Program Participants 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 for protection may be developed independently and/or through cooperative efforts involving SFI Implementation Committees and may include Certified Organization Participant managers of SFI-certified organizations, 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. Certified Organizations Program Participants shall manage to protect ecologically important sites in a manner that takes into account their unique qualities.

Indicators:
1. Use of information such as existing NatureServe or natural heritage data or expert advice in identifying or selecting ecologically important sites for protection.

2. Appropriate mapping, cataloging and management of identified ecologically important sites.

Performance Measure 4.4. Certified Organizations Program Participants 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, time, 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 the conservation outcomes resulting from management strategies.

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

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

Indicators:
1. Program to address visual quality management.

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

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

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

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

Performance Measure 5.3. Certified Organizations Program Participants 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-three years old or 5-five feet (1.5 meters) high at the desired level of stocking before adjacent areas are clearcut, or as appropriate to address operational and economic considerations, alternative methods to reach the performance measure are utilized by the Certified Organization Program Participant.

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

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

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

**Performance Measure 6.1.** Certified Organizations Program Participants 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.** Certified Organizations Program Participants 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: slash, limbs, tops) considers economic, social and environmental factors (such as the 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;

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Commented [SFI 61]: Edit to call out protection of special sites.

Commented [SFI 62]: Clarifying edit to expand the focus of efficient utilization beyond just “harvested trees”.
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.

**Objective 8. Recognize and Respect Indigenous Peoples’ Rights.**

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

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

**Indicators:**

1. Certified Organizations Program Participants shall develop and implement provide a written policy acknowledging a commitment to recognize and respect the rights of Indigenous Peoples. This policy shall provide reference to a program that includes:
   a. use of available resources and information to identify the Indigenous Peoples whose rights may be affected by the Certified Organization’s forest management activities.
   b. recognition of the established framework of legal, customary, and traditional rights such as outlined in:
      i. the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples; 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.** Certified Organizations Program Participants with forest management responsibilities on public lands shall confer with affected Indigenous Peoples whose rights may be affected by 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.** Certified Organizations Program Participants are encouraged to communicate with and shall respond to local Indigenous Peoples whose rights may be affected...
by with respect to sustainable forest management practices on the Certified Organization’s private lands.

Indicators:
1. Certified Organizations Program Participants 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.

Commented [SFI 69]: Edit for clarity.
Commented [SFI70]: Edit to highlight a potential role for SICs as an example of cooperative efforts.
Commented [SFI71]: Recommended edit to remove “develop a program” as PM requires more than just developing a program.
Commented [SFI72]: Subgroup edit for clarity.
Commented [SFI73]: Edit to include severity of impacts in list of factors.
Commented [SFI74]: Edit to link the need for an inventory update with changes in G&Y where the data is adequately calibrated.
Commented [SFI75]: Edit to call out existing elements in the FM Standard that help contribute to an adaptation plan.
Commented [SFI76]: New Indicator for reporting progress to SFI Inc.
**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 for the effects of climate change mitigation associated with its forest operations on climate change.

**Indicators:**

1. Based on best scientific information, Certified Organizations shall identify and address opportunities to enhance the climate benefits associated with forest management operations carbon sequestration on the forests they own or manage via effective implementation of the SFI 2022 Forest Management Standard requirements considering factors such as:
   - Objective 2 – Forest Health and Productivity; Objective 10 – Fire Smart Forestry; and/or other silvicultural or operational practices to enhance the climate benefits associated with the forest operations, 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;
   - protection of forests from the impacts from more frequent wildfire, disease, or forest pest outbreaks as per Performance Measure 2.4. Silvicultural activities to limit the impacts 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:
   - prompt reforestation or within two planting seasons or by planned natural reforestation within five years as per Indicator 2.1.1;
   - adequate regeneration and appropriate actions to correct understocked areas, and;
   - protection of afforestation of areas that are not ecologically important, and;

3. Based on best scientific information, Certified Organizations shall develop a program to identify and 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 10. Fire Resilience and Awareness.**

To ensure forest management activities limit susceptibility of forests to undesirable impacts levels of wildfire and to raise community awareness of fire benefits, risks, and minimization/prevention measures.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Objective 911. Legal and Regulatory Compliance.
To comply with all applicable laws and regulations including, international, federal, provincial, state, and local laws and regulations

Performance Measure 119.1. Certified Organizations Program Participants shall comply with applicable federal, provincial, state, and local forestry and related social and environmental laws and regulations.

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

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

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

Commented [SFI89]: Local: a level of elected government below state or province such as county, district, city, township, municipality, town or parish.

Commented [SFI 90]: Edit deleting “social” as it is addressed in more detail in PM 10.2.

Commented [SFI 91]: Edit to remove as it is redundant.
Performance Measure 119.2. Certified Organizations Program Participants 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 120. 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 120.1. Certified Organizations Program Participants 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 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 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 120.2. Certified Organizations Program Participants 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. Certified Organizations Program Participants 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 are knowledgeable about climate change impacts on wildlife, wildlife habitats and conservation of biological diversity through international, national, regional or local programs.

Objective 134. Training and Education.
To improve the implementation of sustainable forestry practices through appropriate training and education programs.

Performance Measure 134.1. Certified Organizations Program Participants shall require appropriate training of personnel and contractors so that they are competent to fulfill their responsibilities under the SFI 2022-15-2019 Forest Management Standard.

Indicators:
1. Written statement of commitment to the SFI 2022-15-2019 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. **Certified Organizations** Program Participants 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. Certified 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 13.1.2.** Certified Organizations Program Participants 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's work across four pillars: standards, conservation, community, and education;
   b. best management practices, including streamside management and road construction, maintenance, and retirement;
   c. reforestation, invasive 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. logging safety;
   f. 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 other topics identified by Certified Organizations and/or SFI Implementation Committees that improve their responsibilities in meeting the SFI 2022 standards;
   g. business management;
   h. public policy and outreach; and
   i. awareness of emerging technologies.

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**Commented [SFI105]:** Edit from Logger Training Subgroup.
Edit aligns with same text in Fiber Sourcing PM 3.2.2.

**Commented [SFI106]:** Edit to align with decision in the Logger Training Subgroup discussion.

**Commented [SFI 107]:** Logger Training Subgroup edit to call out requirements need to attain trained status.

**Commented [SFI 108]:** Moved to PM 13.2, Indicator 2 under continuing education requirements.

**Commented [SFI 109]:** Edit to call out option to recognize other topics for as Core training.

**Commented [SFI 110]:** Moved to continuing education – Indicator 13.2.2.
2. Participation in or support of SFI Implementation Committees to establish criteria and identify delivery mechanisms for wood producer continuing education training courses that shall be taken by qualified logging professionals at least once every two years to maintain their status. The continuing education training course(s) shall address one or more of the following topics:

   a. awareness of sustainable forestry principles and the SFI program; SFI’s work across four pillars: standards, conservation, community, and education;
   b. best management practices, including streamside management and road construction, maintenance, and retirement;
   c. reforestation, invasive species management - 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 and
   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 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:

   a. completion of SFI Implementation Committee recognized logger training programs and meeting continuing education requirements of the training program of key personnel;
   b. independent in-the-forest verification of conformance with the logger certification program standards;
   c. compliance with all applicable laws and regulations including responsibilities under the U.S. Endangered Species Act, the Canadian Species at Risk Act and other measures to protect wildlife habitat including Forest with Exceptional Conservation Value (critically imperiled and imperiled species and ecological communities);
   d. use of best management practices to protect water quality;
   e. adherence to a logging safety program;
   f. compliance with acceptable silviculture and utilization standards;
   g. aesthetic management techniques employed where applicable; and
   h. adherence to a management or harvest plan that is site specific and agreed to by the forest landowner.

Commented [SFI 111]: New Indicator to call out Continuing Education for Qualified Logging Professionals.

Commented [SFI 112]: Aligns with comment above – repetition of core topics in Continuing Education for reinforcement.

Commented [SFI 113]: Edit to call out options to recognize other topics for as Core training.

Commented [SFI 114]: Logger Training Subgroup edit. Replaced by (j).
Objective 142. 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 142.1. Certified Organizations Program Participants 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 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; and
   g. characteristics of special sites;
   h. reduction of wildfire risk;
   i. use of qualified logging professionals, and qualified resource professionals and/or certified logging companies;
   j. awareness of SFI,
   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 Grants Program.

Performance Measure 142.2. Certified Organizations Program Participants shall individually and/or through cooperative efforts involving membership in a SFI Implementation Committee...
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:
   a. field tours, seminars, websites, webinars or workshops;
   b. educational trips;
   c. self-guided forest management trails;
   d. publication of articles, educational pamphlets, or newsletters; or
   e. support for national, state, provincial, and local forestry organizations and soil and water conservation districts.
   f. engagement and support of teachers and/or students through programs such as Project Learning Tree.

Performance Measure 142.3. Certified Organizations Program Participants 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 Certified 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.
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 153: Public Land Management Responsibilities.
To participate and implement sustainable forest management on public lands.

Performance Measure 153.1. Certified Organizations Program Participants 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 164. Communications and Public Reporting.
To increase transparency and to annually report progress on conformance with the SFI Forest Management Standard.
Performance Measure 164.1. 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 2022-2019 Forest Management Standard.

Indicator:
1. The summary audit report submitted by the Certified Organizations 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 Certified Organization’s 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.forests.org) for public review.

Performance Measure 164.2. Certified Organizations Program Participants shall report annually to SFI Inc. on their conformance with the SFI 2022-2019 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 175. 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 175.1. Certified Organizations Program Participants shall establish a management review system to examine findings and progress in implementing the SFI 2022-2019 Forest Management Standard, to make appropriate improvements in programs, and to inform their employees of changes.
Indicators:

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

2. System for collecting, reviewing, and reporting information to management regarding progress in achieving SFI 2022 Forest Management Standard objectives and performance measures, including measures to reduce the negative impacts from forest management operations.

3. Annual review of progress by management and determination of changes and improvements necessary to continually improve conformance to the SFI 2022 Forest Management Standard.

Commented [SFI 117]: This was an interpretation which is now incorporated into the Standard. (Interpretation #2, Part 1).