

# SECTION 13. SFI DEFINITIONS



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SUSTAINABLE  
FORESTRY  
INITIATIVE

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## SFI DEFINITIONS

The following definitions apply to *italicized* words in the *Requirements for the SFI 2010-2014 Program: Standards, Rules for Label Use, Procedures and Guidance*.

**afforestation:** The establishment of a forest or *stand* in an area where the preceding vegetation or land use was not forest.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**best management practices (BMPs):** A practice or combination of practices for *protection* of water quality that is determined by a federal, provincial, state, or local government or other responsible entity, after problem assessment, examination of alternative practices, and appropriate public participation, to be the most effective and practicable (including technological, economic, and institutional considerations) means of conducting a forest management operation while addressing any environmental considerations.

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

**biodiversity hotspots:** A biogeographic *conservation* region with more than 1,500 endemic plant species and less than 30 percent of its historical extent. (Further information can be found under Descriptions of Biodiversity Hotspots and High-Biodiversity Wilderness Areas in an SFI guidance document posted under resources on the SFI website at [www.sfiprogram.org](http://www.sfiprogram.org).)

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

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

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

- ANSI-ASQ National Accreditation Board (ANAB) as being competent to conduct certifications to the *SFI 2010-2014 Standard*.
- American National Standards Institute (ANSI) as being competent to conduct certifications to the SFI Chain-of-Custody Standard.
- Standards Council of Canada (SCC) as being competent to conduct certifications to the *SFI 2010-2014 Standard* and the SFI Chain-of-Custody Standard.

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

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

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

- *SFI 2010-2014 Standard* (objectives for land management)
- Canadian Standards Association (CAN/CSA-Z809)
- American Tree Farm System (ATFS) individual and group certification

**post-consumer recycled content:** Material generated by households or by commercial, industrial and institutional facilities in their role as end-users of the product, which can no longer be used for its intended purpose.

*Post-consumer recycled content* can count towards the calculation of *certified content* percentages but must always be communicated as *post-consumer recycled content* and not *certified forest content*.

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

**certified logging professional:** A *qualified logging professional* who has successfully completed and is a member in good standing, of a credible logger certification *program* recognized by the *SFI Implementation Committee*.

**certified Program Participant:** **1.** A forest landowner, forest land manager, *primary* or *secondary forest products producer* operating in the United States or Canada who participates in the *SFI* program through a contractual agreement to abide by the *SFI 2010-2014 Standard*, and who has been certified by an accredited *SFI certification body* to be in conformance with the *SFI 2010-2014 Standard*. **2.** An organization that has been certified by an accredited *SFI certification body* to be in conformance with the *SFI Chain-of-Custody Standard* and associated labels (Sections 3 and 4).

**certified sourcing:** is defined as raw material sourced from the following sources confirmed by a *certification body*:

- Fiber that conforms with objectives 8-20 of Section 2 – *SFI 2010-2014 Standard's fiber sourcing* requirements.
- *Pre-Consumer Recycled Content:* Material diverted from the waste stream during a manufacturing process. It does not include materials such as rework, regrind or scrap generated in a process and capable of being reclaimed within the same process.

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

- *Post-consumer recycled content:* Material generated by households or by commercial, industrial and institutional facilities in their role as end-users of the product, which can no longer be used for its intended purpose.

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

- *Certified forest content*, which includes content from specific forest tracts that are third-party certified to conform with the *SFI 2010-2014 Standard's forest land management* requirements (Objectives 1-7 and 14-20) or other acceptable forest management standards (e.g. CAN/CSA-Z809 and ATFS).

- *Non-controversial sources*: If the raw material is sourced from outside of the United States and Canada, the organization shall establish adequate measures to ensure that the labeled products do not come from *controversial sources*. See Section 3, 3.6 and Section 4, 6.1 on the process to avoid *controversial sources*. Up to one third of the supply for *secondary producers* can come from *non-controversial sources* for use of the certified sourcing label; the other two-thirds must come from the sources defined under the *certified sourcing* definition — fiber that conforms with objectives 8-20 of Section 2, *pre consumer fiber*, *post consumer fiber*, and/or *certified forest content*.

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

**controversial sources**: Use of *controversial sources* are not allowed in SFI-labeled products. *Controversial sources* include *illegal logging* and *fiber sourced from areas without effective social laws*.

**illegal logging**: The theft of timber or logs and cutting in parks, reserves or other similar areas where otherwise precluded by laws such as the United States Lacey Act, as amended in 2008<sup>1</sup>. The Act combats trafficking in “illegal” *wildlife*, fish, and plants. As of May 22, 2008, the Lacey Act makes it unlawful to import, export, transport, sell, receive, acquire, or purchase in interstate or foreign commerce any plant, with some limited exceptions, taken, possessed, transported or sold in violation of the laws of the United States, a State, an Indian tribe, or any foreign law that protects plants. In addition, see Section 7 in the SFI requirements document for *SFI Inc’s Policy on Illegal Logging*.

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

1. workers’ health and safety;
2. fair labor practices;

3. indigenous peoples’ rights;
4. anti-discrimination and anti-harassment measures;
5. prevailing wages; and
6. workers’ right to organize.

**conversion sources**: Roundwood and/or chips produced from conversion of forestland to other land uses. Manufacturers can use this wood to avoid wasting it but cannot include it when calculating *certified forest content* component.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

<sup>1</sup> The Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (Pub.L. 110-234, 122 Stat. 923, enacted May 22, 2008, H.R. 2419, Section 8204. Prevention of Illegal Logging Practices, also known as the 2008 U.S. Farm Bill). The Lacey Act also makes it unlawful to conduct these activities with respect to any plant (1) without payment of appropriate royalties, taxes, or stumpage fees required for the plant by any law or regulations of any State or any foreign country and (2) in violation of any limitation under any law or regulation of any State, or under any foreign law, governing the export or transshipment of plants. SFI has not included these prohibitions in its definition of illegal logging because they are covered by the requirement to comply with all applicable laws.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**forest tree biotechnology:** As commonly used, *forest tree biotechnology* encompasses structural and functional studies of genes and genomes (including development and application of genetic markers); various methods of vegetative

reproduction such as micropropagation, tissue culture, and somatic embryogenesis; and genetic engineering (GE), which is the physical manipulation and asexual insertion of genes into organisms.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

be found under Descriptions of *Biodiversity Hotspots* and *High-Biodiversity Wilderness Areas* is in Section 6 of the SFI requirements document).

**illegal logging:** The theft of timber or logs and cutting in parks, reserves, or similar areas where otherwise precluded by laws such as the United States Lacey Act, as amended in 2008<sup>2</sup>. The Act combats trafficking in “illegal” *wildlife*, fish, and plants. The Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008, effective May 22, 2008, amended As of May 22, 2008, the Lacey Act makes it unlawful to import, export, transport, sell, receive, acquire, or purchase in interstate or foreign commerce any plant, with some limited exceptions, taken, possessed, transported or sold in violation of the laws of the United States, a State, an Indian tribe, or any foreign law that protects plants. In addition, see Section 7 in the SFI requirements document for *SFI Inc’s Policy on Illegal Logging*.

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

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

**indicator:** In the SFI program, a specific metric that provides information about an organization’s *forestry* and environmental performance, and that is integral to assessing conformance to the *SFI 2010-2014 Standard* objectives and *performance measures*.

**integrated pest management:** The maintenance of destructive agents, including insects at tolerable levels, by the planned use of a variety of preventive, suppressive or regulatory tactics and strategies that are ecologically and economically efficient and socially acceptable.

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

**label users:** Any *certified Program Participant*, label licensee, secondary manufacturer, publisher, printer, retailer or distributor who has obtained a license to use the label; met *Section 4 – Rules For Use Of SFI On-Product Labels* or the SFI Chain-of-Custody Standard and Associated Labels (Section 3); and obtained approval from the SFI *Office of Label Use and Licensing* to use the SFI on-product label for at least one product or manufacturing unit.

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

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

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

**lead auditor:** An *auditor* appointed to lead an *audit team*. Also referred to as an *audit team leader* (ISO 19011:2002, 3.9, note 1).

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

**long-term:** Extending over a relatively long time period — for the *SFI 2010-2014 Standard*, this means the length of one forest management rotation or longer.

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

<sup>2</sup> The Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (Pub.L. 110-234, 122 Stat. 923, enacted May 22, 2008, H.R. 2419, (Section 8204. Prevention of Illegal Logging Practices, also known as the 2008 U.S. Farm Bill). The Lacey Act also makes it unlawful to conduct these activities with respect to any plant (1) without payment of appropriate royalties, taxes, or stumpage fees required for the plant by any law or regulations of any State or any foreign country and (2) in violation of any limitation under any law or regulation of any State, or under any foreign law, governing the export or transshipment of plants. SFI has not included these prohibitions in its definition of illegal logging because they are covered by the requirement to comply with all applicable laws.

**major nonconformity:** One or more of the *SFI 2010-2014 Standard performance measures or indicators* has not been addressed or has not been implemented to the extent that a systematic failure of a *Program Participant's SFI system* to meet an *SFI objective, performance measure or indicator* occurs.

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

**minor nonconformity:** An isolated lapse in *SFI 2010-2014 Standard program* implementation which does not indicate a systematic failure to consistently meet an *SFI objective, performance measure or indicator*.

**native:** Species of ecological communities occurring naturally in an area, as neither a direct or indirect consequence of recent human activity.

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

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

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

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

**objective:** In the *SFI program*, a fundamental goal of sustainable forest management as embodied in *objectives 1–20* of the *SFI 2010-2014 Standard*.

**office of label use and licensing:** Provides administrative support and oversight of the SFI on-product labeling program, and serves as the depository for *SFI 2010-2014 Standard* certificates, SFI Section 3 certificates, SFI Section 4 certificates (in the SFI requirements document) and PEFC U.S. chain of custody Annex 4 certificates, and other documents that must be submitted to receive approval for use of the SFI on-product labels and claims.

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

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

**other credible chain of custody standards:** Standards capable of tracking fiber back to a forest certified to the *SFI 2010-2014 Standard* or other acceptable standards recognized by the *SFI program*. They include:

- Program for the Endorsement of Forest Certification schemes (PEFC) Chain of Custody of Forest Based Products Requirements, Normative Document, Annex 4, dated June 17, 2005 including normative amendments of Oct. 27, 2006 and Oct. 5, 2007

Additional programs may apply for similar recognition or be recognized by the *SFI program* in the future. The criteria used to assess other chain of custody standards can be found in SFI Section 3 (Appendix 3).

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

**performance measure:** In the *SFI program*, a means of judging whether an *objective* has been fulfilled.

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

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

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

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

- Field Manufactured Chips - chips produced from roundwood in the forest.

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

**principle:** In the *SFI* program, the vision and direction for sustainable forest management as embodied in principles 1–14 of the *SFI 2010-2014 Standard*.

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

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

**Program Participant:** A forest landowner, forest land manager, *primary* or *secondary forest products producer* operating in the United States or Canada who participates in the *SFI* program through a contractual agreement to abide by the *SFI 2010-2014 Standard*. *Program Participants* cannot use the *SFI* on-product label or make claims their products are certified.

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

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

**purchased stumpage:** standing timber under a contractual agreement that gives the *Program Participant* the right and obligation to harvest the timber.

**qualified logging professional:** A person with specialized skills in timber harvesting gained through experience or formal training who has successfully completed *wood producer training programs* recognized by *SFI Implementation Committees* as meeting the spirit and intent of *performance measure* under Objective 16 of the *SFI 2010-2014 Standard*.

- a. For a logging crew to be considered trained, each crew must operate under the direction of an individual, with on-site responsibility, who has completed the

*SFI Implementation Committee* approved state or provincial logger training *program*.

- b. All of the components of a training *program* could take several years to carry out, determining the point at which a logger is considered a *qualified logging professional* should be based on the individual's commitment to the *program*. That is, if a logger completes all the components or modules offered in a given year, that logger should be considered as a *qualified logging professional*. If all available components or modules are not completed, then the logger is no longer considered trained until all available components are completed.

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

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

**riparian:** Related to, living in, or located in conjunction with a wetland, on the bank of a river or stream or at the edge of a lake or tidewater.

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

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

**SFI certification:** A systematic and documented verification process to obtain and evaluate evidence *objectively* to determine whether a *Program Participant's SFI* program conforms to the *SFI 2010-2014 Standard*.

**SFI Implementation Committee (SIC):** A state, provincial, or regional committee organized by *SFI Program Participants* to facilitate or manage the *programs* and alliances that support the growth of the *SFI* program, including sustainable forest management.



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

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

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

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

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

**Sustainable Forestry Initiative Inc.:** *SFI Inc.* is a 501c(3) non-profit charitable organization, and is solely responsible for maintaining, overseeing and improving the Sustainable Forestry Initiative *program*. *SFI Inc.* directs all elements of the Sustainable Forestry Initiative *program* including the *SFI Standard*, chain-of-custody certification, *fiber sourcing* requirements, labeling and marketing. *SFI Inc.* is overseen by a three-chamber board of directors representing social, environmental and economic sectors.

**Sustainable Forestry Initiative 2010-2014 Standard (SFI Standard):** The *principles*, *policies*, *objectives*, *performance measures*, and *indicators* that detail specific requirements for *Program Participants*. The *SFI 2010-2014 Standard* is the fourth revised standard since 1998.

**Sustainable Forestry Initiative Standard Audit Procedures and Auditor Qualifications and Accreditation:** The *principles* and guidelines that detail specific requirements to *Program Participants* and *Certification bodies* for conducting audits to the *SFI 2010-2014 Standard*.

**technical expert:** A person who provides specific knowledge or expertise to the *audit team* (ISO 19011 2002, 3.10).

**third-party certification:** An assessment of conformance to the *SFI 2010-2014 Standard* conducted according to the standards of the *SFI Audit Procedures and Qualifications* and ISO 19011 by a qualified *certification body*.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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