



SFI Implementation Committee Meeting – Western Region November 6, 2024

Overview

This summary highlights the presentations and discussions of a meeting held on November 6, 2024, in Vancouver, WA, with representatives of western region SFI Implementation Committees, including California, Idaho, Montana, Oregon, and Washington. The objectives were to create an opportunity to share best practices across SICs, discuss SFI resources to support standards coordination, and foster greater collaboration between SICs. A total of 52 people participated, including 33 in-person participants and 19 number of virtual participants. See Appendix A for the full list of participants.

Welcome and introductions

Nadine Block, SFI Senior VP for Community and Government Relations, welcomed participants, led introductions, and thanked several SIC representatives for input on the agenda and logistics.

SIC Coordination on SFI Standards: Climate Smart Forestry

Greg Cooper, Director of Conservation Implementation, highlighted climate-related data from the recent annual survey of SFI certified organizations, including frequency of practices. Participants discussed available information about carbon in wood products, changes in culvert sizes (for fish passage as well as for climate reasons), and the need to manage fire risk on lands where fiber is sourced from.

Greg presented a report SFI has developed in collaboration with Michigan State University, which builds on the regional climate workshops held with SICs in 2022 and 2023. The report features a decision support tool, which identifies climate risks across regions and forest cover types and presents adaptation and mitigation practices backed by scientific literature. The report will be available soon to SFI certified organizations and will be open to input and feedback.

Participants expressed interest in the report, and offered suggestions for formats (pull down menus or clickable maps) that would allow users to drill down into their geographies and forest cover types. Several participants suggested this reports would be a useful resource for their organizations, providing validity from the science review; other participants indicated they were already equipped with the information they needed to satisfy this objective. This information might also be useful for SICs in reaching family landowners and practitioners about climate smart forestry practices. Participants also suggested that SFI share scientific literature and resources.

Several participants suggested additional resources on biodiversity would be helpful to support implementation of Objective 4 in the Forest Management standard and Objective 1 in Fiber Sourcing. Nadine and Greg highlighted the work being led by Healy Hamilton to coordinate data collection and identify data gaps, and indicated plans to offer a virtual webinar on this work in 2025.

Next steps:

- SFI staff will share aggregate data from the SFI annual survey
- SFI staff will share the CSF report when final and explore sharing science resources on a webpage.

SIC Coordination on SFI Standards: Tribal Engagement

Tim Beyer, US Tribal Lands Consultant to SFI, highlighted several opportunities for engagement with tribes. He shared a video (available [online](#)) that featured collaboration between the Minnesota DNR and local tribal leaders, and noted the field guides produced by the Central Canada SIC (CCSIC) that served as a training resource for forest practitioners. Tim has extensive experience working with tribes in the US and offered himself as a resource to SICs and to SFI certified organizations.

Participants highlighted some successes they have had engaging with their local tribes, including land swaps, local BBQ with tribes, allowing tribes motorized access to lands that would otherwise be restricted, etc. Several participants also noted some challenges, especially in certain regions where there are fewer tribes, like the US South. Some expressed concern that the outreach would be perceived as “checking a box”. Many participants felt that having field guides for the US modeled after the CCSIC would be helpful.

Next steps:

- SFI will support development of US based field guides for tribal engagement.
- SFI will develop an SIC playbook for tribal engagement in the US (similar to the playbooks produced in 2022 and 2023 on climate smart forestry, fire resilience and awareness, and biodiversity in fiber sourcing).

Elevating SFI with External Partners on Wood Use and Sustainability

Paul Vanderford, Senior Director of Wood Markets with Sustainable Northwest (SNW), highlighted the work of his organization in helping tell the story of the intersections between forests and markets. He pointed to several projects, including the PDX airport renovation, affordable housing, and tribal supply chains. He noted that forest certification can help add value in the market.

Participants discussed gaps in the understanding of some key audiences, like architects and builders. Paul suggested that it could be useful to bring an independent voice like SNW to the conversation. For some of these audiences with low forestry knowledge, it is helpful to explain how active forest management is a helpful tool to address concerns like fire and it is valuable to get clients to think about values and sources of timber.

SIC Coordination on SFI Standards: Logger Training

Gordy Mouw showed portions of a new video SFI is developing, in coordination with Michigan State University, for use with logger training. The video is designed to address the first indicator (overview of SFI) in the list of topics that the SFI standards require to be covered in logger training. It will be an online resource that can be used by SICs when presenting in logger training workshops.

Participants indicated the video will be valuable, and urged SFI to ensure there is appropriate coverage of each region (in terms of forests, equipment, etc.). Several participants suggested several sources that SFI could use for video b-roll. Participants suggested the video might also be useful for training of new employees of SFI certified organizations and for engagement with family landowners about use of Qualified Logging Professionals (QLPs).

Next steps:

- SFI staff will refine and finalize the video and distribute to SICs

Participants also discussed QLP programs in various states and some of the concerns expressed by loggers in devoting time to QLP programs. Participants suggested making QLP programs more accessible, including with online portions (which several states already do), and highlighted ways that SICs are supporting recruitment into the logging profession. Erin Feeney, Washington SIC Coordinator, shared a video (available [online](#)) and Kristy pointed to videos done by the Idaho Forest Products Commission.

Regional Roundtable and Other Topics

Participants highlighted some recent efforts and successes, including:

- Yakama Nation hosted the Washington SIC for a tour of their forest and mill in June
- SFI staff indicated the SFI Annual Conference in Minneapolis in May will include an SIC general session and invited SIC members to provide input to the agenda.
- Idaho SIC is working with the Idaho Fish and Wildlife Service to gather and provide G1 and G2 data that SFI certified organizations are not getting through other sources.

Next Steps:

- SFI will share highlights of other regional meetings after all of them have been held.

Appendix A – Participant List

First Name	Last Name	Organization	
Tom	Agens	PCA	
Tim	Beyer	SFI	
Nadine	Block	Sustainable Forestry Initiative	
Lily	Brod	Manulife	
David	Brummer	Stimson Lumber	*
Ben	Cazell	Rayonier	
Greg	Cooper	SFI	
Lauren	Cooper	SFI	*
Caleb	Deitz	Flathead Ridge Ranch	*
Bodie	Dowding	Pacific Fibre Products	
Emily	Elfering	Rayonier	*
Thomas	Evans	Interfor	
Erin	Feeney	WASIC/WFCA	
Cristy	Fiander	Yakama Forest Products	*
Rosalie	Fisher	F&W Forestry	*
David	Friedman	American Forest Management	*
Jennifer	Gallant	Port Townsend Paper Company	
Mark	Garrigues	Nuveen Natural Capital	*
Mikaela	Gosney	Chinook Forest Management	*
Molly	Griffiths	Pacific Education Institute	
Rick	Hanson	Boise Cascade Wood Products	
Rodney	Jacobs	Stimson Lumber Co	
Nicole	Jacobsen	Western Forestry and Conservation Assoc.	*
Nicholas	Johnson	SFI	*
Joseph	Koontz	TTG Forestry Services, BTG Pactual Timberlands	
Scott	Kryskalla	Stimson Lumber Co.	
Carter	Manning	Sierra Pacific Industries	
Matt	Matwijec	Boise Cascade	
Douglas	Meekins	Campbell Global	
Michelle	Metcalf	Weyerhaeuser Company	
LeeAnn	Mikkelsen	Oregon Natural Resources Education Program	*
Gordy	Mouw	SFI	*
Emily	Newman	Pacific Education Institute	
Katie	Nichols	Lone Rock Timber Management	
Kathryn	Olson	Nuveen Natural Capital	*
Don	Patterson	Stimson Lumber	*
Nicole	Porter	American Forest Management	*
Devon	Powell	Port Blakely	
Jay	Powell	Fruit Growers Supply Company	
Toni	Sandoval	Yakama Nation	*
Ellen	Sanford	Molpus Woodlands Group	
Dan	Stone	Gilchrist Forest Products	

Rex	Storm	Associated Oregon Loggers, Inc.	
Dan	Thomas	American Forest Management	
Kristy	Tucker	PotlatchDeltic	
Kevin	Tuers	Sierra Pacific Industries	
Cedric	Twight	Forest Health LLC	
Paul	Vanderford	Sustainable Northwest	
mark	vroman	Hampton Lumber	*
Zac	Wagman	SFI	*
Chad	Washington	Oregon Forest Industries Council	
Rebecca	Windle	Giustina Land & Timber Co.	

**Virtual Participation*