

it is reasonable to expect regular onsite supervision of the *crew.* The principal of the logging company or their representative should be sufficiently knowledgeable about the harvest unit and its harvest plan to do a risk determination. Using this determination, the forester, contractor principal or their representative can determine the level of onsite supervision required to consistently carry out the roles and responsibilities of the *wood producer,* and whether additional trained supervisors are required on the harvest *site*.

Certified Logging Companies

SFI Inc. recognizes the potential and value in promoting the use of *certified logging companies*. *Certified logging companies* are entities that hold an independent, in-the-forest verification of conformance with a logger certification *program.*

Recognizing the value of *certified logging companies, Certified Organizations* may be able to demonstrate conformance to some *indicators* in the SFI 2022 Standards by using *certified logging companies* to deliver raw materials. It is up to the *Certified Organization* to provide evidence to their *certification body* on which *indicators* may be met, and how, via the use of a *certified logging company.*

PART 2: SFI 2022 FIBER SOURCING STANDARD

Objective 1. *Biodiversity* in *Fiber Sourcing*

Performance Measure 1.2 is intended to promote *conservation* of *Forests with Exceptional Conservation Value* or forest areas that harbor or consist of *imperiled* or *critically imperiled species* or *natural communities* through the course of *fiber sourcing* activities. This promotion takes place through three means: 1) an assessment of *Forests with Exceptional Conservation Value* within the *wood and fiber supply area*, that is then made available to *wood producers*; 2) *programs* to address outreach and training; and, 3) incorporation of the results of the assessment toward promoting *Forests with Exceptional Conservation Value conservation* on areas of *purchased stumpage*. Considered together, these elements should effectively promote the intended *conservation* of *Forests with Exceptional Conservation Value.*

The required *Forests with Exceptional Conservation Value* assessment can be conducted at the scale of the *wood and fiber supply area* and may even be conducted collaboratively through one or more *SFI Implementation Committees*, or through multi-lateral engagement of *Certified Organizations* operating within the same affected geography, to achieve efficiencies of cost and scale. Such an assessment could be qualitative (i.e., describing the forest conditions and composition that would define *Forests with Exceptional Conservation Value* in that location) or geographic (i.e., mapping of known *Forests with Exceptional Conservation Value* through some credible method, such as remote sensing, use of USFS Forest Inventory and Analysis (FIA) data to achieve a meaningful scale for this purpose, sampling and ground-truthing, or other means). *Forests with Exceptional Conservation Value* assessments may be conducted most efficiently using the widest array of available information, including NatureServe or heritage database information, remote sensing, *habitat* prediction models and other means.

Performance Measure 1.2 is intended to inform activities at a meaningful level, to help promote *conservation* of *Forests with Exceptional Conservation Value* that could be affected through harvest activities, but it does not necessarily require *stand*-level analysis. The requirements of this *performance measure* should be considered together, meaning that the assessment results generate information that can be transferred to landowners and loggers through outreach and training *programs,* etc., facilitating the use of that information at the level of individual harvest. Using the assessment results at the scale of *purchased stumpage* is the most specific level of application, since *Certified Organizations* are responsible for understanding the details of sourcing at this scale and for ensuring the *conservation* of *Forests with Exceptional Conservation Value* at this scale, too.

Objective 2. Adherence to *Best Management Practices*

Best Management Practices

Objective 2 of the *SFI 2022 Fiber Sourcing Standard* calls for adherence to *best management practice*s: "To monitor the use of *best management practices* to *protect* water quality."

The use of *best management practices* to *protect* water quality is a critical component of sustainable forest management and is emphasized in the *SFI 2022 Fiber Sourcing Standard* with requirements for on-the-ground management, monitoring, training, and research. The *SFI 2022 Fiber Sourcing Standard* strengthened requirements for *best management practices* application with a new indicator:

"2.1.1 Use of written agreements for the purchase of raw material sourced directly from the forest is required and must include provisions requiring the use of *best management practices.*"

While it is not practical to have auditing requirements that go beyond reviewing *Certified Organizations'* contracts for purchasing raw material from their suppliers, to ensure they do require the use of *best management practices*, this indicator will further highlight the importance of *best management practices* and their use by all suppliers throughout the supply stream.