

SFI Fiber Sourcing Standard
Biodiversity Conservation
July 1, 2022

Why It Matters

According to the United Nations' [State of the World's Forests report](#), our world's forests are home to the majority of all wildlife, with 80 percent of amphibian species, 75 percent of bird species, and 68 percent of the world's mammal species. Maintaining this biodiversity is critical for a healthy planet, and biodiversity conservation has become a priority for customers, brand owners, and the ESG community.

How The SFI Fiber Sourcing Standard Addresses Biodiversity

Small landowners, not certified to a forest management standard, represent the majority of the forest fiber supply in the U.S. While SFI continues to grow forest management certification, it is critical SFI pays special attention to these non-certified landowners. The SFI Fiber Sourcing Standard distinguishes SFI from all other certification programs in that it governs how SFI-certified organizations procure fiber from non-certified forestland to ensure the sustainability across entire landscapes.

Organizations certified to the SFI Fiber Sourcing Standard are required to promote and conserve biological diversity, as well as Forest with Exceptional Conservation Value. This includes critically imperiled and imperiled species and ecological communities. SFI-certified organization are also required to conduct an assessment on Forest with Exceptional Conservation Value across their wood and fiber supply area. This ensures organizations are addressing conservation of biodiversity at both the local and landscape level.

SFI Fiber Sourcing Standard Requirements

Objective 1 - Biodiversity in Fiber Sourcing

To address the practice of sustainable forestry by conserving biological diversity.

Performance Measure 1.1. Promotion and conservation of biological diversity.

Indicators:

1. Certified Organizations shall address conservation of biodiversity, individually and/or through cooperative efforts involving SFI Implementation Committees, through a program that includes one or more of the following:
 - a. promotion of biological diversity concepts utilizing information from organizations such as the World Resources Institute, The Nature Conservancy, NatureServe, Conservation International, State Wildlife Action Plans, State Forest Action Plans and assessments;
 - b. conducting local and regional level landscape assessments;
 - c. involvement with local or regional conservation efforts;
 - d. use of relevant information on biological diversity from credible sources (such as those noted above) in approved training and education programs; and
 - e. other credible approaches.

Performance Measure 1.2. Promotion and conservation of Forests with Exceptional Conservation Value.

Indicators:

1. Certified Organizations shall conduct an assessment, individually and/or through cooperative efforts involving SFI Implementation Committees, of Forests with Exceptional Conservation Value, defined as critically imperiled and imperiled species and ecological communities, within their wood and fiber supply area(s) and make the summary of the assessment available to wood producers.
2. Program to address Forests with Exceptional Conservation Value (critically imperiled and imperiled species and ecological communities) for all harvest operations through fiber sourcing activities such as:
 - a. use of qualified logging professionals, certified logging companies (where available), and qualified resource professionals; or
 - b. training program for qualified logging professionals on how to recognize and protect Forests with Exceptional Conservation Value; or
 - c. through in-the-forest verification by certified logging companies; or
 - d. forest landowner outreach; or
 - e. SFI Implementation Committee involvement in the assessment of Forests with Exceptional Conservation Value, and development of recommendations for conservation.

3. Certified Organizations shall conduct and incorporate the results of a Forests with Exceptional Conservation Value (critically imperiled and imperiled species and ecological communities) assessment to promote conservation of Forests with Exceptional Conservation Value for purchased stumpage.

SFI's Standard Development Process

As part of SFI's commitment to continual improvement, we revise the SFI standards every 5 years. This last revision process included two public comment periods, a dozen webinars, and nearly 2,300 individuals and organizations commenting on the 2022 Standards. This ensures everyone has a voice in shaping the SFI Standards.

Independent Third-Party Certification

Organizations certified to the SFI Standards are also required to undergo annual audits by independent and accredited certification bodies to deliver ongoing conformance. Third-party independent certification is critical to verify that requirements set out in the SFI standards and supporting documents are met.