

SFI CONSERVATION IMPACT WORKSHOP



FRIDAY MAY 23, 2025, 9AM-12PM

Following the 2025 SFI Annual Conference, breakfast available prior to event.

LOCATION

In-Person: Renaissance by Marriott Minneapolis Hotel, The Depot, Minneapolis, MN; Room: Depot Pavillion

Virtual: Register [here](#) for online access



Sponsored by:



ABOUT

As our forests face growing challenges for resilience, effective stewardship requires innovative management practices, sound data, and strong partnerships. Through technical dialogue with field experts and SFI certified organizations, this year's [SFI Conservation Impact Workshop](#) will explore practical climate-related interventions and available resources for responsible forest management. The event is organized by the Conservation Pillar at SFI, whose focus is in advancing conservation outcomes of the [SFI standards](#). We welcome diverse participation by various natural resource and conservation professionals interested in forests, climate, certification, and conservation.

The workshop is divided into two sessions:

- **Part I** will include expert speakers on various applications of evolving management practices and data that can support alignment with Climate Smart Forestry – now an objective SFI Forest Management standard.
- **Part II** will include updates from the Conservation pillar and have an interactive engagement session on the development of climate informed practices for forest management.

LEARNING OUTCOMES / WHY YOU SHOULD ATTEND

1. Understand available resources from climate and forest data and potential applications as they relate to forest management strategies and outcomes.
2. Learn about the Climate Smart Forestry objective in the SFI Forest Management standard, and how it is being applied on the ground.
3. Explore how SFI Conservation pillar partnerships provide nature-positive solutions for the forest sector.
4. Contribute your perspectives to SFI conservation priorities to ensure continual improvement, conservation outcomes, and utility for certified organizations and verifiers in fulfillment of SFI standards.

NOT YET REGISTERED?

Register for [both the 2025 SFI Annual Conference and the Conservation Impact Workshop](#) OR [only the stand-alone, free, and open-to-all Workshop](#).

If you have already registered for the conference but didn't register for the Workshop, please use [this link](#) to register.

SFI CONSERVATION IMPACT WORKSHOP AGENDA

I. GROWING INNOVATIVE CLIMATE SOLUTIONS

Multi-perspective panel that demonstrates approaches to address management of forests in a changing climate.

9:00 am – 9:15 am	Welcome & Introduction to SFI Conservation Impact Workshop <i>Lauren T. Cooper</i> , Chief Conservation Officer, SFI <ul style="list-style-type: none">Overview of Climate Smart Forestry and SFI – the standards and new CSF funded initiatives <i>Greg Cooper</i> , Director of Conservation Implementation <ul style="list-style-type: none">Introduction of speaker panel
9:15 am - 9:25 am	Presentation: Modeling Climate-Smart Forestry Practices in Minnesota <i>Kendall DeLyser</i> , Senior Director, Forest Climate Science
9:25 am - 9:35 am	Presentation: Adaptive Silviculture for Climate Change Network <i>Dr. Linda Nagel, Dean and Professor</i> , Quinney College of Natural Resources, Utah State University
9:35 am – 9:45 am	Presentation: Codifying and Registering Climate Smart & Exemplary Forestry in New England <i>Robert Perschel</i> – Senior Advisor, New England Forestry Foundation
9:45 am - 9:55 am	Presentation: Planning for the Unexpected <i>Sean Ross</i> , Managing Director, The Lyme Timber Company
9:55 am - 10:30 am	Panel Discussion – Moderated by SFI (<i>Greg Cooper</i> , Director of Conservation Implementation) <ul style="list-style-type: none">A panel discussion bringing together perspectives on tools, reporting, and approaches through prompted questions and audience Q&A
10:30 am – 10:45 am	BREAK

II. COLLABORATING ON CLIMATE: ENGAGEMENT SESSIONS

This session will highlight the current climate-related focus of the Conservation Pillar through recent funding opportunities and invite active audience participation on advancing climate smart forest management practices.

10:45 – 10:55 am	Overview of SFI Conservation Priorities and Collaborations - <i>Lauren T. Cooper</i> , Chief Conservation Officer <ul style="list-style-type: none">Brief overview of current SFI climate-related projectsPrevious workshop results and insightsIntroduction of new initiative to build Climate Informed Principles and Practices (CLIPP)
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10:55 – 11:50 am	Engagement Session: Climate Smart Forestry at SFI – <i>Dr. Francesco Cortini</i>, Director, Conservation, Research and Practices <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An open dialogue session to encourage audience participation and thought sharing on the intersection and role of SFI and certification on addressing key climate-related topics • Interactive exercise for participants to share insight and ideas on approaches and prioritization of climate-informed principles and practices and promote collaboration.
11:50 am – 12:00 pm	NEXT STEPS AND CLOSING

ABOUT THE SFI CONSERVATION IMPACT WORKSHOP AND PILLAR

The Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI®) Inc. is an independent, nonprofit organization that delivers forest supply chain sustainability assurances, conservation leadership, and environmental education and community engagement. SFI collaborates with various stakeholders, including those in the forest and fiber sourcing sector, brand owners, conservation groups, natural resource professionals, landowners, educators, local communities, Indigenous peoples, public servants, and academics. SFI standards and on-product labels help consumers make responsible purchasing decisions.

The SFI Conservation Pillar advances conservation objectives in forests throughout the U.S. and Canada, through targeted research collaborations, direct leadership of critical initiatives, and partnerships that contribute to multiple conservation objectives.

The Conservation Impact Workshop (previously the “Sounding Board”) was launched in 2016 to harness and focus the community of partners engaged in or seeking to inform the SFI Conservation Pillar work, and to help SFI identify specific pathways to advance the conservation contributions of managed forests. The Workshop is open to all to facilitate the broadest engagement; in this way, it shaped our Conservation Impact Project work and promoted interaction directly between project leaders and experts from a diversity of backgrounds.

Today, the SFI Conservation Pillar hosts the Conservation Impact Workshop in conjunction, but separate from, the SFI Annual Conference. The purpose of the workshop is to advance technical discussions on conservation topics, provide an update on the Conservation Pillar, and invite feedback on the evolving SFI conservation program.



ABOUT SFI CONSERVATION IMPACT WORKSHOP SPEAKERS



Kendall DeLyser
Senior Director,
Forest Climate Science
American Forests



Kendall DeLyser manages American Forests' forest climate science projects and serves as the organization's technical expert on forests, carbon and climate change. DeLyser is currently leading research partnerships focused on climate-smart forestry and wood utilization, forest soil carbon, and the role of forests as natural climate solutions. She supports state natural resource agency partners in applying climate-smart forestry

research to inform policy development and forest management planning. Before joining American Forests, DeLyser worked on carbon offset project research and policy recommendations for climate-smart land use and also researched successful forest restoration techniques in Costa Rica. DeLyser holds a bachelor's degree in environmental policy from Colorado College, as well as master's degrees in environmental management and forestry from Duke University.



Robert Perschel
Senior Advisor
New England Forestry
Foundation



Robert (Bob) Perschel joined NEFF in April 2012. Previously Bob was the Eastern region director for the Forest Stewards Guild. In his 40 years as an environmental professional, he has worked on forestry, large landscape conservation, and wilderness issues. Bob worked for the forest industry before establishing his own forestry consulting business and founding the Land Ethic Institute. He is an original co-founder of the Forest

Stewards Guild. Bob has a master's degree in forestry from the Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies and a psychology degree from Yale College.



Dr. Linda Nagel
Dean and Professor
Utah State University



Dr. Linda Nagel is co-lead for the Adaptive Silviculture for Climate Change Network (ASCC) aimed at bringing together forest practitioners and scientists to co-develop adaptive forest management practices in the face of climate change. This high-impact research and outreach project is translating climate adaptation theory into practice, with 14 research sites across North America, and includes over 200 partners. Linda is currently Professor

and Dean of the S.J. and Jessie E. Quinney College of Natural Resources at Utah State University. She previously served on the faculty at Michigan Technological University, the University of Minnesota where she was also Director of the Cloquet Forestry Center and the Hubachek Wilderness Research Center, and Colorado State University where she was Department Head. She will be returning to the University of Minnesota this summer as the Forest Resources Department Head. She has received awards for teaching excellence, efforts toward inclusive excellence in natural resources, outreach and service to forestry professionals including the National Advanced Silviculture Program for the United States Forest Service, and leadership of the ASCC Network for its contributions and broad impact to forest science and management.



Sean Ross
Managing Director
The Lyme Timber Company



Sean leads the development of forest management goals and objectives in forest management plans, secures and oversees third party forest certification, and ensures that forest management complies with applicable forest management plans, conservations easements, and investment objectives on Lyme's holdings. In addition, Sean engages in forest policy discussions in the various states where Lyme has operations. Prior to joining Lyme, Sean

worked as a consulting forester, directing forest inventory projects and managing timber harvesting operations, as well as purchasing standing timber and selling logs. He currently serves on the Board of Directors of the Empire State Forest Products Association, the Pennsylvania Forest Products Association, and the Northern Forest Center. He is also a member of the Society of American Foresters and Forest Stewards Guild. Sean earned a B.S. in Forestry from the University of Vermont in 1997.



Lauren Cooper
Chief Conservation Officer
Sustainable Forestry Initiative



Lauren heads the SFI Conservation Pillar, providing conservation leadership internally as well as externally to our network of resource professionals, landowners, educators, local communities, Indigenous Peoples, and governments. She develops best management practices for climate-smart forestry and fire resiliency and awareness, leads SFI participation in collaborative efforts to conserve forested landscapes and integrates Indigenous knowledge

into SFI conservation programs. Lauren founded the Forest Carbon and Climate Program at Michigan State University, and she has international experience working with Indigenous communities in Peru, Mexico, Ecuador, and the United States. Lauren has served as a convener, moderator, and facilitator in high-level climate events, engaged in numerous climate working groups and has developed climate curriculum, educational materials, and plans. She currently serves as a steering committee member with the Women's Forest Congress and on the Forest-Climate Working Group. Lauren is passionate about building new relationships at the intersection of sustainability, forests, society, and climate.



Greg Cooper
Director, Conservation
Implementation
Sustainable Forestry Initiative



Greg plays a central role in SFI's conservation program by supporting the continual improvement of conservation practices and outcomes. He provides sophisticated technical and scientific expertise, specifically relating to forest ecology, forest management, climate change mitigation and adaptation, fire resilience, and biodiversity. Greg also works to foster and grow the reach of the SFI Conservation Impact Project and the SFI Conservation Impact Workshop. His

strong background in conservation includes a proven track record of implementing climate-informed forestry practices. Greg has developed and implemented science-based management practices focused on using climate-informed techniques to support resilient, biodiverse forests. He holds a Master of Environmental Management and a Master of Forestry from Duke University.












Dr. Francesco Cortini
Director, Conservation,
Research and Practices
Sustainable Forestry Initiative



Francesco works to integrate science and innovation into sustainable forestry initiatives that support resilient ecosystems and communities. He is passionate about leveraging research and partnerships to address critical knowledge gaps around climate change, biodiversity conservation, and forest resilience. Francesco has over two decades of experience in forestry research, sustainable forest management, and conservation science, developed

in Canada and internationally. Francesco is a Registered Professional Forester and has a PhD in Forest Biology and Management from the University of Alberta.

CONTINUING EDUCATION CREDITS

 <p>SOCIETY OF AMERICAN FORESTERS</p> <p>UP TO 16.5 CONTINUING FORESTRY EDUCATION CREDITS</p>	 <p>Canadian Institute of Forestry Institut forestier du Canada</p> <p>UP TO 12.75 CONTINUING FORESTRY EDUCATION CREDITS</p>	 <p>UP TO 8.5 PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT CERTIFICATE CREDITS</p>
 <p>UP TO 7.25 ISA CONTINUING EDUCATION UNITS FOR PROFESSIONALS HOLDING ISA CERTIFICATIONS <i>SFI Conservation Impact Workshop: 3 hours</i></p>	 <p>ANY HOUR, OR ANY PORTION OF AN HOUR, SPENT LEARNING CAN BE REPORTED BY REGISTRANTS AS CONTINUING PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT</p>	 <p>UP TO 11.75 CONTINUING COMPETENCY CREDITS</p>
 <p>Association of Saskatchewan FORESTRY PROFESSIONALS</p> <p>UP TO 11.75 CONTINUING COMPETENCY CREDITS</p>	 <p>UP TO 6 HOURS PER DAY OF SELF-REPORTED CONTINUING EDUCATION CREDITS</p>	 <p>UP TO 13 CONTINUING FORESTRY EDUCATION CREDITS</p>

 <p>UP TO 42 CATEGORY 1 CONTINUING FORESTRY EDUCATION CREDITS</p>
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