



## FOREST CERTIFICATION

Certification is a voluntary process that recognizes well-managed forests. The management practices of a certified forest are evaluated by independent third party auditors based on standards of a certification system.

The benefits of having your land certified include recognition of your efforts to practice forestry in an environmentally responsible manner and access to markets that seek wood from certified forests.

The American Tree Farm System (ATFS) is the oldest and largest certification system in the United States for small family forests. The Pennsylvania SIC encourages family forest owners to enroll in the ATFS program. Participating in ATFS is a good way to obtain information, education, and networking opportunities on good forest management. To learn more about the ATFS, visit:

[www.treefarmssystem.org/](http://www.treefarmssystem.org/)

## INCONSISTENT PRACTICES

The Pennsylvania State Implementation Committee (SIC) responds to allegations of practices that appear inconsistent with the SFI Standard principles and objectives.

Inconsistent practices either cause or have the potential to cause, problems associated with a timber harvest. Likely issues are soil erosion, stream sedimentation, failed regeneration, and/or poor residual stand conditions. The Inconsistent Practices Program provides a venue for reporting and addressing these concerns. The inconsistent practices reporting form can be downloaded from the PA SFI website.

[www.sfiopa.org/forms.php](http://www.sfiopa.org/forms.php)

## SFI. Good For You, Good For Our Forests®.

Since 1995, the Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI®) program has existed to promote the perpetual growing and harvesting of trees in a way that's compatible with the protection of wildlife, plants, soil, and water quality.

In Pennsylvania and all across North America, SFI program participants adhere to a set of principles that address how they operate on their own lands and how they conduct fiber sourcing practices across all ownerships. SFI program participants promote the practice of sustainable forestry on all lands by conducting logger education and encouraging landowners to manage their forests sustainably. SFI program participants often opt to be audited by independent third-party certification bodies to the SFI Standard.

### SFI Inc. Program Participants in Pennsylvania

Domtar Paper, LLC  
Forest Investment Associates  
Glatfelter Pulp Wood Company  
Hancock Forest Management, Inc.  
New Page Corporation  
Weaber, Inc.  
Weyerhaeuser



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Revised 2013

# Pennsylvania Sustainable Forestry Initiative®



## SUSTAINABLE FORESTRY

[www.sfiopa.org](http://www.sfiopa.org)

*A Guide for Pennsylvania  
Forest Landowners*

**D**id you know that 70% of Pennsylvania's 17 million acres of forestland are owned by private forest landowners? They are a vital link in the sustainability of Pennsylvania's valuable forest resources.

This brochure is designed to summarize and guide forest landowners to information that can help them make informed, knowledgeable decisions about managing their forests in a way that meets their ownership goals, and the needs of the public, without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

## SUSTAINABLE FORESTRY

Sustainable forest management is a process. Think of it as the development and execution of a plan integrating all the principles, practices and techniques necessary to properly care for the forest.

Properly managing a forest ensures that it remains healthy and vigorous and provides the products and amenities landowners desire. Forest management starts with a plan.

## FOREST MANAGEMENT PLAN

Forest management starts with developing a long-term plan that identifies ownership goals & objectives. Planning allows the landowner to sort out what they really want from the forest and helps them successfully reach their goals. When developing a written management plan:

- Consider ownership goals and objectives
- Get help from resource professionals
- Develop management recommendations
- Implement specific practices

More information: [www.sfiofpa.org/planning/](http://www.sfiofpa.org/planning/)

A forest management plan needs to consider several key elements including Best Management Practices, forest operations, and forest values.

## BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES (BMPs)

BMPs are science based conservation practices that help protect soil and water resources. BMPs encompass all aspects of forestry and include practices such as:

- Planning operations to minimize their impact
- Leaving forest buffers on streams, rivers, and lakes
- Avoiding stream crossings
- Minimizing soil erosion, compaction, and runoff
- Stabilizing the site after the operation is complete

More information: [www.sfiofpa.org/bmp/](http://www.sfiofpa.org/bmp/)

## FOREST OPERATIONS

Forest operations are the activities implemented to achieve your management goals. Before conducting any operation consider:

- **Residual Stand Protection** - Focus on protecting the trees left uncut and ensure the residual stand is compatible with your management objectives.
- **Regeneration/Afforestation** - When planning to harvest timber, a regeneration plan should come first. Ensure that natural regeneration is adequate and that competing vegetation and deer browse are not inhibiting factors. Consider including non-forested acres in your regeneration plan.
- **Utilize Professional Timber Harvesters** - These individuals have received training in safety, efficiency, professionalism, regulations, and forest stewardship. A list of Timber Harvesters with a current PA SFI Training Card is available on the PA SFI website.
- **Insects, Disease, Invasives & Fire** - Be sure your plan addresses early detection and control of any significant insects, diseases, and invasive or exotic plants and animals. Take adequate precautions against wildfire.

- **Utilization** - The residues from timber operations (tops, branches, small stems) can be utilized where markets exist; however, this material also serves important environmental functions. Consult a professional resource manager to determine how and when biomass utilization is appropriate.

More information: [www.sfiofpa.org/operations/](http://www.sfiofpa.org/operations/)

## FOREST VALUES

There is more to a forest than just trees. Forests should be managed with careful consideration of aesthetics, wildlife, special sites, and concern for exceptional conservation value.

- **Aesthetic Considerations** - Forest operations are highly visible and can be subject to the perceptions and opinions of the public. Planning and conducting aesthetically acceptable forestry operations is important to the future of forestry. Practices that can improve visual quality include removing trash, minimizing mud on paved roads, minimizing soil disturbance, and locating log landings from public view.
- **Wildlife Habitat/Biodiversity** - Your forest management decisions will influence the type of wildlife habitat and landscape biodiversity your forest provides. In managing your forest, think about how your activities can improve diversity and important habitat features.
- **Special Sites** - Be sure to locate and consider protection of unique or special site on your forest land. These may include culturally or historically significant sites and areas with rare or unique ecological or geological features.
- **Forests with Exceptional Conservation Value** - It is important to determine where forests with exceptional conservation value are located. They may be homes to rare plants or animals or rare plant or animal communities. To do so, contact your state Natural Heritage or Fish and Game agency. Be sure to communicate this information and any protection measures associated with these sites to your logger or contractor.

More information: [www.sfiofpa.org/values/](http://www.sfiofpa.org/values/)