

EXPLORING SPECIES DECLINE

SUSTAINABILITY MERIT BADGE

What is species decline?

When a plant or animal species becomes rare as populations become smaller due primarily to habitat loss (i.e., when a forest is converted into a housing development or parking lot).

Sustainable Forestry Initiative certification helps reverse the decline of species by ensuring that:

1 WE PROTECT THE HABITAT.

SFI-Certified Organizations want to keep forests healthy and productive for many generations. They won't change landscapes from forests to different land types with other uses (i.e., a SFI-certified forest won't become a parking lot).

This is very important for forests in locations that negatively impact plants and animals with great importance to the environment, threatened or endangered species, and native species at risk of becoming rare.

DID YOU KNOW

66% of at-risk & endangered species rely on private forestlands in the U.S.

Sustainable forestry practices maintain or increase biodiversity by reforesting areas, restoring threatened species and habitats, and controlling invasive species.



2 WE PROTECT THE SPECIES.

SFI certifications helps maintain or advance biological diversity with a diversity of forest and vegetation and stages of growth to support the conservation of:

- Forest plants and animals
- Aquatic species
- Threatened and endangered species
- Forests with Exceptional Conservation Value
- Old-growth forests
- Ecologically important sites



SUSTAINABLE
FORESTRY
INITIATIVE
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