

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE NEW SFI 2022 FOREST MANAGEMENT STANDARD



Scaling the benefits of sustainable forestry on more than 350 millions acres/140 million hectares

The SFI standards help achieve our mission to advance sustainability through forest-focused collaboration. The new SFI 2022 Standards include a variety of updates that help us address global challenges.

The development and application of the different SFI standards benefits responsible forest management and the market for forest products. The standards are for producers and customers who want to make choices that are environmentally responsible when it comes to paper, packaging, wood and other products made from the forest.

The SFI Forest Management Standard is built to help achieve 17 different objectives, including climate smart forestry, fire resilience and awareness, protection of water resources, protection of special forest sites, community

involvement, conservation of biodiversity, efficient use of fiber resources, detailed planning for long term forest health, respect for indigenous rights, and public transparency. Users of the SFI Forest Management Standard include private landowners, forest product and paper companies, conservation organizations, state and local public agencies, Tribal and Aboriginal groups, and universities.

We are committed to regularly reviewing and updating all our standards. The SFI 2022 Standards included input from more than 2,300 stakeholders from the conservation community, Indigenous communities, the forest products sector, brand owners, private forest landowners and public forest managers, government agencies, trade associations, landowner associations, academia, and the public.

AN INCLUSIVE APPROACH



WHAT'S NEW?

MITIGATING CLIMATE CHANGE

Forests play a critical role in addressing climate change and storing carbon. SFI has developed new climate smart forestry requirements for certified organizations to identify and address climate change risks to forests, and address mitigation opportunities to help reduce operational carbon emissions.



ADDRESSING WILDFIRE

A warming planet is increasing the severity and number of fires, threatening people, wildlife, water quality and quantity, putting communities at risk and exacerbating the impacts of climate change. SFI has developed a new fire resilience and awareness objective for certified organizations to limit the susceptibility of forests to undesirable impacts of wildfire, support restoration of forests following wildfire damage, and raise the awareness of the benefits of fire management.



CONSIDERATIONS FOR LANDSCAPE BIODIVERSITY

We have introduced requirements for SFI-certified organizations to conduct an analysis of the impacts of their forest plans on larger landscapes in order to consider the needs of wide-ranging species, ecologically important natural communities, and broader critical biodiversity outcomes. Sound forest management looks at the trees, the forests and the ecological needs of broader landscapes.



WHAT'S NEW?

PROTECTING FORESTS WITH EXCEPTIONAL CONSERVATION VALUE

Species decline is a global concern, and SFI requires the protection of Forests with Exceptional Conservation Value (FECV). We added more detail and clarity when it comes to how SFI-certified organizations identify and protect FECVs, which serve important ecosystem functions, and provide home for species at risk.



COLLABORATING WITH INDIGENOUS PEOPLES

SFI requires certified organizations to engage in meaningful consultations with Indigenous Peoples and to align forest practices with Indigenous values, rights, knowledge and environmental considerations. Updates to the standards offer further clarity on meaningful process with Indigenous Peoples whose rights may be affected by forest management practices.



PROTECTING WATER QUALITY

Proper forest management is important for the protection of water quality and water quantity, since much of our drinking water comes from forests. SFI standards now protect both with a new indicator that helps ensure forest management is conducted in ways that protect water quantity.



MAINTAINING HEALTHY SOIL

Healthy forests depend in part on healthy soil. We have introduced new requirements to help SFI-certified organizations maintain soil health to achieve many benefits including regulation of water and air resources.



REDUCING IMPACTS OF AFFORESTATION

(where new forests are planted across land without trees):

If properly done, afforestation can provide all the benefits of planting new trees, such as absorbing carbon from the atmosphere. Our standard now includes requirements on how to avoid potential negative ecological impacts during afforestation.



LEADING IN LOGGER TRAINING

Loggers play a critical on-the-ground role in forest conservation and logger training is a core requirement for certification. More than 220,000 resource and harvesting professionals have been trained to ensure understanding of water quality, biodiversity, and other sustainable forest practice requirements since 1995 and the new standards include more structure and verification tools to ensure training requirements raise the overall quality and positive outcomes resulting from forest operations.



SAFEGUARDING FOREST CONVERSION

Safeguards around conversion of forest types are critical to address climate change, prevent species loss, and prevent the depletion of water resources. The standard provides clear guidance on whether a forest consisting of a certain group of tree species may be converted through harvesting and regeneration into a forest of different species based on the need to protect ecological systems, wildlife species and water sources.

