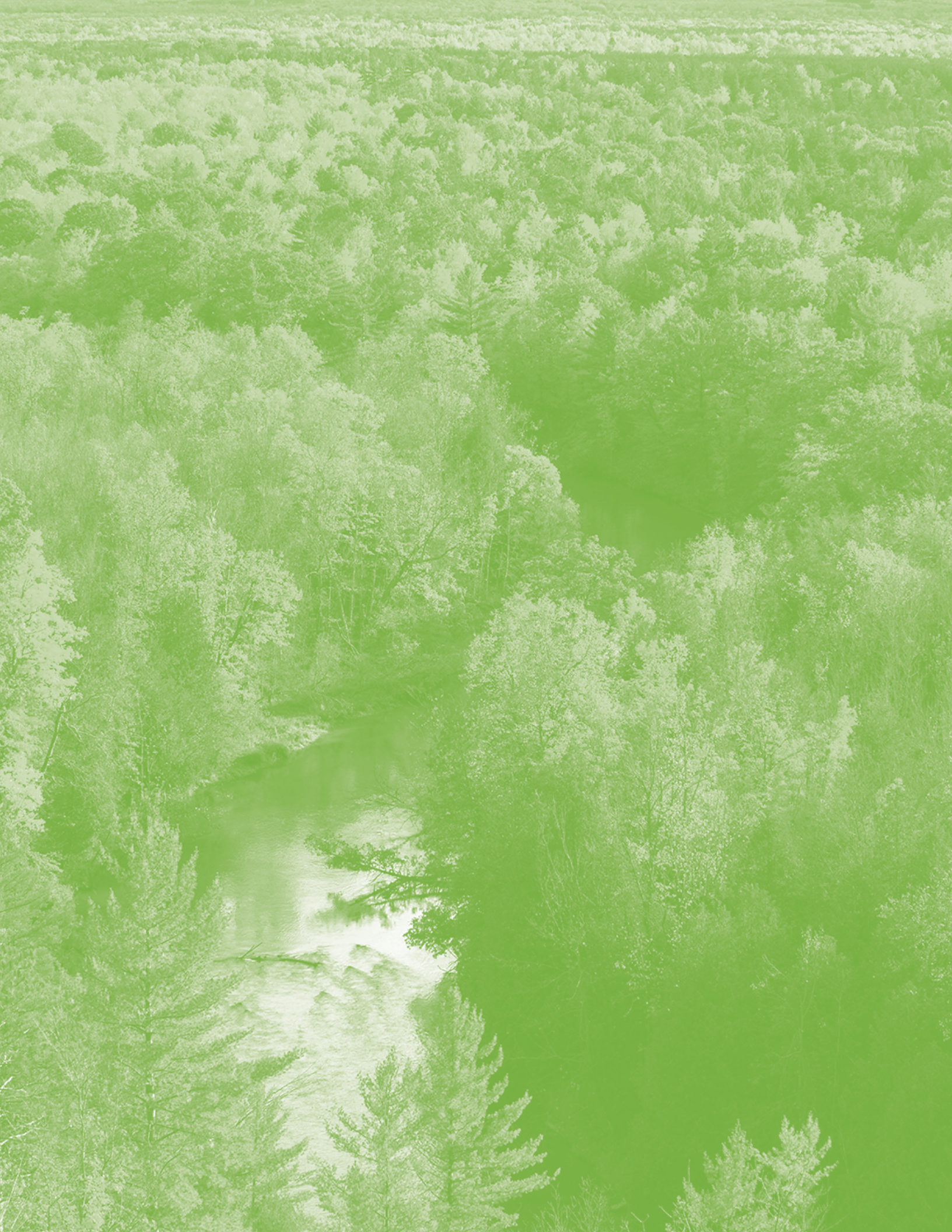
SECTION 2

SFI 2015-2019 FOREST MANAGEMENT STANDARD

JANUARY 2015

SUSTAINABLE FORESTRY INITIATIVE

SFI-00001



SFI 2015-2019 FOREST MANAGEMENT STANDARD

1.	**GENERAL**	**2**
1.1	**Scope**	**2**
1.2	**Additional Requirements**	**2**
1.3	**References**	**2**
1.4	**Forest Management Standard Principles**	**2**
1.5	**Forest Management Standard Objectives**	**3**
1.6	**SFI 2015-2019 Forest Management Requirements**	**4**
Objective 1.	Forest Management Planning	4
Objective 2.	Forest Health and Productivity	4
Objective 3.	Protection and Maintenance of Water Resources	5
Objective 4.	Conservation of Biological Diversity	6
Objective 5.	Management of Visual Quality and Recreational Benefits	7
Objective 6.	Protection of Special Sites	7
Objective 7.	Efficient Use of Fiber Resources	7
Objective 8.	Recognize and Respect Indigenous Peoples' Rights	7
Objective 9.	Legal and Regulatory Compliance	8
Objective 10.	Forestry Research, Science and Technology	8
Objective 11.	Training and Education	9
Objective 12.	Community Involvement and Landowner Outreach	9
Objective 13.	Public Land Management Responsibilities	10
Objective 14.	Communications and Public Reporting	10
Objective 15.	Management Review and Continual Improvement	11

SECTION 2

1. GENERAL

1.1 Scope

What the Forest Management Standard Does

The *SFI 2015-2019 Forest Management Standard* promotes *sustainable forestry* practices based on 13 *Principles*, 15 *Objectives*, 37 *Performance Measures* and 101 *Indicators*. These requirements include measures to protect water quality, *biodiversity, wildlife habitat,* species at risk and *Forests with Exceptional Conservation Value.*

What the Forest Management Standard Covers

The *SFI 2015-2019 Forest Management Standard* applies to any organization that owns or has management authority for forestlands.

Geographic Application of the Forest Management Standard

The *SFI 2015-2019 Forest Management Standard* applies to organizations in the United States and Canada.

1.2 Additional Requirements

SFI Program Participants with *fiber sourcing programs* (acquisition of roundwood and field-manufactured or primary-mill residual chips, pulp and veneer to support a forest products facility) must also conform to the *SFI 2015-2019 Fiber Sourcing Standard.*

Use of the *SFI* on-product labels and claims shall follow Section 5 - Rules for Use of *SFI* On-Product Labels and Off-Product Marks as well as ISO 14020:2000.

1.3 References

This standard incorporates, by dated or undated reference, provisions from other publications. These normative and informative references are cited at the appropriate places in the text and the publications are listed hereafter. For dated and undated references, the latest edition of the publication applies.

Normative References

i. ISO/IEC 17021:2011 - Conformity Assessment - Requirements for bodies providing audit and certification of management systems
ii. ISO/IEC Guide 2:2004 Standardization and related activities - General vocabulary
iii. Section 7 – *SFI* Policies
iv. Section 9 – *SFI* 2015-2019 Audit Procedures and *Auditor* Qualifications and Accreditation
v. Section 10 - Communications and Public Reporting
vi. Section 13 - *SFI* Definitions
vii. Interpretations for the Requirements for the *SFI* 2015-2019 Program

For the purposes of this standard, the relevant definitions given in ISO/IEC Guide 2:2004 apply, together with the definitions in the *SFI* Definitions (Section 13).

Informative References

i. ISO 14001:2004 Environmental Management Systems - Specification with guidance for use
ii. PEFC ST 1003:2010 Sustainable Forest Management Requirements, November 26, 2010
iii. PEFC ST 1002:2010 Group Forest Management Certification, November 26, 2010
iv. Section 6 - Guidance to *SFI* 2015-2019 Standards and Rules
v. Section 8 - *SFI* Standards Development and Interpretations Process
vi. Section 11 - Public Inquiries and Official Complaints

1.4 SFI 2015-2019 Forest Management Standard Principles

SFI Program Participants believe forest landowners have an important stewardship responsibility and a commitment to society, and they recognize the importance of maintaining viable commercial, family forest and *conservation* forestland bases. They support *sustainable forestry* practices on forestland they manage, and promote them on other lands. They support efforts to protect private property rights, and to help all private landowners manage their forestland sustainably. In keeping with this responsibility, *SFI Program Participants* shall have a written *policy* (or *policies*) to implement and achieve the following *principles*:

1. *Sustainable Forestry*

To practice *sustainable forestry* to meet the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs by practicing a land stewardship ethic that integrates *reforestation* and the managing, growing, nurturing and harvesting of trees for useful products and *ecosystem services* such as the *conservation* of soil, air and water quality, carbon, *biological diversity, wildlife* and *aquatic habitats,* recreation and aesthetics.

2. *Forest Productivity* and Health

To provide for regeneration after harvest and maintain the productive capacity of the forestland base, and to protect and maintain *long-term* forest and soil *productivity.* In addition, to protect forests from economically or environmentally undesirable levels of wildfire, pests, diseases, *invasive exotic plants and animals,* and other damaging agents and thus maintain and improve *long-term forest health* and *productivity.*

3. *Protection* of Water Resources

To protect water bodies and *riparian areas*, and to conform with forestry *best management practices* to protect water quality.

4. *Protection* of *Biological Diversity*

To manage forests in ways that protect and promote *biological diversity*, including animal and plant species, *wildlife habitats*, and ecological or natural community types.

5. Aesthetics and Recreation
To manage the visual impacts of forest operations, and to provide recreational opportunities for the public.

6. *Protection* of *Special Sites*
To manage lands that are ecologically, geologically or *culturally important* in a manner that takes into account their unique qualities.

7. Responsible *Fiber Sourcing* Practices in North America
To use and promote among other forest landowners *sustainable forestry* practices that are both scientifically credible and economically, environmentally and socially responsible.

8. Legal Compliance
To comply with applicable federal, provincial, state and local *forestry* and related environmental laws, statutes and regulations.

9. Research
To support advances in sustainable forest management through *forestry* research, science and technology.

10. Training and Education
To improve the practice of *sustainable forestry* through training and education *programs.*

11. Community Involvement and Social Responsibility
To broaden the practice of *sustainable forestry* on all lands through community involvement, socially responsible practices, and through recognition and respect of *Indigenous Peoples'* rights and *traditional forest-related knowledge.*

12. Transparency
To broaden the understanding of forest certification to the *SFI 2015-2019 Forest Management Standard* by documenting certification audits and making the findings publicly available.

13. Continual Improvement
To continually improve the practice of forest management, and to monitor, measure and report performance in achieving the commitment to *sustainable forestry.*

1.5 *SFI 2015-2019 Forest Management Standard Objectives*
A Summary of the *SFI 2015-2019 Forest Management Standard Objectives* follows:

Objective 1. Forest Management Planning
To ensure forest management plans include *long-term* sustainable harvest levels and measures to avoid forest conversion.

Objective 2. *Forest Health* and *Productivity*
To ensure *long-term* forest *productivity*, carbon storage and *conservation* of forest resources through prompt *reforestation, afforestation, minimized* chemical use, soil *conservation*, and protecting forests from damaging agents.

Objective 3. *Protection* and Maintenance of Water Resources
To protect the water quality of rivers, streams, lakes, *wetlands* and other water bodies through meeting or exceeding *best management practices.*

Objective 4. *Conservation* of *Biological Diversity*
To manage the quality and distribution of *wildlife habitats* and contribute to the *conservation* of *biological diversity* by developing and implementing *stand-* and *landscape*-level measures that promote a diversity of types of *habitat* and successional stages, and the *conservation* of forest plants and animals, including *aquatic species, as well as threatened and endangered* species, *Forests with Exceptional Conservation Value, old-growth forests* and ecologically important sites.

Objective 5. *Management* of *Visual Quality* and Recreational Benefits
To manage the visual impact of forest operations and provide recreational opportunities for the public.

Objective 6. *Protection* of *Special Sites*
To manage lands that are geologically or *culturally important* in a manner that takes into account their unique qualities.

Objective 7. Efficient Use of Fiber Resources
To *minimize* waste and ensure the efficient use of fiber resources.

Objective 8. Recognize and Respect *Indigenous Peoples'* Rights
To recognize and respect *Indigenous Peoples'* rights and traditional knowledge.

Objective 9. Legal and Regulatory Compliance
To comply with applicable federal, provincial, state, and local laws and regulations.

Objective 10. *Forestry* Research, Science and Technology
To invest in *forestry* research, science and technology, upon which sustainable forest management decisions are based and broaden the awareness of *climate change* impacts on forests, *wildlife* and *biological diversity.*

Objective 11. Training and Education
To improve the implementation of *sustainable forestry* practices through appropriate training and education *programs.*

Objective 12. Community Involvement and Landowner Outreach
To broaden the practice of *sustainable forestry* through public outreach, education, and involvement, and to support the efforts of *SFI Implementation Committees.*

Objective 13. *Public Land* Management Responsibilities
To participate and implement sustainable forest management on *public lands.*

Objective 14. Communications and Public Reporting
To increase transparency and to annually report progress on conformance with the *SFI Forest Management Standard*.

Objective 15. Management Review and Continual Improvement
To promote continual improvement in the practice of *sustainable forestry* by conducting a management review and monitoring performance.

1.6 *SFI 2015-2019 Forest Management Standard* Requirements

Objective 1. Forest Management Planning

To ensure forest management plans include *long-term* sustainable harvest levels and measures to avoid forest conversion.

Performance Measure 1.1. *Program Participants* shall ensure that forest management plans include *long-term* harvest levels that are sustainable and consistent with appropriate *growth-and-yield models.*

Indicators:

1. Forest management planning at a level appropriate to the size and scale of the operation, including:
    a. a *long-term* resources analysis;
    b. a periodic or ongoing *forest inventory*;
    c. a *land classification* system;
    d. *biodiversity* at *landscape* scales;
    e. soils inventory and maps, where available;
    f. access to *growth-and-yield modeling* capabilities;
    g. up-to-date maps or a *geographic information system (GIS);*
    h. recommended sustainable harvest levels for areas available for harvest; and
    i. a review of non-timber issues (e.g., recreation, tourism, pilot projects and economic incentive *programs* to promote water *protection*, carbon storage, *bioenergy feedstock* production, or *biological diversity conservation*, or to address climate-induced ecosystem change).
2. Documented current harvest trends fall within *long-term* sustainable levels identified in the forest management plan.
3. A *forest inventory* system and a method to calculate growth and yield.
4. Periodic updates of *forest inventory* and recalculation of planned harvests to account for changes in growth due to *productivity* increases or decreases, including but not limited to improved data, *long-term* drought, fertilization, *climate change*, changes in forestland ownership and tenure, or *forest health*.
5. Documentation of forest practices (e.g., *planting*, fertilization and thinning) consistent with assumptions in harvest plans.

Performance Measure 1.2. *Program Participants* shall not convert one *forest cover type* to another *forest cover type*, unless in justified circumstances.

Indicators:

1. *Program Participants* shall not convert one *forest cover type* to another *forest cover type*, unless the conversion:
    a. Is in compliance with relevant national and regional *policy* and legislation related to land use and forest management; and
    b. Would not convert *native* forest types that are rare and ecologically significant at the *landscape* level or put any *native* forest types at risk of becoming rare; and
    c. Does not create significant *long-term* adverse impacts on *Forests with Exceptional Conservation Value, old-growth forests,* forests critical to *threatened and endangered* species, and *special sites.*
2. Where a *Program Participant* intends to convert to another *forest cover type,* an assessment considers:
    a. *Productivity* and *stand* quality conditions and impacts which may include social and economic values;
    b. Specific ecosystem issues related to the site such as invasive species, insect or disease issues, riparian *protection* needs and others as appropriate to the site including regeneration challenges; and
    c. Ecological impacts of the conversion including a review at the site and *landscape* scale as well as consideration for any appropriate mitigation measures.

Performance Measure 1.3. *Program Participants* shall not have within the scope of their certification to this *SFI 2015-2019 Forest Management Standard*, forestlands that have been converted to non-forestland use.

Indicator:

1. Forestlands converted to other land uses shall not be certified to this *SFI 2015-2019 Forest Management Standard.* This does not apply to forestlands used for forest and *wildlife* management such as *wildlife* food plots or infrastructure such as forest roads, log processing areas, trails etc.

Objective 2. *Forest Health* and *Productivity*

To ensure *long-term* forest *productivity*, carbon storage and *conservation* of forest resources through prompt *reforestation, afforestation, minimized* chemical use, soil *conservation*, and protecting forests from damaging agents.

Performance Measure 2.1. *Program Participants* shall promptly reforest after final harvest.

Indicators:

1. Documented *reforestation* plans, including designation of all harvest areas for either natural, planted or direct seeded regeneration and prompt *reforestation,* unless delayed for site-specific environmental or *forest health* considerations or legal requirements, through *planting* within two years or two *planting* seasons, or by planned *natural regeneration* methods within five years.

2. Clear criteria to judge adequate regeneration and appropriate actions to correct understocked areas and achieve acceptable species composition and stocking rates for *planting, direct seeding* and *natural regeneration.*
3. *Plantings* of *exotic tree species* should *minimize* risk to *native* ecosystems.
4. *Protection* of desirable or planned advanced *natural regeneration* during harvest.
5. *Afforestation programs* that consider potential ecological impacts of the selection and *planting* of tree species in non-forested *landscapes.*

Performance Measure 2.2. *Program Participants* shall *minimize* chemical use required to achieve management *objectives* while protecting employees, neighbors, the public and the environment, including *wildlife* and *aquatic habitats.*

Indicators:
1. *Minimized* chemical use required to achieve management *objectives.*
2. Use of *least-toxic and narrowest-spectrum pesticides* necessary to achieve management *objectives*.
3. Use of pesticides registered for the intended use and applied in accordance with label requirements.
4. The World Health Organization (WHO) type 1A and 1B pesticides shall be prohibited, except where no other viable alternative is available.
5. Use of pesticides banned under the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (2001) shall be prohibited.
6. Use of *integrated pest management* where feasible.
7. Supervision of forest chemical applications by state- or provincial-trained or certified applicators.
8. Use of management practices appropriate to the situation, for example:
    a. notification of adjoining landowners or nearby residents concerning applications and chemicals used;
    b. appropriate multilingual signs or oral warnings;
    c. control of public road access during and immediately after applications;
    d. designation of streamside and other needed buffer strips;
    e. use of positive shutoff and minimal-drift spray valves;
    f. aerial application of forest chemicals parallel to buffer zones to *minimize* drift;
    g. monitoring of water quality or safeguards to ensure proper equipment use and *protection* of streams, lakes and other water bodies;
    h. appropriate transportation and storage of chemicals;
    i. filing of required state or provincial reports; and/or
    j. use of methods to ensure *protection* of *threatened and endangered* species.

Performance Measure 2.3. *Program Participants* shall implement forest management practices to protect and maintain forest and soil *productivity.*

Indicators:
1. Process to identify soils vulnerable to compaction, and use of appropriate methods, including the use of soil maps where available, to avoid excessive soil disturbance.
2. Use of erosion control measures to *minimize* the loss of soil and site *productivity.*
3. Post-harvest conditions conducive to maintaining site *productivity* (e.g., limited rutting, retained down woody debris, *minimized skid trails*).
4. Retention of vigorous trees during partial harvesting, consistent with scientific silvicultural standards for the area.
5. Criteria that address harvesting and site preparation to protect soil *productivity.*
6. Road construction and skidding layout to *minimize* impacts to soil *productivity*.

Performance Measure 2.4. *Program Participants* shall manage so as to protect forests from damaging agents, such as environmentally or economically undesirable wildfire, pests, diseases, and *invasive exotic plants and animals*, to maintain and improve *long-term forest health, productivity* and *economic viability.*

Indicators:
1. *Program* to protect forests from damaging agents.
2. Management to promote healthy and productive forest conditions to *minimize* susceptibility to damaging agents.
3. Participation in, and support of, fire and pest prevention and control *programs.*

Performance Measure 2.5. *Program Participants* that deploy *improved planting stock*, including *varietal seedlings*, shall use best scientific methods.

Indicator:
1. *Program* for appropriate research, testing, evaluation and deployment of *improved planting stock,* including *varietal seedlings.*

Objective 3. *Protection* and Maintenance of Water Resources

To protect the water quality of rivers, streams, lakes, *wetlands* and other water bodies through meeting or exceeding *best management practices.*

Performance Measure 3.1. *Program Participants* shall meet or exceed all applicable federal, provincial, state and local water quality laws, and meet or exceed *best management practices* developed under Canadian or U.S. Environmental Protection Agency–approved water quality *programs.*

Indicators:

1. *Program* to implement federal, state or provincial water quality *best management practices* during all phases of management activities.
2. Contract provisions that specify conformance to *best management practices.*
3. Monitoring of overall *best management practices* implementation.

Performance Measure 3.2. *Program Participants* shall implement water, *wetland* and *riparian protection* measures based on soil type, terrain, vegetation, ecological function, harvesting system, state *best management practices (BMPs)*, provincial guidelines and other applicable factors.

Indicators:

1. *Program* addressing management and *protection* of rivers, streams, lakes, *wetlands*, other water bodies and *riparian areas* during all phases of management, including the layout and construction of roads and *skid trails* to maintain water reach, flow and quality.
2. Mapping of rivers, streams, lakes, *wetlands* and other water bodies as specified in state or provincial *best management practices* and, where appropriate, identification on the ground.
3. Documentation and implementation of plans to manage and protect rivers, streams, lakes, *wetlands,* other water bodies and *riparian areas.*
4. Plans that address wet-weather events in order to maintain water quality (e.g., *forest inventory* systems, wet-weather tracts, definitions of acceptable operating conditions).

Objective 4. *Conservation* of *Biological Diversity*

To manage the quality and distribution of *wildlife habitats* and contribute to the *conservation* of *biological diversity* by developing and implementing *stand*- and *landscape*-level measures that promote a diversity of types of *habitat* and successional stages, and the *conservation* of forest plants and animals, including *aquatic species, as well as threatened and endangered* species, *Forests with Exceptional Conservation Value, old-growth forests* and ecologically important sites.

Performance Measure 4.1. *Program Participants* shall conserve *biological diversity.*

Indicators:

1. *Program* to incorporate the *conservation of native biological diversity,* including species, *wildlife habitats* and ecological community types at *stand* and *landscape* levels.
2. Development of criteria and implementation of practices, as guided by regionally based *best scientific information*, to retain *stand*-level *wildlife habitat* elements such as snags, stumps, mast trees, down woody debris, den trees and nest trees.
3. Document diversity of *forest cover types* and age or size classes at the individual ownership or forest tenure level, and where credible data are available, at the *landscape* scale. Working individually or collaboratively to support diversity of *native forest cover types* and age or size classes that enhance *biological diversity* at the *landscape* scale.
4. *Program Participants* shall participate in or incorporate the results of state, provincial, or regional *conservation* planning and priority-setting efforts to conserve biological diversity and consider these efforts in forest management planning. Examples of credible priority-setting efforts include state *wildlife* action plans, state forest action plans, relevant *habitat conservation* plans or provincial *wildlife* recovery plans.
5. *Program* to address *conservation* of known sites with viable occurrences of significant species of concern.
6. Identification and *protection* of *non-forested wetlands*, including bogs, fens and marshes, and *vernal pools* of ecological significance.
7. Participation in *programs* and demonstration of activities as appropriate to limit the introduction, spread and impact of *invasive exotic plants and animals* that directly threaten or are likely to threaten *native* plant and animal communities.
8. Consider the role of natural disturbances, including the use of prescribed or natural fire where appropriate, and *forest health* threats in relation to *biological diversity* when developing forest management plans.

Performance Measure 4.2. *Program Participants* shall protect *threatened and endangered species, Forests with Exceptional Conservation Values* (FECV) and *old-growth forests*.

Indicators:

1. *Program* to protect *threatened and endangered* species.
2. *Program* to locate and protect known sites of flora and fauna associated with viable occurrences of *critically imperiled* and *imperiled* species and communities also known as *Forests with Exceptional Conservation Value*. Plans for *protection* may be developed independently or collaboratively, and may include *Program Participant* management, cooperation with other stakeholders, or use of easements, *conservation* land sales, exchanges, or other *conservation* strategies.
3. Support of and participation in plans or *programs* for the *conservation* of *old-growth forests* in the region of ownership or forest tenure.

Performance Measure 4.3. *Program Participants* shall manage ecologically important sites in a manner that takes into account their unique qualities.

Indicators:

1. Use of information such as existing natural heritage data or expert advice in identifying or selecting ecologically important sites for *protection.*
2. Appropriate mapping, cataloging and management of identified ecologically important sites.

Performance Measure 4.4. *Program Participants* shall apply knowledge gained through research, science, technology and field experience to manage *wildlife habitat* and contribute to the *conservation* of *biological diversity.*

Indicators:
1. Collection of information on *Forests with Exceptional Conservation Value* and other *biodiversity*-related data through *forest inventory* processes, mapping or participation in external *programs*, such as NatureServe, state or provincial heritage *programs*, or other credible systems. Such participation may include providing non-proprietary scientific information, time and assistance by staff, or in-kind or direct financial support.
2. A methodology to incorporate research results and field applications of *biodiversity* and ecosystem research into forest management decisions.

Objective 5. *Management of Visual Quality* and Recreational Benefits

To manage the visual impact of forest operations and provide recreational opportunities for the public.

Performance Measure 5.1. *Program Participants* shall manage the impact of harvesting on *visual quality.*

Indicators:
1. *Program* to address *visual quality management*.
2. Incorporation of aesthetic considerations in harvesting, road, landing design and management, and other management activities where visual impacts are a concern.

Performance Measure 5.2. *Program Participants* shall manage the size, shape and placement of clearcut harvests.

Indicators:
1. Average size of clearcut harvest areas does not exceed 120 acres (50 hectares), except when necessary to meet regulatory requirements, achieve ecological *objectives,* or respond to *forest health* emergencies or other natural catastrophes.
2. Documentation through internal records of clearcut size and the process for calculating average size.

Performance Measure 5.3. *Program Participants* shall adopt a *green-up requirement* or alternative methods that provide for *visual quality.*

Indicators:
1. *Program* implementing the *green-up requirement* or alternative methods.
2. Harvest area tracking system to demonstrate conformance with the *green-up requirement* or alternative methods.
3. Trees in clearcut harvest areas are at least 3 years old or 5 feet (1.5 meters) high at the desired level of stocking before adjacent areas are clearcut, or as appropriate to address operational and economic considerations, alternative methods to reach the *performance measure* are utilized by the *Program Participant.*

Performance Measure 5.4. *Program Participants* shall support and promote recreational opportunities for the public.

Indicator:
1. Provide recreational opportunities for the public, where consistent with forest management *objectives.*

Objective 6. *Protection* of *Special Sites*

To manage lands that are geologically or *culturally important* in a manner that takes into account their unique qualities.

Performance Measure 6.1. *Program Participants* shall identify *special sites* and manage them in a manner appropriate for their unique features.

Indicators:
1. Use of information such as existing natural heritage data, expert advice or stakeholder consultation in identifying or selecting *special sites* for *protection*.
2. Appropriate mapping, cataloging and management of identified *special sites.*

Objective 7. Efficient Use of Fiber Resources

To *minimize* waste and ensure the efficient use of fiber resources.

Performance Measure 7.1. *Program Participants* shall employ appropriate forest harvesting technology and in-woods manufacturing processes and practices to *minimize* waste and ensure efficient utilization of harvested trees, where consistent with other *SFI 2015-2019 Forest Management Standard Objectives.*

Indicator:
1. *Program* or monitoring system to ensure efficient utilization, which may include provisions to ensure:
    a. management of harvest residue (e.g., slash, limbs, tops) considers economic, social and environmental factors (e.g., organic and nutrient value to future forests and the potential of increased fuels build-up) and other utilization needs;
    b. training or incentives to encourage *qualified logging professionals* to enhance utilization;
    c. exploration of markets for underutilized species and low-grade wood and alternative markets (e.g., bioenergy markets); or
    d. periodic inspections and reports noting utilization and product separation.

Objective 8. Recognize and Respect *Indigenous Peoples'* Rights

To recognize and respect *Indigenous Peoples'* rights and traditional knowledge.

Performance Measure 8.1. *Program Participants* shall recognize and respect *Indigenous Peoples'* rights.

Indicator:

1. *Program Participants* will provide a written *policy* acknowledging a commitment to recognize and respect the rights of *Indigenous Peoples.*

Performance Measure 8.2. *Program Participants* with forest *management responsibilities* on *public lands* shall confer with affected *Indigenous Peoples* with respect to sustainable forest management practices.

Indicator:

1. *Program* that includes communicating with affected *Indigenous Peoples* to enable *Program Participants* to:
    a. understand and respect *traditional forest-related knowledge*;
    b. identify and protect spiritually, historically, or *culturally important* sites;
    c. address the use of *non-timber forest products* of value to *Indigenous Peoples* in areas where *Program Participants* have *management responsibilities on public lands*; and
    d. respond to *Indigenous Peoples'* inquiries and concerns received.

Performance Measure 8.3. *Program Participants* are encouraged to communicate with and shall respond to local *Indigenous Peoples* with respect to sustainable forest management practices on their private lands.

Indicators:

1. *Program Participants* are aware of *traditional forest-related knowledge*, such as known cultural heritage sites, the use of wood in traditional buildings and crafts, and flora that may be used in cultural practices for food, ceremonies or medicine.
2. Respond to *Indigenous Peoples'* inquiries and concerns received.

Objective 9. Legal and Regulatory Compliance

To comply with applicable federal, provincial, state, and local laws and regulations.

Performance Measure 9.1. *Program Participants* shall comply with applicable federal, provincial, state and local *forestry* and related social and environmental laws and regulations.

Indicators:

1. Access to relevant laws and regulations in appropriate locations.
2. System to achieve compliance with applicable federal, provincial, state, or local laws and regulations.
3. Demonstration of commitment to legal compliance through available *regulatory action information.*

Performance Measure 9.2. *Program Participants* shall take appropriate steps to comply with all applicable social laws at the federal, provincial, state and local levels in the country in which the *Program Participant* operates.

Indicators:

1. Written *policy* demonstrating commitment to comply with social laws, such as those covering civil rights, equal employment opportunities, anti-discrimination and anti-harassment measures, workers' compensation, *Indigenous Peoples'* rights, workers' and communities' right to know, prevailing wages, workers' right to organize, and occupational health and safety.
2. *Forestry enterprises* will respect the rights of workers and labor representatives in a manner that encompasses the intent of the International Labor Organization (ILO) core conventions.

Objective 10. *Forestry* Research, Science and Technology

To invest in *forestry* research, science and technology, upon which sustainable forest management decisions are based and broaden the awareness of climate change impacts on forests, *wildlife* and *biological diversity.*

Performance Measure 10.1. *Program Participants* shall individually and/or through cooperative efforts involving *SFI Implementation Committees,* associations or other partners provide in-kind support or funding for forest research to improve *forest health, productivity* and sustainable management of forest resources, and the environmental benefits and performance of forest products.

Indicators:

1. Financial or in-kind support of research to address questions of relevance in the region of operations. Examples could include, but are not limited to, areas of forest *productivity*, water quality, *biodiversity*, community issues-or similar areas that build broader understanding of the benefits and impacts of forest management.
2. Research on genetically engineered trees via *forest tree biotechnology* shall adhere to all applicable federal, state, and provincial regulations and international protocols ratified by the United States and/or Canada depending on jurisdiction of management.

Performance Measure 10.2. *Program Participants* shall — individually and/or through cooperative efforts involving *SFI Implementation Committees,* associations or other partners — develop or use state, provincial or regional analyses in support of their *sustainable forestry programs.*

Indicator:

1. Participation — individually and/or through cooperative efforts involving *SFI Implementation Committees* and/or associations at the national, state, provincial or regional level, in the development or use of some of the following:
    a. regeneration assessments;
    b. *growth and drain* assessments;
    c. *best management practices* implementation and conformance;
    d. *biodiversity conservation* information for family forest owners; and
    e. social, cultural or economic benefit assessments.

Performance Measure 10.3. *Program Participants* shall —individually and/or through cooperative efforts involving *SFI Implementation Committees*, associations or other partners— broaden the awareness of *climate change* impacts on forests, *wildlife* and *biological diversity*.

Indicators:

1. Where available, monitor information generated from regional climate models on *long-term forest health*, *productivity* and *economic viability.*
2. *Program Participants* are knowledgeable about *climate change* impacts on *wildlife, wildlife habitats* and *conservation of biological diversity* through international, national, regional or local *programs.*

Objective 11. Training and Education

To improve the implementation of *sustainable forestry* practices through appropriate training and education *programs.*

Performance Measure 11.1. *Program Participants* shall require appropriate training of personnel and contractors so that they are competent to fulfill their responsibilities under the *SFI 2015-2019 Forest Management Standard.*

Indicators:

1. Written statement of commitment to the *SFI 2015-2019 Forest Management Standard* communicated throughout the organization, particularly to facility and woodland managers, and field foresters.
2. Assignment and understanding of roles and responsibilities for achieving *SFI 2015-2019 Forest Management Standard objectives.*
3. Staff education and training sufficient to their roles and responsibilities.
4. Contractor education and training sufficient to their roles and responsibilities.
5. *Program Participants* shall have written agreements for the use of *qualified logging professionals* and/or *certified logging professionals* (where available) and/or *wood producers* that have completed training *programs* and are recognized as *qualified logging professionals.*

Performance Measure 11.2. *Program Participants* shall work — individually and/or with *SFI Implementation Committees*, logging or *forestry* associations, or appropriate agencies or others in the *forestry* community — to foster improvement in the professionalism of *wood producers.*

Indicators:

1. Participation in or support of *SFI Implementation Committees* to establish criteria and identify delivery mechanisms for *wood producer* training courses and periodic continuing education that address:
    a. awareness of *sustainable forestry principles* and the *SFI program;*
    b. *best management practices,* including streamside management and road construction, maintenance and retirement;
    c. *reforestation, invasive exotic plants and animals*, forest resource *conservation,* aesthetics and *special sites;*
    d. awareness of responsibilities under the U.S. Endangered Species Act, the Canadian Species at Risk Act, and other measures to protect *wildlife habitat* (e.g., *Forests with Exceptional Conservation Value*);
    e. awareness of rare forested natural communities as identified by provincial or state agencies, or by credible organizations such as NatureServe and The Nature Conservancy;
    f. logging safety;
    g. U.S. Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) and Canadian Centre for Occupational Health and Safety (CCOHS) regulations, wage and hour rules, and other provincial, state and local employment laws;
    h. transportation issues;
    i. business management;
    j. public *policy* and outreach; and
    k. awareness of emerging technologies.
2. The *SFI Implementation Committee*-approved *wood producer* training *programs* shall have a continuing education component with coursework that supports the current training *programs*, safety and the *principles* of *sustainable forestry.*
3. Participation in or support of *SFI Implementation Committees* to establish criteria for recognition of logger certification *programs,* where they exist, that include:
    a. completion of *SFI Implementation Committee* recognized *wood producer* training *programs* and meeting continuing education requirements of the training *program;*
    b. independent in-the-forest verification of conformance with the logger certification *program* standards;

c. compliance with all applicable laws and regulations including responsibilities under the U.S. Endangered Species Act, the Canadian Species at Risk Act and other measures to protect *wildlife habitat;*
d. use of *best management practices* to protect water quality;
e. logging safety;
f. compliance with acceptable *silviculture* and utilization standards;
g. aesthetic management techniques employed where applicable; and
h. adherence to a management or harvest plan that is site specific and agreed to by the forest landowner.

Objective 12. Community Involvement and Landowner Outreach

To broaden the practice of *sustainable forestry* through public outreach, education, and involvement, and to support the efforts of *SFI Implementation Committees.*

Performance Measure 12.1. *Program Participants* shall support and promote efforts by consulting foresters, state, provincial and federal agencies, state or local groups, professional societies, *conservation* organizations, *Indigenous Peoples* and governments, community groups, sporting organizations, labor, universities, extension agencies, the *American Tree Farm System®* and/or other landowner cooperative *programs* to apply *principles* of sustainable forest management.

Indicators:
1. Support, including financial, for efforts of *SFI Implementation Committees.*
2. Support, individually or collaboratively, education and outreach to forest landowners describing the importance of and providing implementation guidance on:
   a. *best management practices;*
   b. *reforestation* and *afforestation;*
   c. *visual quality management;*
   d. *conservation objectives,* such as critical *wildlife habitat* elements, *biodiversity, threatened and endangered* species, and *Forests with Exceptional Conservation Value*;
   e. management of harvest residue (e.g., slash, limbs, tops) that considers economic, social and environmental factors (e.g., organic and nutrient value to future forests) and other utilization needs;
   f. control of *invasive exotic plants and animals;*
   g. characteristics of *special sites;* and
   h. reduction of wildfire risk.
3. Participation in efforts to support or promote *conservation* of managed forests through voluntary market-based incentive *programs* such as current-use taxation *programs*, *Forest Legacy Program* or *conservation* easements.

Performance Measure 12.2. *Program Participants* shall support and promote, at the state, provincial or other appropriate levels, mechanisms for public outreach, education and involvement related to sustainable forest management.

Indicator:
1. Periodic educational opportunities promoting *sustainable forestry,* such as:
   a. field tours, seminars, websites, webinars or workshops;
   b. educational trips;
   c. self-guided forest management trails;
   d. publication of articles, educational pamphlets or newsletters; or
   e. support for state, provincial, and local forestry organizations and soil and water *conservation* districts.

Performance Measure 12.3. *Program Participants* shall establish, at the state, provincial-or other appropriate levels, procedures to address concerns raised by loggers, consulting foresters, employees, unions, the public or other *Program Participants* regarding practices that appear inconsistent with the *SFI 2015-2019 Forest Management Standard principles* and *objectives.*

Indicators:
1. Support for *SFI Implementation Committees* (e.g., toll-free numbers and other efforts) to address concerns about apparent nonconforming practices.
2. Process to receive and respond to public inquiries. *SFI Implementation Committees* shall submit data annually to *SFI Inc.* regarding concerns received and responses.

Objective 13. *Public Land* Management Responsibilities

To participate and implement sustainable forest management on *public lands.*

Performance Measure 13.1. *Program Participants* with forest *management responsibilities on public lands* shall participate in the development of *public land* planning and management processes.

Indicators:
1. Involvement in *public land* planning and management activities with appropriate governmental entities and the public.
2. Appropriate contact with local stakeholders over forest management issues through state, provincial, federal or independent collaboration.

Objective 14. Communications and Public Reporting

To increase transparency and to annually report progress on conformance with the *SFI 2015-2019 Forest Management Standard.*

Performance Measure 14.1. A *Program Participant* shall provide a summary audit report, prepared by the *certification body*, to *SFI Inc.* after the successful completion of a certification, recertification or surveillance audit to the *SFI 2015-2019 Forest Management Standard.*

Indicator:

1. The summary audit report submitted by the *Program Participant* (one copy must be in English), shall include, at a minimum,
    a. a description of the audit process, *objectives* and scope;
    b. a description of substitute *indicators,* if any, used in the audit and a rationale for each;
    c. the name of the *Program Participant* that was audited, including its *SFI* representative;
    d. a general description of the *Program Participant's* forestland included in the audit;
    e. the name of the *certification body* and *lead auditor* (names of the *audit team* members, including *technical experts,* may be included at the discretion of the *audit team* and *Program Participant*);
    f. the dates the audit was conducted and completed;
    g. a summary of the findings, including general descriptions of evidence of conformity and any nonconformities and corrective action plans to address them, opportunities for improvement, and exceptional practices; and
    h. the certification decision.

The summary audit report will be posted on the *SFI Inc.* website (www.sfiprogram.org) for public review.

Performance Measure 14.2. *Program Participants* shall report annually to *SFI Inc.* on their conformance with the *SFI 2015-2019 Forest Management Standard.*

Indicators:

1. Prompt response to the *SFI* annual progress report survey.
2. Record keeping for all the categories of information needed for *SFI* annual progress report surveys.
3. Maintenance of copies of past survey reports to document progress and improvements to demonstrate conformance to the *SFI 2015-2019 Forest Management Standard.*

Objective 15. Management Review and Continual Improvement

To promote continual improvement in the practice of *sustainable forestry* by conducting a management review and monitoring performance.

Performance Measure 15.1. *Program Participants* shall establish a management review system to examine findings and progress in implementing the *SFI 2015-2019 Forest Management Standard*, to make appropriate improvements in *programs*, and to inform their employees of changes.

Indicators:

1. System to review commitments, *programs* and procedures to evaluate effectiveness.
2. System for collecting, reviewing, and reporting information to management regarding progress in achieving *SFI 2015-2019 Forest Management Standard objectives* and *performance measures.*
3. Annual review of progress by management and determination of changes and improvements necessary to continually improve conformance to the *SFI 2015-2019 Forest Management Standard.*

THIS PAGE INTENTIONALLY LEFT BLANK