


Introduction to the Sustainable Forestry Initiative

All material adapted from
the AF&PA Guidelines and
support material

A stylized silhouette of a mountain range in shades of teal, located in the bottom right corner of the slide.

History of SFI

- ◆ 1987 – Report of the World Commission on Environment and Development
- ◆ 1992 – Report adopted at Earth Summit
- ◆ 1993 – AF&PA Created
- ◆ 1994 – Initial SFI Program Implemented by AF&PA as Industry Self-Policing Program
- ◆ 1998 – 3rd Party Verification Added

SFI History

- ◆ 2000 – Independent Sustainable Forestry Board formed.
- ◆ 2005 – New standard issued that improves on previous 2002 standard.

SFI Program Highlights

- ◆ Over 152.1 Million Acres Enrolled in the US and Canada
- ◆ Over 200 Participants
- ◆ 93.3 Million Acres Certified
- ◆ Endorsed by over 36 Conservation, Sporting and Professional Organizations
- ◆ 9 Major Labor Unions, and 18 State Legislatures


Program Participants Have:

- ◆ Trained over 83,000 Loggers and Foresters
- ◆ In 2003, trained loggers delivered 92% of the 11.5 billion cu-ft of raw material to participating mills
- ◆ Reforested more than 9.6 million acres
- ◆ Initiated over 830,000 one on one contacts with NIFL owners


The Goal of SFI

The Sustainable Forestry Initiative was established 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 the reforestation, managing, growing, nurturing and harvesting of trees for useful products with the conservation of soil, air, and water quality, biological diversity, wildlife and aquatic habitat, recreation and aesthetics”.


Where did this goal come from?

- ◆ The definition is from the World Commission on Environment and Development and the Rio Accords
 - ◆ Public opinion and changing attitudes about forestry were instrumental in developing this standard. We as an industry cannot conduct business without the support of the public.
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What are the Benefits of Sustainable Forestry?

- ◆ Continued employment for hundreds of thousands of people in North America who rely on forests and forest products for their livelihoods.
 - ◆ Viable tax bases that support thousands of communities.
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- A stylized, teal-colored silhouette of a mountain range is positioned in the bottom right corner of the slide, extending from the right edge towards the center.

What are the Benefits of Sustainable Forestry?

- ◆ Continued supply of essential building and paper products.
 - ◆ Numerous and varied recreational opportunities.
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How Do We Achieve
this Goal of
Sustainability?

The background is a solid teal color. At the bottom of the image, there is a dark teal silhouette of a mountain range with jagged peaks and valleys.

Accomplishing this Goal

“Requires a dedicated partnership among landowners, wood producers, contractors and the companies that purchase wood.”

Accomplishing this Goal

Member Companies who commit to SFI are required to:

- Promote health and safety
- Provide employee training and education
- Protect air and water quality
- Protect soil and wildlife
- Preserve unique resources
- Communicate the benefits to the general public

Accomplishing this Goal

- ◆ Member Companies Must:
 - Comply with all portions of the standard that applies to their business
 - Go beyond their own land to encourage private landowners to adopt sustainable forestry practices
 - Work with suppliers to protect water quality
 - Invest in research to enhance sustainable forestry

Accomplishing this Goal

- ◆ SFI provides a framework for sustainable forestry in the form of Principles, Objectives and Performance measures.
- ◆ Member companies follow this framework to document their compliance.
- ◆ There are three levels of compliance.

Levels of Compliance

- ◆ SFI utilizes three types of verification
 - First-party or self-verification
 - Second-party verification
 - Third-party verification or *Certification*
- ◆ The goal is continued improvement and Certification


Why Certification is Important

- ◆ The best image that industry can project is one that involves partnerships and alliances with third party interests.
- ◆ This demonstrates a high level of commitment to public goals for forestland.
 - Sends a message of openness and accessibility
 - Reduces skepticism

Principles of the Sustainable Forestry Initiative®



9 Principles of Sustainable Forestry

- 1) Sustainable Forestry
 - 2) Responsible Practices
 - 3) Reforestation and Productive Capacity
 - 4) Forest Health and Productivity
 - 5) Long-Term Forest and Soil prod.
 - 6) Protection of Water Resources
 - 7) Protection of Special Sites and Biodiversity
 - 8) Legal compliance
 - 9) Continual Improvement
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2005-2009 Objectives



Objective #1

- ◆ Broaden the implementation of sustainable forestry by ensuring long term harvest levels based on the use of the *best scientific information available*.

Objective #2

- ◆ Ensure long term forest productivity and conservation of forest resources through prompt reforestation, soil conservation, afforestation and other measures

Objective #3

- ◆ Protect the water quality in streams, lakes and other water bodies

Objective #4

- ◆ 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 habitat diversity and the conservation of forest plants and animals including aquatic fauna

Objective #5

- ◆ Manage the visual impact of harvesting and other forest operations

Objective #6

- ◆ Manage program participant lands that are ecologically, geologically, historically, or culturally important in a manner that recognizes their special qualities

Objective #7

- ◆ Promote the efficient use of forest resources

Objective #8

- ◆ Broaden the practice of sustainable forestry procurement programs

Objective #9

- ◆ To improve forestry research, science, and technology, upon which sound forest management decisions are based.

Objective #10

- ◆ To improve the practice of sustainable forest management by resource professionals, logging professionals, and contractors through appropriate training and education programs.

Loggers and Objective 10

- ◆ This is the objective that requires member companies to assist in the development and implementation of training for their wood suppliers in the following areas:
 - Awareness of SFI® Principles
 - BMPs
 - Regeneration, Conservation and Aesthetics
 - Endangered Species Act
 - Logging Safety
 - OSHA and Wage and Hour Rules
 - Transportation Issues
 - Business Management
 - Public Policy and Outreach Opportunities

Objective #11

- ◆ Commitment to comply with applicable federal, provincial, state, or local laws and regulations.

Objective 12

- ◆ To broaden the practice of sustainable forestry by encouraging the public and forestry community to participate in the commitment to sustainable forestry and publicly report progress.

Objective 13

- ◆ To promote continual improvement in the practice of sustainable forestry and monitor, measure, and report performance in achieving the commitment to sustainable forestry.