



## SFI – the North American Standard – KEY FACTS

### INDEPENDENT GOVERNANCE

SFI is a fully independent, registered non-profit, with a governance structure with equal representation across three chambers: social, economic and environmental.

### CONSERVATION SUPPORT

SFI has the support of conservation groups including The Conservation Fund, NatureServe, Ducks Unlimited and the American Bird Conservancy. SFI also partners with groups like the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation and the National Wild Turkey Federation.

### A SINGLE NORTH AMERICAN ASSURANCE

SFI is a single standard covering 135 million acres certified to it across North America. FSC has 13 different standards across North America, 9 in the US and 4 in Canada.

### INTERNATIONAL ENDORSEMENT AND ACCEPTANCE

SFI is endorsed by the Programme for Endorsement of Forest Certification, a globally recognized organization that has strict requirements for endorsement. SFI is accepted by governments around the world including the US, UK and Japan.

### STEADY SUPPLY

SFI offers a strong standard that promotes sustainable forest management, and in North America SFI offers significantly more products from certified sources than FSC. Today, SFI has 212 program participants and this year alone has seen a 90% increase in chain of custody with more than 320 facilities involved in the SFI program.

### A GROWING LIST OF CUSTOMERS

Customers across the US accept SFI, including names such as Wal-Mart, Unisource, xpedx, Xerox, Pella, FAO Schwartz, United Airlines, Centex Homes and Graphic Communications.

### LEADERSHIP

Only 10% of the world's forests are third-party certified — the majority of which is in North America. By sourcing certified products, from a variety of credible standards, buyers are sending a message that they support sound forestry and buy responsibly.

### INDEPENDENT VERIFICATION

SFI has been subject to recent rigorous independent assessments of forest certification programs, including standards development, content, certification, accreditation and chain-of-custody by organizations such as the UK government's independent process that deemed SFI a legal and sustainable assurance for sourcing forest products.

### CHOICE

The global marketplace recognizes and endorses multiple forest certification standards, including SFI, recognizing that competition is healthy and improves forest management. Endorsing one standard merely limits consumer choice among several available standards.

### LEGALITY

In addition to promoting sustainable forest management on SFI certified lands, SFI participants must also ensure that the wood they purchase comes from legal and well-managed sources. This is critical in today's market given global trade of forest products and with 90% of the world's forests still remaining uncertified.

### RESPONSIBLE SOURCING

The SFI Standard acknowledges that there is a significant amount of wood fiber that is not from certified forests and requires SFI companies that source wood directly take measures to ensure all of the wood fiber they use, certified or not, is procured from known and legal sources. Risk assessments are taken to prevent undesirable or illegal wood fiber from offshore entering the product mix and in North America it means promoting logger training, best management practices and landowner outreach to promote the increased use of sustainable forestry practices in forests that are not certified.

### SCIENCE-BASED

SFI is a research and science-based standard that takes careful consideration of forestry issues of interest in the marketplace and through its continual improvement process often builds new requirements into its standard that reflect a thoughtful and comprehensive approach. SFI Inc. works with various organizations, including:

- o NatureServe maintains and improves data on occurrence of endangered species and communities — aiding program participants in their protection.
- o National Council of Air and Stream Improvement (NCASI) has a team of scientists to perform research on topics of interest to SFI. Recently NCASI completed a compendium of state and provincial best management practices that will aid the next round of revisions to the SFI standard.
- o NCASI also completed a compendium of credible regional conservation plans in the US and Canada to aid program participants in meeting the SFI standard requirement for participation in landscape and conservation planning.
- o Working with the American Bird Conservancy to develop new SFI standard provisions to conserve priority sites for endangered and critically endangered species.

### **BIODIVERSITY**

An independent scientific study by The Manomet Center for Conservation Sciences noted that SFI certified landowners had “strong biodiversity practices.” The report also concluded that there was “no difference between FSC and SFI” in terms of biodiversity practice scores.

### **WILDLIFE HABITAT**

SFI is the only certification standard that requires participants to identify and protect important wildlife habitat elements on both certified land and non-certified land. This includes landscape-level measures that promote habitat diversity and the conservation of forest plants and animals.

### **SPECIES AT RISK**

SFI participants must have plans to locate and protect known sites associated with critically imperilled and imperilled species and communities. Through landowner outreach and logger training, SFI Implementation Committees (SICs) also have a direct, positive impact on the conservation of these species on all lands.

### **BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES (BMPs)**

“Implementation with BMPs was statistically significantly higher when the timber was delivered to a Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI) mill.” This was the conclusion of a 2005 study by the Texas Forest Service.

### **FORESTS OF EXCEPTIONAL CONSERVATION VALUE**

Through SFI certification, independent auditors verify compliance with SFI performance measures specific to the protection of lands that are ecologically, geologically, historically, or culturally significant. This includes specific requirements for protecting spiritual sites important to indigenous peoples.

### **RESEARCH**

Since 1995, SFI program participants have independently contributed more than \$885 million in forest management research. Efforts have led to improved management for the Red Cockaded Woodpecker in the Southeast US, while efforts in the Northwest have revealed new information on the habits on Canadian Lynx. Current projects are underway to assess the biodiversity footprint of wood procurement in the Southeast US.

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**For more information about the SFI program, visit  
[www.sfiprogram.org](http://www.sfiprogram.org) or call Allison Welde at 703.875.9500**

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