

# The Value of SFI Training for Loggers and Truckers

**Forest Certification** is a means for evaluating and confirming the quality of forest management against standards. Certification also tracks and labels forest products to assure consumers these products come from responsibly managed sources. There are several forest certification programs in Michigan including the American Tree Farm<sup>®</sup>, Forest Stewardship Council<sup>®</sup> (FSC<sup>®</sup>) and the Sustainable Forestry Initiative<sup>®</sup> (SFI<sup>®</sup>).

**Sustainable Forestry Initiative** is an independent, non-profit organization dedicated to promoting sustainable forest management. SFI is governed by a Board of Directors representing environmental, social and economic sectors. There are 250 million acres of forests in North America certified to the Forest Management Standard. The Fiber Sourcing and Chain-of-Custody Standards are global. SFI is endorsed by the Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification (PEFC) in Switzerland for international recognition and global marketing opportunities. SFI has offices in Washington, DC and Ottawa, Ontario. More information is available at [www.sfiprogram.org](http://www.sfiprogram.org) and [www.pefc.org](http://www.pefc.org).

**A Qualified Logging Professional** is a person with specialized skills in timber harvesting gained through experience or formal training who has completed wood producer training programs and continuing education requirements recognized by the Michigan SFI Implementation Committee. SFI training must meet the performance measures and objectives in the Forest Management and Fiber Sourcing standards.

**SFI Training Requirements.** Qualified logging professionals in Michigan must complete sixteen hours of core training and four hours of continuing education every year following their core training. Core training includes forest ecology, silviculture, harvesting safety, best management practices and a field exercise in the forest. Continuing education covers a variety of topics related to the SFI Principles and logging practices in Michigan. SFI training is called Sustainable Forestry Education (SFE) and provides one SFE credit for each hour of training. More information and the 2018 training schedule is available at <http://sfimi.org/education>.

## The Value of SFI Training.

1. **Access to Certified Markets.** Six primary mills and thirty-seven secondary mills in Michigan are certified through the Sustainable Forestry Initiative. These mills require loggers and truckers delivering wood to their mill to be trained through the Sustainable Forestry Initiative. Fourteen primary mills and ninety secondary mills in Michigan are certified through the Forest Stewardship Council. SFI training may also help loggers and truckers gain access to FSC markets through the Master Logger program.
2. **Marketing Your Business.** SFI helps define and document your excellent work in the woods. Your participation in forest certification shows that you are complying with legal requirements and protecting forest ecosystems while providing forest products that every American uses every day. You should market yourself to customers as a “Qualified Logging Professional” or “SFI Trained Logger.”
3. **Improving Your Business.** SFI training provides opportunities to learn new things about programs, regulations, business development, new markets and forest management.
4. **Networking with Peers.** The Michigan SFI Implementation Committee trains more than 1,000 loggers every year. SFI trainings are a good opportunity to network with your fellow loggers and truckers.
5. **Promoting Your Profession.** Forest certification helps urban people – your customers - understand forests and appreciate the positive role of loggers and truckers in sustainable forest management.

# Sustainable Forestry Initiative Principles

The following SFI Principles apply to the 2015-2019 Forest Management Standard and 2015-2019 Fiber Sourcing Standard. These SFI Principles are supported by additional mandatory requirements including more specific objectives, performance measures and indicators.

- 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 forest land 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 Standards 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.
- 14. Avoidance of Controversial Sources including Illegal Logging in Offshore Fiber Sourcing.** To avoid wood fiber from illegally logged forests when procuring fiber outside of North America, and to avoid sourcing fiber from countries without effective social laws (applies only to the 2015-2019 Fiber Sourcing Standard).