



## A Guide to the Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI) Program in Ontario and Manitoba

*Prepared by the Central Canada SFI Implementation Committee*



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[www.sficentralcanada.org](http://www.sficentralcanada.org)  
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Forest certification is a tool to ensure sustainable forest management practices are followed on public and private lands. Sustainable forestry is the practice of land stewardship that integrates harvesting and reforestation of trees while conserving soil, air and water quality, wildlife and plant habitat, as well as aesthetics for today and into the future. This pamphlet will provide an overview of the key components of the Sustainable Forestry Initiative® (SFI®) program, and direct the reader to other sources of information.

### SFI Program

The principle of sustainable forestry is to meet the needs of the present without compromising the needs of future generations. This is accomplished by practicing a land stewardship ethic that balances the demands of timber harvesting; reforestation; soil, air and water quality; biological diversity; wildlife and aquatic habitat; recreation; and aesthetics.

The SFI Program is a comprehensive program that is divided into three standards: (1) SFI Forest Management Standard, (2) SFI Fiber Sourcing Standard, and (3) SFI Chain-of-Custody Standard. Each standard covers a set of principles, objectives, performance measures, and indicators developed by foresters, conservationists, and scientists. When put into practice, these measures ensure forests are being managed in a sustainable manner. The SFI Program in Canada continues to flourish as forest management evolves and improves, and a number of companies have adopted the SFI Program in Manitoba and Ontario.

The Principles of the SFI Program are:

- Sustainable Forestry
- Forest Productivity and Health
- Protection of Water Resources
- Protection of Biological Diversity
- Aesthetics and Recreation
- Protection of Special Sites
- Responsible Fibre Sourcing Practices in North America
- Legal Compliance
- Research
- Training and Education
- Community Involvement and Social Responsibility
- Transparency
- Continual Improvement
- Avoidance of Controversial Sources including Illegal Logging in Offshore Fibre Sourcing



SFI, and partners LP and Ducks Unlimited Canada, participate in a Habitat for Humanity build as part of SFI's Indigenous Housing Partnership

### Central Canada SFI Implementation Committee

In Ontario and Manitoba, as with other states or provinces, the SFI Program is overseen by an SFI Implementation Committee (SIC). The Central Canada SIC (formerly the Ontario SIC) was formed in December 2003, and its membership consists of SFI Program participants (forest companies who fully participate in the program) and supporters (forest companies or non-government organizations who support the SFI principles and implementation but who are not directly certified to the program). The committee has several functions that include:

- Supporting and encouraging landowners to apply the principles of Sustainable Forest Management on their lands;
- Encouraging landowners to harvest and reforest their lands using Best Management Practices by providing information on the advantages of Sustainable Forest Management;
- Developing and promoting mechanisms for public outreach, education and involvement related to forest management;
- Reporting program progress to the Sustainable Forestry Initiative, Inc.;
- Developing and coordinating training programs for Qualified Logging Professionals; and
- Protecting the integrity of the SFI Program.

*For more information about the Central Canada SIC, please view the website at: [www.sficentralcanada.org](http://www.sficentralcanada.org).*



## Best Management Practices

Best Management Practices (BMPs) are accepted practices that can achieve goals related to water quality, soil protection, planning, harvesting, road building, and other forest management activities. Contact your local Central Canada SIC member for the latest copy of our BMP Guide, or visit the website for more information.

## Compliance to Legislation

A founding philosophy behind the SFI Program and standards is compliance with legislation. In Ontario, forest operations on crown land are regulated by the Crown Forest Sustainability Act and other pertinent legislation, which relate directly to many SFI Program Objectives. In Manitoba, forest operations on crown land are regulated by the Forest Act and regulations. Additional pertinent forms of legislation and requirements include:

- Federal and provincial acts and regulations
- Municipal by-laws
- Provincial regulated manuals and guidelines
- Other requirements (legal and non-legal)

For more information, and a complete list of legislation that governs the forest industry, please visit our website.



Winter crossing removal with straw mats

## Provisions for the Protection of Wildlife Habitat and Threatened/Endangered Species

The SFI Program considers the wide variety of forest users that may be impacted by forest management activities, including wildlife communities that use it as their home. The SFI Program is partnered with Environmental Non-Government Organizations in the United States

and Canada to identify and act on global conservation priorities based on a number of criteria. This includes population monitoring of endangered or threatened species. Contact your local Central Canada SIC member to learn more about threatened or endangered species in your area, or the SFI program's approach to the provision and protection of wildlife habitat.



Red fox in its silver phase

## Inconsistent Practices

Inconsistent practices are activities conducted by SFI Program participants that are not consistent with the principles of the SFI Program, or the objectives of the SFI standard to which they are certified. SICs are primarily responsible for receiving program-related complaints, determining if they warrant investigation, and ensuring a proper response.

Valid complaints against the SFI Program or a participant company will be channeled through the committee, and if necessary, through the Sustainable Forestry Initiative, Inc. to ensure that concerns are dealt with in an effective and transparent fashion. If you believe that a company who claims to be SFI certified is operating outside the approved standard, you can voice your opinion by forwarding your comments to one of the Central Canada SIC's Inconsistent Practices Coordinators (contact information on our website).



Skidder hauling a load

## Forestry Training

Safety and environmental training for in-woods workers is an important part of the SFI Program to ensure that responsible and safe forest practices are implemented at the site level. The Central Canada SIC is mandated to promote training standards and requirements for all suppliers from which SFI Program Participant companies obtain fiber. The core training topics are those required by provincial laws in each province, and additional training is developed and offered by the Central Canada SIC on an ongoing basis.

The SFI Program requires that Program Participants have written agreements for the use of Qualified Logging Professionals (QLPs) that meet the training criteria defined by the Central Canada SIC. This includes: (1) Legal Training Requirements, (2) SFI Awareness & Best Practices, and (3) Continuing Education. Please visit our website to learn more about these requirements.

*For a listing of the SFI Program Participant Companies and Supporters, please visit the Central Canada SIC website at [www.sficentralcanada.org](http://www.sficentralcanada.org).*