

MICHIGAN SFI Standards & Principles

The Sustainable Forestry initiative (SFI) program is based on **14 principles** and **20 supporting objectives**.

Principle No. 1 is the defining element of the SFI program and standard:

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; practicing a land stewardship ethic that integrates reforestation and the growing 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.

2. Forest Productivity and Health
3. Protection of Water Resources
4. Protection of Biological Diversity
5. Aesthetics and Recreation
6. Protection of Special Sites
7. Responsible Fiber Sourcing Practices in North America
8. Avoidance of Controversial Sources including
Illegal Logging in Offshore Fiber Sourcing
9. Legal Compliance
10. Research
11. Training and Education
12. Public Involvement
13. Transparency
14. Continual Improvement

For more information visit
www.sfimi.org



Our Mission is to promote and foster an understanding of the Sustainable Forestry Initiative® (SFI) program, and to promote sustainable forestry practices on all forestlands, regardless of ownership.

Contact Michigan SFI-IC

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Understanding Sustainable Forest Management

MICHIGAN SUSTAINABLE
FORESTRY INITIATIVE



**LANDOWNERS'
GUIDE**

1-800-474-1718 SFI Hotline

What are the Benefits of a Sustainably Managed Forest?

- Healthy forests ensure the health and viability of Michigan's \$12 billion forest products industry;
- They provide numerous environmental benefits: from air and water quality to wildlife habitat and green space;
- Provide jobs for thousands of people and a tax base that supports Michigan communities; and
- Give us other benefits, including essential building and paper products, and all types of recreational opportunities.

Consider implementing practices to reduce negative visual impact.

Suggested practices include placing a vegetative buffer in sensitive areas; placing logging decks and landings out of public view; configuring the shape, size, and place of harvest; and proper placement of logging roads.

Enhancing Wildlife

Incorporating wildlife habitat into your forest management plan can improve the long-term health of your forestland:

- Leave snags and den trees for cavity-dwelling birds and mammals.
- Develop food plots.
- Create more edge habitat through irregularly-shaped harvests.
- Provide wildlife corridors or buffers for passage.

3- Step Guide to Starting a Management Plan

Step One: Who will help you?

- Qualified Logging Professional
- Professional Forester

Step Two: Choose a management option.

Below are the types of management options a professional can help you understand and choose from:

- **Seed Tree/Shelterwood harvest** is a natural regeneration method that leaves 5-40 trees per acre during a harvest;
- **Clear-cutting** takes advantage of the natural regeneration of species such as aspen and jack pine;
- **Retention** is a method of leaving "islands" or small groups of trees untouched within the harvest area;
- **Single-tree selection/selective harvesting** is often many the most appropriate and value-enhancing method for hardwood regeneration;
- **Thinning** is typically used to reduce density to improve tree growth in the stand

Step Three: Obtaining Forest Certification

Private landowners can obtain sustainable forestry certification through the American Tree Farm System. Ask a professional forester for more information or visit www.treefarmssystem.org



What will a Qualified Logging Professional (QLP) do for you?

They shall provide information to landowners for reforestation following harvest, for the use of best management practices, and for identification and protection of important habitat elements for wildlife and biodiversity, including Forests with Exceptional Conservation Value (Objective 8.1, SFI Sustainable Forestry Standards)

Stop Invasive Species Damage

An invasive species is a non-native plant or animal species introduced to an ecosystem which causes harm to native species that live in that ecosystem. Harm caused by invasive species not only effects the native species that live there but can also cause economic damage.

For help in understanding invasive species in your area visit the Michigan Invasive Species Information Network at www.misin.msu.edu

Help protect our forests.

If you witness practices inconsistent with these SFI guidelines call the SFI hotline at 1-800-474-1718