

Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI) Client General Awareness Document

The 2015-2019 SFI Forest Management Standard is based on principles supported by an array of objectives, performance measures and indicators. The purpose of this document is to provide BCTS clients (supervisors/workers) with a general awareness of the principles of the SFI standard, including SFI basic training requirements in a tailgate training format. To learn more about the SFI organization and its standards go to: <http://www.sfiprogram.org/>

Principles of the SFI Forest Management Standard

Sustainable Forestry

- Forest Management is a balance of social, economic and environmental values now and in the future
- Balancing harvesting with the needs of other values like water, plants, animals, and ecological communities and the capacity of the land to grow trees

Forest Productivity and Health

- Protect soils because productive soils support ecological values including growing trees
- Know the applicable soil disturbance limits and use appropriate methods to avoid excessive soil disturbance
- Become familiar with applicable invasive plants in your area and prevent/minimize their introduction and spread
- Prevent forest fires

Protection of Water Resources

- Protect the ecological integrity of rivers, streams, lakes, wetlands and other riparian areas
- Ensure that forest practices do not degrade water quality values through the introduction of soil/silt; petrochemical products like hydraulic fluid, oil, gas, and diesel; and other chemicals used in forest management activities; e.g., herbicides
- Maintain the water's natural drainage patterns to the fullest extent possible and re-establish natural drainage patterns upon completion of forest management activities
- Follow wet weather shutdown procedures where they exist
- Do not disrupt the natural rate and timing of water flow through road construction or other forest management activities
- Follow BCTS Environmental Field Procedures (EFPs) and any local Water Quality Best Management Practices (BMPs) applicable to your forest management activities

Protection of Biological Diversity

- Know that Species at Risk (SAR) include plants, animals, and ecological communities
- Know what SAR exist, or could exist, in areas associated with your forest management activities
- Become familiar with Project Plans for forest operations to understand how to manage for SAR
- Know about and protect biologically significant sites in or around areas of proposed forest management activities; e.g., parks, ecological reserves, old growth management areas, wildlife habitat areas, etc.
- Maintain Wildlife Tree Retention Areas (WTRAs) and other stand-level retention requirements

Aesthetic Values and Recreation

- Implement Project Plans for forest operations to ensure that visual values on the landscape are maintained
- Prevent or mitigate potential negative impacts to recreational opportunities as a result your activities

Protection of Special Sites

- Know about geologically (i.e. Karst) or culturally (i.e. historic, First Nations traditional use) significant sites in or around areas of proposed forest management activities in order to protect their unique qualities
- EFPs require that operators stop work and contact their project supervisor and the BCTS representative if a previously unidentified resource feature, resource value or sensitive area is found.

Efficient Use of Fiber Resources

- Ensure efficient utilization of harvested timber, minimize waste

Recognize and Respect Indigenous Peoples' Rights

- Understand and respect traditional forest-related knowledge, including non-timber forest products of value to indigenous peoples
- Identify and protect spiritually, historically or culturally important sites

Legal and Regulatory Compliance

- Know the laws applicable to your activities (See <http://www.bclaws.ca/legallinks.html>)
- Make sure your activities are consistent with Project Plans that guide your forestry management activities
- Follow applicable Safety/Worksafe BC laws and regulations
 - Be familiar with safety hazards in the workplace, your Emergency Response Plan and Safe Work Procedures
 - Use appropriate Personal Protective Equipment
 - Operate machinery within the bounds of manufacturer's specifications and limitations
 - Be aware of the safety of yourself and your fellow workers at all times
 - Know what safety issues to report (hazards, close calls or accidents)
 - Follow-up with safety corrective actions

Training and Education

- Commit to continuous learning in the areas in which you are involved in forestry activities
- Understand what aspects of your job have the greatest environmental impacts and then learn how to implement new procedures, techniques or technology to minimize potential impacts
- Ensure that supervisors have completed BCTS EMS/SFM Awareness training and show documentation to BCTS
- Train your crews and maintain training records

Continuous Improvement

- Monitor and inspect your work
- Follow-up on corrective and preventative actions
- Participate in internal and external audits
- Report project changes and inconsistent forest practices
- Plan-Do-Check-Respond (Principles of our EMS program)
- Follow EFPs and the environmental Emergency Response Plan (eERP)

If you suspect that forest practices are not meeting the SFI principles you are encouraged to submit a complaint as described on the Western Canadian SFI Implementation Committee (WCSIC) Inconsistent Practices website. To learn more about WCSIC, or how to file a complaint, please refer to the WCSIC 'Procedure for Addressing Allegations of SFI Non-Conformance' at the following web address: <http://www.wcsic.ca/Inconsistent/Practices.php>