## 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



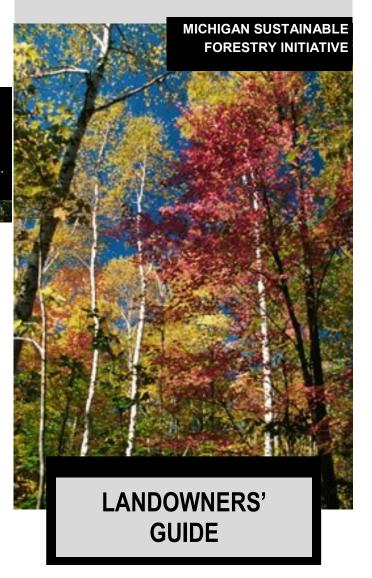
**Our Mission** is to promote and foster an understanding of the Sustainable Forestry Initiative® (SFI) program, and to promote sustainable forestry practices on all forestlands, regardless of ownership.

#### **Contact Michigan SFI-IC**

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For more information visit www.sfimi.org

### Understanding Sustainable Forest Management



1-800-474-1718 SFI Hotline

For more information visit www.sfimi.org

#### 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 cavitydwelling birds and mammals.
- Develop food plots.
- Create more edge habitat through irregularly- shaped harvests.
- Provide wildlife corridors or buffers for passage.



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 valueenhancing 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.treefarmsystem.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 wild-life 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