



# Sustainable Forestry Initiative

What is it and what does it mean to me as a private forest landowner?

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The Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI) program is based on the premise that responsible environmental behavior and sound business decisions can co-exist to the benefit of landowners, manufacturers, shareholders, customers, the people they serve, the environment, and future generations.” This explanation was given by John Quilliam of MeadWestvaco in Volume 6 of the Green Horizons brochure. To further explain the basic foundation of SFI, one must start with a global mindset. Sustainable Forestry Initiative participants practice responsible forestry on the lands they manage as well as influence millions of additional acres in North America and globally through certified procurement programs. These programs include measures to acquire wood from known and legal sources, keep our waters clean and fresh, and conserve biological diversity, among other things.

All forest landowners play a critical role in ensuring the long-term health and sustainability of forests. The SFI program stands apart from other forest certification standards by addressing the fact that 90 percent of the world’s forests are not certified. The program accomplishes this through procurement objectives requiring that all program participants — both those who own or manage forest lands and those who buy the raw materials they need — promote responsible forests by sharing management and stewardship knowledge when they buy fiber from lands that are not certified. One example of this type of certification would be called “Fiber Sourcing Certification.” Fiber Sourcing Certification means a company has verified that at least 66 percent of their wood supply comes from an SFI-certified procurement operation. This certification comes through a process called “Chain of Custody” (COC). This is the process that allows companies to make claims on how much of their product comes from certified lands, recycled content, and non-certified lands. COC basically tracks the handling of raw material from stump to end product.

Demand for products from responsibly managed forests is increasing worldwide. Because of this demand, a growing number of companies are demonstrating their environmental commitment through certification to the SFI program. This will allow them to meet the increasing market demand for environmentally friendly products, which is good for both these companies as well as those who sell raw materials to them. This is not only important on a local scale but also on a global scale.

What does this mean to me as a private forest landowner? Right now, maybe not much. But as more companies and mills implement COC and become Fiber Source Certified through an independent third-party audit, they will have to buy more raw materials from landowners that have been "certified" by a third-party legitimate certification program. ♣

## American Tree Farm System Recognizes Alabama's Forest Stewardship Plans as Meeting Certification Requirements

The Alabama Forestry Commission (AFC) and the American Tree Farm System® (ATFS) recently announced that ATFS certification universally recognizes Alabama's Forest Stewardship Plan as meeting management planning requirements for family forest landowners.

"ATFS recognition of Forest Stewardship Plans will not only expedite the process for Alabama landowners interested in being Tree Farm certified, it will also allow landowners the opportunity for third-party certification, which is required for emerging markets such as biomass energy and carbon sequestration," said Linda Casey, Alabama State Forester.

Bob Simpson, senior vice president of American Forest Foundation, the ATFS program's parent organization, echoed these sentiments. "This recognition will open the door to many types of opportunities for Alabama family forest owners seeking affordable certification of their forest management."

Previously, each individual Forest Stewardship management plan still needed to be reviewed and evaluated for approval into the Tree Farm program. Today's announcement provides programmatic level approval for landowners who are enrolled under the Alabama Forest Stewardship program.

The Forest Stewardship plan is designed to assist landowners who want to become more active in planning and managing their forests. The plan defines a landowner's objectives and outlines an action plan to achieve their goals while maintaining and enhancing forest resources. Having a management plan greatly increases the likelihood that their forests will remain intact, productive, and healthy, and that the

social, economic, and environmental benefits of these lands will be sustained for future generations.

Alabama's Forest Stewardship program is a primary tool to assist landowners in the management of their property. Under the Stewardship program, over 4,000 landowners were assisted in 2008 positively impacting 316,000 acres. Forest Stewardship plans are a main component of the program and are available to qualifying landowners without charge by contacting the Alabama Forestry Commission. As many as 1,700 Alabama forest landowners with nearly 1.5 million acres will benefit from this agreement. ♣



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2009 REGIONAL

## Forestry & Field Events & Days

*Everyone is invited!*

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Your  
Calendar  
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See how to manage Alabama's forest for multiple uses. Meet leaders of natural resource agencies and hear experts speak in the field of forest management.



**Program includes the 2009 regional Helene Mosley Memorial TREASURE Forest Award presentation.**

Each event will include a field trip to a certified TREASURE Forest and/or Tree Farm.

### DATES AND LOCATIONS:

NORTH	CENTRAL	SOUTH
October 8 near Jones Chapel, Cullman County	October 8 near Autaugaville, Autauga County	October 22 near Greenville, Butler County
To register contact Jackson County Extension Office (256) 574-2143 before October 2	To register contact Autauga County Extension Office (334) 361-7273 before October 2	To register contact Crenshaw County Extension Office (334) 335-6312 before October 16

Sponsored by Alabama Forests Forever Foundation, the Alabama Natural Resources Council, and the Alabama State Tree Farm Committee

