



## Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI) General Awareness Document

The 2010-2014 SFI Standard is based on Key Principles and Objectives and is complemented by an array of Performance Measures and Indicators. The purpose of this document is to provide BCTS clients (supervisors/workers) with a general awareness of key forest sustainability values and their associated roles and responsibilities in a tailgate format. To learn more about the SFI organization or its 'Standard' go to: <http://www.sfiprogram.org/>

### Focus areas of the SFI Standard

#### Sustainability

- 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
- Follow applicable Project plans, prescriptions, procedures and BMPs

#### Species At Risk (SAR) and Special Sites

- Know that SAR includes plants, animals, and ecological communities
- Know what SAR exist, or could exist, in areas associated with your forest management activities
- Know about and protect culturally significant sites in, or around, areas of proposed forest management activities; e.g., parks, ecological reserves, old growth management areas, wildlife habitat areas
- Read all plans and prescriptions to understand how to manage for SAR and if unsure, Follow Environmental Field Procedures (EFPs)

#### Water

- Protect the ecological integrity of streams, wetland and bogs 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; other chemicals used in forest management activities; e.g., herbicides
- Maintain the water's natural drainage patterns to the fullest extent possible and/or re-establish natural drainage patterns upon completion of forest management activities
- Do not disrupt the natural rate or timing of water flow through road construction or other forest management activities
- Follow EFPs and local BMPs

#### Forest Productivity

- Protect soils because productive soils support ecological values including growing trees
- Prompt reforestation of harvested areas with native and ecologically suitable trees
- Ensure efficient utilization of harvested timber and do not disrupt reforestation opportunities
- Maintain the forest's capacity and ability to store carbon
- Be familiar with applicable invasive plants in your area
- Prevent/Minimize introduction and spread of invasive plants
- Prevent forest fires

#### Aesthetic Values

- Plan forest operations to ensure that visual values on the landscape are maintained
- Ensure work sites are kept clean and free of deleterious material and hazardous materials are properly stored

### Recreation

- Respect recreational activities that occur in areas proposed for forestry management activities
- Enhance recreational opportunities when consistent with forest management activities
- Ensure that forestry operations do not create a safety hazard for recreationists

### Best Management Practices (BMP)

- Be aware and implement applicable BMPs

### Safety

- 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 action

### First Nations (FN)

- Respect FN cultural values
- Be aware of known cultural resource values in the area of your activity
- Understand and implement measures to protect FN cultural values as detailed in operational plans

### Training

- 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 those impacts.

### Continuous Improvement

- Monitor your work
- Follow-up on corrective and preventative action
- Participate in internal and external audits
- Report project changes and inconsistent forest practices
- Plan Do Check Respond (Principles of our EMS program)

### Legal Compliance

- Know laws applicable to your activities
- Make sure your activities are consistent with the plans that guide your forestry management activities
- **STOP WORK** and contact your project supervisor or the BCTS representative if:
  - You are uncertain of the project plan, your responsibilities, or hazardous / sensitive areas
  - A previously unidentified resource feature, resource value or sensitive area is found
  - You experience unfavourable weather or site conditions that could cause environmental damage
  - You observe conditions that have the potential for immediate environmental damage
  - You feel the proposed project plan will not work to achieve the desired outcomes.

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