



February 2024

Enabling Pennsylvania communities to thrive through a successful forest products industry.

Hello,

Welcome to Forest 411, our newsletter dedicated to keeping you informed about the Pennsylvania SFI Implementation Committee and promoting sustainable forestry in Pennsylvania. This month, we're starting a three-part series that will explain **Forest Certification**, **SFI Inc.**, and the **Pennsylvania SFI Implementation Committee**. Stay tuned for valuable insights and information!

What is Forest Certification?

Adapted from An Introduction to Forest Certification; Woodland Owner Notes by NC State Extension

Forest certification is a globally implemented voluntary program to ensure that forest products originate from certified land that is managed with a goal of sustainability.

Forests provide aesthetic, ecological, economic, recreational, and spiritual values to society. Forest certification assures the public that the benefits and functions of the forest, including clean air and water, wildlife and plant habitat, soil health, and recreation, are maintained or protected during management and harvest.

Forest certification identifies land that is managed with a goal of sustainability. Sustainable forestry can be viewed as a “three-legged stool” in which the legs represent the economic, ecological, and social aspects of forest management. Certification also ensures that management does not diminish the value of the future forest, nor create hardships for local communities. Certification is strictly voluntary; any landowner can participate.

Certification systems assure consumers that the product they are purchasing meets certain standards. Forest certification refers to an independent, third-party evaluation of

the management of a particular forest against a certain standard. A certification logo or tag on a wood-based product alerts consumers that wood used to produce that product is from a certified forest.

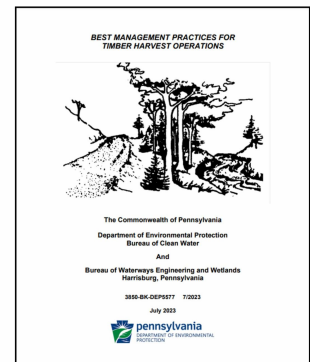
Forest certification originated in the early 1990s after the United Nations Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, as a means to protect tropical timber from deforestation and forest degradation. By certifying the management of certain tropical forests, wood products made from that timber could be labeled as “certified” to track the sources of wood products and to ensure consumers that the products are from sustainably managed lands. Forest certification has since been implemented in North America and virtually all timber producing regions across the world.

About 1 billion acres, or 11 percent of the world’s forests, are certified. In the United States, recent data shows that about 95.4 million acres, representing about 13 percent of total forests, have been certified with at least one certification system (Alvarez 2018). About 39 percent of those 95.4 million certified acres are in the southern states. In 2017, only 8.9 percent of the total forestland in North Carolina was certified. Despite several ongoing efforts in landowner outreach and stakeholder engagement, net certified forest area in the United States has remained relatively stable for the past decade (Alvarez 2018).

Stay tuned for our upcoming newsletter next month where we will provide exclusive insights about SFI Inc. Don't miss out on this opportunity to learn more about SFI Inc. and what sets us apart from the competition.

MONTH IN REVIEW

In cooperation with the Pennsylvania State Conservation Commission, Pennsylvania Hardwoods Development Council, and the Pennsylvania Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI) Implementation Committee copies of DEP’s new **BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES FOR TIMBER HARVEST OPERATIONS** (3850-BK-DEP5577) booklet has been mailed to over 600 Qualified Logging Professionals, as well as each of Pennsylvania’s 67 County Conservation Districts. This resource was updated July 2023.



Timber harvesting is a vital industry in Pennsylvania, contributing to both economic growth and sustainable forest management.

Ensuring that these operations are conducted in an environmentally responsible manner is of paramount importance. This new publication serves as a helpful reference and provides a common source for interpreting Pennsylvania’s environmental regulations as they apply specifically to timber harvest operations.

Best Management Practices for Timber Harvest Operations replaces an earlier guide which was entitled, *Timber Harvest Operations Field Guide for Waterways, Wetlands and Erosion Control* (3930-BK-DEP4016).

We encourage all stakeholders involved in conducting or administering timber harvesting operations in Pennsylvania to familiarize themselves with the updated guide and we hope that you will put the enclosed copy to good use.

Learn more about the BMP Manual

Download the BMP Document Here



Upcoming Events & Trainings

Spring Training Announced

Place article copy here. Be sure to make the articles short and concise as people tend not to read much more than a couple of paragraphs. Place article copy here.

Register for training

Pennsylvania Sustainable Forestry Initiative
Implementation Committee
Professional Timber Harvester Training Program

2024 Spring Training Schedule											
* To register, please visit: https://www.sfi.org/registration , or submit the registration form on the back of this page.											
NOTE: All SFI Class 100s are 100% online. All other classes are in-person. All classes are held at the SFI Training Center in Johnsonburg, PA. All classes are held on Tuesday, April 9, 2024. If you have any questions, please contact the SFI Training Center at 717.755.4600.											
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CONTINUING EDUCATION TRAINING											
OTHER CONTINUING EDUCATION TRAINING											
SELF-PACED/ASYNCHRONOUS ONLINE LOGGING TRAINING COURSES											

CELEBRATING 55 YEARS OF LOGGING SAFETY

KANE AREA LOGGER & SAWMILLER SAFETY MEETING

Where:
Johnsonburg Firehall, Johnsonburg, PA

When:
Tuesday, April 9, 2024

GUEST SPEAKER for Evening Presentation:
Jeff Jenkins, Appalachian Region Consultant for Forest Resources Association

FRA will provide dinner updates on the "TRAVEL" Foundation's "Six Rules for Logging Safety" initiative, FEMA Safety Alerts, updates on the Tree Consent, and forest advocacy on behalf of the PA forest & wood products industry.

Exhibitor Expo & On-site Registration for evening begins @ 4:30 pm
Dinner @ 5:30 pm
Safety Meeting @ 6:15 pm

SFI Class 1:30 — 4:30 pm
On site registration 1:00 — 4:30 pm

Theme for SFI Class
"FIRE" - Learn about Pennsylvania's growing use of prescribed fire as a forest management tool, what to do in the event of a forest fire and how to protect yourself and your equipment.

PRESENTERS
PA Game Commission, PA Dept. of Conservation & Natural Resources, Local Fire Fighting Experts

Please register in Advance at: www.sfi.org/REGISTRATION

NOTE: Both afternoon classes and evening program must be attended to receive SFI continuing ed credit (1 year). This is more than a 4 hour time commitment.

55th Annual Loggers and Saw Millers Spring Safety Meeting

Come be part of the oldest logging safety meeting in the United States! PA SFI training will be held from 1:30 pm until 4:30 pm. This year's theme is "FIRE" - Learn about Pennsylvania's growing use of prescribed fire as a forest management tool, what to do in the event of a forest fire and how to protect yourself and your equipment. The course will be presented by PA Game Commission, PA DCNR, and local fire fighting experts. The evening presentation will include a free dinner (starting at 5:30) and

door prizes, as well as a number of additional speakers, updates, and vendor presentations. The evening will wrap up around 8:15 pm.

[Register Here](#)

Loggers - Get money back on training fees!!

Are you aware of an agricultural training reimbursement program from **AgConnect**. This can help offset the cost of training for eligible employers/trainees with a reimbursement of up to 50% of the course cost.



[Read how to get 50% back!](#)

[Apply for Savings](#)

Webinars



Join Penn State University for a webinar series on Climate-smart Silviculture. Learn from leading silviculturists, ecologists, and foresters about how to adapt silviculture practices to address climate change. Don't miss out on this opportunity. Register now!

[Webinar Series on Climate-smart Silviculture](#)

Penn State University is excited to announce a series of webinars that will focus on the emerging threats to forest health across the Eastern United States. Join us to learn more about these threats and how we can work together to combat them.

[Webinar Series on Forest Health](#)



DCNR Urges Forest Landowners And Managers Seeking To Treat For Spongy Moth Caterpillars To Act Now

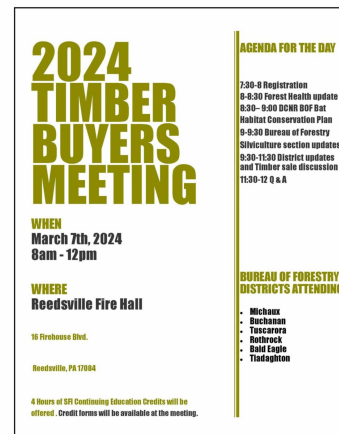
The Department of Conservation and Natural Resources is urging forest managers and woodlot owners who are seeking to treat for spongy moth (*lymantria dispar dispar*) caterpillars this spring to begin planning treatment

operations now.

[Click for complete article](#)

Plan to Attend DCNR's 2024 Timber Buyers Meeting

Looking to purchase timber from State Forest property this year? Look no further! The PA DCNR Bureau of Forestry has got you covered with forest health, Silviculture section, and district updates. This year, they are also focusing on their Bat HCP, as several districts have bat restrictions. Don't miss out on this opportunity to stay informed.



[Click for more information](#)

INDUSTRY HIGHLIGHT

Our monthly newsletter will showcase our SFI-Certified Organizations, and esteemed SIC Partners and Supporters who's support of the SIC are making a positive impact on Pennsylvania's forests. This month we are highlighting Pixelle Specialty Solutions.

Headquartered in Spring Grove, PA, Pixelle Specialty Solutions is a leading manufacturer of specialty papers in North America. We are a proud American company with operations in Ohio, Pennsylvania and Wisconsin. With continuous operations in Spring Grove for 160 years, we help landowners sustainably achieve the most value from their woodlands without compromising forest health. From wood byproduct and strategic timber sales, to responsible timber harvesting, to sustainable forest management, we partner with landowners to ensure their forests are fruitful for generations to come.



Pixelle has been an SFI Certified Organization for the past 29 years.

[Visit Pixelle's Website](#)

Take a tour of Pixelle's fully-integrated pulp and paper mills in Spring Grove, Pennsylvania, and Chillicothe, Ohio, and see how paper is made.

Tour Pixelle's Mill

SFI-certified organizations are crucial to the success of the SFI program. These entities have pledged to uphold the SFI Standards and have received third-party certification from independent auditors confirming their compliance. SFI-certified organizations prioritize sustainable forest management and fiber sourcing practices, which include maintaining forest productivity and health, protecting water quality, preserving biological diversity, and safeguarding special sites. They also provide training and education for employees, contractors, and harvesting professionals, support research efforts, and promote sustainable forestry through landowner outreach and community involvement. In addition to implementing these practices on forestland they manage, SFI-certified organizations also advocate for sustainable forestry practices on other lands.

Get our 2024
Directory



Pennsylvania Sustainable Forestry Initiative Implementation Committee | 211 Barrington Lane,
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