



SFI® Inc. — Balanced and Independent

Credible third-party forest certification programs represent diverse forest interests. Sustainable Forestry Initiative® Inc. (SFI) is a fully independent non-profit organization devoted to improving responsible forest management through the comprehensive SFI program. Its volunteer Board of Directors represents environmental, social and economic interests equally.

Equal representation

The three-chamber structure of SFI Inc.'s Board of Directors ensures that the SFI program represents economic, environmental and social needs equally. Board members include representatives of environmental, conservation, professional and academic groups, independent professional loggers, small family forest owners, public officials, labor and the forest products industry.

The board is totally responsible for the SFI program — its 18 members set and implement the forest certification standard following a public review process, and it is the only body that can modify the standard.

Article 3 of the SFI Inc. bylaws calls for:

- six directors from non-profit environmental /conservation organizations representing the environmental sector;
- six directors from community or social interest groups such as universities, labor, independent professional loggers, family forest owners or government agencies representing the social sector; and
- six directors from the forest, paper and wood products industry or other for-profit forest ownership or management entities representing the economic sector.

In order to ensure that no sector can control the future of the corporation, board actions must be approved by a minimum of 80 per cent of those present — which must include at least two representatives from each sector or a proxy.

As terms expire or vacancies occur, a nominations committee representing all three sectors prepares a list of nominations for election to the board.

Registered charitable organization

SFI Inc. is a registered charitable organization under section 501(c)(3) of the United States Internal Revenue Code, which means it cannot be organized or operated for the benefit of private interests and its net earnings cannot benefit any private shareholder or individual. The program operates across North America.

Like other third-party forest certification programs, SFI receives fees from users, which include forest product companies; colleges and universities; and state, provincial and county agencies, as well as foundations, and conservation and other non-profit organizations.

The SFI certification process is based on auditing principles and procedures outlined in internationally recognized standards. Audits are conducted by independent certification bodies accredited through the American National Standards Institute (ANSI), ANSI-ASQ National Accreditation Board (ANAB) or the Standards Council of Canada (SCC).

George Fenwick, President, American Bird Conservancy, and a former member of the SFI Inc. Board of Directors, says:

"The SFI program succeeds because it fosters collaboration — bringing together stakeholders from all walks of life — from environmental groups, from the academic community, from the forest sector.

"Members of the SFI Board and its related committees share a commitment to responsible forest management. They work toward a common vision, finding real, tangible solutions to some of the most pressing environmental issues while at the same time providing the marketplace with the products they need day to day."

Board composition from Article 3 of the SFI Inc. bylaws:

"The Board of Directors shall strive to represent a diversity of stakeholder groups. It is desirable that Directors have knowledge of sustainable forest management. Six Directors shall be drawn from the forest, paper and wood products industry or other for-profit forest ownership or management entities. These Directors will comprise the Economic Sector of the Board. Six Directors shall be drawn from nonprofit environmental/conservation organizations. These Directors will comprise the Environmental Sector of the Board. The remaining six Directors shall be from other stakeholder groups including community or social interests. These Directors will comprise the Social Sector of the Board."

List of board members www.sfiprogram.org/board.cfm

SFI Inc. bylaws www.sfiprogram.org/miscPDFs/SFIIncBylaws.pdf