



**SFI Conservation and Community Partnerships Grant Program 2010
The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation:
Enhancing Biodiversity of Young Forest Habitats**

In 2010, Sustainable Forestry Initiative® (SFI®) Inc. introduced its Conservation and Community Partnerships Grant Program, furthering its long-standing commitment to research and bringing together diverse partners, including SFI program participants, conservation groups and several government agencies, to deliver conservation benefits across North America and tackle illegal logging issues globally.

Independent non-profit SFI Inc. invited applications for collaborative projects that help to implement the SFI 2010-2014 Standard, make it stronger, and show how SFI certification delivers tangible benefits on the ground and complements existing government initiatives in North America. Applicants were encouraged to address topics of current importance such as the role of certified forests in emerging bioenergy and carbon markets, improving wildlife habitat management, avoiding controversial sources of fiber such as those resulting from illegal logging, and delivering community benefits through activities involving partners such as government agencies, Aboriginal communities and universities.

In May 2010, the SFI program announced a commitment of \$675,000 to support nine projects, including \$307,500 for 2010 alone. Through the involvement of partners, these projects will leverage additional resources and achieve a total value of almost \$2.7 million.

Enhancing Biodiversity of Young Forest Habitats

The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation will receive \$37,500 each year for two years, for a total of \$75,000, to enhance the biodiversity of young forest habitats. Creating and enhancing early successional habitat will have a measureable, positive impact on species of high national significance, including American woodcock, golden-winged warbler, chestnut-sided warbler, and other bird species.

Supporting the SFI Standard

The project will support Performance Measure 4.1 in the SFI 2010-2014: "Program Participants shall have programs to promote biological diversity at stand- and landscape-levels." It is supported by indicators which, among other things, refer to promoting the conservation of native biodiversity; protecting imperiled and critically imperiled species and communities known as Forests with Exceptional Conservation Value; and developing and implementing criteria to retain stand-level wildlife habitat elements.

Project Partners

In addition to the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, partners include the New York Department of Environmental Conservation, Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife, New Hampshire Fish and Game Department, Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife, Vermont Department of Fish and Wildlife, Pennsylvania Game Commission, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, Michigan Department of Natural Resources, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, West Virginia Department of Natural Resources, Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries, Ruffed Grouse Society, National Wild Turkey Federation and Wildlife Management Institute. The project also involves 30 SFI program participants in 14 states in the mid-west, northeast and central east coast and two Canadian Maritime provinces, including Lyme Timber Company, Plum Creek Timber Company, Wagner Woodlands and J.D. Irving Woodlands.



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Project Details

Project partners have adopted the habitat goals of the American Woodcock Conservation Plan, State Wildlife Action Plans, and the bioregional plans developed by Partners in Flight. The project will allow SFI program participants to assist in achieving state and national wildlife habitat goals, and increase attainment of biodiversity on SFI-certified lands.

All SFI program participants in the Northeast, Upper Great Lakes, northern Appalachians, and Maritimes Canada will be made more aware of the importance of State Wildlife Action Plans, goals for habitat as defined by regional conservation plans, and methods to employ best management practices to meet those goals.

The proposed plan of work is an extension of the successful development of similar programs on public and private land, known collectively as young forest initiatives and recognized by the U.S. Secretary of the Interior through the *2008 Cooperative Conservation Award*.

About The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation

The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (www.nfwf.org) is a 501(c)(3) non-profit that preserves and restores America's native wildlife species and habitats. Created by Congress in 1984, it directs public conservation dollars to the most pressing environmental needs and matches those investments with private funds.

About SFI Inc.

SFI Inc. is an independent 501(c)(3) non-profit charitable organization, and is solely responsible for maintaining, overseeing and improving the internationally recognized Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI) program (www.sfiprogram.org). Close to 200 million acres/80 million hectares are certified to the SFI forest management standard across North America, making it the largest single forest standard in the world. SFI chain-of-custody certification tells buyers the percentage of certified, uncertified and recycled content in a product. Unique SFI fiber sourcing requirements promote responsible forest management on all suppliers' lands in North America, whether certified or not. SFI Inc. is governed by a three-chamber board of directors representing environmental, social and economic sectors equally.

The SFI program is grounded in science and research, and based on conservation and community partnerships. Since 1995, SFI-certified organizations have invested more than \$1.1 billion US for research activities that improve the health, productivity and responsible management of forest resources. The program also responds to diverse local needs across the United States and Canada through a unique network of 37 SFI Implementation Committees. SFI Inc. values and facilitates this research and outreach work through awards and support for collaborative activities.

For more information:

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