

**PUBLIC SUMMARY OF THE CONSERVATION FUND'S
WORKING FOREST FUND® PROGRAM
FOREST MANAGEMENT PLANS**

1) Management Objectives

The Conservation Fund (TCF), and its subsidiaries, own and manage lands for a variety of purposes, which generally do not involve timber production and economic returns as a major objective. The purpose of owning forest land is to obtain high conservation value properties, hold them for a period of time, and then transfer or sell them to another conservation organization or agency for long-term protection and conservation.

TCF owns and manages two general categories of properties: 1) Working Forests 2) High Conservation Value Lands. Working Forests are managed through TCF's Working Forest Fund program which actively manages high conservation value forest lands for multiple purposes including timber resource value. High Conservation Value Lands are held for a relatively short amount of time and are not actively managed for timber resources.

2) Commitment to Forest Certification

The Conservation Fund (TCF), and its subsidiaries, are committed to continually achieving certification to the Sustainable Forestry Initiative® 2015-2019 Forest Management Standard on long-term forestland holdings. TCF certifies some of its properties under the Forest Stewardship Council® (FSC-C001535) standards as well.

TCF's guideline is to promote and achieve the Principles of Sustainable Forest Management including: creating a sustainable forestry project that is economically self-supporting and contributes to the state and local economy; while respecting workers and members of the community. It will also strive to implement land management strategies that support abundant and diverse plant and animal life, improve water quality and provide recreation opportunities.

TCF is committed to complying with applicable forestry and environmental laws and regulations and take appropriate steps to comply. TCF also is committed to recognize and respect the rights of Indigenous Peoples. TCF will also comply with social laws, such as those covering civil rights, equal employment opportunities, workers' rights to organize and occupational health and safety.

To help implement and achieve the SFI Standard Principles, Objectives, Performance Measures and Indicators; TCF has developed and adopted appropriate programs and plans to guide its land management and procurement activities.

TCF is also committed to annually review the effectiveness of its SFI Policy, Programs, and other procedures to continually improve and broaden the practice of sustainable forestry and increase the professionalism of the forestry community.

3) Description of Forest Resources to be Managed

TCF manages forest resources in all major timber growing regions of the country. This includes northern hardwoods, spruce/fir, coastal redwood/douglas fir, and southern yellow pine. TCF's Working Forest Fund program model is to buy forested properties and to work as quickly as possible to get them into permanent conservation easements or ownerships. We are regularly acquiring and selling these properties as conservation funding becomes available. See the Working Forest Fund page on our website for a map showing our current ownership. As of 2016, we have done Working Forest Fund projects in 14 states. <http://www.conservationfund.org/what-we-do/working-forest-fund/our-approach>

Many of our properties are open to the public for recreational use, however, some of our properties are leased for private use.

4) Silvicultural Systems Utilized

TCF uses a variety of silvicultural systems depending on the geography, past management, specific management goals, and partner goals. Both even and uneven aged management are utilized, guided by the goals for a particular property and a professional forester.

5) Rationale for Rate of Annual Harvest and Species Selection

Careful determination of appropriate harvest levels is critical to ensuring sustainability and achieving the conservation and economic objectives for the properties we manage. Each project has different objectives based on species makeup, land use history, different starting inventories, and financial responsibilities.

All timber sales must be approved by the Forest Operations Manager. A harvest prescription with projected volumes and revenues must be submitted to the Forest Operations Manager prior to initiating any individual harvest. If proposed harvest areas become impractical for any reason, other harvest areas may be proposed during the course of the year for consideration.

The harvest schedule and timber sale budget are conservatively set, based on updated inventory information. Currently, no silvicultural treatments are planned on most of the High Conservation Value properties. If practices are applied, the silvicultural treatments would be documented and reported internally. TCF would produce inventory and silvicultural records in

the internal Forest Inventory information by stand that allows TCF to track performance and document conformance with the SFI Standard.

6) Monitoring Procedures

Harvest Activity

The Conservation Fund requires the forest consultant to regularly inspect each active logging job and maintain a weekly monitoring schedule. Using TCF's Harvest Site Review form, the consultant will routinely inspect and record findings and ensure prompt rectification of any issues or concern. Active logging jobs should be visited at least once per week following initial verification of satisfactory performance. After harvests are completed, they will be inspected at least once per year for the next two years, and notes will be included in annual monitoring reports.

Monitoring Plans

Monitoring for each property is broken up into two categories: frequent/informal and annual/formal. Frequent informal monitoring of the resources associated with each property occurs on a regular basis, with foresters and contractors driving roads, assessing erosion control problems, invasive species, trespass, water quality, etc.

The formal monitoring is conducted by the consultant and/or TCF staff annually. The annual monitoring includes a thorough review of road conditions and maintenance needs, invasive species concerns, condition of identified High Conservation Value Forests, condition of identified Representative Sample Areas, and monitoring of current and past (up to 2 years) harvest areas. The post-harvest monitoring is conducted to report on regeneration considerations, soil condition, and whether the prescription was met. Each of these categories are reported on and summarized in a monitoring form by the Forest Operations Manager. A discussion of the monitoring results and follow up actions needed will be held in conjunction with the annual management review and/or the annual report and budgeting process.

Monitoring of Socio-Economic Impact

On an annual basis, as part of the formal annual monitoring documentation, consideration will be given to the socio-economic impact of the certified property being monitored. This will be measured by assessing the volume and acreage of timber sold from the property, the contracted work conducted on the property, and the recreational activities provided by the property. We will not attempt to extrapolate the entire socio-economic impact from these figures, but will track them on an annual basis to inform our changing impact on the community through time.

Monitoring information on a tract by tract basis can be made available upon request.

7) Environmental Safeguards

TCF's Sustainable Forestry Commitment specifies a commitment to achieving compliance with applicable environmental, forestry and social laws and regulations. TCF has a system in place to ensure that such laws and regulations are implemented and achieved.

The system to achieve regulatory compliance includes:

- 1) a commitment to achieve continuing regulatory compliance;
- 2) contract provisions with landowners and contractors;
- 3) training of appropriate staff and contractors in applicable regulations;
- 4) BMP compliance monitoring by TCF and State Agencies;
- 5) taking corrective and preventive action; and
- 6) management review and continual improvement.

If a regulatory non-compliance issue were to be uncovered by TCF staff, contractor or regulatory agency personnel, TCF is committed to taking prompt corrective action to mitigate any environmental impacts.

TCF staff have internet access to regulatory agency web sites where they can access the most current versions of relevant laws and regulations. The most relevant web sites are listed in the Federal Agency Home Pages or Links including the following:

Federal Agency Home Pages

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service – <http://www.fws.gov/>
U.S. F&WS Endangered Species – <http://endangered.fws.gov/>
National Wetlands Inventory Center – <http://wetlands.fws.gov/>
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency – <http://www.epa.gov/>
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 – <http://www.epa.gov/region5/>
U.S. EPA/Wetlands – <http://www.epa.gov/OWOW/wetlands/>
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers – <http://www.usace.army.mil/>
U.S. OSHA – Logging Safety – <https://www.osha.gov/SLTC/logging/>
USDA Forest Service – North Central Research Station – <http://www.ncrs.fs.fed.us/>
Federal Register – <https://www.federalregister.gov/index/2018>
U.S. Forest Service - [U.S.D.A. Forest Service](#)
National Association of State Foresters – <http://stateforesters.org/>
U.S. Department of Labor -- <http://www.dol.gov/> (U.S. labor laws interpreting the ILO Core Conventions)

Forestry Association Home Pages

[American Forest & Paper Association](#)
[Council on Forest Engineering](#)
[Forest Resources Association](#)
[National Timber Harvesting and Transportation Safety Foundation](#)

[American Loggers Council](#)

National Council for Air and Stream Improvement – <http://www.ncasi.org/>

SFI & State Foresters' Home Pages

[National Association of State Foresters](#)

National Association of Counties - <http://www.naco.org/>

[State Forestry & Conservation Laws](#)

Sustainable Forestry Initiative, Inc. – <http://sfiprogram.org/>

8) Maps Describing the Forest Resource Base

Extensive mapping is maintained in our GIS database. Maps of where our properties are located are available on our website.

<https://www.workingforestfund.org/>

9) Harvest Techniques and Equipment

TCF engages loggers using many types of harvesting equipment, four-wheel-drive-tractor, crawler/bull-dozer, skidder, (both cable and grapple types), forwarder, cutter, de-limber, feller-buncher, and mechanical harvester. For many of these types of equipment, there are also various sizes, and many timber harvesting operations use several pieces in conjunction (e.g. a skidder and a crawler or a cutter and de-limber). Each type of equipment has advantages and disadvantages, and each is best suited to certain site conditions and treatment activities. Flexibility in equipment choice is important to ensure that management objectives are met. It is also important to note that technologies are always changing and the management should embrace new harvesting systems as they are developed if they are deemed more appropriate for meeting management objectives than existing methods.

In deciding what harvesting equipment to use for forest management activities, TCF will consider the following variables:

- Topography and soil type: e.g. steepness, presence of rock and/or ledge, and susceptibility to erosion and/or compaction.
- Access to the treatment area: e.g. distance, road conditions, and landscape features.
- Access within the treatment area: e.g. skid trail presence/absence and conditions, general maneuverability
- Forest products: e.g. type, quality, value and quantity of wood to be removed: e.g. in stands where the product is abundant and of low value, chipping/whole tree harvesting may be considered if this is the only economically feasible way to improve a stand.
- Timing: e.g. season of harvest and ability to complete the job within any given time constraints.
- Skill of operator: equally important as equipment type.
- Silvicultural objectives for treatment: e.g. importance of soil scarification for the regeneration of some species

10) High Conservation Value Forests and Rare, Threatened, Endangered Species

Prior to timber management activities, TCF identifies and catalogs sites that contain unique biological, ecological, archeological, historical or cultural attributes. These sites are managed to conserve their local, regional or global importance and to protect their unique attributes. The Forest Operations Manager/Forestry Consultants would work in cooperation with state archeological and historical agencies when appropriate to manage and protect special sites.

Local knowledge and/or the assistance of knowledgeable organizations are utilized in the identification of unique and special sites. Management and protection strategies are developed for sites that require conservation or protection measures to promote the site's unique character.

Known sites are identified and mapped and appropriate designations are identified. Archeological sites can be managed, as long as no excavation occurs. Cemeteries and globally or state threatened species and habitats are identified as appropriate, designated on the ground when appropriate and protected.

The location of newly discovered sites shall be recorded on tract maps as appropriate. Management prescriptions shall be developed as necessary and appropriate to the situation. Information about the location of such sites may be provided to Federal and State agencies, recognized Indian Tribes and other cooperators if appropriate.

11) Respect for Indigenous Peoples' Rights

TCF has a Sustainable Forestry Commitment that contains a provision to recognize and respect Indigenous Peoples' rights.

Prior to any planned site disturbing activities, the Forest Operations Manager/Forestry Consultants would access the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) database of recognized tribal entities. The BIA database is available online at:
<http://www.indianaffairs.gov/WhoWeAre/RegionalOffices/index.htm>

If a BIA recognized tribal entity is contained on the website and reservation lands are located adjacent to, or in close proximity with a TCF tract, the Forest Operations Manager/Forestry Consultant would contact the Tribe to determine if there are any cultural heritage sites, flora used in cultural practices for food, or other traditional or cultural resources. Feedback from the Tribes would be documented and a response provided to any concerns received.