

Sustainable Forestry



What is Sustainable Forestry?

Sustainable Forestry is a very important subset of a concept known as Sustainable Development. Sustainable Development is defined as, "meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs."

As consumers, forest products play an important part in our lives; wood and wood products are found in many things we use daily in our homes, schools and places of business; wood products are in our shelter, and in the items that surround us. Wood is the one truly sustainable resource because forests are able to regenerate themselves within our lifetime. Besides the resource of wood, forests also provide numerous other benefits; they are places of beauty and recreation, they are the systems that filter our water and provide habitat for wildlife.

When we use the forest, and harvest the trees, everyone agrees that protecting the environment is necessary. Many people are surprised to learn that managing forests, rather than leaving them alone, often helps the environment.

Public land managers, private forest owners, forest products companies and environmental groups have come together to support Forest Management Certification such as Sustainable Forestry Initiatives (SFI) and Forestry Stewardship Council (FSC). These certification programs require Forestry Best Management Practices (BMPs). BMPs are a set of guidelines that involve the application of conservation practices that effectively prevent or minimize the amount of pollution generated during forestry operations. BMPs take into account all of the following considerations: preharvest planning, streamside management practices, forest road construction and management, timber harvesting, site preparation and forest regeneration, fire management, re-vegetation of disturbed areas, forest chemical management, and wetland forest management.

You can learn more at:

Temperate Forest foundation: <http://www.forestinfo.org/Discover/sustainforest.htm>