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Eastern Ontario Model Forest to Offer Forest Certification through Sustainable Forestry Initiative

Kemptville, ON, October 1, 2023 – Eastern Ontario Model Forest (EOMF) announces their intention to pursue Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI) to grow their successful certification program and expand sustainable forestry on private lands. SFI Certification will complement the EOMF’s existing Forest Stewardship Council (FSC®) Certificate (FSC C018800), which it is committed to retaining.

“SFI certification is a rigorous forest certification program that offers value-added services to certified forests,” says Glen Prevost, Program Manager, EOMF. “Retaining both SFI and FSC certifications will help us grow the EOMF certification program beyond our current 74,000 hectares of certified forest.”

SFI is a non-profit leader working to advance sustainability with forest-focused collaboration through four pillars of work: standards, conservation, community, and education. SFI certified forests represent 115 million hectares in Canada.

Forest certification ensures the conservation of forests and the flow of benefits from the forest to local communities. Through forest certification, forest managers are recognized for their commitment to implementing active forest management, while enhancing the environmental, social, and economic benefits from the forest.

Executive Director of the EOMF, John Pineau, said: “I’m proud of the certification program and all its achievements over the past 20 years. Adding SFI Certification is a logical next step.” He added, “The SFI community is strong and welcoming and will support our certified forests as we grow together.”

Certification provides a framework for forest managers to achieve sustainable forest management that is internationally recognized. The EOMF Certification Program brings together a committed family of private woodlot owners, community forests, and commercial forests to share the costs and benefits of forest certification and raise the bar for forest management on private lands in Ontario.

To learn more about joining the Group Certification program please visit the EOMF website or contact Glen Prevost, Program Manager at 705-358-7913 or glen.prevost@ontariowoodlot.com.

Related links: Websites: EOMF: www.eomf.on.ca.