

SUMMARY

LAKES STATES SFI IMPLEMENTATION COMMITTEE (SIC)

BIODIVERSITY IN FIBER SOURCING

FORESTS WITH EXCEPTIONAL CONSERVATION VALUE (FECV) ASSESSMENT

Version 1: November, 2022

This summary of the Lake States Regional FECV Assessment is best referenced in tandem with the full assessment document and associated landowner and logger training and outreach materials developed collectively, or individually, by the Lake States SFI Implementation Committees (SIC)s. This replaces all previous versions.

Summary

Given the regional similarities in forest ecology, forest management, landowner patterns, BMPs and biodiversity values, the SICs of the Lake States (MI, MN and WI) worked cooperatively on an assessment of Forests of Exceptional Conservation Value (FECVs). Lists of Globally Critically Imperiled (G1) and Imperiled (G2) species and ecosystems were acquired from NatureServe for each state.

(<https://explorer.natureserve.org/>) Trained biologists and foresters reviewed each entry and evaluated the potential for forestry activities to impact the FECV (positively and negatively). Emphasis was given to G1/G2 species and ecosystems found within the fiber procurement zones of SFI-certified organizations and forest types typically utilized by SFI-certified organizations. Only species and ecosystems potentially negatively impacted by forest management activities were prioritized for further action. The result is a focused lists of species and ecosystems (Appendices B-D) that could benefit from additional education, information and mitigation to ensure their continued presence on the landscape. Representatives from each state's SIC will annually review the latest available G1/G2 species information from NatureServe to determine if updates are needed.

SFI FECV Requirement [Source: 2022 SFI Fiber Sourcing Standard]

Objective 1. Biodiversity in Fiber Sourcing;

Performance Measure 1.2. Promotion and conservation of Forests with Exceptional Conservation Value;

Indicator 1 states, *“Certified Organizations shall conduct an assessment, individually and/or through cooperative efforts involving SFI Implementation Committees, of Forests with Exceptional Conservation Value, defined as critically imperiled and imperiled species and ecological communities, within their wood and fiber supply area(s) and make the summary of the assessment available to wood producers.”*

Results

Presence of G1/G2 Species & Ecosystems:

The Lake States contains 270 G1/G2 species and ecosystems combined, distributed similarly among broad classification groups (Figure 1). As expected, there is considerable overlap between the states.

- **Species:** There are 10 G1/G2 species found in all three states and 29 more found in two of the three states (Appendix E).
- **Ecosystems:** There are 11 G1/G2 ecosystems found in all three states, and another 16 found in two of the three states (Appendix F).

Regional Biodiversity Importance:

It is important to note that the timber management zone of the northern Lake States has relatively few imperiled species compared to other regions in the US. Figure 2 is a map of Biodiversity Importance produced by NatureServe that clearly shows that northeast Minnesota, northern Wisconsin and the Upper Peninsula of Michigan do not have high concentrations of imperiled species.

LAKES STATES SIC - BIODIVERSITY IN FIBER SOURCING FORESTS WITH EXCEPTIONAL CONSERVATION VALUE (FECV) ASSESSMENT

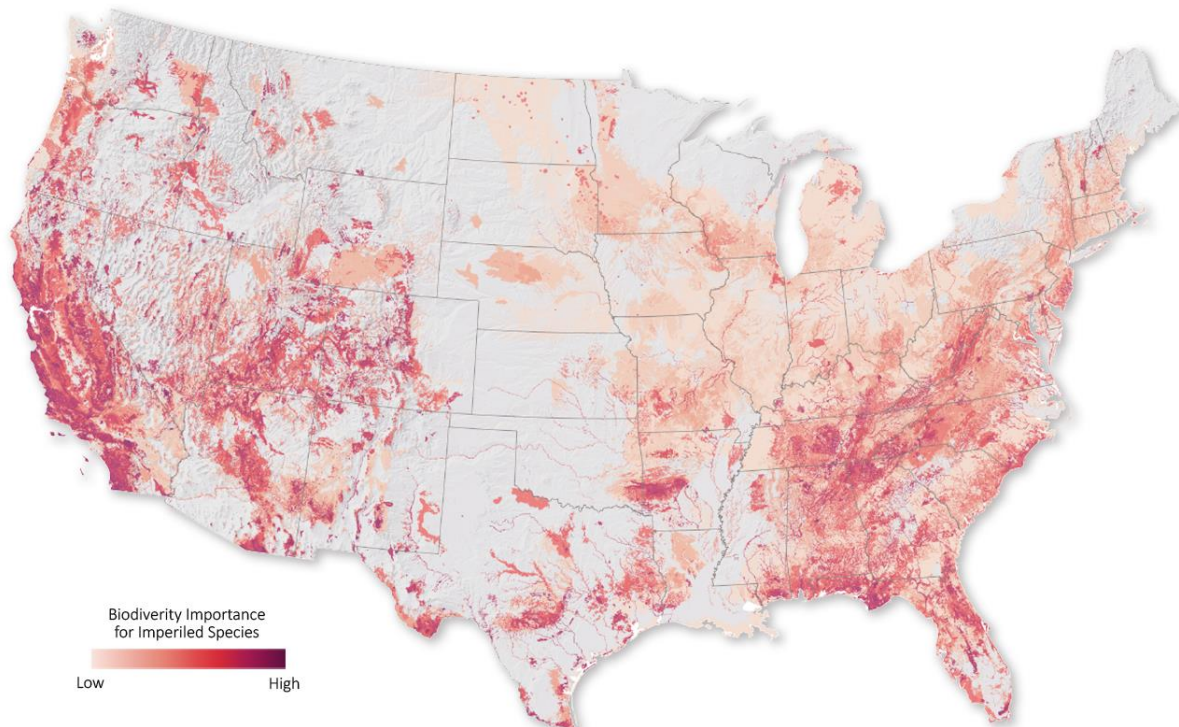


Figure 2: Map of Biodiversity Importance (<https://www.natureserve.org>)

Forestry-Impacted Species:

The assessment found that of the 270 identified G1/G2 species and ecosystems documented by NatureServe in the Lakes States, only five species and three ecosystems could be negatively impacted by forest management activities (Figure 3) to the degree that they warrant action by SFI-Certified organizations and/or SICs (Appendices B-D). Of these, three species and two ecosystems are found in all three states. Of those five, only four shared the same impact ranking across all three states.

Figure 3: FECVs Potentially Negatively Impacted by Forest Management			
Common Name	Minnesota	Michigan	Wisconsin
Northern Long-Eared Bat	Impacted	Impacted	Impacted
Karner Blue	Possibly Impacted	No Impact	Impacted
Little Goblin Moonwort	Impacted	Impacted	Impacted
Frosted Elfin	Not Found	Possibly Impacted	Impacted
Pleistocene Catinella	Impacted	Possibly Impacted	Not Listed
An Ambersnail	Not Found	Impacted	Not Found
Indiana Bat	Not Found	Impacted	Not Found
Jack Pine / Prairie Forbs Barrens	Impacted	Impacted	Impacted
Northern White-cedar – Yellow Birch Forest	Impacted	Impacted	Impacted
Laurentian Pine Barrens	Not Listed	Impacted	Possibly Impacted

Refer to the Lake States FECV Regional Assessment for more details on each of the above species and ecosystems.

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Discussion & Next Steps

2022 SFI Fiber Sourcing Standard - Objective 1. Biodiversity in Fiber Sourcing;

Performance Measure 1.2. Promotion and conservation of Forests with Exceptional Conservation Value;

Indicator 2 states SFI-Certified organizations must have a “*Program to address FECV (critically imperiled and imperiled species and ecological communities) for all harvest operations through fiber sourcing activities such as:*

- a. use of *qualified logging professionals, certified logging companies (where available), and qualified resource professionals; or*
- b. *training program for qualified logging professionals on how to recognize and protect FECV; or*
- c. *through in-the-forest verification by certified logging companies; or*
- d. *forest landowner outreach; or*
- e. *SIC involvement in the assessment of FECV, and development of recommendations for conservation.”*

The SICs will work together to create educational materials for those that overlap and will work individually on the remainder. This will result in regionally consistent design and messaging around FECVs. These materials will provide more information on G1/G2 species and ecosystems, including:

- a. Identification
- b. General location
- c. How to secure proprietary specific locations
- d. Specific threats
- e. Mitigation
- f. Sources for more information

These materials will be used in FECV-specific training for wood producers, loggers and foresters. They will also be incorporated into state SIC Landowner manuals and made available to other entities who routinely work with non-industrial private forest landowners (e.g., DNR private lands foresters, consulting foresters, Soil and Water Conservation Districts, etc.).

These state-based assessments, conducted in coordination across the Lake States, provide a thoughtful, science-based process for promoting the conservation of forestry-impacted globally critically impaired and impaired species. Providing key information to wood producers, foresters, loggers and private landowners in the fiber procurement supply chain will help drive conservation of these species and ecosystems. This will serve to demonstrate SFI-certified organizations’ commitment to conserving biodiversity within their sphere of influence.

