Speaker Background

- Lauren Cooper
  - Current position:
    - MSU Forest Carbon and Climate Program, Director
  - Credentials:
    - PhD in progress in Forestry, Human Dimensions, and Carbon
    - MS. Natural Resource Policy and Planning (UMich)
    - M. of Urban Planning, Sustainable
  - Key experiences
    - Steering committee member Forest-Climate Working Group
    - Consulting with NOAA, the World Bank, Trees for the Future
    - International work in Latin America

Presentation Outline

Introducing Certification

Forest Management Certification

Fiber sourcing and Chain of Custody

Certification: Alignment with Climate Change

Introducing Certification

Certified sustainable forestry and forest products

A Spectrum of Forest Benefits

Timber Products — Sequestration — Non-timber + Recreational Uses — Biodiversity — Carbon Storage In Forest Pools

Plantation
- Less biodiversity
- Lower carbon storage on land
- Likely higher carbon sequestration rates
- High forest products production
- Could be targeted for high-risk (e.g., fire prone)

Selection Cutting
- Relatively high biodiversity
- Medium carbon storage on land
- Medium but consistent carbon sequestration rates
- Full range of ecosystem services
- Mix of timber and non-timber forest products

Old growth
- High overall biodiversity
- Highest carbon storage on in forest ecosystem pools
- Possibly lower sequestration rates
- Very limited timber products
- Could be targeted for low-risk areas
- Recreation, habitat, etc.

Climate-Smart Forestry (CSF)

- Targeted approach/strategy to increase climate benefits from forests and the forest sector

- Respects and embraces other needs related to forests

- Three pillars:
  1. Reducing and/or removing greenhouse gas emissions to mitigate climate change
  2. Adapting forest management to build resilient forests
  3. Active forest management aiming to sustainably increase productivity and provide all benefits that forests can provide

Forest Certification **=** Climate-Smart Forestry **?**

(European Forest institute)

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What is Certification?

Forest certification:
a mechanism
for forest management,
monitoring, tracing, and
labeling of timber, wood and
pulp products and non-timber
forest products, where the
quality of forest management
is judged against a series of
agreed standards. *(WWF, 2018)*

Important terms

Standard – the requirements against which certifiation assessments are made

Certification – the confirmation that the forest and its management conforms to a particular standard
- Assessed by third party, who reviews documentation, observes the forest, internviews mangagement and employees, and uses evidence from third parties
- Trained assessors following ISO practices

Accredidation – the mechanism for ensuruing that the organizations that undertake certifications are competent and produce credible results

Comparing Management

Short-term Thinking

- Easiest route into forest
- Emphasis on extraction and high financial return
- Not necessarily based on research, training, or best practices
- Damage to, and resulting mortality of, remaining trees
- Limited consideration of soil, water, and habitat impacts

Image: https://hydrodictyon.eeb.uconn.edu/people/willig/Research/Brazil/Brazil.html

Long-term Thinking

- Certification solidifies these practices in standards
- Research and data-informed decision-making
- Required considerations of waterways, sensitive areas, habitat
- Minimizing damage
- Move beyond legal minimums in many areas
- Examples of practices:
  - Reduced Impact Logging (in tropics)
  - Best Management Practices

Note: Possible to pursue best practices without certification, but certification encourages additional adoption

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Certification provides:

- Facilitates climate-smart forestry/forestry BMPs
  - Technical guidance and support to working forests
  - Communication network of best practices
  - Education and engagement for deployment of improved practices
- Forest certification is based on principles that promote sustainable forest management
- A range of benefits in its guidance
  - Carbon benefits are just a one such benefit
- Assurances to a range of stakeholders including investors and donors, governments, shareholders and employees, and purchasers

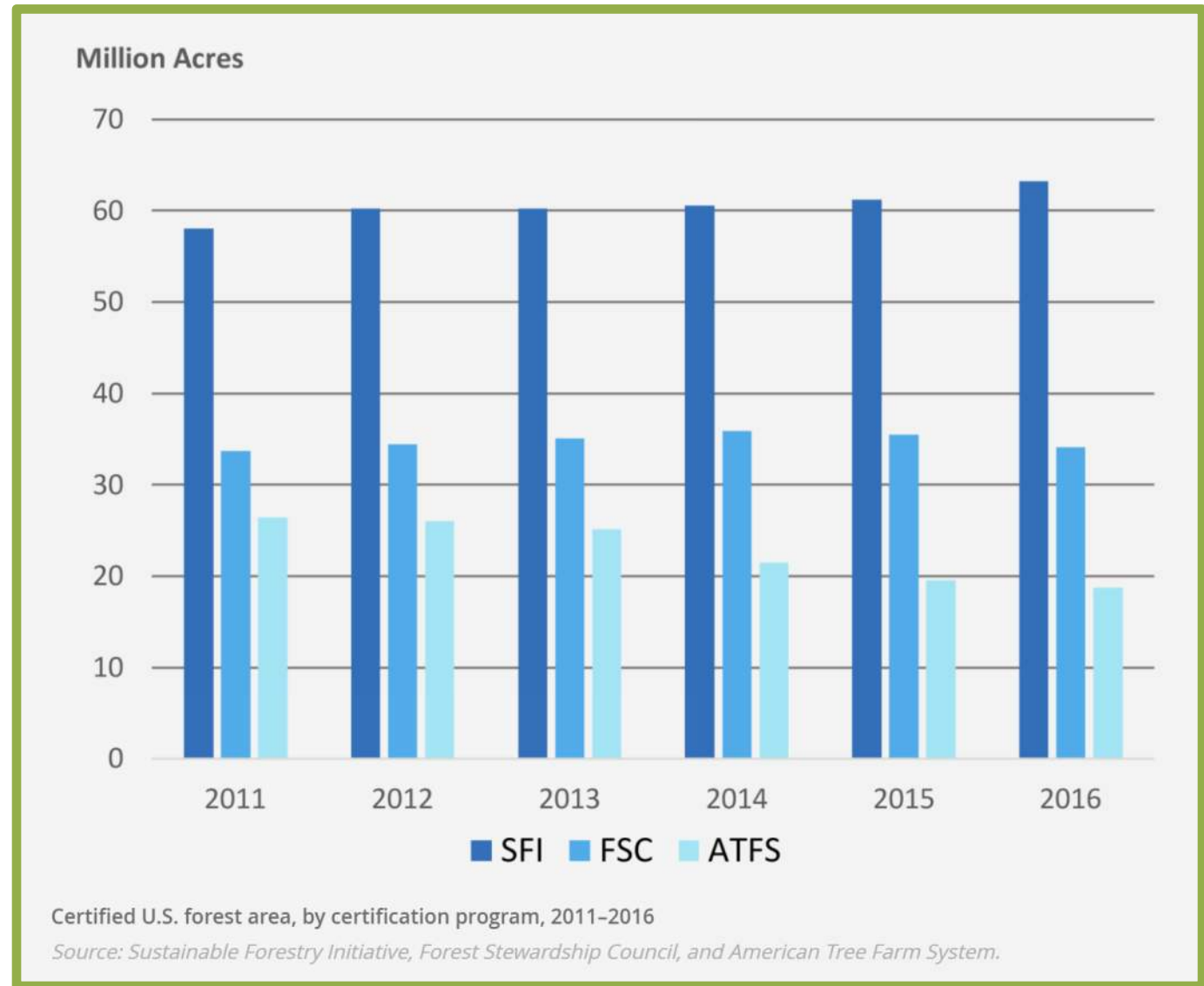|	
Forest Management Standard	**Fiber Sourcing Standard**
Chain-of-Custody Standard	**Core Principles**

Certification Bodies

- Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI)
  - Housed under Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification (PEFC)
- Forest Stewardship Council (FSC)
- American Tree Farm
  - Under PEFC

Certified U.S. forest area, by certification program, 2011–2016
Source: Sustainable Forestry Initiative, Forest Stewardship Council, and American Tree Farm System.

Source: State of America's Forests. 2019. https://usaforests.org/

Forest management certification

Forest Carbon and Climate Program
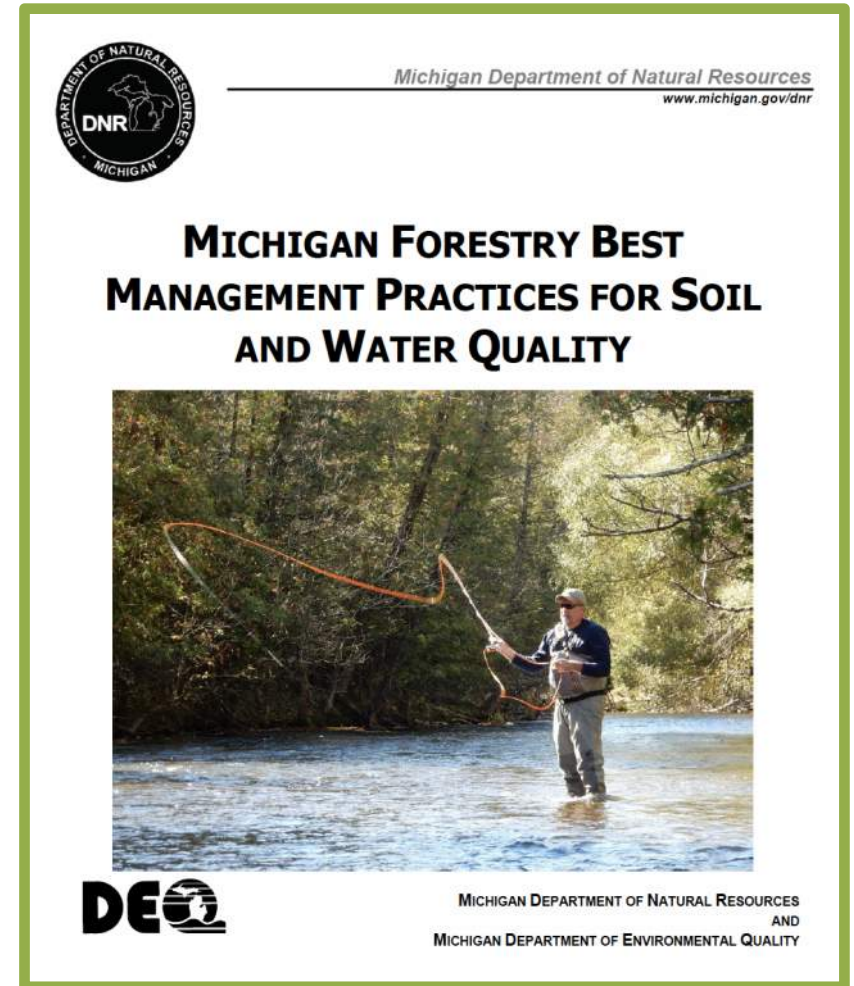Department of Forestry
MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

Basics of forest management certification

- How to become 'Certified'?
  - A forest owner must follow set guidance
  - Inventory, implementation of BMPs, monitoring
- Auditing by third-party verifiers
- Loggers required to complete training
- BMPs for that state are required
- Many of these have implications for carbon storage
- Additional activities
  - Community and outreach
  - Research
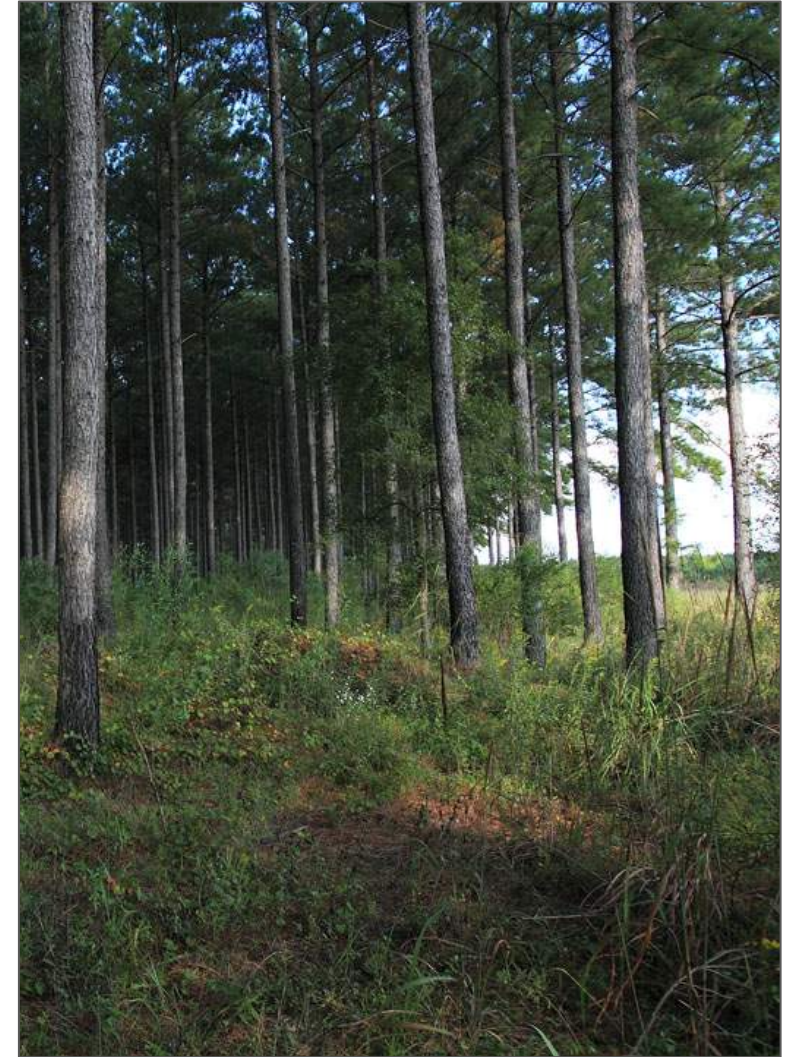
Best Management Practices (BMPs)

- Guidelines to avoid, minimize, or mitigate adverse effects to soil, water quality, and riparian resources

- National core BMPs in 11 categories

- Not required in all states, certification bring more actors into alignment where they are not required

- Example topics and requirements:
    - Cleaning up fuel spills
    - Minimizing ruts left by heavy equipment
    - Installing properly sized culverts and bridges that allow fish passage
    - Minimizing soil disturbance
    - Water quality considerations
    - Biodiversity and Wildlife Habitat
    - Forests with Exceptional Conservation Value
    - Reducing forest impacts during harvest

- Michigan example: BMPs not required, certification boosts adoption

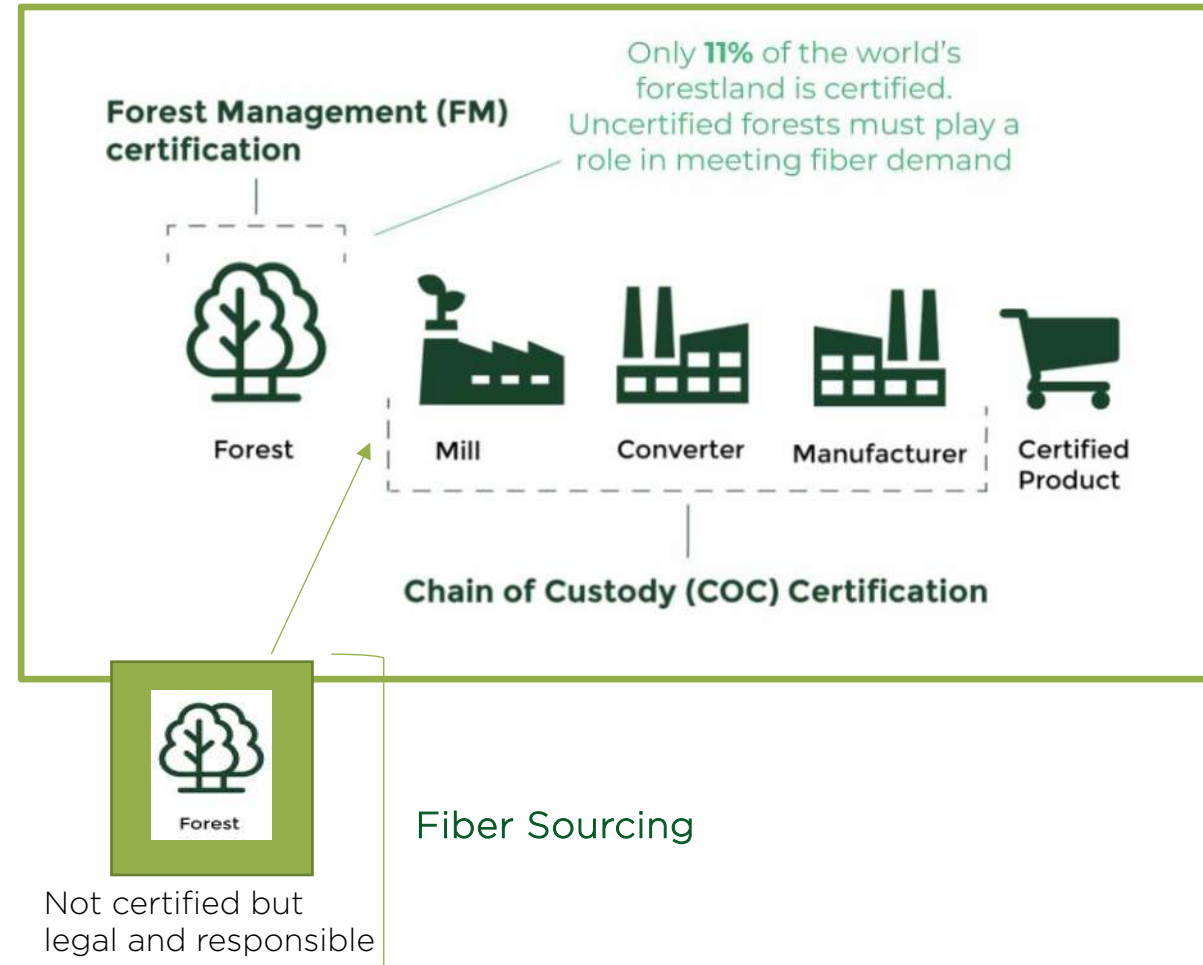Michigan Department of Natural Resources
www.michigan.gov/dnr

MICHIGAN FORESTRY BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES FOR SOIL AND WATER QUALITY

MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
AND
MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

Sources: USFS, State of MI

Fiber sourcing and Chain of Custody

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# Fiber Sourcing and Chain of Custody Certification

- Chain of Custody
  - Refers to the entire path of **certified** products from forests through to the supply chain

- Fiber sourcing
  - Refers to **uncertified** wood entering the mill for processing
  - Emphasis on legal, responsible sources if not certified

Forest Management (FM) certification

Only **11%** of the world's forestland is certified. Uncertified forests must play a role in meeting fiber demand

Forest — Mill — Converter — Manufacturer — Certified Product

Chain of Custody (COC) Certification

Forest

Fiber Sourcing

Not certified but legal and responsible

Source: https://greenblue.org/module-2-the-role-of-forest-certification/

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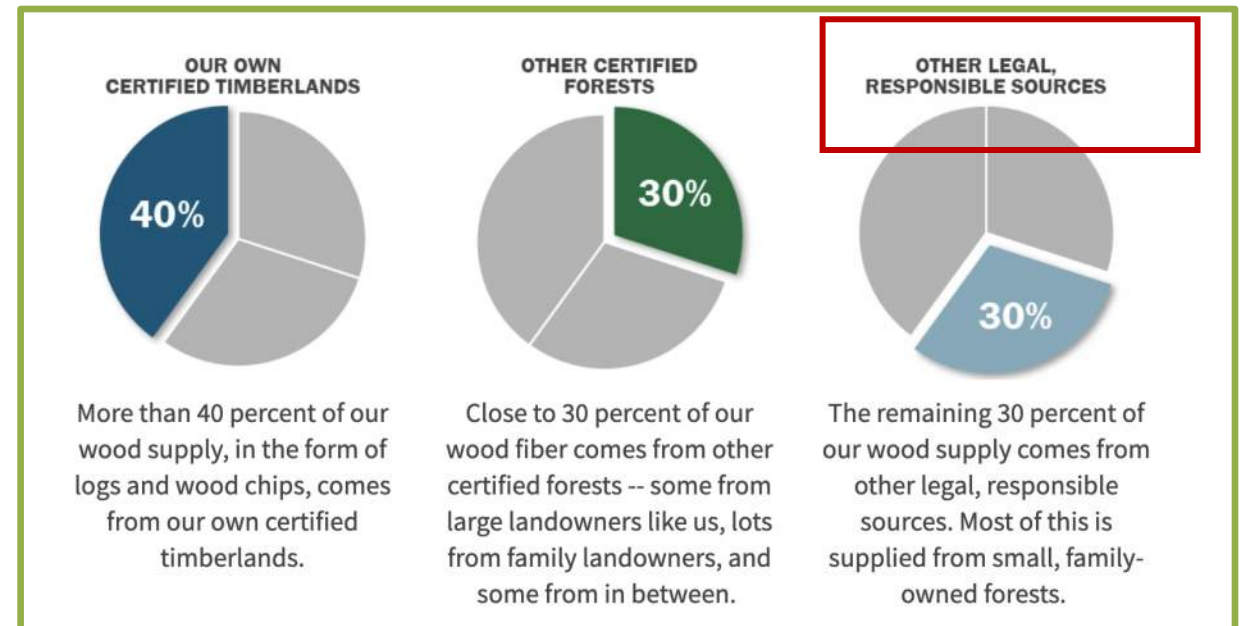
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Chain of Custody (CoC)

- CoC traces certified materials through the supply chain
  - Verifies that certified material is identified or kept separate from non-certified material
- Allows for communication about certified forest products
- Direct data and linkages forest to product
- CoC picks up after Forest Management Certification
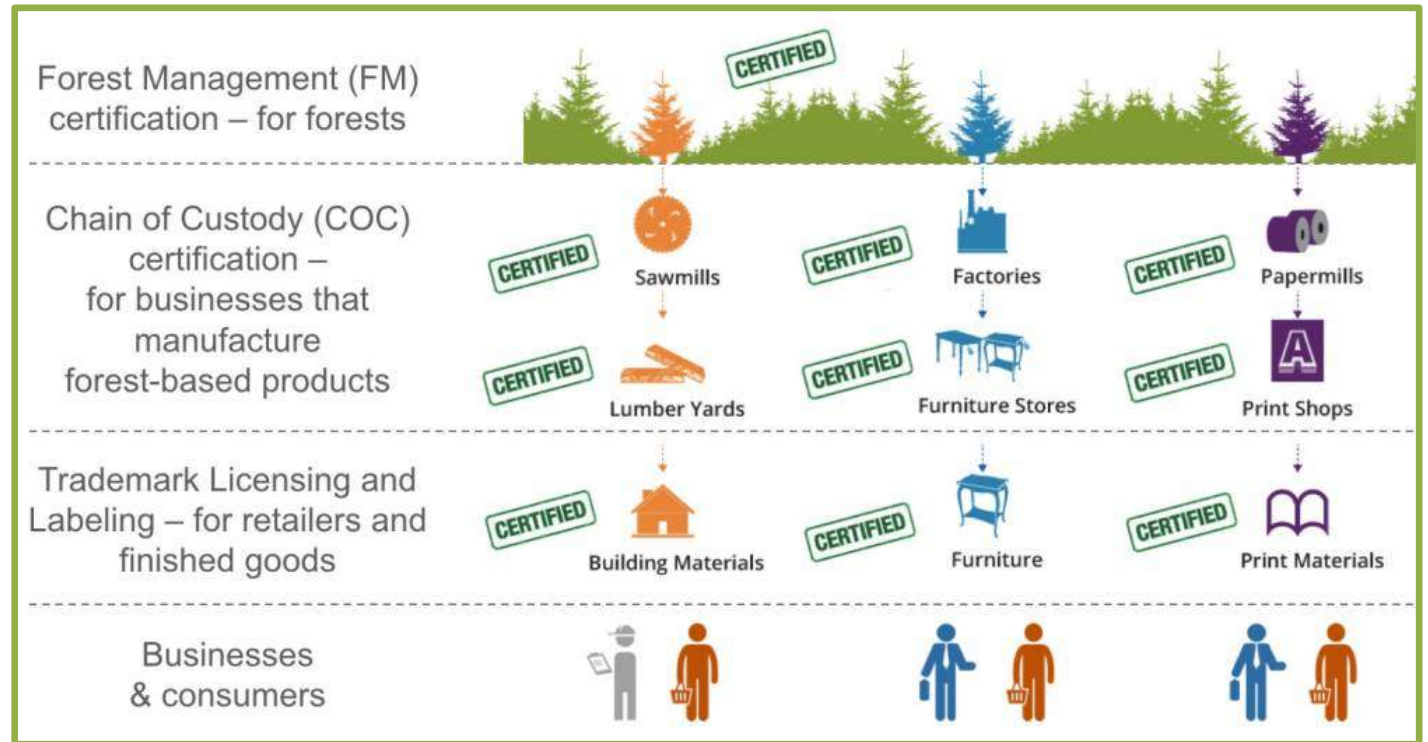
FSC, 2020

Responsible Fiber Sourcing/Controlled Wood

- Fiber sourcing refers to the wood entering the mill for processing, which may or not be from certified
  - Emphasis on "legal and responsible"

- SFI
  - Requires BMPs for the wood
  - Using trained loggers
  - Prohibits
    - Sourcing from areas without effective social laws
    - Illegal timber

- FSC Controlled Wood
  - Identified material from acceptable uncertified sources that can be mixed with FSC-certified material in products that carry the "FSC Mix" label
  - Prohibits
    - GMO Trees
    - Conversion to non-forest use
    - Threats to forests with High Conservation Values
    - Violation of traditional or civil rights
    - Illegal harvest

OUR OWN CERTIFIED TIMBERLANDS

40%

More than 40 percent of our wood supply, in the form of logs and wood chips, comes from our own certified timberlands.

OTHER CERTIFIED FORESTS

30%

Close to 30 percent of our wood fiber comes from other certified forests -- some from large landowners like us, lots from family landowners, and some from in between.

OTHER LEGAL, RESPONSIBLE SOURCES

30%

The remaining 30 percent of our wood supply comes from other legal, responsible sources. Most of this is supplied from small, family-owned forests.

Example of fiber sourcing from a major timber company

Certification: Alignment with Climate Change

Pillars are in line with forest adaptation and mitigation

Mitigation & Adaptation

- Harvested wood is part of the climate solution – but ONLY if it is sustainable

- Certification can ensure sustainability in management and procurement (and in climate benefits!)

SFI example:
Obj. 2: Forest Productivity and Health
- to protect forests from economically or environmentally undesirable levels of wildfire, pests, diseases, invasive exotic plants and animals, and other damaging agents and thus maintain and improve long-term forest health

SFI Core Principles

Resilient, healthy forests = climate adaptation

Communication & Stakeholder Engagement

Clear Messaging

- Visible and recognizable logos

- Branding on labels and in stores

- Built a foundation that the climate change message can grow from

- Promotes investment in sustainable forestry

- Consumer purchasing decisions

- Foundation for lower emission products and materials

Low Risk of Deforestation In US And Canada

— 2016 State of the World's Forests Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

of the world's forest cover, but account for only obal deforestation. The conversion of forest to l land is decreasing but it remains the largest to deforestation in Canada. The infinitesimal n the forest sector makes to deforestation is ng permanent logging access roads. Forest practices in Canada are tightly regulated to long-term sustainability of this important ource.

from building perm
harvesting practice
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ncentrations of forest loss tween 2010 and 2030.

CANADA
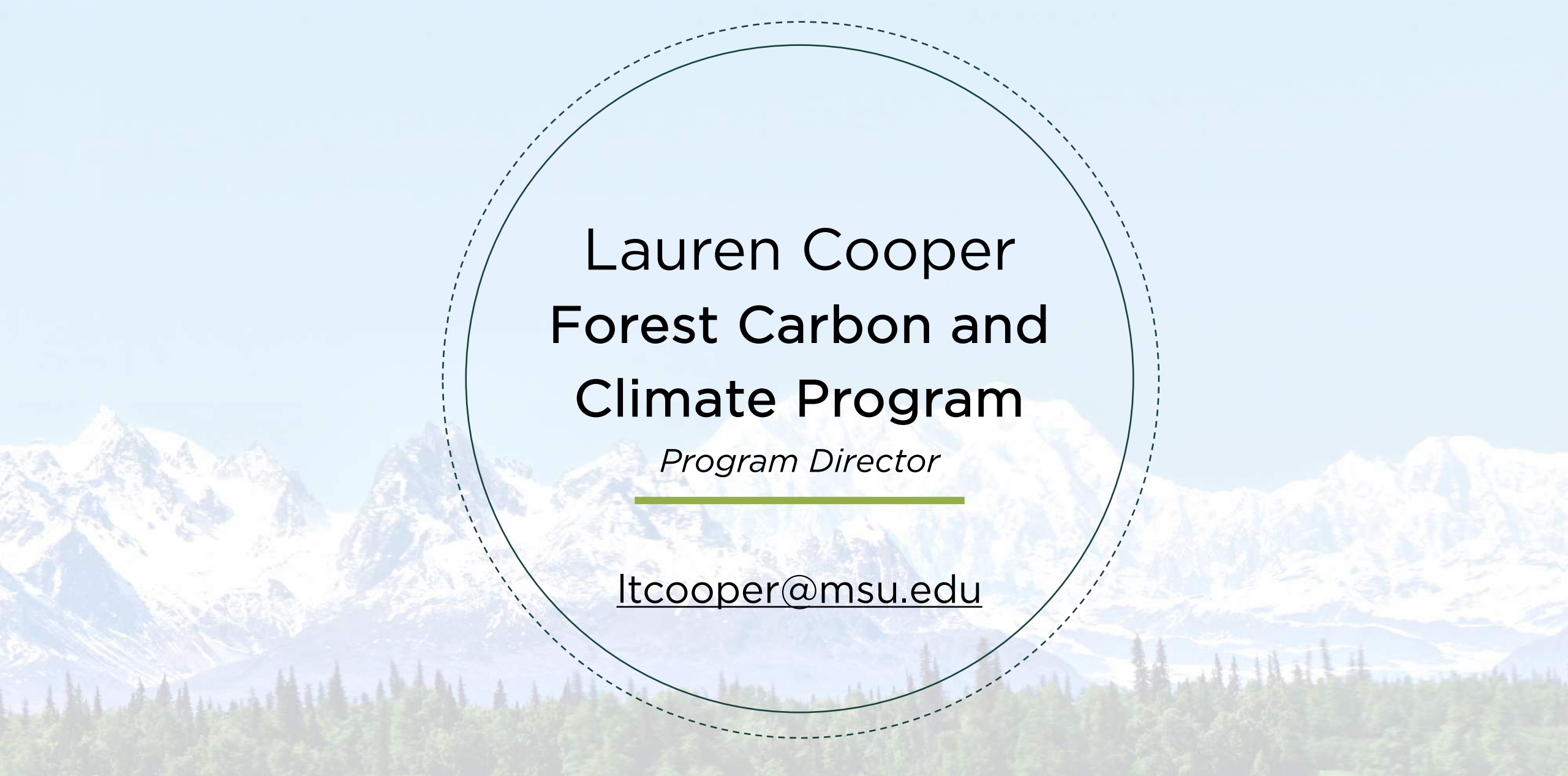
WWF has identified 11 places where the largest concentrat

Key Takeaways

1. Working forests are a crucial solution in the fight against Climate Change

2. Forests can be managed sustainably to provide sustainable materials and carbon sequestration as part of a landscape approach

3. Climate and carbon benefits are quickly dissolved when converting complex forests to simpler forests, by degradation, and by any forest loss

4. Opportunities for continued improvement, transparency, and oversight

5. Certification is a central tool in ensuring sustainability

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