Managing Forests For Climate Mitigation – From Theory to Practice

Paul Trianosky, Chief Conservation Officer
Sustainable Forestry Initiative
SFI ADVANCES SUSTAINABILITY THROUGH FOREST-FOCUSED COLLABORATIONS
Blue Sky – To Address Climate Change

Forests are a “Natural Climate Solution”

How do we harness the opportunity presented by sustainably managed forests?
To Achieve Scale…

• Understand and acknowledge the role of managed forests
• Moving carbon and climate into the “space” of managing for multiple benefits, opens new opportunities
• Facilitates drivers, incentives, compensation
A Few Words About Certification

• Established to ensure accountability and verification of sustainability performance
• Addresses a wide range of sustainability measures and outcomes
• Assuring performance across many topics is an act of “optimization”
• Carbon and Climate were never part of that discussion early on
We believe that forests – particularly when sustainably managed – represent a critical tool in helping positively address the climate change challenge.
ASSESSMENT OF CLIMATE BENEFITS OF SFI FOREST CERTIFICATION

• Qualitative study of the climate benefits of SFI Forest Certification.
• 2015-2019 SFI Forest Management Standards
• Various aspects of the SFI Standards effectively promote outcomes consistent with “Climate Smart Forestry”
• But there’s more to do....
CONSERVATION IMPACT PROJECTS

• Brand owners need to understand the impact of their sourcing
• Certified Organizations can better understand outcomes relative to practices
• All stakeholders can better understand the value of well managed forests
• Improved understanding facilitates continual improvement on certified forestlands
THE FOREST CLIMATE RESILIENCY PROJECT

• Developing a simple approach to establishing baseline conditions
• Assessing resilience of forests to a changing climate
• Monitoring the effects of a changing climate over time.
CANADIAN FOREST CARBON ASSESSMENT

WHAT IS IT: Analyses (1990 to present) of carbon stocks and fluxes on certified forestlands in five regions of Canada

WHY IT MATTERS – Reliably estimating carbon stocks and fluxes across SFI’s footprint facilitates long-term planning and management
Assessing and Monitoring the Influence of Forest Management Practices in the Acadian Forest Region

- Study and improve climate change benefits provided by working forests relative to:
  - Soil Productivity
  - Carbon Storage
  - Conservation outcomes
In addition to piloting unique programs to reduce waste like the gloves to bags program, the 2018 Sustainability Report shares Chipotle's 2018 accomplishments towards global sustainability. Highlights from the report include “100% of the paper in cups were Sustainable Forestry Initiative Certified”.
CLIMATE SMART FORESTRY

New Objective:

• Requires a program to identify climate change risks to forest and forest operations and the development of adaptation objectives and strategies.

• And a program to identify opportunities to mitigate climate-related impacts associated with forest operations.
How do we address a range of forest values, which incorporate climate objectives?

How do we harness the interest of the marketplace in sustainability, to motivate “climate smart” forest management?

How do we ensure that the attributes of long-lived forest products are factored in?
It’s an exercise in optimization....
CRITICAL ELEMENTS FOR PROGRESS

- Acknowledge that managed forests play a role
- Expansion of the idea of “Sustainability” to include expectations of climate outcomes
- Better measures of climate values in managed forests, including long-lived wood products
- Policies and profit-driven practices that reflect these values – and enable large-scale adoption
QUESTIONS?

Paul Trianosky
Chief Conservation Officer
Paul.Trianosky@sfiprogram.org
423-571-2562