



# AF&PA News

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## **AF&PA PRESENTS NATURESERVE WITH 2003 WILDLIFE STEWARDSHIP AWARD**

WASHINGTON, DC – The American Forest & Paper Association has awarded its 2003 Wildlife Stewardship Award in the category of Industry Cooperator to NatureServe, a non-profit conservation group. NatureServe was recognized for its work in assisting the Sustainable Forestry Board (SFB) and Sustainable Forestry Initiative® (SFI) program to understand NatureServe's scientific method for evaluating imperiled species and habitats, and what value it offers to the SFI® program. The award was presented at an AF&PA conference on May 19.

NatureServe ([www.natureserve.org](http://www.natureserve.org)) is a leading source for high-quality information about species and ecosystems. In 2002, NatureServe assisted the Sustainable Forestry Board in enhancing the SFI Standard to improve the protection of forests of exceptional conservation value (FECV) and other biodiversity hotspots.

“NatureServe, by working with the SFI program and AF&PA member companies, has made an invaluable contribution to protecting imperiled forests and other special sites,” said AF&PA President and CEO W. Henson Moore. “Without NatureServe's collaboration, the enhancements to the SFI Standard would not have been the great success we are seeing today.”

Following the adoption of the enhancements to the SFI program, NatureServe worked with AF&PA staff to develop and implement a series of training workshops for SFI program participants. The workshops focused on methods to identify and locate imperiled and critically imperiled species and ecological communities on forestlands owned or managed under the SFI program. In all, more than 325 stakeholders attended the seven workshops held across North America.

“NatureServe is pleased to support the Sustainable Forestry Initiative program by providing data and classification systems that help participants identify forests of exceptional conservation value,” said Mark Schaefer, NatureServe's President and CEO. “Implementing the FECV indicators addresses goals that the forest products industry and NatureServe share in common. We look forward to working together to conserve the imperiled species and communities that comprise our natural heritage.”

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*AF&PA is the national trade association of the forest, paper and wood products industry. AF&PA represents more than 200 companies and related associations that engage in or represent the manufacture of pulp, paper, paperboard and wood products. The forest products industry accounts for approximately 7 percent of total U.S. manufacturing output, employs 1.5 million people, and ranks among the top ten manufacturing employers in 42 states. Visit AF&PA online at [www.afandpa.org](http://www.afandpa.org)*