

U.S. Forest Sustainability in the 21st Century: Strengthening Families, Communities, and Livelihoods

Sustainably managed forests play a key role in addressing some of today's most pressing challenges. Forests are essential to the growth of a circular, more bio-based economy and contribute to healthier communities and a more equitable built environment. Forests also provide crucial natural climate solutions. Sustainable forest management helps tackle issues such as affordable housing, workforce development, human health, youth engagement and education, and can support creation of more resilient infrastructure.



For the past 30 years, certification has served as a benchmark for forest sustainability. Where accessible, certification auditing has become a valued tool. However, newer, more advanced systems for risk assessment, data analysis, and public reporting now offer more accessible and effective solutions. These modernized approaches ensure sustainability across the landscape without imposing the cost and technical barriers that hinder supply chain transparency and perpetuate marketplace inequities.

Special thanks to the Forest Landowners Foundation and the US Forest Service for support and collaboration.

Read Report

Online Learning Session: U.S. Forest Sustainability in the 21st Century

Join Katie Fernholz, of Dovetail Partners, on April 24th from 2:00pm - 3:00pm. The session will explore how sustainable forest management can address critical issues like affordable housing, workforce development, public health, and youth education. Learn more and register [here](#).



SBP Interim Regional Risk Assessments

The Sustainable Biomass Program (SBP) has published three SBP Interim Regional Risk Assessments (RRAs), covering the province of Quebec, Canada, US Private Forest, and US National Forest, available [here](#). These SBP Interim RRAs will support Certificate Holders in implementing risk mitigation measures and enable Certification Bodies to carry out certification activities until SBP-endorsed RRAs for these regions are available.

Dovetail Partners served on the assessment teams for the US Private Forest RRA and US National Forest RRA.

Agricultural Production

At our March team meeting, Jim Bowyer, Ph.D., summarized key insights from a [Dovetail report](#) on agrivoltaics, covering its potential, research findings, early experiences, and challenges to widespread development. You can watch the recording [here](#).



Register Now for Q2 Webinar on June 6th



Tree-Free, Hemp, and Non-Wood Alternatives - Impacts & Trade-Offs Webinar

June 6, 2025 8:30am - 9:45am CDT

Speakers: Jim Bowyer, Ph.D., Mark Jacobs, and Kathryn Fernholz

Dovetail Partners as we examine non-wood alternatives to traditional forest products, including trends in "tree-free" and use of fibers such as hemp. This webinar will explore the role of hemp, agricultural residues, and other materials in diversifying material supplies and the impacts for forestry and farming that result. Kathryn, Jim, and Mark will discuss environmental impacts, trade-offs, and key insights.



Jim Bowyer, Ph.D., Associate, Dovetail Partners
Bowyer is Professor Emeritus, University of Minnesota Department of Bioproducts and Biosystems Engineering. He is an Elected Fellow of the International Academy of Wood Science and an expert in environmental life cycle assessment. He has published widely on the topics of wood and fiber science, bioenergy, life cycle assessment, green building standards, global raw material trends, and environmental policy and is a frequent speaker on these topics.

Mark Jacobs, Associate, Dovetail Partners
Mark Jacobs served as Land Commissioner for Aitkin County in north-central Minnesota for thirteen years and has a total of almost thirty-one years of experience in public land management and forestry in the Lake States. During his tenure, Aitkin County was recognized as one of the first public land managers to achieve third-party certification through the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC). Mark helped propel Aitkin County as a national leader in forest and recreational management of public lands. Mr. Jacobs brings expertise in public forest management, environmental concerns in the Lake States Region, and experience across the spectrum of silviculture, forest certification, carbon offsets, environmental education, endangered species and habitat needs.

Kathryn (Katie) Fernholz, President/CEO, Dovetail Partners
Kathryn is a forester by training with over 25 years of experience in the forest and forest products sector. She has worked on environmental issues in a range of roles, including environmental assessments, permitting, and GIS analysis. Her career has focused on sustainability concerns, including leadership on family forestry, community-based decision making, forest certification, forest education, and environmental standard setting.

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impacts for forestry and farming that result.

Dovetail Partners is offering quarterly webinars throughout 2025 to highlight key topics and provide greater insight into issues addressed in our reporting. You can learn more about the remaining topics [here](#).

2025 SFI ANNUAL CONFERENCE

INNOVATING FOR FORESTS AND COMMUNITIES

MAY 20-23, 2025
THE DEPOT RENAISSANCE
MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA



Join the Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI) from May 20-23 in Minneapolis, Minnesota, for the 2025 SFI Annual Conference as we celebrate SFI's 30th anniversary and three decades of shared achievements in sustainable forestry! This year's theme, "Innovating for Forests & Communities," sets the stage for engaging sessions on market insights, solutions for deforestation and degradation, harnessing technology for conservation, future forest workforce needs, and more. Continuing education credits are available.

Kathryn Fernholz, from Dovetail Partners, will be a speaker for the session on "Forest Products Innovation to Advance Sustainability". There will also be a Women's Forest Congress meetup on May 22nd over lunch. Learn more about the conference: forests.org/conference.

Kathryn Fernholz to present at Mississippi State on April 9th

Kathryn "Katie" Fernholz will present, "The People Side of Forest Resources." In her lecture, she will explore the needs and opportunities across the forest and wood products sector, from land ownership to workforce development. The Owen Lecture Series was established more than 30 years ago in MSU's College of Forest Resources by Carlton Owen, a Greenville, South Carolina, resident and 1974 MSU graduate. The program focuses on natural resource conservation issues. Learn more [here](#).

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