



# MAINTAINING BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY

Among other benefits, maintaining biological diversity is another means of enhancing wildlife habitats on your land.

**THE SFI STANDARD DEFINES BIODIVERSITY AS: “THE VARIETY AND ABUNDANCE OF LIFE FORMS, PROCESSES, FUNCTIONS, AND STRUCTURES OF PLANTS, ANIMALS AND OTHER LIVING ORGANISMS, INCLUDING THE RELATIVE COMPLEXITY OF SPECIES, COMMUNITIES, GENE POOLS AND ECOSYSTEMS AT SPATIAL SCALES THAT RANGE FROM LOCAL TO REGIONAL TO GLOBAL.”**

While many believe that biodiversity is most effectively addressed at the watershed or larger level, there are opportunities to manage and contribute to biodiversity at all levels – stand, forest, watershed, landscape and global. Landowners can influence compositional and structural diversity at the stand and forest levels through management choices.

Techniques landowners can use to ensure biodiversity involve maintaining:

- A mix of habitat and cover types – both terrestrial and aquatic
- A mix of species – both flora and fauna
- A distribution of age classes within and between stands
- Protection for Forests with Exceptional Conservation Value (FECV) (defined as Forests of Recognized Importance (FORI) in the 2015-2020 American Tree Farm Standard)
- Protection for special sites and other unique stand features such as snags, low-value trees, wetlands, rock outcrops, caves, prairies, glades, etc.