

# Maine SFI Implementation Committee 2012-2013 Progress Report



**A big win for  
fish and forests**



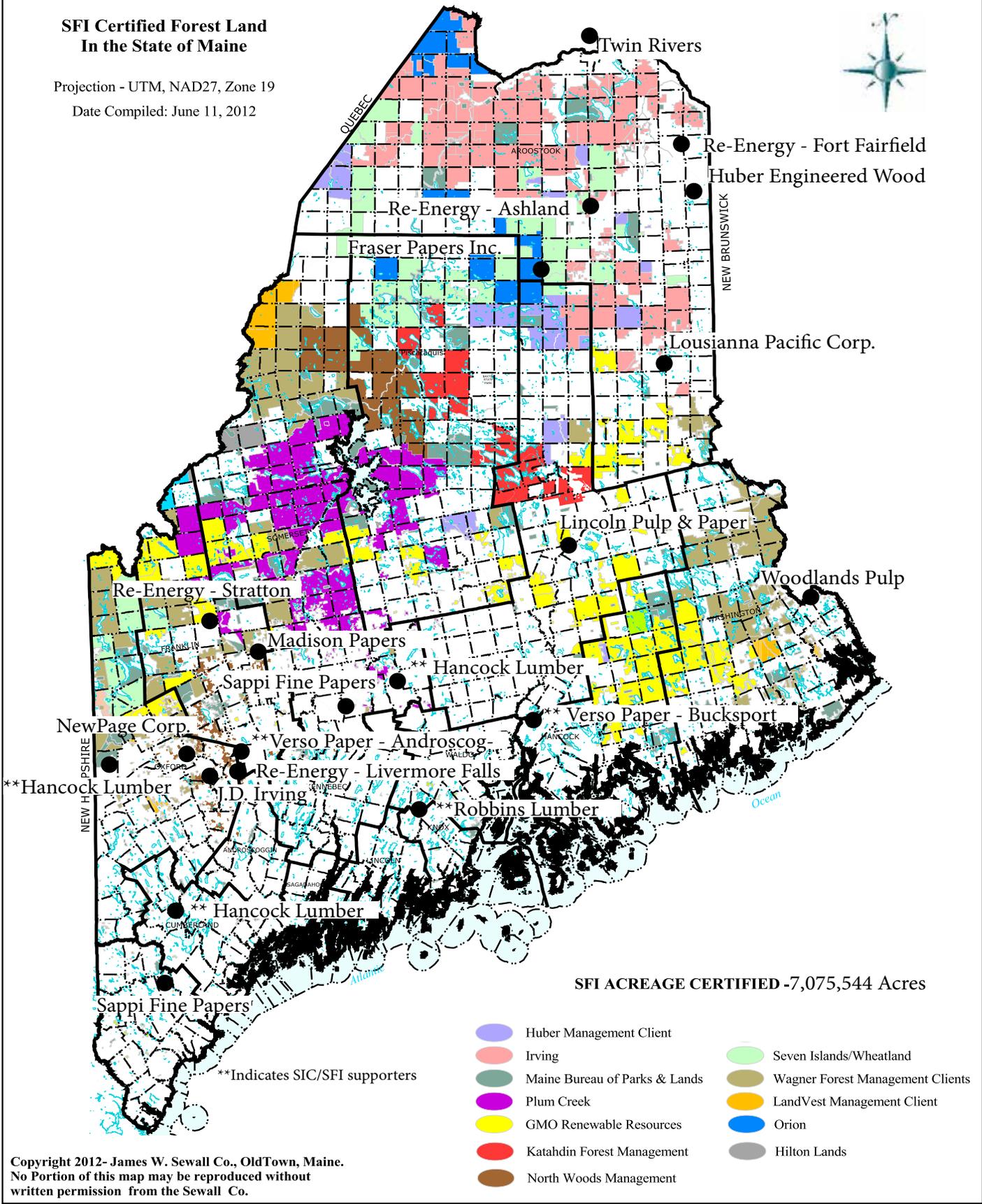
“Our goal is to broaden the practice of sustainable forestry and also to expand public knowledge about the concept of sustainable forestry. Each time we talk to students, landowners or snowmobilers about fish passage or show them how streams flow with the SFI flume, it creates an opportunity to teach them about sustainable forestry.”  
– Pat Sirois, SFI Director



**SFI Certified Forest Land  
In the State of Maine**

Projection - UTM, NAD27, Zone 19

Date Compiled: June 11, 2012



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# A message from the SIC chair

Sustainability. It's a term that has been in vogue throughout the past couple of decades referring to an ever expanding range of disciplines. While this comprehensive concept is basic to forestry, it is often difficult to explain to the general public in a succinct manner.

**Gordon Gamble**  
Wagner Forest  
Management



Paraphrasing the Sustainable Forestry Initiative, forest sustainability can be defined in part as meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs by practicing a land stewardship ethic. But what does that mean for Maine's forests? I think if you review our annual progress report you will find that significant efforts are being made to continue to improve forest sustainability within Maine.

The Maine SFI Implementation Committee is one of 37 state, regional and provincial grass roots committees affiliated with the Sustainable Forestry Initiative which is the largest single forest standard in the world. The Maine SIC is considered a leader amongst the committees having twice received the outstanding SIC of the year award. What has set SFI apart has been the expectation for its committees to develop local partnerships and promote change with boots on the ground.

Within this report you will find several examples of excellent partnerships that are addressing real change in the ways we manage our forests. Collaborations with partners such as the Maine Forest Service have resulted in several training initiatives from You Tube videos of erosion control methods to multi-day in the field road grading technique workshops.

Read about the coalition of Maine Audubon, state and federal agencies, NGOs, Maine Forest Service and the Maine SIC formed to develop the Stream Smart training. This training provides private and public entities improved techniques to effectively cross streams and improve fish passage. The Maine SIC in coordination with state and federal agencies also was a founding partner of the Fisheries Improvement Network (FIN) which is focused on improving stream connectivity for Atlantic salmon and brook trout.

We also have long standing outreach partnerships with the Small Woodland Owners Association of Maine (SWOAM) and exciting, relatively new partnerships of outreach with the Kennebec Woodland Partnership and the Maine Snowmobile Association.

Forest Sustainability in Maine? I think you will agree the efforts of the Maine SIC, its members and its partners are making a difference. If you would like more information, please visit [www.sfmaine.org](http://www.sfmaine.org).

## Maine's SFI Implementation Committee

American Forest Management  
ATV of Maine  
Certified Logging Professional Program of Maine  
Fraser Paper Inc.  
Forest Resources Association  
Hancock Lumber Co.  
Hilton Timberlands Inc  
Huber Engineered Woods  
Huber Resources Corp.  
Irving Forest Products Inc.  
Katahdin Forest Management  
LandVest Management  
Lincoln Paper & Tissue  
Louisanna Pacific  
Madison Paper Industries

Maine Pulp and Paper Association  
Maine Tree Farm Committee  
Maine Tree Foundation  
Maine Bureau of Parks and Lands  
Maine Dept of Conservation –  
Recreational Trails Division  
Maine Department of Environmental  
Protection  
Maine Department of Inland Fisheries  
and Wildlife  
Maine Forest Service  
Maine Snowmobile Association  
New Page Inc.  
Northwood's Management  
Orion Timberlands  
Plum Creek Timber

Professional Logging Contractors of  
Maine  
Re-Energy  
Robbins Lumber Co.  
Small Woodlands Owners Association of  
Maine  
Southern Aroostook Adult Education  
Twin Rivers Paper Co.  
University of Maine Orono School of  
Forestry Resources  
Verso Paper Corp.  
Sappi Fine Papers, NA  
Seven Islands Land Company  
Wagner Forest Management  
Woodland Pulp





Keith Kanoti, water resource forester for the Maine Forest Service, teaches a Stream Smart class.

## Stream Smart reaches more than 170

Over the past two years, the Maine SFI Implementation Committee's increased emphasis on improving stream crossings has really paid off for Maine's fish and forests. Some of the significant accomplishments are:

- "Stream Start" training has reached more than 170 loggers and foresters, including programs for five municipal audiences from Falmouth to Caribou and for foresters in Augusta.
- A very successful education/outreach effort to students and the general public using the flume, an interactive display that has proved to be a powerful teaching tool on topics of erosion, fisheries habitat and general forestry within the streamside zones. (See story on Page 5.)
- Development of the Fisheries Improvement Network (FIN), a forum where private forest landowners can meet with agency principles for briefings and discussions on initiatives for assessing and improving fisheries habitats in Maine.

The Maine SFI subcommittee on Education developed a training module specifically for fish passage. Keith Kanoti, water resources forester for the Maine Forest

Service, took the lead on this effort, particularly with development of technical information. In fall 2011, the program was piloted with a workshop for Wagner Forest Management and American Forest Management.

Also in fall 2011, Maine Audubon led a coalition to seek a grant to develop a similar training program for municipal audiences. The coalition consisted on several state and federal agencies along with NGOs, the Maine SFI Implementation Committee and the Maine Forest Service.

The intent of SFI committee and the MFS was to help with the development of the new training for municipalities in hopes that the basic principles of the training would be consistent with those principles promoted through the training piloted for foresters and loggers.

"Our goal is to broaden the practice of sustainable forestry and also to expand public knowledge about the concept of sustainable forestry," said SFI Director Pat Sirois. "Each time we talk to students, landowners or snowmobilers about fish passage or show them how streams flow with the SFI flume, it creates an opportunity to teach them about sustainable forestry."



# FIN's second annual meeting 'quite successful'

On April 3, the Fisheries Improvement Network (FIN) held its second annual meeting, which was attended by representatives of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife, Maine Department of Marine Resources, Natural Resource Conservation Service, Keeping Maine's Forests, The Nature Conservancy, Atlantic Salmon Federation, Maine Forest Service, and representatives of nearly 6 million acres of SFI certified forestlands.

FIN was created to provide a forum where private forest landowners can meet with agency officials for briefings and discussions of initiatives to improve fisheries habitats.

"Forums like FIN are helping us move forward with restoring streams in Maine," said Jed Wright of USFWS. "Many landowners have participated in programs to inventory and assess their road crossings for fish passage barriers. There is great interest in knowing where the problems are, how to fix them, and to get them fixed."

The event focused largely on stream connectivity and three areas.

- How can I identify fish passage issues on my land base?
- Where are the fish and where should I begin improving passage?
- How can I begin fixing barriers?

"I think the last FIN meeting was



**FIN met April 3 at the Maine Forest Products Council office in Augusta.**

quite successful. There has been a considerable amount of trust built over the last couple of years between the fisheries agencies and the landowners," said Keith Kanoti, MFS resource forester.

Presenters offered ideas ranging from training programs for identifying fish passage barriers, to online tools identifying priority habitat areas where upgrading crossing efforts could be focused.

Landowners provided updates on progress made in upgrading crossings and shared several innovations developed and utilized in the last year for effective "Stream Smart" crossings that offered flexibility as well as lower unit costs. One such technique, piloted on Plum Creek land, using a concrete arch to cross a stream. The arch came from a form designed and produced by Dirigo Timberlands, a logging firm in North Anson. Dirigo Timberlands intends to produce these arches for distribution. For more information on the arches call 207-807-6131.

The FIN forum is the latest development in a growing relationship

between SFI Landowners, state and federal agencies and NGOs to improve Maine's fisheries through stream crossing upgrades on forest management roads to Stream Smart standards.

Sarah Medina with Seven Islands characterized FIN as "highly relevant with a good transfer of technical information between landowners and fisheries agencies. It is a good environment."

Another idea from the meeting was to widely distribute new Stream Smart ideas, tools and practices to the broader forest community and even public road's interest. Beginning later this spring, FIN will begin distributing this information through "FIN FACTS" a new periodic online publication.

"I think the type of collaboration that is fostered in these FIN meetings and workshops will be the force that does the most to restore salmon and brook trout fisheries in our forest lands and provides innovations that informs restoration work more broadly for fisheries around the country," said Josh Royte of TNC.



# SFI flume makes outreach memorable

Our education and outreach efforts not only have been expanded, they've been made much more compelling and memorable with the addition of the flume sand table, which was developed for the Stream Smart training effort.

This interactive display has become a powerful teaching tool on topics of erosion, fisheries habitat and general forestry within the streamside zones. It has spurred many useful conversations about the benefits of forestry as a land use in terms of protecting Maine's water resources because it demonstrates natural stream functions in an accelerated manner for students, foresters, municipal officials and the general public. It even drew a crowd at this year's legislative reception at the Maine Forest Products Council.

In 2012, the SFI Implementation committee was invited to join the MFS at two water festivals for 3rd-, 4th-, and 5th-graders.

Among the other agencies and associations represented were DEP, lake associations and watershed districts. More than 800 children and their science teachers came from across southern Maine to attend the water festival at the USM campus in Portland in May.

In September, the event was replicated for Northern Maine schools at the UMO campus. The goal of these events is to educate children on the importance of water for multiple purposes and showcase the various methods of protection and conservation. SFI and MFS used the flume to demonstrate water quality protection practices.



**The flume, shown above at the Maine Snowmobile show, is a powerful teaching tool about erosion, fisheries habitat and streamside forestry.**

In 2013 there are several schools including the Maine Academy of Natural Sciences that will receive similar presentation and information.

The flume also was a great attraction at the 2012 Maine Snowmobile Association (MSA) show last fall. Because of the flume, kids and adults surrounded the SFI booth for two solid days.

"Thanks for the fantastic display this weekend, I didn't go by once when there wasn't a crowd bunched up around the 'stream,'" Bob Meyers, MSA executive director, emailed later. "It was a big hit and did a great job educating more than a few people along the way. Appreciate the knowledge and creativity."

Manning the booth were SFI committee members Pat Sirois, SFI director, John Starrett of Sappi, Tim Richards of Madison Paper UPM, and Scott Pease of Hancock Lum-

ber. At first, snowmobilers were just wondering why forestry specialists were at the show.

But committee members began to explain that their snowmobile trail network had faced the same challenges as truck roads network. And that ultimately their network existed primarily on forestland. So the standards they apply to their crossings, which are really forestland crossings, should meet the same standards.

Crossings are reviewed as part of the functioning network of trails on the land. So the landowner has to be concerned about the snowmobile crossings, too. Sirois told the snowmobilers that if they mess up a crossing, it could have consequences for the landowner down the line.

A lot of people at the snowmobile show also own land. So it was a great outreach to small landowners.



# SFI and MFS collaborate on grader workshop

Many, if not most, of the grader operators working on Maine's land management roads have no formal training in grader operation. Training is often on the job, and although there are many talented operators in the field, many are reaching retirement age and knowledge is not always passed effectively from one generation of operators to the next.

The Maine Forest Service and Maine SFI collaborated on the organization of the workshop with a year in advance of planning. Approximately 50 percent of the cost of the workshop was covered by a Maine Outdoor Heritage Fund grant that was applied for and received by the Maine Forest Service.

These funds were passed through to the Maine SFI Implementation Committee, which handled the financial management from there. A private entity managing the money greatly simplified things over the state providing this function. The other 50 percent of the cost was covered by registration fees.



Having a good trainer is very important. Although there are grading programs in Maine, these programs (Maine DOT local roads for example) focus on municipal roads.

We felt that it was important to have this training focus specifically on land management roads. Because of this, we had to search outside of Maine for an instructor and program and eventually settled on Hugh Hambley of H&H Consulting from New Brunswick, Canada.

The six grader classes were provided with two graders each – some from

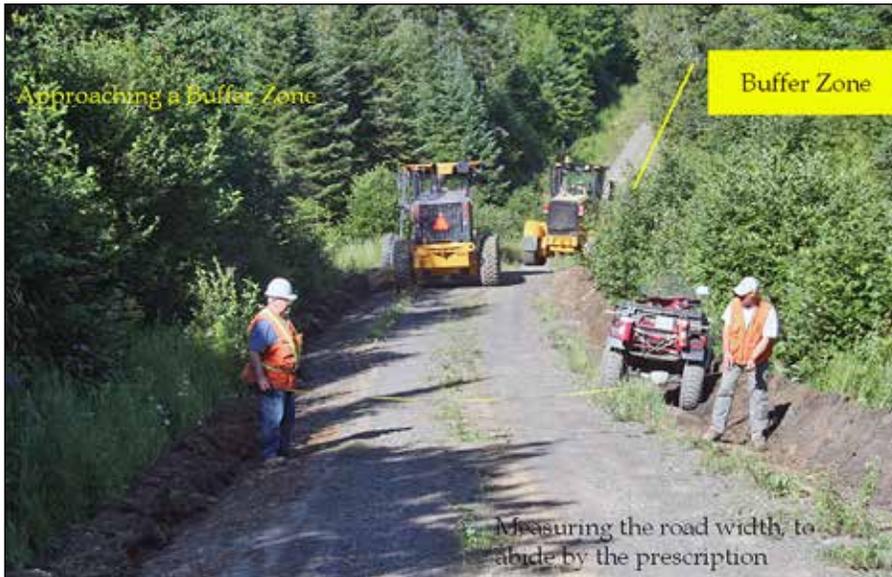
Maine DOT and a loaner grader from Nortrax. This was a bit problematic since it took operators a little while to get used to the different machine, but was preferable to having each operator bring their own grader.

To get the most benefit out of the class, these graders needed to be articulated and have the linkbar adjustment functioning to be able to switch positions of the saddle. Many graders are underutilized and the pin is frozen in the linkbar, being sure this is freely functioning is a must.

Graders also should be stripped of all accessories, including plow lights, wing tower and frame under the cab, under slung scarifier teeth, etc. This allows the grader to be driven into the woods when making ditch turnouts and back sloping without worry of this equipment getting in the way.

We tried to choose roads for use in the class that showed a variety of problems and situations, including over widened sections, lack of or filled ditches, no crown, turns and curves, hills and stream crossings.





# *SIC partners with SWOAM on handbook*

Maine's has a very diverse population in terms of family forest ownerships. There are in excess of 200 thousand small landowners, making up 5.5 million acres of non-commercial forest land in Maine. As a result, the Maine SIC has taken a multi-pronged approach to landowner outreach and the distribution of sustainable forestry practices' information.

One partnership to reach small landowners that continues to be supported by the Maine SIC is our relationship with the Small Woodland Owner of Association of Maine (SWOAM).

SWOAM understands that only a small percentage of Maine's 200,000 NIPFs are associated with a formal forestry organization or avail themselves of forestry expertise prior to harvests. So SWOAM has developed a small landowner handbook that is an excellent resource to prepare landowners to consider active forest management.

More than 5,000 handbooks have been distributed in the past four years and, after a revision process that includes new information consistent with requirements of the 2010-2014 SFI Standard, 5,000 more have been printed for distribution in 2013 and beyond.

The Maine SIC has contributed \$2,500 to the printing costs. Through a series of public events, SWOAM and the Maine SIC will introduce the new handbooks to family forest owners. Maine SFI Participating mills will distribute these handbooks through their individual landowner outreach efforts.



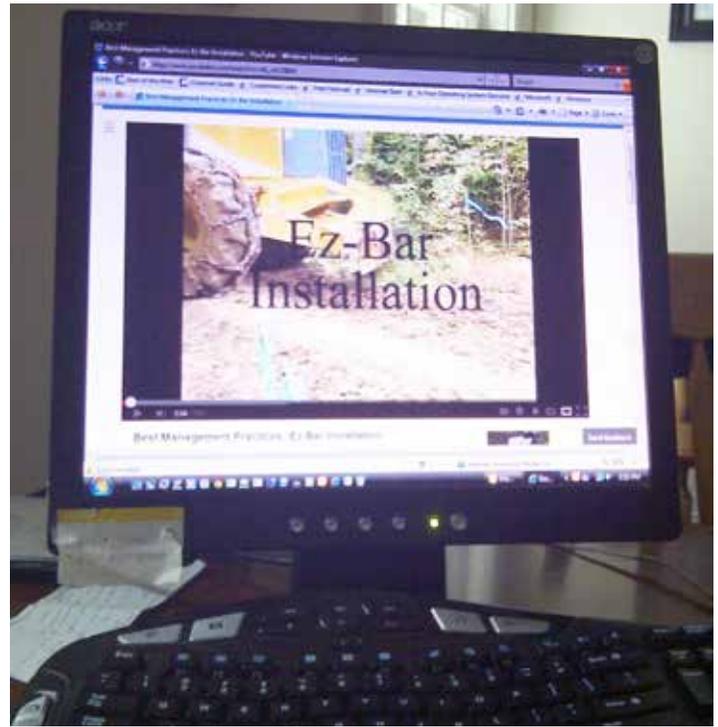
# EZ Bar Installation video eases cost of training

Geographically, Maine is a large state. Loggers and foresters incur tremendous expenses when participating in professional training and education programs. In many cases, foresters and loggers can travel over four hours to attend a training program. The costs of attending these training sessions involve travel expenses, production downtime, and salary and benefits. A major emphasis of expanding SFI educational efforts is to reduce resource professional training cost, allowing them to compete more effectively in a global marketplace.

Using current adult learning research on effective teaching strategies and individual learning styles, this new emphasis strives to develop and deliver cost effective, interactive, and targeted training to Maine foresters and logging professionals.

After the successful introduction of a distance education You Tube video on Best Management Practices for water quality – EZ Bar Installation – potential future topics will include active forest management, water quality, chop and drop, as well as small scale forestry in Southern Maine. Future topics will be selected through input from SFI members.

Building on previous SFI training workshops in Maine,



**A You Tube video is now available on best management practices for water quality.**

this effort will leverage the collective energy and expertise of Maine SFI Education Committee, Certified Logger Program, Quality Logger Program, Maine SAF, and the Maine Forest Service (MFS).

*– Kevin D. Doran, Ed.D*

*Natural Science Educator, Maine Forest Service*

## SFI's open invitation to ask tough questions

The Maine Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI) would like to remind you of a helpful service that has been available to Maine citizens since 1997: 1-888 SFI GOAL. SFI GOAL is a confidential, toll free hotline established specifically for the purpose of responding to public questions and concerns regarding forestry and timber harvesting practices in Maine.

Over the years we have fielded calls throughout the entire

***Concerned about a timber harvesting operation in your community?***

**Call 1-888-734-4625**

If you have questions or concerns about any forest practices in New Hampshire, Maine or Vermont or need information about forest tours, please call!

state on concerns ranging from water quality issues to visual impacts of a harvest. When we receive a call regarding a specific site, we as an industry will respond by sending forest resource professionals out to investigate.

In responding to a variety of calls since the hotline was launched, we have been able to work effectively with loggers, landowners and foresters by sharing techniques and knowledge that encourages the best possible outcomes. Although we as an industry want to understand and respond to challenges, it is important to understand that this is not an enforcement program. The events we have responded to have enabled SFI to identify problem areas where we can develop education and training programs that can be delivered to our loggers, foresters and landowners. Our goal is to improve practices on the ground.



# Executive order puts certification on equal footing

Maine has always been a leader when it comes to third-party forest certification – and an executive order signed by Governor Paul LePage has just reinforced this position.

The Maine executive order says: “The design, construction, operation and maintenance of any new or expanded state building shall incorporate ‘Green Building’ standards that give certification credits equally to forest products grown, manufactured, and certified under the Sustainable Forestry Initiative Standard, Forest Stewardship Council, American Tree Farm System, and Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification systems.”

Governor LePage believes that by supporting the full range of forest certification programs, Maine is advancing the state’s forest industry and helping its forest landowners compete in local, national and international markets. Seven million acres of Maine forests are certified to the SFI 2010-2014 Standard.

Since 2005, SFI certified-products have been excluded from the LEED forest certification/sourcing credit without a clear basis.

USGBC has dragged its feet too long on this issue, while barring responsibly sourced products certified to the SFI standard from the LEED forest certification/sourcing credit. This means North American forest products certified to SFI don’t get a LEED credit, yet products from Russia, Brazil, China and other countries certified to FSC do. Other green building rating tools, standards and codes have come out with inclusive positions on certification.



This eight-year process has also seen more than 6,000 petitioners and officials across the U.S. and Canada voice frustration with USGBC’s stance on this important issue.

Eighty-nine members of the U.S. Congress and 14 Governors have called on USGBC or created executive orders to ensure all forest certification standards, including SFI, are recognized in green building. Cana-

dian agencies recognize SFI and all credible certification standards.

This could be a powerful incentive for the USGBC to level the playing field. Now, the LEED rating tools only give credit for products certified to the FSC, yet 75 percent of certified lands in North America – 370 million acres – are certified to SFI, ATFS and CSA, and are not recognized.

## *Kennebec Woodland benefits landowners*

In 2011, Maine’s SIC joined a new effort to assist small landowners, the Kennebec Woodland Partnership (KWP). KWP is a group of organizations working to promote forest management through outreach to Kennebec County landowners.

This group has several demonstration projects that show the benefits of forest management to the environment, as well as the local economy. Projects include a demonstration forest with Augusta city limits and, on the same woodlot, a network of Nordic ski trails. The city, with help from KWP and SIC, also will construct a warming center.

Since the property is Tree Farm certified, the goal would be to have

the warming center constructed to green building standards that recognize Tree Farm and SFI-certified materials grown, harvested and manufactured in Maine.

The center also will educate those who visit and explain the benefits of active forest and multiple-use management, which is demonstrated by the 500-acre property’s ski trails.

The Kennebec Woodland partnership has developed a small landowner booklet, titled *Your Woodlot*, and distributed 2,000 copies at fairs and events in Kennebec County. The Maine SIC assisted with the printing costs. Another 6,000 copies will be distributed over the next two years.



# **Congratulations to CLP and all who made Maine logging safer!**



**This year Maine is quietly celebrating the 20th anniversary of a truce in a long battle over workers comp reform. Since a new system went into effect in January 1993, average workers comp rates have declined about 50 percent and the savings for the Maine logging industry are even more dramatic. In 2011, workers comp cost \$5.9 million less than it would have in 1993, with \$1.2 million in savings for conventional logging and \$4.7 million for mechanical logging.**