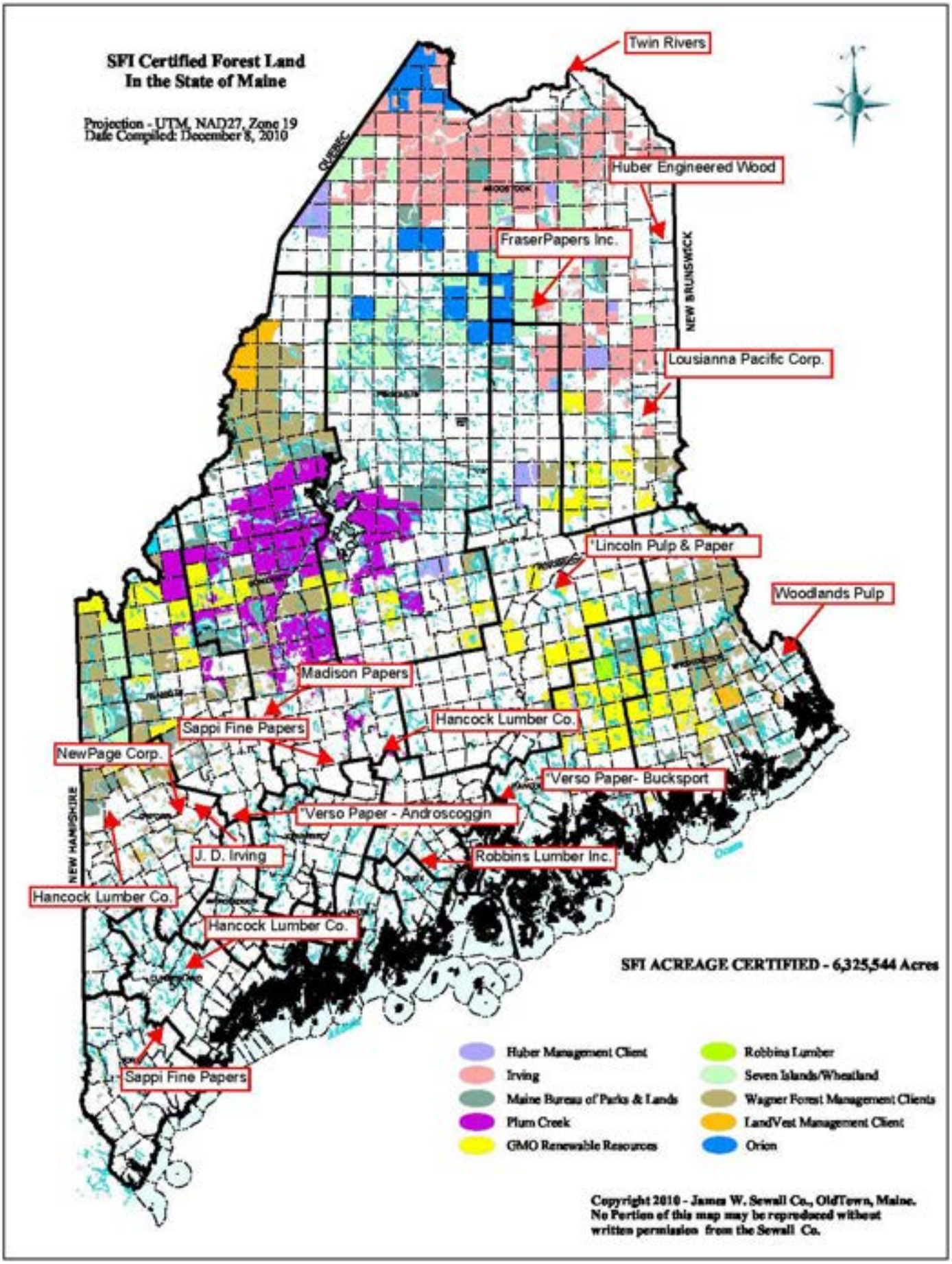
SFI IMPLEMENTATION COMMITTEE

MAINE

"SFI's Loggers, Bringing Stewardship to the Next Generation"

Maine's SFI Implementation Committee

2010-2011 Progress Report



*Indicates SFI participants and Chain of custody

A Message from the SIC Chair

By Mark Doty, Plum Creek

As demand for certified products grows, respected organizations around the world are taking a closer look at third-party forest certification programs such as the Sustainable Forestry Initiative ® (SFI ®). Independent SFI Inc. manages the largest single forest certification standard in the world. It improves forest management across the United States and Canada, and strengthens procurement globally through chain-of-custody certification and responsible fiber sourcing.

The Maine SIC works at the local level to promote the SFI Standard as a means to broaden the practice of sustainable forestry on both certified and uncertified lands and ensure on-the-ground progress. The members are resource professionals who volunteer a significant amount of time to assure that national SFI program objectives are consistently implemented and adapted to region-specific needs.

Maine continues to lead the country in sustainably managed forest certification and procurement from sustainably managed forests. In 2010, certified land increased in Maine with the addition of 620,000 acres, and another 650,000 acres are likely in 2011, along with 2 additional primary consuming mills. This brings Maine to 20 landowners with over 6 million acres SFI certified and 15 primary consuming mills SFI certified for their procurement of wood, many of these with chain of custody certification.

This leadership should be leveraged into branding and market opportunities for the state of Maine. The mills, landowners, state agencies and other stakeholders that work together on the SIC are well positioned to continue to push this effort forward. This annual report discusses some of the efforts being made to date, as well as the contributions by the LePage administration.

I wish to recognize the Maine Snowmobile Association (MSA) for once again setting the standard by joining the SIC to partner on expanding the use of BMPs in recreational trail construction. This also dramatically expands the SIC outreach capabilities.

The Education Committee is the centerpiece of the SIC, facilitating and coordinating the course content and training of over 6,500 continuing education participants since 1999. This accomplishment has been made possible by the close collaboration with Keith Kanoti and Jim Ecker of the Maine Forest Service, among many others.

The Outreach Committee is the cornerstone to accomplishing our mission, facilitating and coordinating Habitat for Humanity volunteers, the SWOAM handbook, the MSA show, a UMO forestry class, the SAF conference, ME TREE teacher tours, and the Maine BMP manual reprint, among other efforts.

I would like to thank the Executive Committee for the time and thoughtful guidance that they provide to the SIC, and the committees and members that invest their time in providing the education, outreach, wildlife, and accountability that is the SIC. I also wish to recognize the efforts and foresight of Pat Sirois, the driver behind our many successes at broadening the practice of sustainable forestry in Maine.

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Large Paper Customers and ME Producers Fund Pilot that Increases Certified Lands in Maine by 8.3%

Although Maine has the highest percentage of certified forest lands in the US, certification can be cost prohibitive for many small and medium size landowners. In 2010, Time Inc., Hearst Enterprises, Verso Paper Corp., Sappi Fine Paper North America and New Page Corp., together underwrote a pilot project aimed at streamlining the certification process with a goal of increasing the number of certified acres in Maine.

The pilot offered a rigorous yet more cost-effective and coordinated approach for medium-sized landowners to seek forest certification, as well as offering resources to support responsible forest management. This led to an additional 620,000 acres of lands certified to the SFI standard in Maine.

The Pilot also resulted in an additional 150,000 acres of family size ownerships that were certified to the American Tree Farm Standard. Combined, these two efforts resulted in an increase of Maine certified lands by 8.3 %.

Looking ahead, the Maine SIC has engaged many of the same funders to build on last year's success. In 2011 more than 650,000 additional acres are slated to be SFI certified using the same coordinated certification approach. 2011 sponsors are; Verso Paper Corp., Sappi Fine Papers North America, Time Inc. National Geographic Society and Hearst Enterprises.

Maine's SFI Releases Bald Eagle Nest Identification Guide

With a current inventory of over 400 nesting pairs of eagles, Maine has become a national leader in efforts to restore Bald Eagle habitat and population. To build on this success, the Maine SFI Wildlife Committee has

developed a guide to help forest resource professionals identify Bald Eagle nests that could be impacted by forest operations.

Although the Bald Eagle was recently removed from both the Federal and State Endangered Species Acts, they are still legally protected by other laws that prohibit their harm or harassment (Golden and Bald Eagle Protection Act).

The Bald Eagle guide provides information on preferred landscapes, tree species, behavioral and activity periods, best practices, and a statewide listing of wildlife biologists.

Maine's SIC Helps Enhance Trout Habitat

The Maine SFI Implementation Committee is working to support state and federal efforts to protect

brook trout habitat by installing coarse woody debris at two sites. Maine's SIC is also organizing workshops designed to help foresters and loggers learn how to enhance trout habitat along forested waterways such as streams and lakes.

The project, which is being funded by the U.S. Forest Service and spearheaded by the Maine Forest Service (MFS) and Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife, will enable MFS to expand its temporary forest bridge loaner program in conjunction with Maine's SIC. In 15 workshops around the state so far, foresters and loggers have learned how to build temporary skidder bridges which, in some cases, have eliminated the need for permanent crossings, thus reducing the impact on fish.

Both MFS foresters and industry officials have pointed to the success of the collaborative effort, as well as highlighting the fact the overall good health of Maine's native brook trout population is due primarily to the fact that much of the state is forested, which leads to good water quality and habitat conditions.

Discussions concerning future collaborative projects are currently underway between MFS and industry officials.

"The Maine Forest Service has worked cooperatively with Maine SFI and Maine forest landowners for many years on many fronts, refining techniques for course woody debris trout habitat enhancement and gaining greater acceptance of this practice is just the latest chapter in our ongoing partnership," says Keith Kanoti, Water Resources Forester with the Maine Forest Service.

Jason Castonguay, Forest Manager for Orion Timberlands, one of the SFI-certified landowners involved in the project, says: "When we were asked by the Maine Forest Service to help out with this trout project, we felt that the project would be beneficial to everyone. These partnerships work well because each group can offer resources that the other might not have available. By working together a lot can be gained for a good cause."

Kanoti says Maine's healthy native brook trout population is largely due to the fact much of the state is forested – and the forests that produce excellent water quality and habitat conditions for trout also sustain Maine's forest products industry. He says the forest service is in discussions with other SFI program participants to implement further projects on their lands.

SFI and MFS Team up for 15 Workshops on Constructing Temporary Bridges

The intended audiences for this workshop are loggers, foresters and landowners. This is a hands-on exercise in constructing two timber mats for utilization as temporary bridges in harvest operations. The intent is to demonstrate that the construction of mats is not difficult and achievable with few tools and a little time. In some workshops there are opportunities to

demonstrate proper stream crossing protocols by taking the mats, once constructed, to an active harvest operation and installing them across a stream. BMP principles are reinforced, including the necessity of risk management associated with severe weather events.

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 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 varietyof 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.

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, and Vermont or if you want information about forest tours, please call!

SFI Trains the Trainers

From the beginning, Maine's SFI has strived to provide training in a manner most effective with adult learners. Over the years we have utilized adult education experts to help us with methods and strategies that offer

the best results in adult education settings. SFI also shapes its education efforts to ensure that best practices are taught and understood in a consistent way, whether the landscape being worked is in York or Aroostook county.

Kevin Doran, Natural Science Educator with the MFS, is one of those "adult learner" experts that we're very fortunate to have available to us. On May 20th, Kevin, with assistance from Pat Sirois and Keith Kanoti, led an interactive workshop for SFI trainers.

After participating in discussions about adult learners' characteristics, motivations, and needs, participants used Kolb's Learning Style Inventory © to understand their own learning styles. Topics presented included generational learning characteristics and training implications, adult development theory, motivation of SFI workshop participants, barriers to learning, and the development of the training "story."

The fun-filled afternoon session included an opportunity to practice exemplary adult learning concepts; develop the "story", and "present" a fish passage topic to our group of trainers. This session proved to be an excellent learning experience, while reinforcing factors that contribute to successful adult learning workshops and

MSA Leads Motorized Recreationalists in Protecting Water Quality and Fisheries.

Until recently, training programs designed to protect water quality at trail stream crossings focused primarily on the activities of forest resource professionals. But that began to change when the Maine Snowmobile Association (MSA) approached the Maine SFI Education Committee seeking the same training for trail masters from Maine's 300 local snowmobile clubs.

The new program's goal is to establish the same consistent training system for snowmobile clubs as SFI has established for Maine's forest products industry. The standards for success will be the same whether they're applied in York or Aroostook County . To successfully meet those standards, the training needs to be standardized as well.

As Keith Kanoti, the Maine Forest Service's water quality forester, puts it, "the Best Management practices principles applied for snowmobile trail stream crossings are the same as those we apply in forestry."

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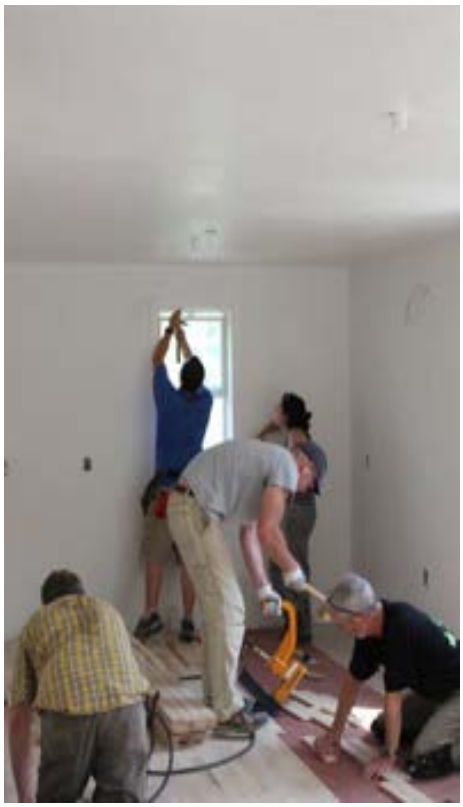
In October of 2010, SFI, working with the MFS and MSA, piloted a snowmobile trail's stream crossing workshop with a dozen knowledgeable trail masters. After honing the program, a second workshop was offered in Hermon to twenty participants. The program's momentum has continued to build as the Department of Conservation's recreational trails department and ATV Maine have joined the effort by committing to support and expand training statewide in 2011.

Community Outreach Through Habitat for Humanity Projects

For the third year running, SFI companies contribute directly with donated SFI materials and in-kind labor for the construction of a Habitat for Humanity home. Jim Robbins Sr., is seen in the picture below on December 9th, 2011, finishing up a long days work leading SFI volunteers on this new home, which was sponsored by the Waldo County Chapter for Habitat for Humanity. Project leaders like Jim insisted on a stretch goal to get the family into this new home by Christmas and they succeeded.

A team from Sappi Fine Papers with SIC staff pitched in on a Habitat project in Westbrook on June 9th. Flooring and trim work were the tasks of a long and productive day.



Trees Ltd. Hosts Local School Children

Since SFI's inception, the Certified Logging Professional Program (CLP) has been the Maine SIC's approved logger training program. Trees Ltd, a family owned and run timber harvesting business, takes CLP's outreach and education component very seriously. Don and Will Cole, who also own Cole Brothers Timberland and are based in Sidney, Maine, have been harvesting wood in central Maine since they were teen-agers, and now they often return for 2nd and 3rd cuts on lots they helped manage decades ago.

On May 11, 15 school children visited the Coles' current job, on privately owned woodlands in Kennebec County, Maine. The landowners were delighted to host this educational opportunity. Bringing kids to the workplace is an annual event for the Coles, and some years they host several tours of their work.

The youngsters, 3rd through 5th graders from Central Maine Christian Academy in Lewiston, got a chance to see mechanical equipment at work, watch a forester — Andy Shultz— take a core sample of a 100 year old white pine, and learn how modern logging is conducted to meet multiple landowner and social objectives.

To her students' delight, Katie Dyer takes a few swings at the wedge.

They saw how a portable skidding bridge is deployed to protect water quality, and how decisions are made about which trees should be cut and which should keep growing. The highlight of the visit was watching Don Cole conventionally fell the big pine, expertly placing it into a narrow gap between future crop trees without damaging them.

To underscore the point about bringing stewardship to the next generation, Katie Dyer, the teacher pictured to the left, visited a Trees Ltd harvest site 10 years ago when she was a student. That experience led her to contact the Coles and bring a new age class of kids to the woods.

Maine's Forests are Growing;

producing clean water, wildlife habitats, recreational opportunities, a wide variety of forest products and jobs well into the future. Maine's SFI Implementation Committee is proud to take part in this tremendous story.

Maine's SFI Implementation Committee Members

American Forest Management
ATV of Maine
Certified Logging Professional Program of ME
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 LLC
LandVest Management Co
Lincoln Paper & Tissue LLC
Louisanna Pacific
Madison Paper Industries
Woodland Pulp LLC
Maine Pulp and Paper Association
Maine Tree Farm Committee
Maine Tree Foundation
ME Bureau of Parks and Lands
ME Dept of Conservation – Recreational Trails Division
ME Department of Environmental Protection
ME Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife
ME Forest Service
ME Snowmobile Association
New Page Inc.
Northwood's Management Co LLC
Orion Timberlands LLC
Plum Creek Timber Co.
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Robbins Lumber Co.
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Sappi Fine Papers, NA
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