SFI works to ensure the health and future of our forests

Maine SIC Progress Report 2018

This report was produced by Maine's SFI Implementation Committee (SIC)

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Since 1997, we have responded to concerns ranging from water quality issues to visual impacts of a harvest by sending forest resource professionals to investigate. Our goal is to improve practices on the ground.

We work effectively with loggers, landowners and foresters by sharing techniques and knowledge to encourage the best possible outcomes, including training programs that can be delivered to our loggers, foresters and landowners.

Forests store carbon, clean our water and sustain biodiversity .

Table of Contents

2018 map of SFI-certified timberland in Maine 2

FIN: Solving problems for rivers, fish, road networks 3

Let's get the right message to the right people..... 4

In 2017, timber growth exceeded harvest by 47% 5

SIC donors and crew help Alice's wish come true 6

SFI, PLT are big hits as Girl Scouts host Green ME Up!..... 8

As SFI welcomes PLT, a good relationship gets better 9

SIC wins SFI award for leadership, outreach, growth 10

What Maine's SFI Implementation Committee does 11

LEA receives SFI grant for Sustainable Forests Project..... 12

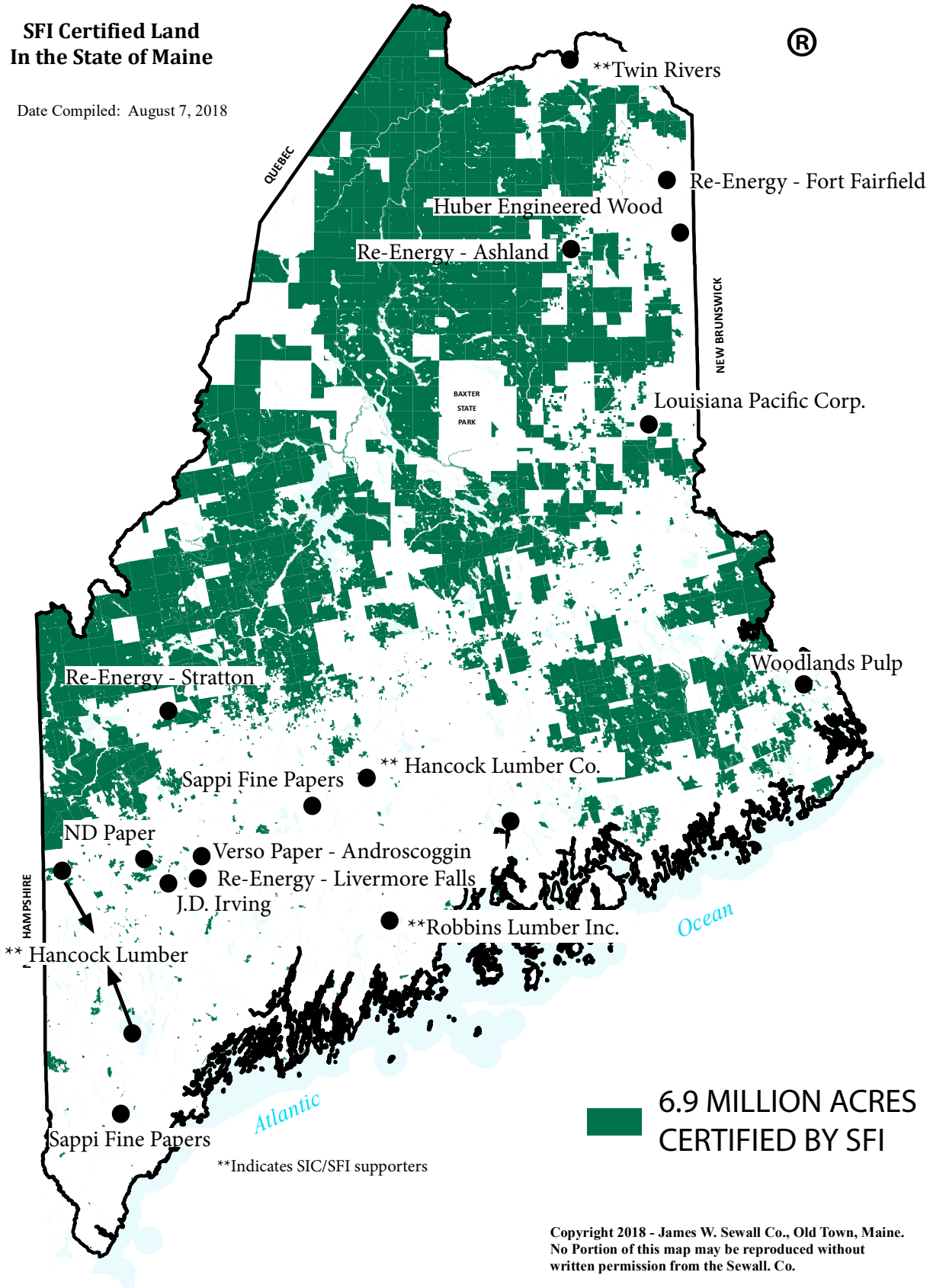
SFI members' investments have a lasting impact 13

Learning the science of log scaling 14

CLP is teaching loggers how to stay safe 15

Workshop focuses on road rehabilitation..... 16

Hard work has paid off, but challenges lie ahead 17



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FIN: Solving problems for rivers, fish, road networks

Joshua Royte
Conservation Scientist
The Nature Conservancy

Fish may seem to live in just one place, but most often they need many dozens of stream miles in which to swim. They move toward food or toward forested headwaters for spawning. They move to avoid predators, to find warmer or colder water depending on the season, or to find sheltered headwaters when mainstems are flooded or, conversely, deeper habitat when tributaries run dry. When fish lack access to a broad network of stream habitat, they become stunted and reproduce poorly. Entire populations can blink out.

I work for The Nature Conservancy (TNC) in Maine, part of a global non-governmental, non-profit organization. When planning for restoration of Maine's Penobscot River, I found out how little is known about the access that fish have from mainstem rivers into forested headwater habitat. There wasn't data on where small dams, natural falls, and problematic road crossings created barriers to wildlife movement.

Working with partners from the U.S. Fish and Wildife Service (USFWS), Maine Department of Marine Resources (DMR) and the Maine Forest Service (MFS), we developed a strategy to evaluate Penobscot road-stream crossings so we can guide restoration to the most critical places. I quickly learned, thanks to landowners with whom we already work, that information on road networks, especially around streams, can be politically sensitive. I had to find a way protect the very landowners we wanted to work with from potential misuse of their roads information.

Pat Sirois, Maine SIC coordinator, suggested I help him and his Wildlife Committee develop a forum where landowners can have conversations with river professionals and share information on what makes problems for fish or for foresters at road crossings, and to find solutions to replace barrier road-stream crossings with fish-friendly ones. They named the committee the Fisheries Improvement Network (FIN).

FIN helped develop key messages, such as don't pinch/narrow the stream, maintain a natural stream bottom, slope and stream banks through the structure. Larger, open-bottom structures are less prone to flooding by beaver or debris jams, so they they improve transportation safety and durability. Less scour means longer-lasting metal culverts and less soil erosion, which improves water quality.

Now, with landowner permissions, crews trained and managed by TNC fan out across Maine measuring bridges, culverts, nearby dams and natural falls. The information – 24,000 data points and growing – is fed into a comprehensive database: public data available online, and private data shared one-on-one with landowners.

This huge effort wouldn't be possible without the trust, support and – crucially – the permission of Maine's large forest landowners, who collectively manage more than 11 million acres of our highest-value habitat. TNC's expertise in working respectfully with landowners was essential to establishing these relationships.

Today, with more than 85 percent of the state's road-stream crossings assessed, the data are clear. Forty percent of culverts create barriers to fish and other aquatic life, many fewer on timberlands. Another 52 percent are probable barriers that deserve a closer look. As the data has accrued, we realized most of the developed world would benefit from similar information. FIN was one part of a solution. The group shares innovations and new information, practical and affordable construction techniques, and even funding sources.

It is now second nature for SFI land managers to replace problem culverts with waste block bridges, temporary bridge crossings or large, bottomless arched culverts, including the Dirigo concrete modular arch introduced to our FIN group and now used by many. The solutions developed on dirt roads and shared at FIN meetings have informed and inspired smaller private landowners, as well as town and state road managers.

More than 500 road stream crossings have been improved since we started this work, creating and extending healthy stream networks for some of the nation's most important Eastern brook trout and Atlantic salmon populations.

Let's get the right message to the right people

Dale Currier

Chair, Maine SFI Implementation Committee

I would like to thank the SIC for all the hard work that has been done this year – I have some large shoes to fill– and by working together I believe we will exceed all of our goals set in 2018. We have a great coordinator, staff and team in the SIC that will enable us to have a successful year-plus.

I really appreciate all the SIC does for outreach and education, so I think this is a good time to consider how to influence people outside of our industry. They are our larger constituency.

For example, one of our biggest challenges today is a shortage of labor, in part because a lot of people aren't willing to stay in Maine. I would like to see the SIC work on our ability to attract and keep the talent that we have in this state.

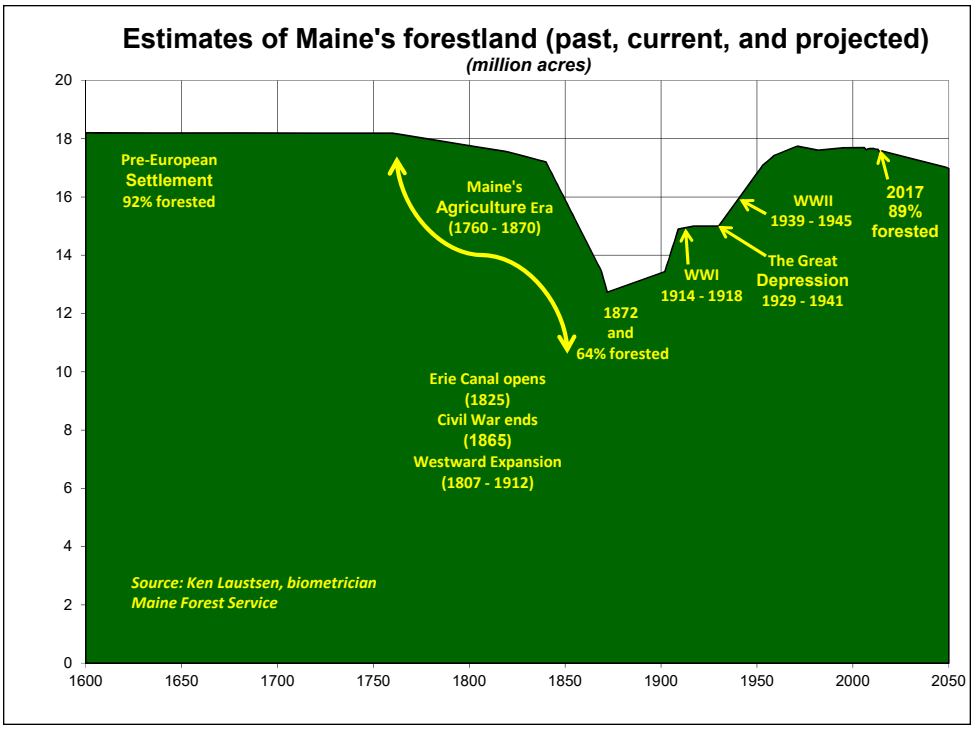
Fortunately, one of the SIC's strengths is that we partner with so many great organizations, including those working for the future of our industry, our children and their schools. They can help us get the word out about the viable and valuable resources our industry provides, including jobs.

Depending on what an individual wants to do in the forest industry, there are more jobs opening up every day. Logging contractors are in demand, as well as those who can support the industry, especially in trades such as mechanics, equipment salespeople, and foresters.

The jobs we offer also benefit communities and people who work in unrelated fields, such as health care or retail sales. If our industry prospers, others prosper. We are not alone, but we knowingly need to be connected.

We should increase our efforts to reach key audiences, including teachers. I have two young kids and one just entered the public school system. I see that kids are greatly influenced by their teachers. It is essential that teachers understand that carbon sequestration of wood is a great way to combat global warming and that SFI certification insures that wood is harvested sustainably.

We need to help the people who are educating our kids understand that trees are not the problem, but with proper management they are part of the solution. They need to know that our members produce fiber from a certified chain of custody program. They need to know that our state is roughly 90 percent forested, which is a great improvement over past centuries.

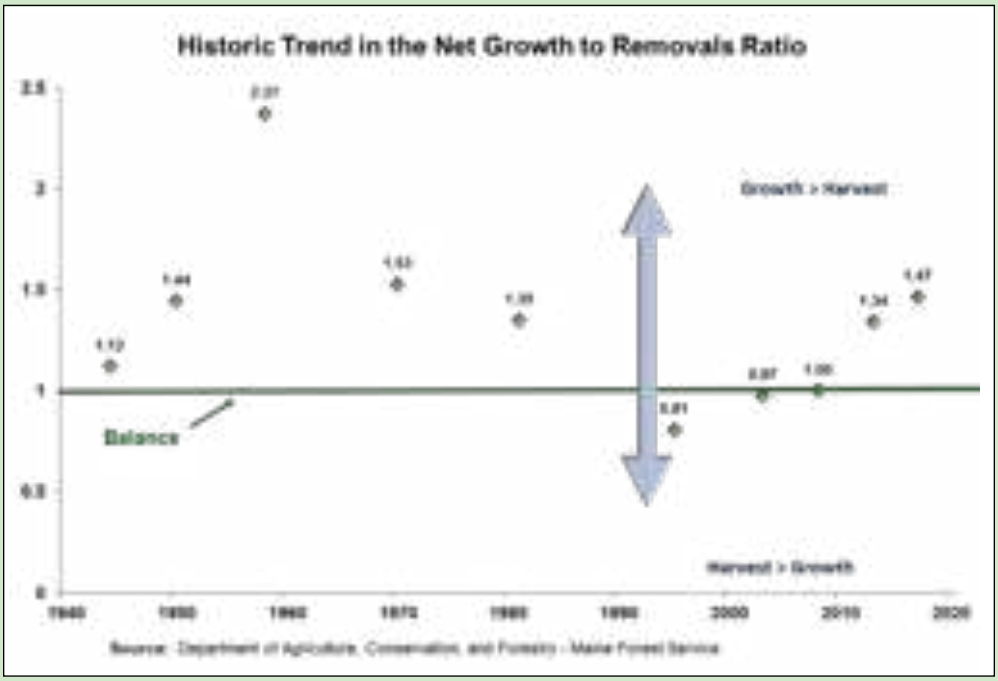


There are lots of ways to get our message out. When I was in college, I visited schools to talk about forestry using "Discovery boxes" as an aide with Project Learning Tree.

Teacher tours today perpetuate the same message I was delivering years ago and are an extremely important delivery node because they are teaching the teacher.

At the same time, we've got to reach out to our stakeholders within the SIC. They have to see the value cre-

In 2017, timber growth exceeded harvest by 47%



One measure of sustainable forest management is the relationship between how much timber is grown and how much is harvested. In the long run, the desirable net growth to harvest ratio is 1:1, meaning annual growth and harvest are balanced. A value greater than one indicates growth is greater than harvest.

Since 2008, growth has exceeded harvest in Maine. In 2017 growth exceeded harvest by 47 percent, the highest level since 1971.

ated by the SFI brand. In order to achieve external value of SFI to our stakeholders, we need to locally advertise to educate those outside the industry about the reasons a consumer would want to purchase an SFI certified forest product. The consumer has to feel good about the decision to purchase SFI products and that is achieved by specific local marketing.

If the SFI brand is being sought and celebrated, that's good for our stakeholders. Recently we have seen migration to the SFI system from various other certification programs, and that is an important trend to capitalize on.

I also want to make sure our stakeholders get what they want out of our organization. I'd like to hear our members' ideas about what we should be focusing on. I'd like to reach out to make sure that their voices are being heard. I don't have the answer yet for how to do that, but maybe it can come at a general round-table discussion during our meetings.

I've also been talking with SIC Coordinator Pat Sirois about the need for BMP refresher classes. As chair of the Honor and Integrity Committee, I know we have been looking at several issues around BMPs.

Finally, I'm proud of our partnership with the Make-A-Wish Maine Foundation and I hope to swing a hammer this year rather than participate just by donating materials. It is a great cause and I am proud that we are part of this effort.

Partnering with great organizations, from Make-A-Wish to the Maine Snowmobile Association, also is a great way to educate the public about what the SIC does and how much our industry contributes to Maine's economy and environment.

So these are some of my ideas. I hope you'll share your thoughts with me (**Dale.Currier@lpcorp.com**) about how the SIC can reach out to people who could or should know more about sustainable forestry.

Our industry is well aware of these issues, but we cannot just preach to the choir. If we want to make a difference, we need to reach beyond forest products circles and get the right messages to the right people.

Dale Currier graduated from the University of Maine in 2000 with a B.S. in Forestry. He's worked for Fraser Paper, Irving Woodlands and Nadeau Logging, and currently is Resource Manager II at Louisiana-Pacific Corporation in New Limerick.

SIC donors and crew help Alice's wish come true

After just a few minutes inside her custom-made "She Shed," Alice Skiff came to the front door with a heartfelt message for the people who built it.

"Thank you, thank you, thank you, thank you and thank you!" she said.

Alice, 14, had dreamed of a special place to hang out with her friends through her long and difficult treatment for brain cancer, which is now in remission.

"You're very welcome, said Pat Sirois, speaking for the SFI crew and donors, and staff and volunteers from Make-A-Wish-Maine.

"She seems really, really pleased," Sirois said, "and of course it's a great feeling for us to deliver that."

Alice Skiff, center, enjoys her "She Shed" with family and friends.

Over the years, SFI Maine has worked hard on many community projects, including building fish-friendly ice shacks to raise money to improve fish passage and providing materials for Habitat for Humanity homes and cabins at Pine Tree Camp for people with disabilities. Last year, the SIC partnered with Make-A-Wish to make the wishes of two boys come true.

This year, they were determined to make Alice's dream a reality. First, they completed a small model, then they built the She Shed at Sirois' home in Litchfield

"Everyone sort of got to know Alice through a drawing she had sent around (see below)," Sirois said. "For eight days straight, people worked as hard as they could to make it happen. "

Alice planned the tiny house during her long and difficult treatment for brain cancer.

On June 25, the She Shed was transported in two pieces from Litchfield to Newcastle on trucks, which were followed by a line of vehicles carrying the SIC crew.

Assembling the She Shed next to Alice's family's home, "had its challenges," Sirois said. "We had concerns about the weather. Concerns about moving the building. Concerns about the ability to get into this spot, which was pretty tough. But people rallied and everybody performed beyond expectations and we got it done."

While the crew worked, Make-A-Wish staff took Alice on a limo ride with family and friends, including a stop for cupcakes at Laugh Loud, Smile Big in Rockport.

The finished She Shed is 12 feet by 16 feet, with a loft bedroom similar to those in the tiny homes featured on one of Alice's favorite TV shows. It has a projector screen, two beds, a pull-out table and a couch. Plumbing and electrical systems can be added if the family wishes to the kitchenette and bathroom.

"It matches the image in my head," Alice said. "I love it! It's all I ever wanted."

Video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Zue1Fx-V2u4g&t=67s.

Donors

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Home Deport, Topsham
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SFI work crew

Kevin Doran, Maine Forest Service
Richard and Lynn Wing, Wing and Son Logging
Scott Pease, Hancock Lumber
Gordy Mouw, SFI Inc.
Tom Doak, Maine Woodland Owners
Sarah Medina, Seven Islands Land Co.
Gordon Gamble, Wagner Forest Management
John Starrett, retired forester, SIC member
Mike Dann, retired forester, SIC member
Dave Griswold, retired forester, SIC member
Kevin McCarthy, retired forester, SIC member,
Mark Andrews, Weyerhaeuser
Susan McCarthy, Maine Forest Products Council
Whitney Miller, Make-A-Wish
Bethany Sirois
Brenda Lawrence
Meghan Hamilton
Belinda Gaudet
Mackenzie, David and Megan Perry
Talia Hempstead
Jacob, Ana-Sofia and Nico Holmes
Craig and Mike, Rockport Landscape & Design,
Sabrina, Angela, Kelly and Jerry from TD Bank North

SFI, PLT are big hits as Girl Scouts host Green ME Up!

By Sarah Medina, Seven Islands Land Co., and Board of Directors, Girl Scouts of Maine

FREEPORT – The Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI Maine) and Project Learning Tree (PLT) booths were big hits at the Earth Day event *Green ME Up*! at L.L. Bean on April 21. The event, designed to encourage the public to learn more about sustainability and help them be stewards of the earth, was organized by Girl Scouts of Maine and open to the public.

Pat Sirois, SFI Maine coordinator, used the flume table to demonstrate proper road crossings and what landowners do to maintain "fish friendly" environments.

"The Girl Scouts already had a real understanding of sustainability," Sirois said, "and some of them were exceptional in their ability to articulate the concepts."

PLT volunteers facilitated multiple interactive workshops on "Every Tree for Itself" and "Water Wonders," and helped more than 500 kids make tree cookie necklaces or medallions. SFI members created and donated the tree cookies.

In addition to the forestry sector (SFI, PLT, SAPPI and Irving), exhibitors included Maine Audubon; Garbage to Gardens (composting); Natural Resources Council of Maine; Lee Auto (electric cars); Coke (recycling soda bottles); Paint Care; Sustainable Biofuels; Cooperative Extension; L.L. Bean Outdoor Discovery School; EVO-Rock and Fitness (climbing wall), and, of course, Girl Scouts (program, camp, Junior Maine Guides.) Entertainment included Earth Jams, Planet Pan and stage performances by the Ecology School. Poland Spring water provided a hydration station and three unique food trucks were serving.

Girl Scouts from across Maine gathered in Freeport.

Both the SFI and PLT booths were two deep most of the day, from 10 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. We talked with Girl Scouts from as far south as Eliot and north from Madawaska.

"It was a great way to launch these new relationships with the Girl Scouts of Maine and with SFI," said Patricia Maloney, coordinator of Maine Project Learning Tree. "Our volunteers made the PLT and SFI exhibits a popular stop at the Green ME Up event."

The event was so popular it ran over by 30 minutes. Since everyone agreed, it was a big success, we plan to hold it again next year. So be forewarned: Sirois, Maloney and I will be looking for additional exhibitors and volunteers to help present the forestry sector's wonderful sustainability stories.

"When you are a Girl Scout, it's easy to go green," said Joanne Crepeau, CEO, Girl Scouts of Maine. "Our mission is to build girls of courage, confidence, and character, who make the world a better place. Girl Scouts sees the importance of ensuring the health of our planet, and we hope to inspire everyone to take action in their own lives to make Maine – and the world – a greener place."

The SFI and PLT booths were crowded most of the day.

As SFI welcomes PLT, a good relationship gets better

What's changed or might change since the Sustainable Forestry Initiative Inc. (SFI) became the new home of Project Learning Tree (PLT) last summer? An already good relationship has become even better.

PLT, which previously was housed at the American Forest Foundation (AFF), is an award-winning environmental education program that uses trees and forests to increase youth understanding of the environment and conservation. Under the auspices of the Maine TREE Foundation, PLT is continuing to delivering quality programs to Maine's schools, just as it has since 1977.

"When the transfer from AFF to SFI took place, SFI committed to welcoming PLT into its Washington D.C. offices," said Patricia Maloney, Maine coordinator. "The PLT staff is now fully settled and all seem very happy with the level of professionalism and support that is shared by the SFI staff."

Kathy Abusow, SFI president and CEO, wrote that SFI plans to keep everything intact for a couple of years while reviewing the PLT program.

Abusow sees PLT's integration into SFI, which has enthusiastically supported PLT for years, as an opportunity for the program to expand its reach and impact. At the same time, SFI's role as a sustainability leader will be bolstered by PLT's expertise in education, an increasing focus in SFI's community engagement work.

"We have big plans for the future and are committed to continuing PLT's work as a high-quality education program," Abusow said. "Ultimately, we would like to be able to say that every teacher across North America and beyond recognizes Project Learning Tree as an invaluable resource for professional development, environmental education curriculum, and taking children outdoors to learn."

PLT has consistently received prestigious awards and recognition from leading educational and community organizations. PLT state coordinators, workshop facilitators, and educators have won the Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching and the Presidential Innovation Award for Environmental Educators.

Pat Maloney, second from right, said the Earth Day event at L.L. Bean in April, was "a great way to launch these new relationships with the Girl Scouts of Maine and with SFI."

More than one quarter of U.S. Department of Education Green Ribbon Schools are PLT GreenSchools.

PLT's instructional materials are aligned with state and national academic standards and meet or exceed the North American Association for Environmental Education's Guidelines for Excellence. PLT's Environmental Experiences for Early Childhood curriculum won a Learning Magazine Teachers' Choice Award and PLT has also received straight A's in environmental education from the California Department of Education. More than 20,000 educators attend PLT workshops every year and this partnership between PLT and SFI will help the program grow and reach new audiences across the globe in diverse ways.

At the state level, Maloney said, she and Pat Sirois, SFI coordinator, have begun this transition by talking with one another. She plans to attend the ME SFI/SIC meetings and Sirois has attended a ME PLT Steering Committee meeting.

"For now, we all understand that this is a transitional period and it appears that both SFI and PLT are approaching changes with a great deal of communication and understanding of the change process," Maloney said.

SIC wins SFI award for leadership, outreach, growth

At the 2017 SFI Annual Conference in Ottawa last fall, Maine's SIC received its fourth SFI Implementation Committee Achievement Award. This award recognizes exceptional work by the 34 SFI Implementation Committees across the U.S. and Canada. Maine has won the award in 2000, 2009, 2013 and 2017, tying it with Minnesota's SIC for the most awards.

"The Maine committee exemplifies SFI's connection with environmental education, community engagement and outdoor recreation for all," said Kathy Abusow, SFI Inc. president and CEO.

In Ottawa to accept the award were, from left, Scott MacDougall, Irving Woodlands; Elizabeth Farrell, American Forest Management; Gordon Gamble, Wagner Forest Management; Jim Contino, Verso Paper; Pat Sirois, SIC Maine, and Jason Metnick, SFI Inc.

Maine's SIC was selected based on education outreach efforts focused on water quality; a community partnership with Make-A-Wish Maine to grants wishes for children with life-threatening illnesses, and the growth of the SFI Program.

"Education and outreach have long been a strength of the Maine SFI Implementation Committee. Every year we hold multiple events and workshops that involve hundreds of people and benefit our communities," said Pat Sirois, SIC Maine coordinator. "This award really belongs to the network of countless people who care about Maine's forests."

Education outreach highlights from 2017 included an expanded flume table program, an effective outreach tool to raise awareness of sustainable forest management, and best management practices for water quality.

The SIC worked with Make-A-Wish Maine to brighten the lives of two boys. For 13-year old Kyan MacDonald, a cabin delivered to his home is a dream come true. "Kyan's Kabin," complete with two lofts, built-in storage and windows letting in plenty of light, was unveiled as a surprise on August 9. Kyan was diagnosed with acute myeloid leukemia and is now in remission.

On July 20, 2017, four-year-old Derek Wilson got his one-of-a-kind Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtle-themed playhouse.

The main part of the playhouse is a two-floor block and it includes custom-made doors featuring Derek's name. Derek was diagnosed with leukemia almost three years ago and remains in treatment.

Supporting Make-A-Wish Maine is a powerful example of SFI's innovative approach to community engagement, which focuses on working with a diverse group of partners. Both projects were made with donated materials certified to SFI from SFI Program Participants.

Advantech subflooring came from Huber Engineered Woods. J.D. Irving provided spruce dimensional lumber. Laminated strand lumber came from Louisiana-Pacific. Weyerhauser supplied pressure treated lumber. The Seven Islands Land Co. donated maple flooring.

Maine's SIC also continued to grow in 2017. Conservation Forestry brought 359,000 acres managed by Huber Resources, and Prentiss & Carlisle added its 748,000 acres into the SFI Program.

"The Maine committee's focus on environmental education, community engagement, and outdoor recreation is part of a long tradition of supporting SFI's larger strategic goals and providing leadership for other SFI committees," said Gordy Mouw, SFI's director of Program Participant Relations.

What Maine's SFI Implementation Committee does

Wildlife Committee

Promoting forest management to enhance habitat and address issues of concern.

Education Committee

Establishing criteria for logging training programs and evaluating them to insure they're effective.

Photo by Jack Witham

Outreach Committee

Raising awareness of sustainable practices for landowners industry leaders and the public.

Honor/Integrity Committee

Managing Maine's SFI hotline for questions and concerns about harvesting practices.

Partner organizations

SFI participants, Certified Logging Professional, Maine Forest Service, Maine Inland Fisheries and Wildlife, Maine Audubon, University of Maine, Maine Snowmobile Association, MFS Foresters Institute, Maine Woodland Owners, Maine Tree Foundation, Project Learning Tree, ATV Maine, NELA, NOAA, NRCS, Project Share, USFWS.

Partial list of projects/programs

Education Committee: *Harvesting to meet landowners objectives; bridge mat construction; Stream Smart road crossings; BMPs for water quality; aesthetics for commercial harvests; balancing wildlife considerations with forest productivity; beaver management; climate change and forest management roads; temporary plastic roads*

Wildlife Committee: *Works with state and federal agencies to identify best practices for wildlife and habitat; FIN.*

Outreach Committee: *Presentations included the Maine Snowmobile Association show, Maine Science Festival, Children's Water Festivals; Harvest Satisfaction Survey promotion; SIC report sent to Maine legislators and municipalities.*

LEA receives SFI grant for Sustainable Forests Project in Lakes Region

SFI awarded the Lakes Environmental Association (LEA) a $10,000 grant this spring to create integrated learning opportunities about the importance of sustainable forestry.

Maine's SIC partnered with LEA on the grant, along with Project Learning Tree (PLT), Maine Forest Service (MFS), Maine Forest Products Council (MFPC) and the Portland Water District (PWD).

"Working forests are the key to long-term lake protection," said Colin Holme, LEA executive director. "With the help of the Sustainable Forestry Initiative, we are getting more people out into the woods to talk about how forests slow down and filter the water that feeds Maine's pristine lakes and ponds."

Founded in 1970, LEA monitors 41 lakes in Southern Maine and owns forest preserves at Holt Pond, the Maine Lakes Science Center and the Highland Lake Research Forest in Bridgton, which includes 327 acres donated in 2016 by the Carol and David Hancock Charitable Trust.

LEA is developing the property as a demonstration and research forest to highlight sustainable forestry techniques, wildlife habitat, wetland functions, lake protection and multi-uses. The site will also be used for research and demonstration projects relating to sustainable forestry, forest ecology, and water quality.

Through its Sustainable Forestry Project, LEA will create centers with infrastructure to support educational programs for students and schools, land managers and landowners. The Maine chapter of Project Learning Tree, the award-winning environmental education program of SFI, will be closely involved in developing the project's educational programming.

LEA also will work with the SIC, MFPC, MFS, and Hancock Lumber to develop workshops on harvesting aesthetics, stream crossings, water quality issues, managing forestry for wildlife, best management practices, and sustainable forestry issues and techniques.

MFS District Forester Shane Duigan works with LEA to build understanding of sustainable forestry.

The project will enhance field trips and outdoor learning opportunities. Students from Stevens Brook Elementary School in Bridgton can walk to the Interpretive Forest Trail at the Science Center, and for others, it is a short bus ride. Students will learn about tree identification, forest ecosystems, and forest practices while monitoring study plots.

District Forester Shane Duigan presented at a "pub talk" on May 10 and participated in LEA's "Meet Your Forester" program August 21. LEA also is working with Audubon and the Forest Stewards Guild of Maine to present a Forestry For Maine Birds workshop for foresters and professionals, and a Stream Smart workshop in the fall.

"If we want our lakes to remain clear, then we need to maintain the majority of the watershed as forestland," Holme said. "The only economically realistic way to achieve this goal is to encourage prudent forest management. SFI is helping us get this message out by investing in trail infrastructure at our new 327-acre research forest and by improving our environmental outreach."

The SFI Conservation and Community Partnerships Grant Program fosters partnerships between organizations interested in improving forest management in the United States and Canada, and responsible procurement globally. Since the program began in 2010, SFI has awarded 53 Conservation and 49 Community Partnership grants totaling more than $3.4 million.

SFI members' investments have a lasting impact

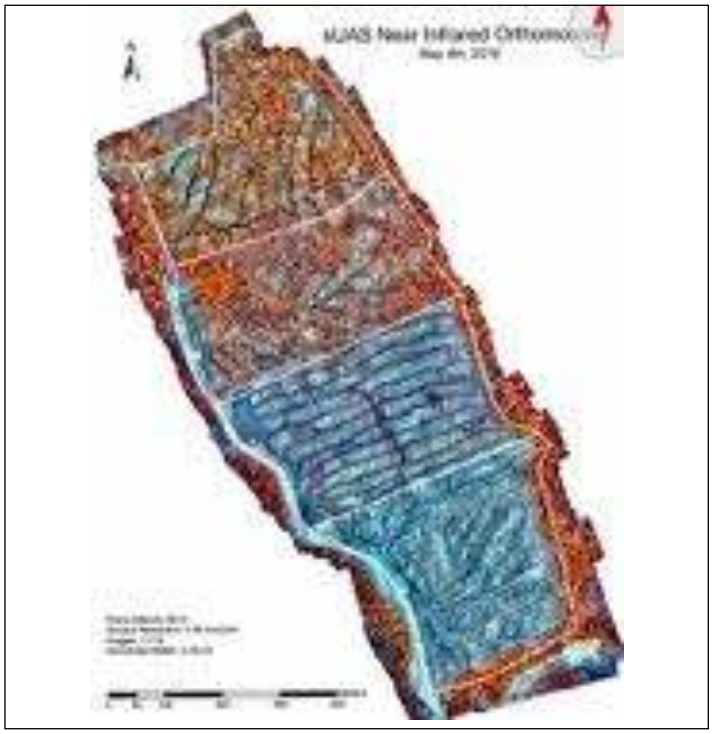
Dr. Brian Roth
Program Leader, Cooperative Forestry Research Unit, University of Maine

The Cooperative Forestry Research Unit (CFRU) is the foundation for applied research at the Center for Research on Sustainable Forestry at the University of Maine. The CFRU has been meeting the applied research needs of Maine's forest landowners and managers for more than 40 years.

About half of CFRU members are certified or are supporters of the Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI) and contribute annually to research projects critical to informing sustainable forest management and policy decisions. CFRU research areas can be broadly categorized as climate change impacts on forest, wildlife and biological diversity. A few CFRU projects are summarized below:

- The University of Maine has been awarded an SFI Conservation Grant of $90,000 to fund research on the influence of forest management practices on soil productivity, carbon storage, and conservation in the Acadian Forest Region. CFRU members contributed an additional $65,583 for the project, which will include measurements of soil nutrient status, soil carbon storage, and soil compaction.
- A multi-year project examining the relationships among forest harvesting and nesting habitat preferences of spruce grouse determined that more than half of the hens radio-collared in the study nested successfully in intensively managed forests in northern Maine. Models suggest reproductive success increases when nest sites are located in areas with greater forest structural complexity.
- A regionwide geospatial analysis of deer-wintering areas has been completed and economic analyses suggest financial loss is not universal and is highly dependent on individual landowner objectives and starting stand conditions.
- An investigation of sustainability of Whole Tree Harvesting (WTH) practices at mid-rotation revisits the Weymouth Point Paired Watershed Study area 35 years after harvesting. Preliminary results indicate Maine's spruce-fir forests are remarkably resilient with no impact of WTH when compared to conventional logging where branches and tops are left in the forest. In fact, silvicultural management following harvesting in the form of pre-commercial thinning increased forest productivity by shortening the time for trees to reach merchantability.
- A very large network of operational scale Adaptive Silviculture Research and Demonstration installations (MASN) are being installed around the state. These study areas, upwards of 300 acres each, will provide a laboratory for researchers to study impacts of contrasting silvicultural treatments on wildlife habitat, biodiversity, impacts of climate change and sustainability for all forest types across Maine.

The CFRU is a national model of stakeholder-driven research that has provided critical information to improve forest management and policy across the state and region. Support from SFI members is critical for meeting the CFRU mission and it also positions us to deal with challenges we might face for the sustainable management of our future forests.



Aerial orthomosaic photo of a 160-acre Adaptive Silviculture Network (MASN) Installation showing four contrasting harvesting treatments in Grand Falls Township.

The trainers came from UMaine, DACF, Hancock Lumber, Lumbra Hardwoods and Columbia Veneer.

Learning the science of log scaling

By Keith Kanoti

University Forest Manager, University of Maine

Two days of wood measurement training were held in May by the University of Maine School of Forest Resources and the University Forest Office. The scaling workshop was co-sponsored by Maine SFI, the Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry's (DACF) Maine Forest Service, and Bureau of Weights and Measures.

This class, which had not been held for several years because several instructors retired, prepares students to take the test to be licensed wood scalers in the State of Maine. Taking the class also shortens the apprenticeship time for becoming a licensed scaler from two years to six months.

Experts from UMaine, DACF, Hancock Lumber, Lumbra Hardwoods, and Columbia veneer trained 20 students in wood measurement law, log scaling, pine and hardwood log and veneer grading at the university's forest sawmill in Old Town and Lumbra Hardwoods in Milo.

This process is to determine the gross and net volume of a given number (generally log truck loads) of logs.

CLP is teaching loggers how to stay safe

Since 1991, the Certified Logging Professional (CLP) program was founded by loggers, landowners, environmental specialists and safety consultants to establish a standard for professionalism in the Maine woods. An immediate goal was to combat the high rate of logging accidents and the resulting Worker's Compensation costs for logging contractors.

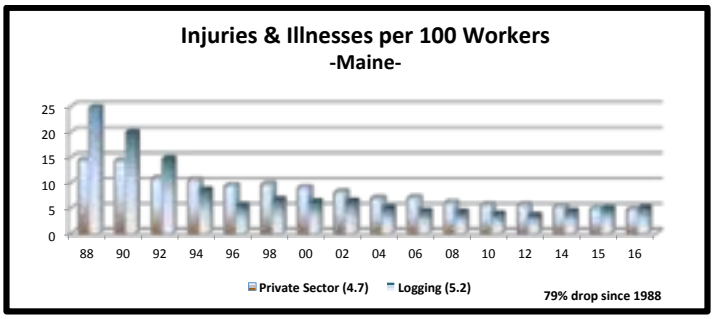
Today, under the sponsorship of the Maine TREE Foundation, the program takes pride in the fact that the accident rate for loggers is less than what it was when the program began. As a result, mechanical certified loggers have earned a lower Workers Compensation rate than non-CLPs. Equally important, participants help CLP meet its overall objective of cultivating skill, knowledge and pride in the Maine woods.

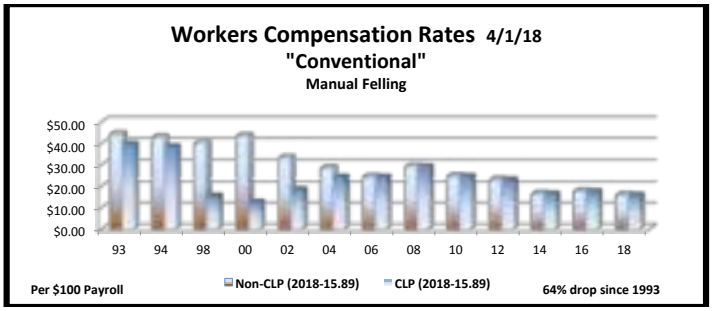
To be certified, candidates must attend a CLP sponsored four day, 32-hour workshop and then pass a work-site evaluation. The workshop includes three days of classroom instruction in first-aid/CPR, forest management and silviculture, safe and efficient wood harvesting, and business. The final day is devoted to on-site instruction and hands-on tree felling using the nationally recognized Game of Logging system or mechanical harvesting safety.

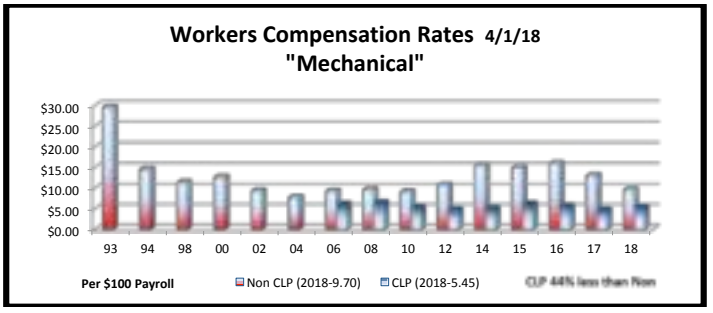
The program is equally committed to recognizing the skill and professionalism of those who meet and exceed the CLP standard. CLP continues to evolve to reflect changes in the industry and provide a means for continued professional growth.

Numbers Don't Lie

Figures from the Maine Department of Labor show a steady decline in the number of logging injuries and illnesses since the CLP program began in 1991. While several factors may have influenced this decline, the program's emphasis on safety, and its requirement that CLPs maintain a high level of skill have played an undeniable role.







Certified Logging Professional summary*		Total *(Completed CLP training to date 2018)*		Total trained**	Projected training 2018	
Participants	**Active CLPs**	**Certification**	**Recertification**	**Since 1991**	**Certification**	**Recertification**
Logging Contractors	182	1	33	672	5	50
Logging Employees						
Mechanical	1111	45	291	2600	60	330
Conventional	234	14	70	2820	10	100
Others *(associates)*	81	3	30	544	5	20
Total	**1608**	**63**	**424**	**6636**	**80**	**500**

** As of August 2018 **The total number trained does not represent the number of people currently certified.*

Workshop focuses on road rehabilitation

By Kevin Doran
Natural Science Educator,
Maine Forest Service

Fewer forest access roads are being constructed in Maine, so the forest industry has increased its focus on road rehabilitation, rather than new construction.

That was the driving force behind a new SFI workshop presented in early May by staff from the Maine Forest Service (MFS), Forest Policy and Management Division and Parks and Lands. This train-the-trainers workshop was led by two well-respected road experts, Roger Ryder of MFS and Al Beason, American Forest Management.

Subsequent road construction/rehab workshops were attended by 76 foresters, road's superintendents and contractors in Bingham, Ashland and Clayton Lake. This training included SFI's standard approach:

At an SFI workshop, Weyerhaeuser staff foresters contemplate application of proper road rehabilitation principles.

- A maximum of one day or less for the workshop with a major focus on field training..
- A minimum of two trainers at each workshop and,
- Training must dovetail with existing MFS BMPs and other essential background information.

After ascertaining participant's knowledge of road construction and rehabilitation, the workshop leaders introduced "Life of a Road" concept, including similarities between road rehabilitation and new road construction; market influence on road rehabilitation; landowner objectives, and road classes.

After a three-hour indoor session, the group headed to three field locations on University of Maine forestlands. Keith Kanoti, university forest manager, discussed landowner objectives, and access requirements.

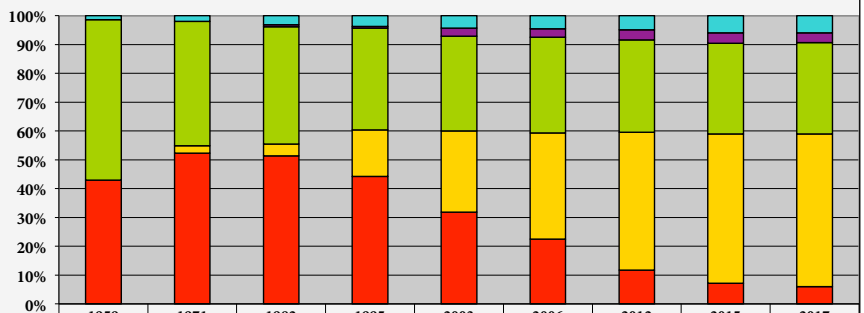
In keeping with Maine SFI's desired workshop format, the field sessions reinforced concepts presented in the morning session. By the end of the workshop, the participants expressed a greater understanding of the fundamentals of road construction as well as road rehabilitation.

Beyond the technical aspects, there were a couple of goals for the workshops, including:

1. Engage trainers that are peers to the forest products workforce
2. Develop a pool of "new" trainers
3. Solicit input on road workshops.

By all accounts, the goals for the day were exceeded. Without the expert assistance of Roger Ryder, Al Beason, and Pat Sirois, Maine SIC coordinator, this important workshop would not have happened.

Timberland by major owner group, Forest Inventory Analysis (FIA)
Chart created by Ken Laustsen



	1959	1971	1982	1995	2003	2006	2012	2015	2017
Public	216,000	311,500	495,746	627,957	743,542	771,236	827,899	1,002,700	990,492
Misc. Large Private	-	-	118,153	100,399	475,208	504,061	607,210	611,438	573,004
Family Forests	8,440,000	6,797,200	6,579,406	5,935,261	5,648,088	5,705,685	5,507,296	5,337,507	5,317,420
Private Investor	-	408,500	656,756	2,702,735	4,865,170	6,302,971	8,216,250	8,760,134	8,869,765
Forest Industry	6,521,000	8,255,000	8,286,336	7,446,258	5,470,094	3,865,592	2,017,882	1,215,809	1,012,973

Hard work has paid off, but challenges lie ahead

When we look at the stories and contributions in this report, we have to feel good about the community that's been assembled by this program over the past 22 years, both at the national level and state level.

I'm not sure any of us who were here in the beginning imagined the research that would be conducted or the information that would be disseminated to so many loggers, foresters and landowners by such talented instructors. Nor could we imagine the methods we might use for community outreach to get the word out about forest sustainability, so that people are reminded that using wood from well-managed sources is a good thing.

We also couldn't have predicted that we would be joined by so many amazing partners, who help make these efforts possible and credible. There's been a lot of hard work by many and it's paying off.

Are we done yet? Not hardly. Someone said change is the only constant and that is definitely true in this business. Some of the challenges we will face are potentially negative, yet others may make our efforts easier and safer. For instance, on the negative side is the impending arrival of the spruce budworm, its potential impacts on the resource and our challenges for its utilization and markets. Nor do we know what will be the impact of the emerald ash borer, which was discovered in the Madawaska area this summer. Other regions have seen the resource decimated and quarantines put in place.

Climate change is another concern. We're already experiencing a greater frequency of heavy rains, which makes harvesting operation challenging and operational seasons shorter. Rain events with 2-4 inches an hour – and sometimes more – demand greater vigilance to implement effective best management practices.

On the other hand, there are changes that are easier to embrace as long as you're not opposed to change, but that sometimes happens with an aging workforce.

We have new planning tools now and are developing more tools to increase the accuracy and efficiency of harvest operations. It's not unusual to see a logger in the cab of a machine who is using a tablet that has information provided by the forester on what and where to harvest.

Pat Sirois
Maine SIC Coordinator

LIDAR, which stands for Light Detection and Ranging, is a remote sensing method that uses light in the form of a pulsed laser to measure ranges (variable distances) to the Earth. These light pulses, combined with other data recorded by the airborne system, generate precise, three-dimensional information about the Earth and its surface characteristics. (More information: https://oceanservice.noaa.gov/facts/lidar.html).

LIDAR imagery is already being used by some and will likely be available statewide in the near future. LIDAR's ability to provide highly accurate topographical images, as if the trees weren't there is a game changer in protecting streams and wetlands through more qualitative harvest and road construction planning.

Another avenue of change is coming from SFI Inc., which is working on a strategic plan. Now that there are more than 300 million acres certified in North America to the SFI standards, what are the benefits that can be leveraged for the environment as well as the people who make their living in it? SFI Inc. also is revising the SFI Standard beginning in 2019 through 2020.

In Maine, we also are talking about the potential for new markets. We're excited about the possibility of cross laminated timber (CLT) manufacturing. CLT can be used to construct whole buildings out of solid wood panels. The good news is that the wood used to produce CLT is primarily spruce and fir, which is abundant here, and it's also the wood that spruce budworms prefer.

Any new investors who wish to locate in Maine certainly will do their due diligence on the sustainability of the resource. To that end we feel well positioned with nearly seven million acres certified to the SFI Standard.

We're especially fortunate to have a tremendous base of support from SFI-certified landowners and manufacturers, as well as community partners who are as dedicated to sustainable forestry as we are. With their help, Maine's SIC will continue to adapt to the changes and challenges that lie before us.

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