

FOREST PRODUCTS NEWS

Keeping Maine's Forests Group Endorses MFPC

By Patrick Strauch
MFPC Executive Director



As you probably recall, the Maine Forest Products Council has been participating in a project call Keeping Maine's Forests, along with several other organizations and state government officials. This project began last summer after Secretary of the Interior Salazar's visit to Maine, where he encouraged Maine stakeholders to develop new models for conservation using state, federal, and private resources.

Myself, Don White of Prentiss and Carlisle, Peter Triandafillou of Huber Resources, and Marcia McKeague of Katahdin Timberlands

have been working with the stakeholder group to develop a proposal to share with Maine's congressional delegation and Governor Baldacci.

There have been many areas of concern raised by the landowner representatives, as well as MFPC.

One of the major concerns was the scale of the project. In earlier versions of the proposal it became apparent that some stakeholders believed the objective of the group should be to place conservation easements on the majority of land in the north. We thought this was irresponsible

and over-reaching, and our draft vision now stresses the need for a mix of unencumbered and protected lands so that future generations have the option to determine their own land-use policies. As a strategy, MFPC has suggested that we focus on more selective pilot projects to review theories about how federal funding can be used. This stage would be considered phase one, and after it is completed, we can move on to phase two, a strategy applied to a broader land base, once we know how and if these concepts work.

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Bonded Labor Update

Recent reports from the field indicate that logging contractors (an estimated 35 in Maine) are very reluctant to move forward and apply for bonds for the summer harvest season as a result of the legislation passed this spring. This could result in an estimate 10 to 15% reduction in production volumes throughout the state, and a loss of US logger jobs since, in some areas, it requires teams of US and Canadian workers to fully staff an integrated harvesting operation. This potential labor shortage has serious implications for mills and landowners, especially as it appears that markets are finally improving and demand for wood is increasing.

Contractors are facing a myriad of changes to the program at both the federal and state level, as well as an increasing legal liability as a result of Maine's legislation and an exceedingly strong federal and state enforcement effort. We think these concerns can be reduced through a strategy of establishing a solid and transparent worker recruiting process that relies on objective reporting and fact finding when challenges to the process are presented.

Some Current Concerns of the Contractors we are hearing about:

- Federal requirements of the H2A program allows a US

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President's Message:

How Much Is Enough?

I once had a vision for the Maine Forest that included a lengthy time period during which a minimum of government and activist led change had to be dealt with. I have long held the opinion that Maine's forests are providing most of us with the opportunities we can reasonably expect and need, ranging from supplying fiber to taking care of the creatures to private isolated recreational camps. Well, along with the aspirations of most gubernatorial candidates, my hopes aren't going well.

I have concluded that the presence of so much private forestland in the hands of a relatively small number of folks is just to enticing for our government and activist friends to ignore as a prime opportunity to gain some measure of control in the form of easements, purchases and regulation. To support my premise, I have noticed that efforts to wrest control of private lands exponentially increase as acreage per owner increases and decreases where owners are more numerous. Attempts to control activities in the LURC jurisdiction are much greater than in organized areas of Maine. So rather than work in areas of potentially more need, areas more vulnerable to political/activist pressures receive the focus.

The list of perceived problems in our forestlands includes the fear of increased development, loss of forest productivity, access (for some too much while for others too little) and landscape scale wildlife habitat. I have been very troubled over the elevation of perceived problems into calls for action and in particular the lack of



Doug Denico

distinction between the significance of an issue between regions. The mantra seems to be "ignore data and stop certain activities regardless of the minimal risk documented." A prime example of this was the LURC Commission's unwillingness to accept 40 years of minimal growth in the jurisdiction's interior (one residence/township/decade) as evidence that development issues were essentially nonexistent. Another troubling aspect I noted is the belief from certain folks interested in our forests that they have the wisdom to predict what is best for future generations which they want played out in perpetual easements eliminating development from vast stretches of Maine.

If I had to pick a current problem in Maine, it would be the downward spiral of rural Maine's economic health. I've had the opportunity to go door to door in many parts of rural Maine and drive through many others. The disparity in prosperity with more urban areas is shocking and this disparity is growing. The fix for this situation isn't to tie up more land in easements that limit future opportunities but to create a balance between conservation and unencumbered lands. I'm not so sure we don't have enough conserved lands (no development) right now and only need to address some small areas having special significance. Even

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Pres. Message... (Cont. from page 2)

though as a forester I have spent a lifetime dedicated to managing forests, I firmly believe we can spare some forestland for purposes that would enhance the economic health of our State. I don't have a magic bullet to help rural areas but I'm sure that limiting their future options isn't going to help regardless of how smart we think we are about the future.

A couple of forestry conservation initiatives being promoted at this time, "Keeping Maine's Forests" (KMF) and "Wildlands and Woodlands" (W&W) sparked this article. The KMF project is Maine specific while the W&W project is regional in scope (New England). I found the W&W project rather intimidating as it recommends that 90% of the forests be protected from development with the balance placed in reserves. The KMF project appeared more flexible but still overly limiting. In reading the 41 page KMF document, I found a brief paragraph on page 24 that mentioned economic development but considerably limited development opportunities. For example, the paragraph restricted "residential and tourism related development...in and near established communities and resort facilities." Anyone that has followed development in the LURC jurisdiction knows that most development is residential in nature and the only real growth in recreational activity in the jurisdiction, based on recreational use in the North Maine Woods multiple use management area is from folks using camps and residential structures.

As they move forward in phase one of the KMF project, there are several important questions to answer. The most important question is how will

the steering committee include voices of residents and users of the jurisdiction, such as members of the Maine Snowmobile Association? It is essential that this initiative be as inclusive as possible. I'm leery of any project that anticipates the process of keeping every acre in forests in perpetuity to automatically translate into economic prosperity for our rural neighbors. We must maintain land value and the ability to adapt to future economic circumstances.

The steering committee's willingness to adopt MFPC's suggested language for phase one was a good start, but there is still room to improve. We all must stay engaged as this process moves forward.



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Exec. Director. (Cont. from page 1)

The second major concern we had was that wood supply was not adequately discussed in the original report. The conservation community has stated that wood supply must be equal to all other public values, and further, that wood supply must be qualified with sustainability standards. We disagreed with this approach, and suggested wood supply and 'Healthy forests are sustainably managed' are separate values and could be listed as such; there is no need to qualify one with the other. In addition, we stressed the need to develop a better understanding of how total wood supply will be adjusted for public fee acquisitions and new easements. The current document calls for more intensive forestry, but this is not defined or analyzed economically.

Focusing the short term request for funding on one to three pilot projects is suggested in the MFPC version. Based on our discussions with the Congressional delegation funding for projects of this nature is limited, and given the local concern expressed by some Maine communities and organizations to date, we have been advised to scale down the project and focus on one (possibly several) pilots. I've tried to outline the Phase I objectives and defined the role of the KMF group as a separate entity from the parties involved in the final negotiations. It will be important to find several landowners that are currently willing to add a project/ parcel of land to the team for review and testing of theories about alternative funds through current federal programs. Please let me know if you want to enter a parcel into the mix of pilots.

One of the emerging concepts in our collective work is that it is time to shift the paradigm on the public benefits of private land, and introduce the concept of the public paying for services that go beyond those required in law. This funding is in the form of Stewardship incentive payments currently used on a smaller scale by various federal agencies. The MFPC executive summary tries to highlight this concept in a clearer way and discuss the need for a tool box of resources.

There are outstanding concerns expressed by various members of MFPC and by members of the KMF committee. It seemed prudent to state these concerns in the document as a way to log the issues that we need more time to work through as we examine a pilot project(s). For example we need to spend more time discussing simple development and term easements; we need to better

understand the affect of CEs on wood supply; what should our landscape objectives be for the future.

In April, the KMF group endorsed changes to the draft which reflected MFPC's major concerns, and a general consensus was reached to proceed with phase one of the project, pending appropriate redrafting of the final proposal.

I continue to take my lead from members and MFPC landowner participants on the KMF Steering Committee. We should see a final draft document in coming days that reflects our concerns, and we will remain diligent and engaged as the process moves forward. Please contact me if I can help provide you any more information on this issue

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Quick Notes:

2010 Legislative Review- Interested in knowing more about the results of the Maine Legislature this session? The Maine Forest Products Council is currently working on a summary of legislation that was passed in the second regular session of the 124th Legislature. This review will be available to members by the end of June. Contact James Cote at MFPC with any questions.

New MFPC Policy Guidelines- MFPC staff is now in the process of working with the Executive Committee and the policy guidelines sub-committee to finalize this document. The document is intended to share information about the forest products industry with policy makers and will be shared with legislative and gubernatorial candidates this summer and fall. For more information, please contact James Cote at MFPC.

Membership Visits- Patrick and James will be making the rounds to many members and potential members over the course of the summer and fall. If you would like them to visit your company, or know of a potential member, please contact Sue McCarthy and let her know when a good time might be to stop by.

MFPC Breakfast Series- MFPC is currently planning to hold their annual breakfast series in early fall of 2010 (September/ October). We will again hold these complimentary breakfasts for members and political candidates in communities around the state. If you are interested in sponsoring one of these breakfasts, please contact Sue McCarthy.



Reminder:

MFPC Golf Tournament

July 8, 2010

Bangor Municipal Golf Course

Bangor, Maine

Send in your registrations soon to

Sue McCarthy@maineforest.org

Call 622-9288 for more information or if you want a registration form mailed to you.

95 Trucking Pilot Program to be Discussed in Washington in June

As you know, on December 16, 2009, President Obama signed a one-year truck weight pilot that allows trucks weighing up to 100,000 pounds to travel on Maine and Vermont's entire interstate highway system.



The Maine DOT is in the process of working with the Federal Highway Administration developing a six month progress report on the Maine Interstate Pilot examining impacts on public safety and the effect on roads and bridges to be presented in June.

MEDOT and Maine's Congressional delegation are seeking comments from trucking interests on the benefits of the pilot program to assist them in efforts to persuade the Congress and USDOT to make the program permanent. FRA, MFPC, and Maine Motor Transport are all working on efforts to solicit information from members.

In order for the program to continue, Maine's Congressional delegation, specifically Senator Collins and Representative Michaud, and Maine Department of Transportation need more information about the benefits of the pilot.

It is important for you to understand that a lack of data and information about the benefits of this program could result in its elimination. There is no guarantee that this program will continue beyond December 16 of this year.

If you have information you would like to share, please contact James Cote at MFPC.

The following is part 2 of a three part series on Deer Wintering Area management being provided to the Small Woodlot Owners Association of Maine and the Maine Forest Products Council by the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife.

What is a Deer Wintering Area?

By: Chuck Hulsey, Regional Wildlife Biologist, Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife

Deer Wintering Areas (DWAs) or “deer yards” are a critical habitat for white-tailed deer living at the northern end of their range. A DWA is the habitat where deer go to avoid harsh winter winds and deep snow. During a winter of average severity a deer living in southern Maine will require this shelter for 30 to 50 days. In far northern Maine dependency is usually 100 to 110 days.

Quality winter shelter occurs where certain landforms and forest stands meet. The former is less understood and underappreciated but equally important as the type of conifer trees growing on a site. Let’s look at each separately.

The Value of Landform

Most DWAs are within or near the riparian areas associated with lakes, ponds, rivers, or streams. A ‘Reader’s Digest’ definition of a riparian area is an upland or wetland type associated with a watercourse that is affected by the hydrology of that watercourse. Keep in mind that there are many wetland classifications, including forested wetlands where not only could a duck not swim but you might not even get your sneakers muddy in the summer.

Valley bottoms, landscape depressions, aspect, and lower side-slopes provide protection from cold winds. You’ve experienced firsthand the relief of standing behind a building or big tree when the temperature is low and the

wind is blowing. Warm bodies exposed to cold wind lose heat rapidly. Subsequently, like adding wood to a fireplace in a drafty camp, more calories are burned to maintain a deer’s core temperature when exposed to wind. In the north the most daunting challenge for deer survival is to make it through the wintering period with enough fuel left in the tank. Protection from cold wind equates to reducing the rate at which calories are burned.

In the northern half of Maine, soils associated with riparian areas are often shallow, stony, or poorly drained; or all three. Trees are aggressive life-forms that have evolved to exploit specific conditions associated with soils (site), water, and sunlight. Success is not measured just in rings of growth per inch, but more important to the species, the ability to occupy and dominate a site. Regenerating one’s own kind may be the ultimate measure of a tree’s success. Cedar, spruce, fir, and to a lesser degree hemlock are species that are very successful competitors on poorer soils often occurring in and adjacent to riparian habitat. The foliage structure of these trees is also superior to others in intercepting wind and snowfall.

The Contribution of Forest Cover

A forest stand is a group of trees of same or similar species, age, height, or canopy closure. Stands dominated by cedar, spruce, fir, or hemlock are by far the best at intercepting snow, when they are over 35 feet tall and have canopy or crown closure over 50%. Snow depths under such stands can be 40% lower than under hardwood stands with similar characteristics. This is because their leaves (needles) intercept falling snowflakes and three things can happen to snow caught in the treetops. Some snow will still come down to the ground. Some snow will melt, coming down as a liquid and reduce the snow profile. Last, some snow in the canopy goes directly back to the atmosphere as a vapor.

The behavior of “yarding” or congregating in large overwintering groups results in each deer contributing towards the development of a network of trails. Using a trail vs. traversing alone through the snow is a major energy savings. Think back to when you have been trudging or snowshoeing solo through deep snow. That can range from tough to exhausting depending on your condition. Compare that to when you were with a group, at the back of the line and easing along a trail beaten down by others.

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Bonded Labor. (Cont. from page 1)

worker to apply for and “bump” a bonded worker for 50% of the total contract period. This means that if a MEDOL referral of a newly identified US worker to the clearing house results in a qualified applicant, that applicant can replace (bump) a bonded laborer. In at least one case where this occurred last year the US worker was employed for a limited time period, and then quit. Unfortunately, regaining the bonded worker then requires resubmission of an application and a potential wait for up to 45 days. Though employment of qualified US workers is a priority, abuse of this system is of concern by contractors who will be under great risk if laborers are unavailable.

- The legislative establishment of a clearing house run by the industry is still not understood by all contractors and there are concerns that the expenses of this function should more broadly include other segments of the industry.
- The additional restrictions on equipment leasing have made it difficult or impossible for legitimate businesses to comply.
- The loss of unemployment insurance eligibility for Canadian workers has a significant impact on the ability to entice these workers back to work in Maine if US workers do not fill positions.

Call for an industry summit:

We believed it was beneficial to the industry to quickly convene a summit to discuss short term implementation of the program and the clearing house, and long term strategies for stabilizing the accumulated risk that is attached to the program.

The summit was held on June 16, 2010, 10 AM – 3 PM in the Bangor/Brewer area. All members of the industry were invited to join Patrick Strauch, Joel Swanton, Gale Rioux and Charlie Einsiedler for a question and answer type discussion about the status of the H2A program and the development of the clearinghouse program moving forward. Mills, landowners, and contractors are encouraged to attend. A subcommittee was formed to discuss further strategies.

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Deer Wintering Area. (Cont. from page 6)

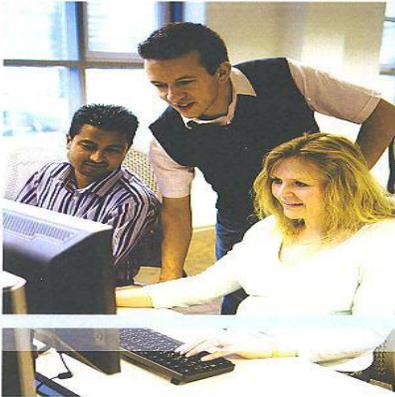
For deer this is the difference between life and death. In addition to conserving energy, adult deer know their network of trails like you know the streets in your neighborhood. So in addition to energy conservation, the network of beaten trails helps deer access browse and avoid predators. Probably because of the value of trails, larger DWAs with inherent higher number of winter inhabitants equates to a higher rate of survival.

The best DWAs have a minimum of half their area in stands providing high quality conifer shelter for the tough months of January and February. Some of the DWA should be in younger stands to replace older shelter stands through time. A representation of mixed softwood-hardwood stands provides a winter food source by way of hardwood browse. During the start and end of the wintering period (December and March) these stands can meet minimal shelter requirements and at the same time be a source of natural food. Managing the spatial relationship of these stands over time is vital as deer cannot survive if they use more calories in transit than they gain in the meal.

What is the CareerCenter?

The **Maine CareerCenter** provides a variety of employment and training services at **no charge for Maine workers and businesses**. The CareerCenter assists employers with recruitment, training, workforce services and access to labor market information.

The CareerCenter system is a collaboration of the Maine Department of Labor, Local Workforce Investment Boards, and employment, education, and training providers.

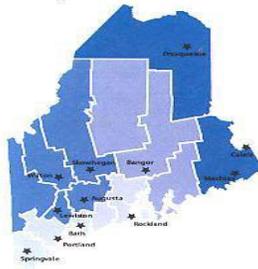


CareerCenter Locations

The Maine workforce system consists of four regions or Local Workforce Investment Boards, comprised of representatives from business, labor, public and non-profits organizations.

These regions collaborate with the Maine Department of Labor to establish a network of 12 full-service CareerCenters with additional service points and partner providers located throughout the state. For a complete list of locations, visit www.mainecareercenter.com or call 1-888-457-8883, TTY: 1-800-794-1110.

CareerCenter



www.mainecareercenter.com

The Maine Department of Labor provides equal opportunity in employment and programs. Auxiliary aids and services are available to individuals with disabilities upon request.



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Meeting space: interview and conference rooms are available for employers; many are equipped with video conference and audio/visual equipment.

Job Fairs: get a list of upcoming job fairs in your area or around the state.

www.mainecareercenter.com

Employee Training

CareerCenter staff can refer you to appropriate training and help you make a plan to meet your training needs.

Maine Apprenticeship Program: connects job seekers looking to learn new skills with employers looking for qualified workers, resulting in a workforce with industry-driven training and employers with a competitive edge.

Lifelong Learning Account (LiLA): helps employees and employers work together to finance skill development and lifelong learning.

Governor's Training Initiative (GTI): provides financial assistance for training new employees and/or retraining current workers with innovative, non-routine training.

Maine Online Learning Initiative (MOLLI): assists with access to online education and training programs in target industries.

SafetyWorks! an outreach program of the Maine Department of Labor designed to reduce job-related injuries, illnesses and deaths.



Workforce Services

Whether your business is growing or downsizing, the CareerCenter can assist with job retention, expansion, and creation, as well as assist workers who are facing job loss due to downsizing or closures. Services are tailored to fit the needs of the business.

Access to Labor Information

Visit your local CareerCenter to find the latest publications on labor market information, labor laws, occupational licensing permits, safety requirements, and more.

The CareerCenter's Web site is your connection to labor information online. The site contains links to local, state and federal labor and business resources.

Maine Department of Labor's Center for Workforce Research and Information (CWRI): provides data on wages, jobs in demand, employment and industry trends, and much more.

Attention Forest Industry Employers!

Looking for employees to run equipment? Be sure to check out Maine's premier employment resource, the Career Center, which is designed to match employers with American job seekers at NO CHARGE. For more information, read the details in the Career Center brochure (published in this month's newsletter, or visit www.mainecareercenter.com today!

Clearing House Development:

Joel, Patrick and Gale have been meeting with MEDOL to examine the design of the Clearing House (CH) and are in the final stages of understanding MEDOL's information needs and the type of data to be collected and stored in the CH data base. We are creating a transparent process that has input from both the MEDOL and the contractors who will be using the system

When the group next meets the action items on establishment of a CH will include:

1. Establishing a body that can govern the CH (we envision representation by contractors, landowners and paper and saw mills. Vote on representatives to the Board.
2. Decide on vendor to perform services. Gale Rioux remains interested in providing the service, but it has been designed to stand separately from the bonding agent process if required.
3. Establish a subcommittee to review procedures that have been drafted to date for adoption by the governing group.

More information can be found in the first bonded labor update which was sent out to stakeholders earlier this spring. Please contact Patrick Strauch or Joel Swanton with any questions or concerns you may have.

Contact:

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Email: jswan93426@aol.com	

Thoughts from an anonymous member.....

THE SMALL WOODLAND OWNER

One spring day a Small Woodland Owner purchased a tract of cutover woodland. He said, " I will plant it to trees"

He asked the Environmentalists, "Will you help me plant the trees?" "Not us," said the Environmentalists. So he planted the trees himself.

When the trees needed to be thinned, he asked the Environmentalists, "Will you help me thin the trees?" "Not us," said the Environmentalists. So he thinned the trees himself.

When the tax bill and the bill for the management plan arrived to asked the Environmentalists, "Will you help me pay my bills?" "Not us" said the Environmentalists, so he paid the bills himself.

When the trees matured and were ready for harvest, he asked the Environmentalists, "Will you help me harvest the trees?" "Not us", said the Environmentalists. So he harvested the trees himself.

After the trees were harvested, the Small Woodland Owner decided it was time to pan for the future of his woodlot so he asked the Environmentalists " Will you prepare Rules and Regulations to see that this woodlot is managed sustainably in the future?" "WE WILL" said the Environmentalists. "We are STAKEHOLDERS". So they did and the Small Woodland Owner used the proceeds from the sale of his trees to buy an annuity and sold his woodlot to a developer!

Forest Legacy PAC Ramps Up

The Forest Legacy PAC ramped up on Thursday, June 3, with its first meeting of 2010. Several donors and industry representatives participated in the call. This was the first of several regular meetings that will take place throughout the summer and fall.

Among the agenda items for this meeting were discussion about fundraising goals and activities that the PAC would like to be involved with. Also discussed were upcoming events and opportunities to donate to various candidates and causes.

The committee requested that James Cote of the Maine Forest Products Council put together a proposed action plan for summer and fall, which can be review at the next meeting.

Dwain Allen has agreed to be chairman of the committee this year, and Don White has again agreed to be Treasurer. Mark Doty will become vice-chairman.

All donors are welcome to join the PAC Board of Directors. If you are interested in donating, becoming a board member, or for more information, please contact James Cote at jcote@maineforest.org or (207) 622-9288.

How to send you donation:

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Prentiss & Carlisle and Plum Creek Present the

2010 FOREST LEGACY PAC CHALLENGE

Making your donation count twice as much.

Here's the deal:
Prentiss and Carlisle and Plum Creek Timber Company have teamed up to make the voice of Maine's forest products industry as strong as it has ever been in Augusta!
They've issued a challenge to the entire industry: for every dollar that you contribute to the Maine Forest Legacy PAC, they will match it dollar for dollar up to \$10,000- allowing us to reach our ultimate goal of \$20,000!
Individuals as well as companies are invited to give the maximum amount possible. Every gift you make-no matter what size- will go a long way towards strengthening the voice of our industry in Augusta.
Send your donation today, and Plum Creek and Prentiss and Carlisle will help make it a double!

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Maine Snowmobile Association Becomes a Member of the Maine Sustainable Forestry Initiative Implementation Committee

Augusta, Maine- On June 2, the Maine Snowmobile Association (MSA) officially became a member of the Maine Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI) Implementation Committee (SIC)- the first motorized recreation organization in the country to join an SIC.

The Sustainable Forestry Initiative standard states that program participants shall promote recreational opportunities for the public where it is consistent with sustainable forest management principals.

“We are very excited to have the MSA become a partner in our work. I believe that they will lead the way in ensuring that motorized recreation and trail development continues to compliment the working we are doing in sustainable forestry,” said Pat Sirois, Director of the SIC.

Snowmobiling in Maine has traditionally aligned well within the context of sustainable forest management. And, due to the fact that over 90% of Maine is privately owned, it is essential that recreational and landowner organizations continue to partner and strengthen that relationship in order to preserve recreational access opportunities for the future.

Doug Denico, Chair of the Governor’s Landowner-Sportsmen Relations Advisory Board and President of the Maine Forest Products Council had this to say about the MSA’s recent joining of the SIC: “Many of us have long recognized the MSA as leaders in stewardship of the land their members use. By joining SFI, MSA sets a high benchmark for other motorized types of recreation to follow.”

“Becoming a partner in the SIC was a great step for the MSA,” said Bob Meyers, the MSA executive director. “It is important that as users of the land, we continue to partner with landowners to ensure that the privilege of accessing their land for recreational purposes doesn’t conflict with the principles of sustainable forest management.”

The Sustainable Forestry Initiative is North America’s premier third party certification program for forest management- the largest single certification system in the world. The Maine Implementation Committee is responsible for educating SFI members and the public about sustainable forest management practices concerning road and bridge development, forest management, wildlife habitat and water quality.

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SAVE THE DATES!!!

MFPC Golf Tournament
Bangor Municipal Golf Course
July 8, 2010

MFPC Annual Meeting
50th Celebration
Will be held in Augusta
September 12-13, 2010