Maine SFI Implementation Committee 2014-2015 Progress Report
What has Maine’s SIC achieved in 20 years?

The SFI program celebrates its 20th anniversary in 2015, so I’m thinking about its start. It struck me as more than just another industry initiative. There was more enthusiasm and energy at the ground level about striving to improve practices. Now, 20 years later, some may be asking, “How has this program benefited sustainable forestry in Maine?” Fair question, let’s take a look.

The establishment of the SFI Implementation Committees (SIC) was probably one of SFI’s best decisions. There are 34 SICs throughout the U.S. and Canada. This grassroots network ensures that initiatives are developed, customized and implemented appropriately for the states, provinces or regions they serve.

Maine’s SIC consists of landowners, loggers, mills, foresters, government agencies, conservation groups, management companies, recreation representatives, educators, researchers, etc. It provides an effective forum for promoting sustainable forestry and addressing issues.

Here are some of the Maine SIC’s significant collaborations and developments over the past 20 years:

- **Logger training:** Working with Certified Logging Professional and Quality Logging Professional, the SIC and its members provided incentives for more loggers to enter training programs. The SIC continues to provide financial support and curriculum input that’s encouraged the programs to expand beyond safety and business principles and include key sustainable forest-ry principles. Since 1991, CLP alone has trained 6,189 loggers.

- **Best management practices for water quality:** BMPs have been a focus for the Maine Forest Service (MFS) and the SIC has been involved since the beginning. We’ve helped develop the BMPs and continue to work with MFS to develop and conduct new workshops. BMP education is paying big dividends in protecting Maine’s waters. MFS reports 83 percent of sites had BMPs applied appropriately on crossings and approaches (or crossings were avoided) and 91 percent of opportunities evaluated for sediment input found no sediment entered a waterbody.

- **Research:** The Cooperative Forest Research Unit (CFRU) at the University of Maine is one of the premier research cooperatives in the nation. Founded and supported by researchers, landowners, mills and organizations, it has been developing practical information to improve forest management since the mid 1970s. SFI is the only standard requiring the support of forest research. About 14 SIC member companies currently pay almost 80 percent of annual CFRU dues.

These are just a few highlights of how the SFI Program has made a difference in Maine.

### Maine SFI Implementation Committee

- American Forest Management
- ATV of Maine
- Certified Logging Professional Program
- Catalyst Paper
- Expera Specialty Solutions
- Fraser Paper Inc.
- Forest Resources Association
- Hancock Lumber Co.
- Hilton Timberlands Inc
- Huber Engineered Woods
- Huber Resources Corp.
- Irving Forest Products Inc.
- Katahdin Forest Management
- LandVest Management
- Lincoln Paper & Tissue
- Louisanna Pacific
- Madison Paper Industries
- Maine Pulp and Paper Association
- Maine Tree Farm Committee
- Maine Tree Foundation
- Maine Bureau of Parks and Lands
- Maine Department of Conservation – Recreational Trails Division
- Maine Department of Environmental Protection
- Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife
- Maine Forest Service
- Maine Snowmobile Association
- Orion Timberlands
- Plum Creek Timber
- Professional Logging Contractors of Maine
- Re-Energy
- Robbins Lumber Co.
- Small Woodlands Owners Association of Maine
- Southern Aroostook Adult Education
- Twin Rivers Paper Co.
- University of Maine Orono School of Forestry Resources
- Verso Paper Corp.
- Sappi Fine Papers, NA
- Seven Islands Land Company
- Wagner Forest Management
- Woodland Pulp
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SFI Certified Forestland in the State of Maine ................................................. Back Cover
In 2012, the Maine Forest Service convened stakeholders to discuss ways to increase active forest management by family woodland owners in coastal and southern Maine. This effort is known as the Maine Healthy Forests Program (MHFP).

MHFP has moved forward largely through a partnership between the Maine Forest Service (MFS), Maine’s SFI Implementation Committee (SIC), the Certified Logging Professional Program (CLP) and the Forest Resources Association (FRA).

According to Maine’s USDA Forest Inventory & Analysis data, total growth for all species currently exceeds harvest in Maine’s southernmost eight counties by a ratio of 2.1:1 in 2013. The goal of this effort is to increase active management on these woodlands by educating owners about the potential to improve forest health, wildlife habitat, recreational opportunities, water quality, aesthetics, while likely realizing a financial return.

In an effort to empower landowners when working with forestry professionals, MFS, under the auspices of the MHFP, initiated a Harvest Satisfaction Survey. In the summer of 2014, the MFS sent out surveys to 2,200 landowners with small (<1000 acre) ownerships who had completed harvests in 2013, soliciting their reactions on a variety of harvest-related topics.

The response was surprisingly favorable with about 830 landowners responding. Equally encouraging was that of landowners responding, 90 percent were satisfied with the outcomes of the harvest and more than 74 percent indicated they would be willing to conduct another harvest “when the time was right.”

Although not a strictly statistically valid sampling of landowners who conducted a harvest during that time period, the number of responses and their views of the harvest on their lands were very encouraging.

Other components of the MHFP’s training and outreach efforts include aesthetics, communications and planning, and recognition of small woodland owners desired harvest outcomes. In 2013-14, a workshop entitled “Harvesting to Meet Landowners’ Objectives” was presented at four locations around the state to loggers, foresters, woodland owners and public officials with responsibilities for public forests and watersheds.

The intent of this training is to engage forests resource professionals in a discussion of the unique challenge of satisfying small woodlot owners during a timber harvest. We learned through state and national surveys that these woodland owners have many other reasons for owning their lands other than timber production.

Another element of the training is to recognize that many small woodland parcels exist in communities with high population densities. Inherent in that reality is the need to consider the public’s view and potential reactions to harvest outcomes. Quality work occurs on these small lots and the discussion helps forestry professionals learn from each other about how to succeed as businesses while meeting landowner objectives.

In an effort to reach the entire logging community in Maine with these messages, “Harvesting to Meet Landowners’ Objectives” was presented to every 2014 Certified Logging Professional (CLP) recertification session from Gray to Fort Kent, 22 programs in all. This effort reached more than 400 professional loggers. This same schedule of training will be repeated in 2015 to reach the remainder of logging professionals certified through the CLP program.

For more information on the Maine Healthy Forest Program and resources for family woodland owners go to: http://www.maine.gov/dacf/mfs/projects/healthy_forests/index.html
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 variety of calls since the hotline was launched, we have been able to work effectively with loggers, landowners and foresters by sharing techniques and knowledge that encourages the best possible outcomes.

Although we as an industry want to understand and respond to challenges, it is important to understand that this is not an enforcement program. The events we have responded to have enabled SFI to identify problem areas where we can develop education and training programs that can be delivered to our loggers, foresters and landowners.

Our goal is to improve practices on the ground.

State Wildlife Action Plan is due Oct. 15

By Pat Sirois
SIC Coordinator

In 2001, Congress asked each state to develop a State Wildlife Action Plan (SWAP) to be eligible for State Wildlife Grants, a federal grant program that helps state and tribal fish and wildlife agencies address the unmet needs of fish and wildlife.

Wildlife Action Plans examine the health of wildlife and identify opportunities to conserve species and vital habitats before they become rarer and more costly to protect.


So MDIFW is again working with its conservation partners, including SFI and the public, to identify Maine’s wildlife needs and opportunities for the next decade. Four meetings have taken place so far and discussions will continue over the course of the year.

Barry Burgason of Huber Resources, who chairs the Wildlife Committee for the Maine SIC, serves on the SWAP Steering Committee.

The committee serves as the initial sounding board for MDIFW on both overall process and initial plan components and drafts; provides feedback to MDIFW between partner meetings on time-sensitive issues involving the plan revision; and, establishes the timeline for the plan revision and ensures that the timeline is met.

MDIFW is working with conservation partners and the public.

SFI’s open invitation to ask tough questions

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Concerned about a timber harvesting operation in your community?

Call 1-888-734-4625

If you have questions or concerns about any forest practices in New Hampshire, Maine or Vermont or need information about forest tours, please call!
Until recently, the role of large wood in forming and maintaining fish habitat in Maine’s streams was not well understood. In fact, in the past, guidance provided to landowners was often to remove wood from streams. In some cases, streams were cleared of wood and boulders to facilitate the driving of logs. The removal of in-stream features often altered channel form, stream flow, and how wood, boulders, rock and gravel moved through the river system.

We have since learned that large wood is an important part of the forest-stream ecosystem and is important for the survival of trout and salmon that inhabit the streams. Large wood diverts water flow, changes water velocity to trap sediment, creates pools and provides cover for juvenile fish. Wood addition treatment projects also known as “Chop and Drop” can help improve in stream fish habitat.

To streamline the process for accomplishing wood addition treatments in streams, the Maine Forest Service (MFS) has developed standards for wood addition that allow projects to be completed without a permit if conducted in accordance with the rule. The rules allow trained licensed foresters to implement wood additions in certain streams designated by Maine’s fisheries agencies.

To date several landowners have worked with the Maine Forest Service, Inland Fisheries and Wildlife, Project SHARE and others to implement chop and drop projects including SFI landowners and land managers Plum Creek, Orion Timberlands Wagner Forest Management and American Forest Management.
A big win for Morrison and fish passage

The only prize Scott Morrison of New Sharon had ever won in a raffle was a bag of dog food. But on Dec. 30, his luck changed in a way he never dreamed.

“It was beyond my wildest,” Morrison said. “I’m really pleased to win this.”

Morrison, general sales manager of Anderson Equipment in Farmington, won the “Fish Friendly” ice shack (valued at $2,000) in a raffle sponsored by the Maine Snowmobile Association (MSA), in partnership with Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI), which supports the efforts of Maine’s Fisheries Improvement Network (FIN).

“This is a light-hearted effort to raise awareness of new stream crossing methods, which over time will greatly improve our state’s fisheries,” said Pat Sirois, SIC coordinator. “We’d like to thank all who participated.”

Scott Morrison got an offer he couldn’t refuse for his ice shack from Maine State Forester Doug Denico, who put the shack on Big Eagle Lake.

Irving Woodlands, Huber Engineered Woods, Plum Creek and Hancock Lumber donated SFI-certified materials and Hancock Lumber, Sappi Fine Paper and Wagner Forest Management helped with the construction.

The proceeds will be used to upgrade another snowmobile crossing for fish passage. Funds from the 2013 raffle opened passage at a snowmobile crossing in Brownville.

“This was a great raffle for an even greater cause,” said Bob Meyers, executive director of the MSA.

The Fisheries Improvement Network (FIN) continues to bring landowners, practitioners and scientists together for the benefit of fish. Three years running, SFI landowners have met with state and federal agencies to share information on habitat needs, practices to improve habitats and new techniques to mitigate problem stream crossings. At the 2014 meeting (above) presentations included stream barrier assessment methods and classification, Chop and Drop forester training, Maine’s Heritage Trout Survey, State Wildlife Action Plan, Atlantic Salmon Recovery Plan, water temperature monitoring and modeling, and cost effective approaches to forestry haul road stream crossings. Henning Stabins (above, far right) of Plum Creek and Josh Royte (second from right) the Nature Conservancy also rolled out a pilot project to facilitates stream crossing upgrades that provide the most value. The project provides a confidential platform where landowners can share limited information and receive habitat information. In 2015, we will assess the effectiveness and security of this pilot in hopes of encouraging other landowners to participate.
Trees Ltd. experiments with portable road

Harvesting wood on family woodlands owners in Maine poses several challenges, including trucking access for moving wood to the markets. Family woodlots in central and southern Maine are located everywhere, in and around our communities, off of the end of streets, across private fields and along our camp roads. Hauling wood, particularly when the ground is not frozen and on roads not designed for heavy truck traffic can be damaging. Minimizing damage to these private access ways is in the best interest of the access owners and contractors who are often responsible for potential repairs.

Temporary “portable road” technologies exist, but have to this point not been explored for use by the timber industry in Maine. Timber mats have had wide usage in Maine, on power line and pipeline projects, however the typical logging contractor does not have access to sufficient quantities to use as road surfacing. The weight and cost of typical timber mats also seems to limit their usefulness to logging contractors as a road surface. Trees Ltd., a logging contractor from Sidney, conducted research and discovered a product called “DuraDeck”, a temporary road consisting of interlocking, heavy-duty plastic panels.

Trees Ltd. agreed to experiment with this product under real conditions as part of their ongoing logging operations. With grant support from the Maine Forest Service, ReEnergy and the Maine SIC, Trees Ltd. purchased enough DuraDeck to cover 800 feet of road 8 feet wide or 600 feet if configured 12 feet wide. The total cost of the plastic road is $40,000.

Trees Ltd. will continue to use DuraDeck to determine the durability and effectiveness in protecting access roads. If effective, this may be an approach of interest to other logging contractors that find themselves with challenging access roads associated with many family woodlot harvest operations.

In 2015, the Maine Forest Service in partnership with the Maine SIC will offer training to logging contractors, on the results of the research conducted by Trees Ltd.

Get your copy of new MFS rule summary

A new publication from the Maine Forest Service, *The Forestry Rules of Maine*, provides a summary for most of the state forestry regulations. It was produced through a collaborative effort between the Maine Forest Service and a panel of experts from the forestry community. The panel included Pat Sirois, Maine SIC, Dr. Jeffrey Benjamin, University of Maine, Brian Souers, Treeline Inc., and Ted Shina, Huber Resources. Special thanks to Dan Jacobs, district forester in Island Falls, who saw the need for the rule book and led the team that produced it.

The intent of the Maine Forest Service was to provide foresters, loggers, and landowners with a single source of information on Maine’s forestry laws and rules. MFS and the panel worked together to make the new publication user-friendly and easy to understand. The work of the outside review panel was critical to making this effort a success.

The book is available free from Maine Forest Service District Foresters and at many forestry workshops around the state. Multiple copies can be purchased for $3 from the MFS office in Augusta by calling 207-287-2791 or 1-800-367-0223 (in-state). In short, *The Forestry Rules of Maine* is on track to being widely considered an essential forestry reference for everyone planning to implement forest practices in Maine.
By Erin Rice, Director
Marketing and Development
Pine Tree Society

Harvey Chesley, Pine Tree Camp’s Facilities Manager, and I have been thrilled with the support from SIC members, including Huber Engineered Woods, Seven Islands, Robbins Lumber, as well as strong SIC supporters, Pleasant River Lumber, and Viking Lumber. Their support, through donations of materials has made a tremendous difference.

So far, the support has totaled more than $55,000 but that does not include the support for the cabins that are currently under construction. SIC members’ support has been significant and has made a big impact. We cannot thank you enough.

Ribbon cutting events to officially open the buildings and recognize sponsors are in the works. We will keep you posted in hopes that you can join us.

For the past five years, Pine Tree Society has been working to make critical improvements at Pine Tree Camp in order to address the increasing and evolving medical and access needs of campers, modernize the aging facility and expand opportunities for programming to serve more people.

The plan was comprised of 17 projects with a total cost of $6.6 million. Since that time, nine projects have been completed, five are currently in process and scheduled to be complete in time for the 2014 summer season and three remain.

These projects are a means to ensure that Pine Tree Camp is able to continue to provide Maine children and adults with disabilities a chance to enjoy Maine’s outdoors alongside friends who understand the challenges they face each day.

The opportunity Pine Tree Camp provides is transformational for campers and the impact extends to their families who benefit from a much-needed respite. Often it is the only break they receive all year long.

Since Pine Tree Camp was established in 1945, no camper has ever been turned away due to inability to pay tuition. It’s a commitment our families count on.

One mother recently told me: “The day we picked him up he was running and playing with his friends. I stood there with tears running down my face, watching my boy run and be free from his disabilities. I can’t thank you enough for that.”

Despite the snow, Pine Tree Camp is in active construction mode. Two camper cabins are under construction, the family cabin is being renovated and the staff lodge and playground will be completed when the snow melts. The three remaining projects (two camper cabins and the arts and crafts program building) are scheduled to begin in the fall.

There is still time to help. We continue to accept in-kind donations of materials and financial support for these projects. The support of SIC members will make a big impact to our campers and their families for years to come. Thank you.

For more information, please contact Erin Rice, Marketing and Development Director, Pine Tree Society at 443-3341 or erice@pinetreesociety.org.
CLP’s mission: Providing training and education for Maine’s logging industry

The Certified Logging Professional (CLP) program is equally committed to recognizing the skill and professionalism of those who meet and exceed the CLP standard. The successful CLP candidate will be prepared to work safely, productively, and in a manner that protects, enhances and sustains the forest. Our program will evolve to reflect changes in the forest products industry and will provide a means for continued professional growth.

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 Workers Compensation rate less than that on non-CLPs. Equally as important, our participants have helped CLP meet its overall objective of cultivating skill, knowledge and pride in the Maine woods.

“I think it's safe to say that the current mechanical logging certified CLP rate is probably the lowest there is in the country,” says Mike St. Peter, executive director of Maine’s Certified Professional Logging (CLP) program.

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 CLP

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CLP Training Summary</th>
<th>Total (Completed CLP Requirements for 2014)</th>
<th>* Total trained</th>
<th>Projected Training 2015</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Participants</td>
<td>Active CLPs</td>
<td>Certification</td>
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<td>Logging Contractors</td>
<td>177</td>
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<td>110</td>
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<td>Logging Employees - Mechanical</td>
<td>775</td>
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<td>Logging Employees - Conventional</td>
<td>159</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>105</td>
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<tr>
<td>Others (Associates)</td>
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<td>33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>1,155</td>
<td>83</td>
<td>662</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*The total number trained does not represent the number of people currently certified.
program’s emphasis on safety, and its requirement that CLPs maintain a high level of skill have played an undeniable role.

As the statewide battle over workers comp raged through the 1980s and 1990s, the CLP program was founded in 1991 as a combined effort of loggers, landowners, environmental specialists and safety consultants to establish a standard for professionalism in the Maine woods.

“They got state government, the insurance industry, logging contractors and forest products groups to get together and come up with a solution,” St. Peter said. “And that solution was promoting safety training and education.”

An immediate goal of the program was to combat the high rate of logging accidents and the resulting Worker’s Compensation costs for logging contractors.

Since then average workers comp rates have declined about 50 percent, but in Maine’s logging industry the savings and the improvements in safety are even more dramatic.

Traditionally, logging injuries had been above the average of all private sector occupations, St. Peter said, but since 1997 – except for one spike in 2009 – Maine logging has had less injuries than the average of the occupations in the Maine private sector.

There are two major factors in safety improvement, St. Peter said. One is the strong emphasis on safety and education, not only through CLP, but by logging companies and contractors.

The other is big increase in the amount of mechanical logging, as opposed to conventional logging with chain saws and skidders.

“Certainly mechanization has been a big contributor to lowering the injury rates for the whole logging sector because there are less people under the (forest) canopy – they’re all in enclosed cabs,” St. Peter said. “So that’s certainly had an effect on injuries. But training, education and improved technology have all contributed to lower injury rates.”
Celebrate with Maine’s SIC! 

Helping improve our forests for 20 years

SFI Certified Forest Land 
In the State of Maine

Projection - UTM, NAD27, Zone 19
Date Compiled: February 18, 2015

SFI ACREAGE CERTIFIED - 6,526,890 Acres

**Indicates SIC/SFI supporters

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