

# New Hampshire Sustainable Forestry Initiative®

2006 Annual Report of the New Hampshire SFI® Implementation Committee

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New Hampshire

## A Message From the Chair...

Upon completion of my first year as the NHSIC Chair I reflect on some changes that have taken place in 2006. The forestry community has experienced some large land ownership changes along with a number of market losses. At the national level the SFI program is also going through some changes that will bring a stronger presence to the marketplace into the future. With these changes and challenges the NHSIC has maintained its strong commitment to the promotion of the SFI message.

The NHSIC completed another successful year with the roll-out of the (NH Fish and Game) wildlife fact sheets relating to threatened and endangered species, rare plant communities, invasive species and critical wildlife habitats. A large portion of the NHSIC revenue has gone towards making this program a success. This was a cooperative effort that fostered a relationship with the Natural Heritage Inventory Program and NH Fish and Game. This project will continue with its important message into 2007.

The SIC work plan for 2007 will bring an increased focus to encourage private and public landowners to become licensees or seek full 3<sup>rd</sup> party certified status.

In 2007, the NHSIC outreach efforts will continue to support excellent educational programs like the NH Professional Loggers Program, NH Project Learning Tree, NH Tree Farm and the UNH Cooperative Extension Breakfasts for foresters and loggers.

I have enjoyed my first year as chair of the SIC. I want to extend thanks to the committee members and others for their involvement and support of the NHSIC. I continue to look forward to working with you all in 2007.

*Monica Prusik*  
*Chair, NHSFI Implementation Committee*

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## New Hampshire SFI® Implementation Committee Update

In 2006 the NH SIC signed on in support of a new and exciting 2-year project. As part of its continuing commitment to landowner and logger outreach, in 2006 the NH SFI Implementation Committee committed \$9,000 in support of UNH Cooperative Extension's Coverts program. These funds are specifically targeted towards the development of new and the revision of existing threatened and endangered species/habitat educational brochures. Each brochure will provide practical identification and management guidelines for land managers and landowners. In addition to the generation of brochures this project will also roll-out the brochures in a series of workshops across the state.

In 2006 the NH SFI Implementation Committee also continued its support of the efforts being made by the member companies and licensees in promoting sustainable forestry through enhanced outreach and education. These efforts included contributing over \$14,000 to New Hampshire's Professional Logger Program. These funds were used for the purchase of class materials and compensation of instructors and personnel. An additional \$1500 was contributed to the NH Tree Farm Program and NH Project Learning Tree in the form of grants to cover staff time and pay for a Tree Farm inspector training session. 2006 also saw the adoption of a new 888 call procedure which will streamline the internal oversight program.

Going into 2007 the NH SFI Implementation Committee continues to have a strong balance sheet and equally strong commitment from all the member companies and licensees to carry out its mission of promoting sustainable forestry.

Prepared by the New Hampshire SFI® Implementation Committee  
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## **HHP, Inc.**

HHP continued expansion and facility improvements throughout 2006. We concreted the log yard, invested in automatic bin sorters and built dry kilns. These changes will lead to increased timber utilization with a continued commitment to SFI.

HHP had active board members on the SFI Implementation Committee and Project Learning Tree. We continue to support the Tree Farm Program both financially and through ground inspections. A number of tours were hosted in our processing facilities and on company timberlands. The Project Learning Tree and the Henniker Elementary School 4th Grade class tours have become annual events that we enjoy hosting. Our woodlands department hosted Timber *Harvesting For Wildlife* class, a SAF private forestry class and the University of NH wildlife class.

## **2006 Annual Summary of Sappi Fine Paper SFI® Activities**

Sappi reviewed and updated all of our policies and procedures for compliance of the 2005-2009 standards. In June we conducted training for procurement foresters and stumpage contractors for BMP protocol with Dave Welsch of US Forest Service and Maine Forest Service foresters. In October we began collecting BMP/Regeneration data for our pilot Verifiable Monitoring Procedure.

Sappi continues to be very active with the American Tree Farm Program and has two foresters on the Maine Tree Farm Committee. 2007 promises additional challenges with our goal towards SFI, FSC and PEFC certification for our Somerset mill. Our Procurement system has achieved certification to the 2005-2009 SFIS in January of 2007. We have planned several classes for staff and contractor training during 2007.

Sappi Fine Paper is the world's leading producer of coated fine printing paper with manufacturing assets in North America, Europe and South Africa. Sappi has manufacturing plants in Westbrook and Skowhegan, Maine, Muskegon, Michigan and Cloquet, Minnesota. Locally, Sappi has a wood yard in the town of Ossipee, New Hampshire.

## **NewPage Corporation**

NewPage Corporation is committed to implementing and achieving the Sustainable Forestry Initiative® (SFI®) Standard (2005-2009 Edition) as part of its wood procurement programs to broaden the practice of sustainable forestry. During 2006, NewPage Corporation received 3<sup>rd</sup> Party Certification for its SFI® Procurement System. The New Hampshire SFI® Implementation Committee (SIC) was supported through financial contribution and the active participation of NewPage Corporation Rumford Mill Pulpwood Procurement Manager Steve Pinkham and Procurement Forester Andre Brochu. Rumford Mill procurement foresters performed 285 site visits during 2006 on active harvests throughout New England to promote and monitor the use of Best Management Practices (BMPs) with open market wood producers. Wood producers are successfully implementing BMPs. In monitoring harvest sites New Page procurement foresters work with wood producers to find solutions when BMPs have not been properly implemented.

NewPage procurement foresters are seeing consistent use of BMPs with wood producers continuing to show improvement. NewPage Corporation procurement programs and policies are complete and have been provided to wood producers annually. NewPage Corporation encourages its wood producers to work with "qualified logging professionals," and to encourage others in the forestry community to promote logger training. The Rumford Mill also sponsored logger-training workshops in New Hampshire and Maine through the support of SICs. NewPage Corporation is also a strong supporter of landowner assistance, provided through services performed for private landowners in its Forest Management Agreement program. Services such as management plan creation, harvest planning and administration are offered in New Hampshire and Maine. NewPage Corporation procurement foresters supported the American Tree Farm System by providing Tree Farm inspections verifying Tree Farm certification.

## **SPNHF Land Management 2006 Field Season Yearly Accomplishments:**

In 2006 the very wet months of May and June and an unseasonably warm start to the winter hampered field work and scheduled timber harvests. A volatile market for most species of forest products made this an exceptionally difficult year to cut and sell timber. In spite of the difficulties, the Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests (SPNHF) conducted 10 timber sales, grossed \$258,000 in stumpage, cut 1.6 million board feet of timber and 1,800 cords of pulp, treating 400 acres of land. Seventy-eight percent of the saw log volume cut was white pine, spruce/fir comprised 9% of the volume, with miscellaneous hardwoods making up the balance. Other stewardship field work included:

- Inventoried 4,000 acres
- Blazed 40+ miles of bounds
- Installed 3 gates and 3 kiosks
- Upgraded 1.5 miles of roads on 4 properties
- Mowed 17 acres for wildlife on 4 properties

## **Wagner Forest Management, LTD**

**Bayroot, LLC** (Bayroot) achieved re-certification to the 2005-09 SFI Standard on its lands in northern New Hampshire. Bayroot, through the efforts of its manager, Wagner Forest Management, LTD, has maintained SFI 3rd party certification since 2004 on these lands. In support of wildlife research, Bayroot continued its survey efforts of its lands for the occurrence of Bicknell's Thrush. Bicknell's Thrush is a neotropical warbler that has been identified by several conservation biologists as "at risk". In 2006, Bayroot also contracted with the New Hampshire Heritage Bureau to conduct a landscape analysis of its lands to identify any likely habitats for rare, threatened or endangered plant species as well as natural communities of significance. This project will continue into 2007.

**Yankee Forest, LLC** (Yankee) became a SFI Licensee in 2006. Yankee's Crown Tree Farm, through the efforts of its manager Wagner Forest Management, LTD, successfully obtained 3<sup>rd</sup> party certification to the 2005-09 SFIS. Other highlights for 2006 included the voluntary selection of areas that will be managed for timber as well as pine marten habitat. Finally, Yankee contracted with the New Hampshire Heritage Bureau to conduct a landscape analysis of its Crown Tree Farm. The purpose is to identify significant natural communities and potential "hotspots" for rare, threatened and endangered plant species.

## **Plum Creek Timber SFI Accomplishments in 2006**

The big news this year was the transfer of the administration of the SFI program from the AFPA to the SFB. Correspondence with the SFI staff has led us to believe that this change will place new responsibilities on the SICs to make the SFI program prosper. For several years, the SICs have lacked a good mechanism to work effectively together but our new administrative structure has great potential to facilitate such a positive outcome.

A disappointment in 2006 was news that our 2002 Third Party Certification was challenged by a local Maine environmental group. The upside to this challenge is the validation that SFI has a strong public accountability process through which questions can be raised and reviewed. We believe this facet of SFI has been overlooked in the past and although a challenge takes resources and time to go through, in the end, the public will better appreciate the openness of the SFI program. Hopefully, the challenge will be settled during 2007.

# NH SFI<sup>®</sup> Implementation Committee

## SFI<sup>®</sup> Program Participants

- ◆ Hancock Lumber Co., Inc.
- ◆ NewPage Corporation
- ◆ Sappi Fine Paper - North America
- ◆ Monadnock Paper Mills, Inc.
- ◆ Plum Creek Timber Co., Inc.
- ◆ Bayroot, LLC
- ◆ HHP, Inc
- ◆ Society for the Protection of NH Forests
- ◆ Yankee Forest, LLC
- ◆ Sustainable Forest Technologies

## Forestry Associations

- ◆ NH Timberland Owners Association

## Tree Farmers

- ◆ Tom Chrisenton
- ◆ Tom Thomson

## Government Forestry Agencies

- ◆ NH Div. of Forest and Lands
- ◆ NH Fish and Game Dept.

## Loggers

- ◆ Rocky Bunnell
- ◆ Dan Keniston

## Consultants

- ◆ Charles Bayliss
- ◆ Charles Levesque

## UNH Cooperative Extension

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