

From the Lab to the Land: Maine Landowners Partner for Sustainable Forestry Research

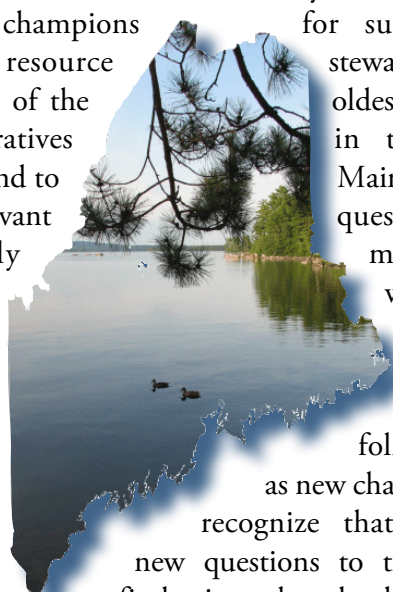
Cooperative
Forestry
Research Unit



Program Abstract
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Do you wonder what these companies have in common? Many people do, until we explain that these companies collectively own, manage and produce wood products from just over eight million acres of Maine's forest! Together these companies own and manage almost half of Maine's 17 million acres of forest and they face similar challenges as each other when managing their forest. Yes, they have very diverse interests, but the members of the Cooperative Forestry Research Unit (CFRU) also have a lot in common: their eight million acres serve as a laboratory for sustainable forestry research.

Our members have been working together since 1975 when they first formed the CFRU at the University of Maine. Since then they have been champions for sustainable forestry research and resource stewardship. This unique collaboration, one of the oldest such landowner/university cooperatives in the country, has been able to respond to Maine's changing forest questions about how to sustainably manage forests for fiber production, wildlife habitat and biodiversity. There is no doubt that Maine's forest has changed through time. It is no wonder that the CFRU has followed a similarly dynamic course as new challenges have arisen. Our cooperators recognize that changing forest practices bring new questions to the forefront. The CFRU continues to find science-based solutions to all kinds of challenges faced by forest managers of Maine, including many newer non-timber concerns. Whether studying protection from spruce budworm in the 1970s, mapping how deep the water table is across the forest, or better understanding habitat needs for wildlife



Members

Appalachian Mountain Club
Baskahegan Corporation
Baxter State Park, SFMA
Black Bear Forest, Inc.
EMC Holdings, LLC
Field Timberlands
Finestkind Tree Farms
Forest Society of Maine
The Forestland Group, LLC
Frontier Forest, LLC
Hancock Lumber Company, Inc.
Huber Engineered Woods, LLC
Huber Resources Corporation
Irving Woodlands, LLC
Katahdin Forest Management, LLC
Landvest
Maine Bureau of Parks and Lands
Mosquito, LLC
The Nature Conservancy
Peavey Manufacturing Company
Plum Creek Timber Company, Inc.
Prentiss & Carlisle Company, Inc.
Robbins Lumber Company
SAPPI Fine Papers
Seven Islands Land Company
Tall Timbers Trust, LLC
Timbervest, LLC
Wagner Forest Management

species, the CFRU helps its membership better manage the entire forest ecosystem for all its values.

Today, these 28 landowners and managers, wood processors, state government agencies and non-governmental conservation organizations voluntarily “tax” themselves to support forest research at the University of Maine. CFRU research includes everything from identifying healthy Canada lynx habitat, to modelling the productivity of the spruce-fir forest, to understanding ecological integrity at the landscape scale.

The CFRU uses its membership dues to leverage substantial additional research dollars from other sources, such as state and federal agencies. These funds allow



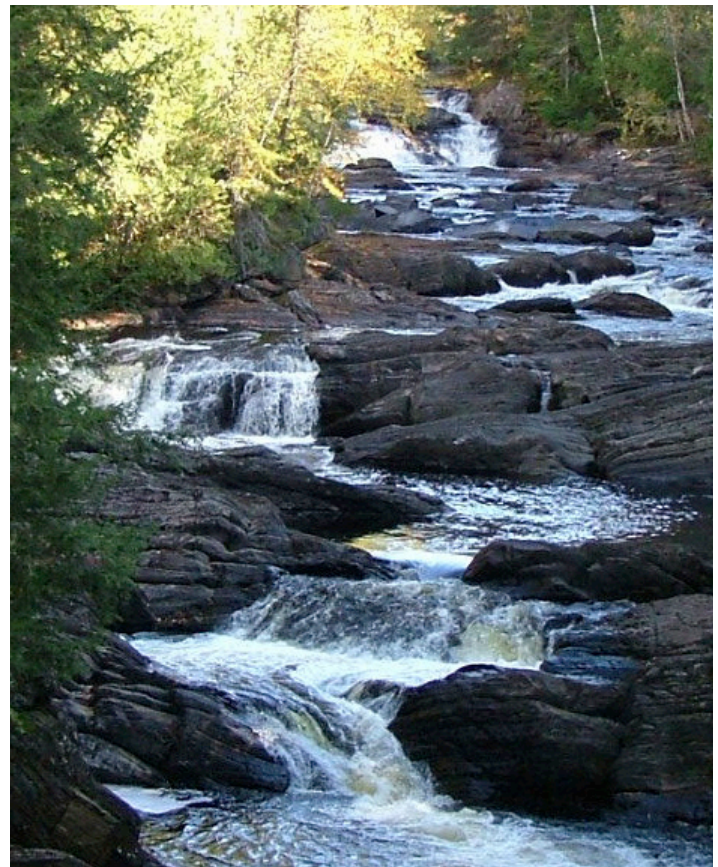
scientists to answer real questions about real management challenges. For instance, when policy makers wanted to know how Maine could sustain Canada lynx habitat, the CFRU was ready with six years of scientific research to show exactly what kind of forest practices contribute to healthy lynx habitat. CFRU strives to have credible, scientific information available

when forest managers, policy makers, and state agencies call for new information. Several years ago, CFRU members and researchers recognized that the habitat needs of the federally threatened Canada lynx are dependent on certain types of forest harvesting. Since 2001, the CFRU has been studying the complicated relationship between Canada lynx, snowshoe hares, and forest practices. CFRU research shows that the resurgence of Canada lynx in Maine is closely tied to the forest management of the 1980s, which followed the spruce budworm epidemic. Ongoing research investigates how today’s forest practices will affect future lynx populations.

Look again at our member companies. Our research informs forest management across a very diverse set of landowners, each with its own set of objectives for its land. Working together, forest industry, conservation groups and



state managers sit down to discuss the most important issues facing our forests. Each member brings a different perspective to the table, but it is this diversity of interests that makes the CFRU such a strong partnership. CFRU members recognize the importance of balancing timber and non-timber values from the forest. Being in the business of selling wood means that increasing forest productivity is vital, but it also means that maintaining the forest over the long term requires utmost attention to all the forest’s values. 🌲



*This article was written by
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See our website for more information:

www.umaine.edu/CFRU