



Center for Research on Sustainable Forests 2009-2010 Annual Report

We've had an exciting year at the Center for Research on Sustainable Forests. Our fourth year has seen the culmination of an important project to be presented to the Governor, a major shift in a few of our base programs, and the beginning of a major reorganizational overhaul of all Center programs as well as staff. Once again, thanks to all our researchers, collaborators, and other supporters who continue to make this Center a great one!



CRSF & CFRU Faculty & Staff

G. Bruce Wiersma, CRSF Director¹

Robert G. Wagner, CRSF Director² and CFRU Director

Spencer Meyer, CFRU Associate Director

Summer E. Allen, CRSF Communications & Development Coordinator

Matthew Olson, CFRU Research Scientist

Rosanna Libby, CFRU Administrative Assistant

Graduate Students

Dina Alberto, Master of Forestry (Graduated August 2009)

Elizabeth Lewis, M.S. Forest Resources (Expected graduation August 2010)

Patrick Lyons, M.S. Ecology & Environmental Sciences (Expected graduation date December 2011)

Cooperating Faculty & Staff

- Aria Amirbahman, Associate Professor of Civil & Environmental Engineering
- Kathleen P. Bell, Associate Professor of Resource Economics & Policy
- Jeffrey Benjamin, Assistant Professor of Forest Operations
- Thomas Brann, Professor of Forest Resources
- Aram Calhoun, Associate Professor of Wetlands Ecology
- Christopher Cronan, Professor of Biology & Ecology
- David Correia, Assistant Professor of Geography
- John Daigle, Associate Professor of Forest Recreation Management
- Michael Day, Associate Scientist in Ecosystem Science
- Ivan J. Fernandez, Professor of Soil Science
- Douglas Gardner, Associate Professor of Wood Science & Technology
- Barry Goodell, Professor of Wood Science & Technology
- Daniel Harrison, Professor of Wildlife Ecology
- Malcolm L. Hunter, Jr., Professor of Conservation Biology & Wildlife Ecology
- Richard Jagels, Professor of Forest Biology
- Jody Jellison, Professor of Molecular Plant Pathology
- Richard W. Judd, Professor of Environmental History
- Laura S. Kenefic, Faculty Associate & Researcher of Silviculture
- Alan J. Kimball, Associate Professor of Forest Resources
- William B. Krohn, Professor of Wildlife Ecology
- Melissa Laser, Cooperating Researcher of Marine Science
- Jessica Leahy, Assistant Professor of Parks, Recreation & Tourism
- Robert J. Lilieholm, Associate Professor of Forest Policy
- William H. Livingston, Associate Professor of Forest Resources
- Cynthia S. Loftin, Associate Professor of Wildlife Ecology
- Terry Porter, Assistant Professor of Management
- Robert Rice, Professor of Wood Science
- Steven A. Sader, Professor of Forest Resources
- Robert S. Seymour, Professor of Forest Resources
- Mario Teisl, Professor of Resource Economics & Policy
- Alan S. White, Professor of Forest Ecology
- Jeremy Wilson, Associate Professor of Forest Management

¹Retired May 31, 2010

²Appointment began June 1, 2010

Presentations, Publications, & Events:

Alberto, Dina M. "Forest cover changes in Southern and Eastern Maine Deer Wintering Areas 1991 to 2007". M.F. Project. June 2009. University of Maine, Orono, Maine.

Briggs, N.A. and S.A. Sader. 2009. Tracking forest change and development using low-cost remote sensing imagery and GIS integration. *Northern Journal of Applied Forestry* 26(4):148-155.

Center for Research on Sustainable Forests. Keeping Maine's Forests: A Study of the Future of Maine's Forests. Task force report. University of Maine, Orono, Maine. 2009.

Center for Research on Sustainable Forests. Press conference for the release of Keeping Maine's Forests: A Study of the Future of Maine's Forests. November 5, 2009. State House, Augusta, Maine.

Center for Research on Sustainable Forests. Sponsor, "Wonder of Wood" Public Expo, September 19, 2009. Sullivan Complex, University of Southern Maine, Portland, Maine.

Lyons, P. and Leahy, J. "Developing a Stakeholder-Driven Family Forest Initiative through Maine's Center for Research on Sustainable Forests," poster presentation at the 3rd Emerging Issues Along Urban-Rural Interfaces Conference, April 2010. Atlanta, GA.

Lyons, P. and Leahy, J. "Fostering Credibility and Legitimacy among Family Forest Stakeholders and Researchers to Promote Knowledge to Action," poster presentation for International Symposium on Society and Resource Management, June 2010. Corpus Christi, TX.

Noone M.D. and S.A. Sader. Comparison of harvest rates as influenced by changing ownerships, conservation easements, and certified forestlands. *Northern Journal of Applied forestry*. Manuscript in review.

Noone M.D. Forest change and cover type monitoring and evaluation of disturbance influences in Maine: 2000 to 2007. M.S. Thesis, December 2009, University of Maine, Orono.

Sader, S.A. Remote sensing applied to forest disturbance and fragmentation monitoring in Maine. Invited Presentation to Southwest Maine Forest Fragmentation Coalition, April 15, 2010. Scarborough, Maine.



Cooperative Forestry Research Unit (CFRU)

www.umaine.edu/cfru

The CFRU administratively falls within the CRSF, but it files all its own annual reports. Contact Rosanna Libby, Administrative Assistant, for more information.

Northeastern States Research Cooperative (NSRC)

www.nsrcforest.org



This is the fifth year that the University of Maine has received funding for the NSRC, a research cooperative between the US Forest Service and the participating states of Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, and New York. An RFP is released jointly and each state coordinates its own peer-reviewed process on an individual theme. This year, Maine's Theme (Forest Productivity & Products) funded seven new projects for one of two total years, and reallocated funds for the second year of two projects that were approved in the 2009 funding cycle.

The NSRC has a meticulously updated website with information on active and completed projects, as well as Cooperative background and administrative information. For more information, please visit the website.

Keeping Maine's Forests (KMF)



Governor John Baldacci and NRCS State Conservationist Juan Hernandez pose with the finished Keeping Maine's Forests report at a press conference at the State House. Photo by Ramona du Houx

Keeping Maine's Forests was formed in early 2008 at the request of the Governor's Office, with a specific inquiry into how rising land values, increasing populations, and global economics will affect the future of Maine's forests. The group's objective was to assess problems facing Maine's forests and develop a series of proposed solutions to help maintain the integrity of the resource. The group met every six-to-eight weeks since February 2008. In early 2009, the group began working with a writer to produce a professional report. The report, titled "Keeping Maine's Forests: A Study of the Future of Maine's Forests," was formally presented to Governor John Baldacci on November 5, 2009. Funding for the group's work was provided by the CRSF's Munsungan Fund, as well as a generous grant from the Natural Resources Conservation Service.



ForCAST is a cross-disciplinary research and communications effort of the CRSF. In order to attempt to predict what the Maine forest will look like in future years, several areas of concern were identified by CRSF researchers. A major issue that was identified was that of "dynamic ownership changes," and thusly, ForCAST has moved into the research area of

family forests. With 120,000 small family forest landowners in the state and a high percentage of them aged 55 or older, two-thirds of those family forest land parcels (approx. 4 million acres) are expected to change ownership in the next 20 years.³ A project team led by Dr. Jessica Leahy, called the Family Forest Research Unit (FFRU), has been focused on finding the best ways to communicate with landowners in Maine in the hope of promoting sustainable stewardship of 5.7 million acres of woodland. Patrick Lyons, one of Dr. Leahy's graduate students, has been in charge of conducting numerous interviews with faculty members, members of government and non-governmental agencies and organizations working directly with family forest landowners, in order to decide the best communication methods to address the family forest landowners in the form of a mailed survey. The survey's purpose is to better understand who exactly Maine's family forest landowners are, what values they place on their land, how this land influences their lives and how they generally prefer to obtain information on and communicate about landowner issues. These data will be shared with CRSF cooperating faculty and the numerous family forest stakeholders throughout the state to bolster their research and outreach efforts and find ways to help landowners make informed decisions on their forests. Additionally, consultant Andrew Kekacs was hired to compile data on the small landowners of Maine, with over 200 towns included in the final data set. This information will be extremely useful to the FFRU and to the family forest stakeholders in the state.

³US Forest Service Northern Research Station. "Whose Woods are These? Big Changes Looming in Family Forest Ownership." Research Review No. 4, Autumn 2008. 29 July 2010. <<http://www.fs.fed.us/nrs/news/review/review-vol04.pdf>>

Forests for Maine's Future

www.forestsformainesfuture.org

Forests for Maine's future, a partnership of the CRSF, the Maine Forest Service, the Maine TREE Foundation, and the Small Woodland Owners' Association of Maine (SWOAM) continues to be the major outreach component of the CRSF. With major support from our science writer, Andrew Kekacs, FMF seeks to provide compelling, independent, science-based articles about Maine's forests. The stories are targeted at an audience that is interested in the woods, but mostly uninformed about the biology and economics of the system. In particular, the articles are meant to reach people in their 20s to middle-age – especially women – residing in southern and coastal Maine and who self-identify as interested in the environment. "Fresh from the Woods" is sent out electronically to approximately 5,900 people each month and posted on the FMF website as well. Additionally, the newsletter is distributed to approximately 225 reporters and editors at almost all of Maine's daily and weekly newspapers, magazine, radio stations, and television stations. They use the material in a variety of ways.

Most commonly, smaller papers pick up the articles and run them full text with credit to Forests for Maine's Future. There are about 10 regular users of the articles, reaching a total of about 60,000 readers. These include the Seacoast chain of Maine and New Hampshire papers, the Mount Desert Islander, the Times Record in Brunswick, and the Capital Weekly in Augusta.

The articles also appear in unexpected places: The hiking writer for the Portland Press Herald recently endorsed FMF's site as the place to go for the best information on Maine's forest; the column regularly appears in the gardening section of the Free Press, an 11,000-circulation paper based in Rockland; WGME in Portland ran a story on the centennial edition "Forest Trees of Maine" guide a short time after they received FMF's article.



CRSF Communications & Development Coordinator Summer Allen squishes an Asian Longhorned Beetle, an invasive pest in Maine, at the Wonder of Wood fair.



A child's leaf rubbing from the arts and crafts table at the Wonder of Wood fair.

As of June 30, 2010, the website is on the first page of Google search results for the terms "Maine forests," "Maine forest," and "Maine trees." Current numbers show that there are approximately 90 visitors to the site each day.

FMF held their third annual public forestry event in Portland, ME on September 19, 2009. The event, named the "Wonder of Wood," provided Southern Maine residents with a free,

family-friendly day of entertainment, workshops, and informational displays. The group worked with Green Tree Event Consultants of Portland to provide the logistical, sales, and marketing services of the event, as well as day-of staffing support. The third year was the last year in the trial run of such program offerings. After three years of sponsoring this event, with fluctuating attendance that never quite met the organization's goals, FMF has discontinued the event and is concentrating on other endeavors for the future. The website and electronic newsletter will provide a strong base for any new ideas that the group implements.

Funding for FMF's activities are supported by dues from each of the member groups, as well as additional grant monies when available.

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