



SFI Conservation and Community Partnerships Grant Program 2010 Bird Studies Canada: Improving Forest Habitat Management

In 2010, Sustainable Forestry Initiative® (SFI®) Inc. introduced its Conservation and Community Partnerships Grant Program, furthering its long-standing commitment to research and bringing together diverse partners, including SFI program participants, conservation groups and several government agencies, to deliver conservation benefits across North America and tackle illegal logging issues globally.

Independent non-profit SFI Inc. invited applications for collaborative projects that help to implement the SFI 2010-2014 Standard, make it stronger, and show how SFI certification delivers tangible benefits on the ground and complements existing government initiatives in North America. Applicants were encouraged to address topics of current importance such as the role of certified forests in emerging bioenergy and carbon markets, improving wildlife habitat management, avoiding controversial sources of fiber such as those resulting from illegal logging, and delivering community benefits through activities involving partners such as government agencies, Aboriginal communities and universities.

In May 2010, the SFI program announced a commitment of \$675,000 to support nine projects, including \$307,500 for 2010 alone. Through the involvement of partners, these projects will leverage additional resources and achieve a total value of almost \$2.7 million.

Improving Forest Habitat Management to Conserve Bird Biodiversity

Bird Studies Canada will receive \$80,000 a year for three years, for a total of \$240,000, to provide science-based data and tools that SFI program participants can use to improve forest habitat management beyond regulatory compliance for the conservation of bird biodiversity and species at risk across Canada.

Supporting the SFI Standard

The project will build on the well-established, volunteer-based Canadian Breeding Bird Atlas program, helping forest managers meet legal, regulatory and SFI Standard requirements with respect to biodiversity conservation and protection of threatened and endangered species. This includes Objective 4 of the SFI 2010-2014 Standard calling for program participants "to manage the quality and distribution of wildlife habitats and contribute to the conservation of biological diversity by developing and implementing stand- and landscape-level measures that promote a diversity of types of habitat and successional stages, and conservation of forest plants and animals, including aquatic species."

Project Partners

In addition to Bird Studies Canada, partners include the Canadian Wildlife Service, Regroupement QuébecOiseaux, and Breeding Bird Atlas projects in the Maritimes, Ontario, Manitoba, and British Columbia as well as seven SFI program participants – NewPage, Port Hawkesbury Corporation, Bowater Mersey Paper Company Ltd., Abitibi-Bowater, J.D. Irving Ltd., Acadian Timber and Louisiana-Pacific Corp.

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Project Details

Information from Breeding Bird Atlases about the distribution of breeding bird species will be supplemented by data gathered from forest areas not easily accessed by volunteers, and from harvesting data already collected on existing and potential SFI project participant lands in Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Quebec, Ontario, Manitoba and British Columbia. The project will lead to a customized web portal where forestry companies can request, obtain, manage, and potentially analyze data specific to their managed lands.

SFI program participants will be able to use the data to develop programs and management plans to promote the conservation of native bird diversity and threatened and endangered species. Birds are an excellent indicator of biological diversity with measurable responses to forest management practices.

About Bird Studies Canada

Not-for-profit Bird Studies Canada (www.bsc-eoc.org) advances the understanding, appreciation, and conservation of wild birds and their habitats, in Canada and elsewhere, through studies that engage the skills, enthusiasm, and support of its members, volunteers, and the interested public. It was a partner in a unique study of bird populations expected to improve forestry practices in Canada's Acadian forests that won an SFI Leadership in Conservation Research Award in 2008.

About SFI Inc.

SFI Inc. is an independent 501(c)(3) non-profit charitable organization, and is solely responsible for maintaining, overseeing and improving the internationally recognized Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI) program (www.sfiprogram.org). Close to 200 million acres/80 million hectares are certified to the SFI forest management standard across North America, making it the largest single forest standard in the world. SFI chain-of-custody certification tells buyers the percentage of certified, uncertified and recycled content in a product. Unique SFI fiber sourcing requirements promote responsible forest management on all suppliers' lands in North America, whether certified or not. SFI Inc. is governed by a three-chamber board of directors representing environmental, social and economic sectors equally.

The SFI program is grounded in science and research, and based on conservation and community partnerships. Since 1995, SFI-certified organizations have invested more than \$1.1 billion US for research activities that improve the health, productivity and responsible management of forest resources. The program also responds to diverse local needs across the United States and Canada through a unique network of 37 SFI Implementation Committees. SFI Inc. values and facilitates this research and outreach work through awards and support for collaborative activities.

For more information:

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