



SUSTAINABLE FORESTRY INITIATIVE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Feb. 26, 2009

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CONSERVATION PARTNERSHIP IN MANITOBA WINS SFI INC. AWARD

WINNIPEG, Manitoba – Louisiana-Pacific Corporation (LP) and Ducks Unlimited Canada (DUC) were awarded a Sustainable Forestry Initiative® (SFI®) Leadership in Conservation Research Award today for activities leading to long-term conservation of important wetlands and watersheds in west-central Manitoba.

“This LP and Ducks Unlimited partnership reflects the spirit of SFI certification with conservation research and habitat protection, improved forest management practices, professional training and community outreach,” said Kathy Abusow, President and CEO of SFI Inc., an independent, non-profit organization dedicated to promoting sustainable forest management. “The SFI program recognizes the immense value of wetlands and water resources, which is why its standard has objectives dedicated to both the protection of water quality and the conservation of native biological diversity.”

LP and DUC created a formal Boreal Conservation Partnership in 2005 after years of working together on a variety of projects, including DUC’s first boreal forest inventory project in Manitoba, involving extensive waterbird surveys and satellite mapping for approximately 3.6 million hectares (nine million acres) in the west-central portion of the province.

The conservation partnership focuses on strategies promoting sustainable management of aquatic resources in watersheds of the Duck Mountain Provincial Forest, an important wood supply area for LP. Activities have included research collaboration, forest inventory improvements, including an enhanced wetland inventory, information transfer and environmental education. The Manitoba government has co-operated with the research initiatives, which are taking place on public lands.

The SFI program is one of the largest third-party forest certification programs in the world, with more than 62 million hectares (154 million acres) certified across North America. LP has certified two million hectares (five million acres) in Manitoba to the SFI forest standard, which was developed by professional foresters, conservationists, scientists and others, and addresses key environmental, social and economic forest values – from water quality and biodiversity to harvesting and regeneration.

SFI program participants are involved in more than 100 projects across North America – many involving conservation leaders like Ducks Unlimited – which improve scientific information and enhance conservation and forest management. Since 1995, SFI program participants have contributed close to \$1 billion (US) for research activities that improve the health, productivity and responsible management of forest resources.

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“Our commitment is to employ practices that ensure sustainable forests and a healthy environment,” said Neil Sherman, Vice President of Procurement, Logistics and Supply Management for Louisiana-Pacific. “Working with Ducks Unlimited Canada is one way we accomplish that.”

“Our work with Ducks Unlimited has produced knowledge that allows both organizations to better understand and conserve wetlands while managing the forests around them,” said Wade Cable, Area Forest Manager of LP’s Swan Valley Forest Resources Division. “The enhanced DUC wetland classification system is an invaluable tool used in planning our forestry harvests.”

“We are very pleased to be recognized by SFI for the Leadership in Conservation Research Award and would like to thank Louisiana-Pacific Canada for their continued support of boreal conservation through their partnership with DUC,” said Jeff Nelson, Executive Vice President for DUC.

“Knowing the current economic challenges being faced by the forest industry, LP’s commitment to a long-term view of sustainable forest management is both visionary and commendable.”

The award was presented at a gathering of Manitoba business leaders to support the Oak Hammock Marsh Interpretative Centre, a joint project of DUC and the Government of Manitoba.

SFI Inc. introduced the SFI Leadership in Conservation Research Award in 2007 to recognize projects with strong partnerships that achieve ongoing and far-reaching benefits. The Boreal Conservation Partnership is the third project in North America to win this award.

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Editors Note: A backgrounder about the Boreal Conservation Partnership is attached.

About SFI Inc.

SFI Inc. is a 501c(3) non-profit charitable organization, and is solely responsible for maintaining, overseeing and improving the Sustainable Forestry Initiative program (www.sfiprogram.org), that is internationally recognized and among the largest in the world. It is one of the fastest-growing forest certification programs with 62 million hectares (154 million acres) of SFI-certified forests across North America. The SFI Standard also includes unique fiber sourcing requirements that promote responsible forest management on all suppliers’ lands and a chain-of-custody certification, which can communicate to buyers how much certified fiber is in a specific product. The SFI forest standard is endorsed by the Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification, a global umbrella organization that has strict requirements for endorsement. SFI Inc. is governed by a three-chamber board of directors representing environmental, social and economic sectors equally.



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About Louisiana-Pacific Corporation (LP)

Louisiana-Pacific Corporation (www.lpcorp.com), with headquarters in Nashville, Tenn., is a premier supplier of building products, manufacturing innovative, high-quality commodity and specialty products for its retail, wholesale, home building and industrial customers. Founded in 1973, it operates 26 manufacturing facilities in the United States, Canada, Chile and Brazil. LP's Swan Valley facility (www.swanvalleyforest.ca) began operating in 1996, and produces oriented strand board, primarily using aspen harvested from LP's Forest Management Licence (FML#3) area, other Crown land, and private wood sources.

About Ducks Unlimited Canada (DUC)

Ducks Unlimited Canada (www.ducks.ca), Canada's leading wetland conservation organization, has been committed to wetland conservation for 70 years. A national, private, non-profit organization, its conservation efforts take many forms, including on-the-ground wetland and environmental research guided by DUC's scientists, work to change policy in favour of wetland and habitat conservation, and wetland and environmental education programs. DUC established its first conservation project in Canada at Big Grass Marsh near Gladstone, Manitoba, and has been active in wetland conservation across the Western Boreal Forest since 1997.

BACKGROUND: LP-DUC Boreal Conservation Partnership

Louisiana-Pacific Corporation (LP) and Ducks Unlimited Canada (DUC) have worked together since 2001 when LP supported DUC's first boreal forest inventory project in Manitoba. The project included extensive waterbird surveys and satellite mapping for about 3.6 million hectares (nine million acres) in the west-central portion of the province.

In 2005, this developed into a formal Boreal Conservation Partnership, which is focusing on strategies to promote sustainable management of aquatic resources in watersheds of the Duck Mountain Provincial Forest, an important wood supply area for LP.

Partnership activities have included:

- Research on birds and the development of map products so enhanced forest management practices can be developed, implemented and monitored, leading to long-term conservation of wetlands, riparian habitats and watersheds. Activities have included experimental harvesting of shoreline forest areas to help understand the effects on birds associated with riparian and wetland areas.
- Improvements to the forest inventory to enhance the accuracy and interpretation of wetland Ecosites and the completion of a mapped Enhanced Wetland Classification System for the LP licence area. This information will assist in the planning of forest harvest, road development and stream crossings.
- Knowledge transfer involving LP planners, logging contractors and others to inform them about wetland classification and understand the different types of wetlands, simple patterns of hydrology, the potential effects of forest management activities on these areas and ways to avoid potential negative impacts.
- Sponsorships allowing elementary classrooms to enroll in Project Webfoot, DUC's environmental education program. Through LP's leadership, the Swan River forest industry and other businesses have financed this important program and, on average, more than 20 classes are sponsored annually. Since 2004, more than 2,000 grades 4-6 children have benefited from Project Webfoot. Many classes also benefit from a sponsored field trip to the Duck Mountain Forest Centre in the Duck Mountains, which is supported by the Manitoba Forestry Association and the local forest industry.