



SFI Inc. 2011 Conservation and Community Partnerships Grant Program

Dalhousie University: Mitigating impacts of road construction in forested wetlands: Best Management Practices for the Forest Industry

[Dalhousie University](#) will receive a total of \$70,000 over three years, beginning in 2011, to develop best management practices for forest road crossings in Atlantic Canada to avoid disrupting water flows in wetlands.

Supporting the SFI Standard

The project will support two objectives of the SFI 2010-2014 Standard. Objective 3: Protection and Maintenance of Water Resources, which includes indicator 3.2.4: identification and protection of non-forested wetlands, including bogs, fens, marshes and vernal pools of ecological significance; and Objective 4: Conservation of Biological Diversity including Forests with Exceptional Conservation Value.

Project Partners

Dalhousie University; Ducks Unlimited Canada; SFI Implementation Committees in Nova Scotia and New Brunswick; the Nova Scotia Department of Environment; the New Brunswick Department of Natural Resources; two SFI program participants – J.D. Irving Ltd. and Bowater Mersey Paper Company Ltd. – FPIInnovations non-profit research institute; and the University of New Brunswick.

Project Details

While the forest industry makes a considerable effort to avoid wetlands when building access roads, this is not always possible. The project will involve rigorous experiments to test the most promising approaches and techniques to determine which are most effective at maintaining hydrologic function when building roads in forested swamps. In summer 2011, students will take detailed measurements of wetland conditions, water flows and biodiversity conditions in chosen forested wetlands. Industry partners will install alternative treatments in late summer/early autumn of 2011, and the students will take detailed measurements again in summer 2012. The data will then be analyzed, and reports and workshops completed.

About Dalhousie University

The School for Resource and Environmental Studies (SRES) is the centre for resource and environmental scholarship and research at Dalhousie University in Halifax, Nova Scotia. Its graduate programs, interdisciplinary teaching, and ongoing research programs, combined with collaboration with governmental, non-governmental, private sector, and community groups, provide a stimulating environment. The SRES community of students and faculty come from a variety of academic and professional disciplines and the resulting interdisciplinary approach to problem solving crosses the biophysical/social divide.