



## **SFI Inc. 2011 Conservation and Community Partnerships Grant Program**

### **Ducks Unlimited Canada: Development of Best Practices for Forestry Road Design and Construction**

Ducks Unlimited Canada, in partnership with Louisiana Pacific Canada Ltd. and FPIInnovations, will receive a total of \$180,000 over three years, beginning in 2011, to determine best practices for planning and building forestry roads that protect wetland ecosystems in the western boreal forest.

#### **Supporting the SFI Standard**

The project will support a number of the SFI 2010-2014 Standard objectives, including Objective 1, which requires forest management planning "to ensure long-term forest productivity and yield based on the use of the best scientific information available"; Objective 3 "Protection and Maintenance of Water Resources – 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. It will advance knowledge, meeting Objective 10: Adherence to Best Management Practices – to broaden the practice of sustainable forestry through the use of best management practices to protect water quality; Objective 15: to support forestry research, science and technology, including financial or in-kind support; Objective 16 "to improve the implementation of sustainable forestry practices through appropriate training and education programs"; and Objective 20, which calls for promotion of continual improvement in the practice of sustainable forestry.

#### **Project Partners**

The Nature Conservancy of Canada; BC Bat; the British Columbia Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations; SFI-certified International Forest Products Ltd.

#### **Project Details**

Ducks Unlimited Canada biologists, wetland ecologists and GIS specialists will share their expert knowledge about boreal wetlands with forestry professionals, and then work with them to identify boreal wetland ecosystems and test ways to plan around and build forest roads that maintain the unique ecological characteristics and functions of different classes of boreal wetlands.

The project will identify existing or develop new best management practices most compatible with minimizing impacts on the different wetland types found in the western boreal forest. The results will be field tested, and the knowledge transferred back to project partners with the intent to provide information to modify planning and construction techniques as needed. During key stages of implementation, government representatives responsible for forest practices will be consulted regarding the feasibility of integrating recommendations into forest operations guidelines.

#### **About Ducks Unlimited Canada**

[Ducks Unlimited Canada](#) (DUC) is a private, non-profit, habitat conservation organization founded in 1938. Ducks Unlimited Canada works with private landowners, governments and industry to conserve, restore and manage wetlands and associated habitats across all regions of Canada. In 2009, Ducks Unlimited Canada and Louisiana-Pacific Canada (Swan River Forest Resources Division) received an [SFI Leadership in Conservation Research award](#) for activities leading to long-term conservation of important wetlands and watersheds in west-central Manitoba.