

# Farm Bill Accomplishment Report Template

## Farm Bill Midyear Accomplishment Report

<b>Year:</b>	FY2017
<b>State:</b>	Maine
<b>Cooperative Agreement Name:</b>	Forest Pest Outreach and Survey Project
<b>Cooperative Agreement Number:</b>	FAIN AP17PPQFO000C365
<b>Project Funding Period:</b>	9/20/2017 – 9/19/2018
<b>Project Report:</b>	<b>Farm Bill FPOSP Midyear Report</b>
<b>Project Document Date:</b>	4/18/2018
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Quarterly Report	<input type="checkbox"/>
Semi-Annual Accomplishment Report	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Annual Accomplishment Report	<input type="checkbox"/>

## 1. Approach

The cooperator (DACF) will provide a multi-pronged approach to invasive forest pest outreach by utilizing the additional resources of trained outreach volunteers (through contracts with NGOs) focusing on insect pests, as well as partnering with the Maine Natural Areas Program who will focus on federal noxious weeds and other invasive plants that are threats to Maine's forests.

A. *Invasive Forest Insects*: We will continue to deliver outreach and education by capitalizing on the additional resources and expertise of many of the trained Outreach volunteers that have been educated through DACF's Train-the-Trainer program since 2009. The previous two Farm Bill-awarded Forest Pest Outreach projects (FY15 and FY16) awarded sub-contracts to The Maine Association of Conservation Districts (MACD) and the Saco River Recreational Council (SRRC) to conduct outreach and training for invasive forest insects, specifically emerald ash borer and Asian longhorned beetle, to their constituencies and beyond. Now with experience and infrastructure in place, the two agencies will again receive funds to continue their outreach efforts.

- 1) MACD workplan and report attached.
- 2) SRRC workplan and report attached.
- 3) DACF will:

- a. Maintain a list of outreach and training activities, tabling events, media contacts and targeted audience participants and report on these per reporting requirements in the cooperative agreement.

A database is maintained by the cooperator that tracks all events related to FPOSP outreach. Although we are no longer building up a volunteer base through DACF, we continue to solicit activity reports from our previously trained volunteers, and continue to participate in various outreach activities. Below is a list of events by DACF staff and/or volunteers for the reporting period (9/20/17-3/31/18).

Date	Location	Event	Type	# Impacted	Notes
9/22/17 – 9/24/17	Unity	Common Ground Fair	Maine Bug Watch booth in the Environmental Concerns area	Over 63,000 people at fair	Large and varied agricultural fair put on by the Maine Organic Farmers and Growers Association. <i>Pic included</i>
10/2/17	Fryeburg	Fryeburg Fair	SRRC booth – a portion dedicated to invasive forest pest and firewood outreach	~800 people came to booth	DACF helped staff the Saco River Recreational Council outreach booth at the Fair, a 10-day event. <i>Pic included</i>
10/24/17	University of Maine, Augusta	Senior College - Maine's Natural World	Invasive Forest Pest Presentation	50	FPOSP Volunteer / Master Naturalist taught about invasive forest pests at a senior college.
11/8/17	Waterboro	Massabesic Middle School Invasive Species Forum	School and community event to educate on various invasive species issues.	150	Staffed FPO and Firewood display as well as being the species expert for several of the pests represented in student displays.

12/8/17	Bangor	MACD Winter Meeting	Talk on tree-tagging	25	Invited to speak at the meeting to demonstrate tree-tagging as an important outreach tool. <i>Pic included</i>
12/20/17	Sanford	Ash Tree Inventory and Survey	Survey and scouting	5	Assisted York Co. Soil-Water Conservation District with ash tree inventory and survey.
1/18/18	Rockport	Winter Tree ID	Tree walk with awareness of invasive forest pests	15	Organized by KLSWCD; led by Maine Forest Service district forester and KLSWCD.
1/24/18	Augusta	Maine Landscape and Nursery Association Annual Meeting	Invasive Forest Pest booth in the exhibition area	200	A joint meeting for licensed arborists and professional landscapers.
3/16/18	Hallowell	Maine Invasive Species Network Annual Meeting	Presentation	120	Update on invasive forest pests provided by Department entomologist
3/21/18 – 3/25/18	Portland	Maine Flower Show	Invasive Forest Insect and Plant booth in the exhibition area	30,000	Very popular show with much interest in the booth. <i>Pic included</i>

b. Maintain the in-state electronic list of citizen volunteers for present and future pest detection communications as well as requests for assistance. Most of the communications will be achieved through newsletters and social media.

We maintain a database of all trained volunteers from 2009 to 2015. We currently have over 600 names in the database. These names have been transferred to the subscription list of our electronic newsletter, *Invasive Pest Outreach News*, which had 1807 subscribers by end of reporting period and is delivered electronically 3-6 times a year. Three newsletters were delivered during this reporting period (9/20/2017-3/31/2018).

In addition, we regularly post to our Maine Bug Watch [Facebook](#) (1871 followers) and [Twitter](#) (247 followers) pages, to not only cover pest updates, but announce events and volunteer opportunities. These metrics cover the reporting period (9/20/2017-3/31/2018).

Maine DACF-FPOSP Social Media Metrics							
9/20/17 - 3/31/18		# subscribers	# subscribers	%	# posts	engagement	
Type	Name	9/19/17	by 3/31/18	increase			
Newsletter	Invasive Pest Outreach News	1659	1807	9	3	28%	"unique opens rate"
Facebook	Maine Bug Watch	676	1871	177	43	8631	"avg post reach"
Twitter	Maine Bug Watch	238	247	4	42	76	"impressions per day"

c. Coordinate FPO events with national outreach efforts, including Earth Day and National Invasive Species Awareness Week (NISAW).

The Department released a multi-agency newsletter in observance of NISAW (2/26/18) (*attached*). Multiple tree tagging events are being planned around Arbor Week and Emerald Ash Borer Awareness Week (May).

- d. Cooperate with other agencies, contractors, and NGOs to develop and disseminate outreach materials.

We continue to share all our materials, including posters, presentations, handouts, tree tags, and insect and wood displays with SRRC, MACD, and others who make requests through our volunteer resource website (<http://www.maine.gov/dacf/php/caps/ALB/ALBvolunteers.shtml>). We continue to develop, print and distribute outreach materials to these groups and our trained volunteers.

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- e. Provide support to MACD and SRRC.

In this reporting period, DACF staff supported:

- SRRC at the Fryeburg Fair with supplies of outreach items (bookmarks, transit cards, brochures, pencils, tattoos, etc.), and staffing for the booth.
  - MACD with connection to NH for the emerald ash borer field trip.
  - MACD with tree-tagging demonstration and supplies.
  - York Co. SWCD with ash tree scouting and inventory.
- 

B. *Invasive Forest Plants*: Outreach and education for this topic will be performed by the Maine Natural Areas Program (MNAP). MNAP is a program within the Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry (DACF) which supports an Invasive Plant Biologist as well as several Ecologists and an Information Manager.

- 1) MNAP will collaborate with partners to co-present workshops and other educational outreach opportunities, to ensure coverage of both insect and plant pests that threaten Maine's forested environments.
- 2) MNAP will develop and conduct up to 20 outreach and education workshops, in addition to developing educational materials such as an invasive plant ranking tool and websites providing key identification, reporting, and management guidance for the noxious weeds and invasive plants most threatening to Maine's forests and other natural areas. MNAP will share these resources freely with partners to spread the message of early detection of forest pests.
- 3) MNAP outreach efforts will target: 1) producers, forest landowners, and other likely first detectors such as foresters, park managers, land stewards, and conservation commission leaders; 2) field workers such as electric utility contractors, landscape professionals, arborists, nursery and garden center employees; 3) plant consumers such as gardeners; and 4) select youth already engaged with the topic of forest stewardship via forestry classes, high school projects, internships, or other related activities. Example outreach topics:
  - Early Detection of Invasive Plants and Noxious Weeds – New Species Threatening Maine's Forests
  - Invasive Plants 101: Intro to Invasive Plant Identification and Overview of Management

- Invasive Plant Reporting using iMapInvasives (Early Detection tool and central repository for Maine)
- Detailed Invasive Plant Mapping with iMapInvasives (to facilitate strategic management)
- Advanced Invasive Plant Management: Detailed Control Techniques and Case Studies

The Maine Natural Areas Program (MNAP) conducted 11 invasive plant workshops for a variety of audiences, reaching 396 attendees with the message of which invasive plants are harmful in the forest, why, and what they can do about it. Attendees included foresters from a major timber/land management company, college students who will be the next generation of forest stewards, high school students actively involved in invasive plant management on their high school property (forest and fields), forest landowners, Maine Cooperative Extension agents (who interact with landowners across the state), AmeriCorps Members who serve across the state, citizen science volunteers working in their local town forests and land trust forests, invasive species professionals, and town parks and recreation land managers. This has been a busy time for education and outreach events and we are pleased to have reached such diverse audiences in the first half of the project period.

Date	Location	Event	Presentation/ workshop title or event description	# Engaged	Notes
9/21/2017	Farmington	Forester workshop	Invasive Plant Identification and Management	22 foresters	Included classroom plus field components. <i>Pics included</i>
10/6/2017	Unity College	Conservation Land Management Class	Invasive Plants in Conservation Land Management	12 students	Sharp class with good questions; future land managers!
10/14/2017	Jefferson, Hidden Valley Nature Center	A Day in the Woods community forestry event	Invasive Plants in Woodlands, informal discussion	9 attendees	Mix of attendees from land stewards to homeowners
11/10/2017	Chewonki Semester School, Wiscasset	Presentation for High School Students	Invasive Plants 101	41 students and teachers	They were also doing a hands-on work project on the property
11/17/2017	Bangor	Univ. of Maine Coop. Ext. agents	Invasive Plant Updates	25	Diverse group of professionals
1/10/2018	Augusta	Maine Woodland Owners Annual Mtg., Ag Trade Show	Invasive Plants Update	~100 attendees	Maine Woodland Owners members
1/12/2018	Augusta	Maine Conservation Corps Environmental Stewards Training	Invasive Plants 101	9 AmeriCorps members	Maine Conservation Corps Environmental Stewards
3/14/2018	Harpowell	Presentation for Harpswell Invasive Plant Partnership	Nip them in the Bud: Emerging Invasive Plants	23 attendees	Harpowell Invasive Plant Partnership, general public

3/14/2018	Harpwell	Presentation for Harpswell Invasive Plant Partnership	Advanced iMapInvasives workshop	7 citizen scientists	Harpwell Invasive Plant Partnership volunteers
3/16/2018	Hallowell	Maine Invasive Species Network Annual Meeting	State of the State: Invasive Plants in Maine	130 attendees	Attendees at the Maine Invasive Species Network annual meeting
3/19/2018	Rockport	Annual Meeting of the Maine Recreation and Parks Association	Big Picture of Invasive Plant Management	18 parks & rec staff & students	Municipal Parks and Rec Managers

#### Other Invasive Forest Plants Outreach and Education:

- MNAP responded to 40 general inquiries about invasive plants via email or phone during this period. These ranged from simple inquiries about how to identify a plant, to complex conversations about treatment options, timelines, and prioritization, to discussion of how to engage a local conservation commission in addressing invasive plants in town forests and parks. Woodlot owners, conservation commission volunteers, forestry foundation staff, and the general public all received assistance with their invasive plant questions.
- Staff continued evaluating potential invasive plants with an Invasive Plant Ranking Tool. This work is informing our understanding of which plants are the most biologically harmful in the forest, which allows us to tailor outreach to focus on species of highest concern. Approximately 60 plants were evaluated during this timeframe and we are in the process of creating an Annotated Advisory List to distribute the information to forest land managers.
- MNAP facilitated a leadership meeting of the Maine Invasive Species Network (MISN), a cross-taxa collaboration of professionals, researchers, educators, and practitioners, to initiate planning for the MISN 2018 Annual Meeting. The Annual Meeting is a wonderful event allowing land managers, invasive species policymakers, horticulturalists, foresters, entomologists, fish biologists, and others from across Maine to “cross-pollinate” by sharing the latest invasive species news, research, and policy updates.
- During Invasive Species Awareness Week (February 26-March 2, 2018), MNAP helped to prepare materials for DACF press releases about invasive plants. See attached email of 10 Ways to Observe National Invasive Species Awareness Week – this was distributed to DACF listserve subscribers, 5052 recipients. MNAP also responded to incoming reporter inquiries about invasive plants. A story was featured in the Bangor Daily News (see attached printout of online version of story or follow link here: <https://bangordailynews.com/2018/03/02/homestead/what-invasive-species-can-you-find-on-your-property/>).

**DACF - Common Ground Fair**



**SRRC/DACF - Fryeburg Fair**



**MACD Meeting - Tree Tagging Presentation**



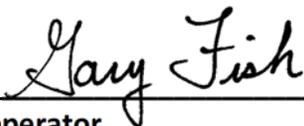
**DACF - Maine Flower Show**



**MNAP - Invasive Plant Workshop**



Approved and signed by

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Cooperator

Date: 4/18/2018

\_\_\_\_\_  
ADODR

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Attachments:**

- NISAW Observance Newsletter
- Maine Association of Conservation District (MACD) Approach
- MACD Semiannual Report
- Saco River Recreational Council (SRRC) Approach
- SRRC Semiannual Report



## 10 Ways to Observe National Invasive Species Awareness Week in Maine

Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry sent this bulletin at 02/26/2018 11:01 AM EST

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### MAINE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, CONSERVATION & FORESTRY

#### NEWS RELEASES

### 10 Ways to Observe National Invasive Species Awareness Week in Maine February 26 - March 2, 2018

1. **Learn how to identify invasive plants** that might be growing on your property. With the leaves off the trees, now is a great time to find some invasive plants that might be otherwise hidden, such as Asiatic bittersweet vines snaking through a tree's canopy. Take a walk through your property and flag invasive woody plants. Map your finds and plan your management tactics for each species.
2. **Are you planting this year?** Use as many native plants as possible. The [UMAINE Cooperative Extension Service](#) has a detailed list of Maine native plants for gardening or landscaping, or ask your local nursery staff for help on choosing non-invasive alternatives.
3. **Take a hike and look for signs of invasive forest insects** as you go. Use this [Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry guide](#) to help. Make it a family, club or organization outing! Become a citizen scientist and report your findings to [www.vitalsignsme.org](http://www.vitalsignsme.org).
4. **Going camping?** Leave your firewood at home and prevent the spread of invasive pests. Buy firewood at the campground or go to [FirewoodScout.org](http://FirewoodScout.org) to find other local sources.
5. **Do you live in an area that has winter moth?** Don't dig up and share perennials/tree saplings. Winter moth pupae are hiding in the soil all summer long and will move with transplants.
6. **Stay inside and watch "Foes of the Forests: Maine's Trees at Risk from Invasive Insects,"** or participate in an invasive species webinar offered during [NISAW week](#).
7. **Don't release aquarium fish and plants, live bait or other exotic animals into the wild.** If you plan to own an exotic pet, do your research and make sure you can commit to its care.
8. **Learn about protecting Maine's waterways from invasive aquatic plants.** Consider joining Maine's Volunteer Lake Monitoring Program.
9. **Like or Follow Maine Bug Watch and the Maine Invasive Species Network Facebook pages.**
10. **Spread Awareness:** take your National Invasive Species Awareness Week commitment beyond this week. Tell your friends, family, neighbors and others about invasive species! It's a big state and we can't get the word out to everyone without your help. Encourage them to get involved with National Invasive Species Awareness Week in their own way.

## Maine Association of Conservation District (MACD) Approach:

### A. *Invasive Forest Insects:*

- 1) MACD: The Forest Invasive Pest Outreach and Education Technical Delivery Team will continue to provide cost efficient and effective outreach and education, and will expand outreach to all 16 counties in Maine from the initial 12 counties targeted in the first year of the grant.
  - A *Train the Trainer* session will be offered through MACD at the 2017 Winter Meeting, which will enable additional conservation district staff to become trained presenters.
  - Workshops, trainings and/or walk and talks will be held throughout Maine, and where possible, in conjunction with conservation partners during key awareness weeks such as the Invasive Species Awareness Week in late February and also the Emerald Ash Borer Awareness Week in late May. Public Service Announcements will be provided to radio and news outlets in advance of these events in order to generate greater awareness of the threats to our forests and woodlots from invasive forest pests. These events will target outreach to local landowners and to forestry professionals. Events such as fairs will have invasive forest pest displays and handouts.
  - Municipal outreach will be provided through the Maine Municipal Association (MMA) and where possible through local municipal associations such as the Oxford County Municipal Association. This outreach will target municipal officials, public works department personnel and other local government officials through regional meetings with the goal of municipalities developing invasive pest management plans for their communities. Folders for municipalities, conservation commissions and tree boards will have focused information to provide strategies and draft management plans to address invasive forest pests in their communities.
  - Invasive Forest Pest Information Packets will be produced for all 16 conservation districts in Maine in order to significantly expand statewide outreach throughout the year. Conservation districts, while differing in their focus throughout the state, all provide numerous natural resource education workshops and technical trainings, giving opportunity to place these information packets out at relevant events. Additionally, many conservation districts offer tree and plants sales, during which these packets will be made available. Given that our target audiences for all events are conservation minded professional and landowners, conservation districts can put this important information in the hands of people who spend a good amount of their time outdoors, and who typically have very good awareness about the natural world, enabling them to notice any negative changes in their environment.



**Maine Association of Conservation Districts  
Employees Committee**

PO Box 541, Portland, ME 04112-0541

Phone: 596-2040

Email: Hildy Ellis, Project Leader, [hildy@knox-lincoln.org](mailto:hildy@knox-lincoln.org)

**Invasive Forest Pest Outreach and Education Grant Report**  
**Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry**  
**Bureau of Agriculture, Division of Animal and Plant Health**  
**RFP #201506109**

**Reporting Period: Sept 20, 2017 – March 31, 2018**

Forest Pest Outreach and Education work plan with deliverables signed with cooperator MACD for period September 20, 2017 to September 19, 2018. Work plan with cooperator MACD expanded outreach to all 16 counties in Maine, up from 12 counties targeted in the first year.

**1. Education and Outreach: Programs**

There was one program held during this reporting period as listed in Table 1 below. Two evaluations were completed and are attached as an appendix to this report. In addition to the program listed in Table 1, a question/answer session was scheduled as part of the October 14 “A Day in the Woods” event as listed in section 2.

*Table 1*

<b>Program Date</b>	<b>Presenter</b>	<b>Host and Town</b>	<b>Partners</b>	<b>CEU's</b>	<b>No. of Participants</b>
March 3	Hildy Ellis, KLSWCD & Colleen Teerling, DACF-MFS	Merryspring Nature Center, Camden	Cooperative Extension	None	14

**2. Education and Outreach: Public Events**

The following Invasive Forest Pests outreach events and display booths were led or staffed by SWCD employees as listed in Table 2. Any public events that did not have a staffed booth are indicated:

*Table 2*

<b>Event Date</b>	<b>Event Name</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Host</b>	<b>Participating Districts</b>	<b>Approx. Event Attendees</b>
Sept 17-23	Farmington Fair (unstaffed)	Farmington	Franklin County Ag Assoc	Franklin County SWCD	
Sept 22-24	Common Ground Fair	Unity	MOFGA	Knox-Lincoln & Waldo SWCD	60,000 <i>(100 packets + other handouts)</i>
Sept 26	Native Groundcovers	Camden	Merryspring Nature Ctr	Knox-Lincoln SWCD	<i>(50 packets distributed)</i>

Sept 28	Conservation Fair for Middle School	Union Fairgrounds	Knox-Lincoln SWCD	Knox-Lincoln & Waldo SWCD	400 <i>(30 packets distributed to teachers)</i>
Oct 11	Salmon Spectacular	Craig Brook Nat'l Fish Hatchery, E. Orland	Fish Hatchery	Hancock SWCD	200
Oct 14	A Day in the Woods	Hidden Valley Nature Ctr, Jefferson	Hidden Valley Nature Ctr	Knox-Lincoln, Somerset & Waldo SWCD	400 <i>(50 packets + other handouts)</i>
Oct 23	EAB Sites Field Trip	Concord, NH	NH Forest Service	Andy Valley, Franklin, Kennebec, Knox-Lincoln, Oxford, Penobscot & Somerset	
Oct 28	Native Seed Starting class	Whitefield	Sheepscot General Store	Knox-Lincoln	20 <i>(packets distributed to all participants)</i>
Dec 8	Tree-tagging demo	MACD Winter Mtg, Bangor	Karen Coluzzi, DACF	15 of 16 SWCDs	Tree tagging materials distributed
Jan 9-11	Ag Trade Show	Augusta	Maine DACF	Kennebec, Knox-Lincoln, Oxford, Somerset	5,000
Feb 6	Children's IFP workshop	Sears Island	Friends of Sears Island	Waldo	12
Feb 18, March 4	Apple Tree Pruning	Skowhegan & Pittsfield	Somerset SWCD	Somerset	42
March 16	ME Invasive Species Annual Mtg	Hallowell	Maine Invasive Species Network	Knox-Lincoln, Kennebec, Piscataquis, Somerset, Waldo	
March 17	Eastern Maine Sportsmen's Show	UMaine, Orono	Penobscot County Conservation Assoc.	Hancock, Piscataquis, Penobscot	
March 25	Maine Flower Show	Portland	Maine DACF, Maine Bug Watch	Oxford	

Public events during this reporting period were held at a diverse range of locations and venues. The diversity allowed for a broad range of the public to be targeted, from children to adults with these types of events giving Districts' outreach the "most bang for the buck." Many comments provided

from the events noted good public discussions with people who had limited IFP knowledge to the well-informed.

### **Public Program and Event Highlights**

MOFGA's Common Ground Country Fair is a much anticipated fall fair within Maine and beyond, seeing up to 60,000 people enter the gates. Knox-Lincoln and Waldo County District staffed the booth during the 3 day fair in September, interacting with many of the adults, children, farmers, and gardeners attending.

The annual Knox-Lincoln SWCD Conservation Fair held September 28 was directed to middle school students in Knox and Lincoln counties. Ten 15-minute presentations to classroom groups were scheduled throughout the day with presenters introducing IFP and engaging the students using ALB and EAB cootie catchers. Thirty information packets and cootie catcher templates were given to teachers. Many of the children were aware of IFP from either television or their parents.



Knox-Lincoln Conservation Fair students with "cootie-catchers"



"A Day in the Woods" event with IFP Q&A, Jefferson

"A Day in the Woods" event in Jefferson October 14 provided a scheduled question and answer session at the IFP booth within the day's planned events. Joe Dembeck of Somerset County SWCD led the Q&A. It was a worthwhile learning experience to be able to engage people and find out interests, and what is known and not known regarding invasive forest pests.

Also in October, staff from 7 Districts carpoled to meet representatives from the New Hampshire Forest Service in Concord where they toured sites affected by the Emerald Ash Borer. District staff noted how invaluable it was to view infested trees and see overwintering pupa in situ. Information about the site tour was presented to the employees' committee at MACD's winter meeting December 8 in Bangor.



Concord, NH: EAB site tour

The 80<sup>th</sup> annual Eastern Maine Sportsmen’s Show in Orono is a one-day event held each March at UMaine campus, drawing a large crowd and many families. The staffed IFP booth provided positive interaction and discussion with the public and engagement with children.



Hancock County SWCD’s Zack Steele interacts at Sportsmen’s Show

In addition to KLSWCD’s Conservation Fair, the reporting period held another event that focused on children’s activities. Waldo County SWCD, in partnership with Friends of Sears Island after-school program, presented an hour and a half program with 12 children and parents learning about invasive forest pests and utilizing the “build a bug” kits and trying on bug costumes.



Sears Island students studying wood cookie Feb 6



Aleta of Waldo County SWCD and Sears Island student at Feb 6 IFP children’s class

Hildy Ellis of Knox-Lincoln SWCD noted the “excellent audience of conservation-minded folk and naturalists with very good questions” at the March 3 program at Merryspring Nature Center. Entomologist Colleen Teerling of the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry spoke with Hildy and presented an in-depth look at HWA and explained “Slow the Spread.”

### 3. IFP Promotion and Outreach

Districts throughout the state again used traditional outlets such as social media, websites, NRCS's email list serve, Quick Notes, and DACF's *gondelivery* email system to highlight invasive forest pests messages such as winter moth information, National Invasive Species Week and news that the Emerald Ash Borer is on the border of Maine from the south and north.

Individual Districts like Washington County published three IFP press releases for the local paper and provided 54 IFP informational packets to people inquiring at their office or through the mail. Due to interest in neighboring Canada, the Washington County SWCD is planning a future IFP presentation in Calais to better reach that population.

Knox-Lincoln SWCD has two program series that began in 2018: monthly Woodland Stewardship Tours held on private forest land led by Maine Forest Service forester Morten Moesswild and monthly Farmer and Gardener workshops co-sponsored by Maine Coast Heritage Trust. These series will provide a continuing outlet for IFP information dissemination through information packets and discussion. In addition, Knox-Lincoln, in 2018 alone, handed out a total of 118 IFP packets to members of the public who came out in support of various KLSWCD events such as raising funds for KLSWCD's environmental education programs, attending the annual NRCS Local Work Group meeting and DACF's Food Safety workshop.



Woodland Stewardship Tour,  
Rockport

Oxford County SWCD is involved with assisting the town of Norway with aspects of writing a municipal plan and continued meetings with the town manager and chief of police during this period. An agreement was made to set up a page on the town's website for "Invasive Forest Pests of Importance," along with an accepted offer from the District to share that info with the neighboring towns of Oxford and Paris.

### 4. IFP Other

As part of continuing education, Oxford County SWCD participated in a webinar entitled, "Wood Utilization Post-EAB" at the end of March and shared it with other Districts. They will also be encouraging the town of Norway to watch it as part of developing their municipal plan.

### Appendices

- Two MACD Employees Committee Program Participants' Evaluations



**INVASIVE FOREST PEST OUTREACH WORKSHOP**

*This workshop is brought to you by the Maine Association of Conservation Districts  
in partnership with Knox-Lincoln Soil & Water Conservation District,  
and Merryspring Nature Center.*



*Supported by a grant from Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry*

**Date:** Sat Mar 3, 2018 from 10am to noon

**Classroom Session:** Merryspring Nature Center, Conway Rd, Camden

**Outdoor Session:** None

**Presenter:** Hildy Ellis, Knox-Lincoln SWCD & Colleen Teerling, Maine Forest Service

1. How did you find out about this workshop?

from both Merryspring's and K-L SWCD's email announcements.

2. Was the material presented in a clear, easy to understand manner?

Yes       No       Somewhat

Comment: \_\_\_\_\_

3. Were the presenters knowledgeable and prepared on the topics discussed?

Yes       No       Somewhat

Comment: \_\_\_\_\_

4. Did the workshop fulfill your expectations?

Yes       No       Somewhat

Comment: \_\_\_\_\_

5. What are one or two strong points of the presentation/workshop?

- 1. very thorough. winter moth, browntail moth, emerald ash, asian longhorned, hemlock scale,
- 2. very knowledgeable presenters. good coverage. good discussion.

6. What are one or two recommendations for improvement?

- 1. none that I can think of.
- 2. \_\_\_\_\_

7. What information/training from the workshop will you be able to integrate into your life or work?

all information/training will be put to use in both my Maine properties. identifying the invasives,  
dealing with them, reporting them,

8. Would you like to receive information about future events offered through Maine's soil and water conservation districts? If so, please provide your name and email here.

I am already on the S&WC email list

Thank You!

Maine Association of Conservation Districts  
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Phone: (207) 596-2040

*Maine Association of Conservation Districts is an equal opportunity provider and employer*



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2. \_\_\_\_\_

6. What are one or two recommendations for improvement?

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

7. What information/training from the workshop will you be able to integrate into your life or work?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

8. Would you like to receive information about future events offered through Maine's soil and water conservation districts? If so, please provide your name and email here.

\_\_\_\_\_

Thank You!

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## Saco River Recreational Council (SRRC) Approach:

### 1) *Invasive Forest Insects:*

- 2) SRRC: The SRRC will focus its outreach efforts at the organization's headquarters: Swans Falls Canoe Access and Campground in Fryeburg, Maine. Thousands of people use the landing each summer to access the Saco River for boating and camping, making it a prime location to engage with visitors from around the state and beyond about the threat that invasive forest pests pose to our region, how important it is to source firewood locally, and how they can help to identify and prevent the spread of these pests. Staff has the opportunity to talk with, and (sometimes provide impromptu training to) a high number of families, friend groups, and youth groups that visit the area. The Swans Falls education facility, which has been historically located in the small camp store, included a display to disseminate information about forest pests for several years now. This past year, construction began on a dedicated educational outreach facility that will house permanent displays – including an invasive forest pest display – which will be open to all who visit the property. With funding from this grant, the SRRC will be able to complete this facility, with hopes to use it not only as a visitor center, but also as a location for hosting trainings and workshops.

The SRRC will continue with forest pest outreach at fairs, conferences, schools, and other yet to be organized outreach events throughout the year, while focusing on engaging with constituents during the summer months at all riverside locations. This funding will also help the SRRC employ a summer intern to assist the short-handed staff with outreach and education at the landings, keep posted materials up-to-date, and identify and develop other ways in which to engage visitors. All staff members have been trained to understand the importance of purchasing local firewood, and engage in conversation with every group that arrives with or purchases wood. Materials provided by the DACF will be posted on the bulletin boards at all four of the local river landings and will be given to all campgrounds on the upper Saco River in Fryeburg and Brownfield. Participating local canoe liveries and other stakeholders along the Saco River Corridor have been educated through the SRRC about invasive forest pests and will continue to share the information with their customers as well. Metrics for assessing impacts will include reporting the number of events and trainings that focus on invasive forest pest education, tallies of those who attend trainings and events, and the number of visitors that bring out-of-state firewood.

### ***SRRC Accomplishment Report***

First Quarter (9/20/17-12/31/17) - EVENT COORDINATOR, Deanna Morris

- Canoeing season at the SRRC culminated in our largest annual outreach event: the Fryeburg Fair. Our group was located in the Natural Resources Center where we set up a booth to provide information about the Saco River, Leave No Trace, and the invasive pests and plants that threaten our region. I estimate that well over a thousand visitors wandered through the booth, and personally had a number of great conversations about the forest pest initiative. As always, people (and especially children) loved to look at the bug, larvae, and wood samples, but the infestation maps, species-specific brochures, and example purple trap were also extremely effective tools. We went through tons of pencils, tattoos, and

cards as well, and many visitors assembled packets of information to share with homeschool and other youth groups. Unfortunately, we did not get much interest in Firewood Scout, and no one used the sign-up form that was offered; perhaps we can advertise it differently next year so that people better understand what it is. Overall the event was a great success, and I think our group was able to share a lot of valuable information about what we can do control and prevent invasive species. (Pic. 1)

- The rest of this part of the year was spent researching and planning for the busy summer season. We plan to open mid- to late-May, although traffic won't pick up until partway through June. I am reinstating the internship program at Swan's Falls, and have spent a lot of time designing an outline for the summer position and searching for a candidate. Our intern will be involved with outreach and connecting to visitor groups, and will use his or her experience with the river crowd to help design new approaches to educating about forest pests, invasive aquatic plants, and Leave No Trace.
- Another focus has been on identifying other local campgrounds that see a high volume of out-of-state traffic and putting together resources (mostly posters and brochures) that can be shared at their locations. We are also looking for local sporting goods stores and other public locations where we can hang posters.
- We are designing small leaflets to be distributed to campers as part of our welcome packets that we will also make available to groups camping along the river (not in our campground). These will touch on the importance of using local firewood among a few other major points.
- We are also putting together a mini unit on forest pests that can be taught to young campers or scout and youth groups that come through our landing. We have had great success with impromptu talks in the past, and hope to create more of a standard briefing with fun handouts that can be delivered by not only myself, but also by campground staff and our summer intern.
- Once mid-May rolls around we will begin prepping our visitor center and bulletin boards for the summer season. We can condense and be more effective in what we choose to display and where we display it.

DATE	EVENT	# ATTEND	PARTNERING ORGANIZATION(S)	NOTES
Oct. 1-8	Fryeburg Fair	1000+	DACF	Outreach and assistance provided to hundreds of people accessing the river each weekend. Landing staff also questioned visitors about firewood origin, and explained why it is illegal to transport firewood.

The 2017 SRRC Fryeburg Fair Booth: forest pest information is located on the righthand side of the display.

