

# FRA REGION

## ACTIVITY REPORT

## NORTHEASTERN Region



### ISSUES & TRENDS

#### Attracting New Wood Using Industries

Efforts in Maine and across the region have focused on attracting new wood-using industries to the Northeast, particularly those using low-grade wood. To date, some smaller projects have broken ground or been announced, but there remains significant opportunity for new forest manufacturing in all the Northeastern states.

#### Rapid Changes in Market Conditions

Rapidly changing market conditions impacted the entire supply chain across the Northeast. Significant demand changes were seen for sawlogs, pulpwood, and biomass in the Region, not always in ways that stabilized the diverse supply chain. The sudden loss of a major Maine pulp mill due to a digester explosion impacted the entire forest industry and caused changes in market conditions that impacted sawmills, loggers, and landowners across the region.

#### Forest Health

Forest health remains a significant and growing issue, with pests such as the Spruce Budworm, Hemplock Woolly Adelgid, Emerald Ash Borer, and Spotted Lantern Fly impacting forests in different parts of the Northeast. In some cases, these outbreaks have caused transportation restrictions and changed forest management strategies, and these and other pests are expected to continue.

### FRA ACTIVITY

#### February Forest Forum

N.D. Paper – the owner of mills in Rumford and Old Town, ME – presented at the February FRA Forest Forum, discussing the company’s plans for the operating mill in Rumford and the restart and product change at the pulp mill in Old Town.

#### March Forest Forum

The March FRA Forest Forum featured a speaker from Fischer International / Forest2Market discussing *Mega-Trends in the Global Pulp and Paper Industry*, and how the Northeast impacts with the global marketplace.

#### COVID-19

Information that the FRA Northeast Region shared via conference calls and emails addressed:

- COVID-19 protocols for loggers, truckers, foresters, and mills;
- Specifics on what in the forest industry and supply chain was deemed an “essential business” in each state during periods of restricted movement early in the pandemic; and
- Ways to access federal loan programs designed to support businesses.

### ON THE HORIZON

The Northeast Region will be holding some online workshops in the Spring and looks forward to the resumption of the monthly FRA Forest Forum as an in-person event in the fall (assuming conditions allow).