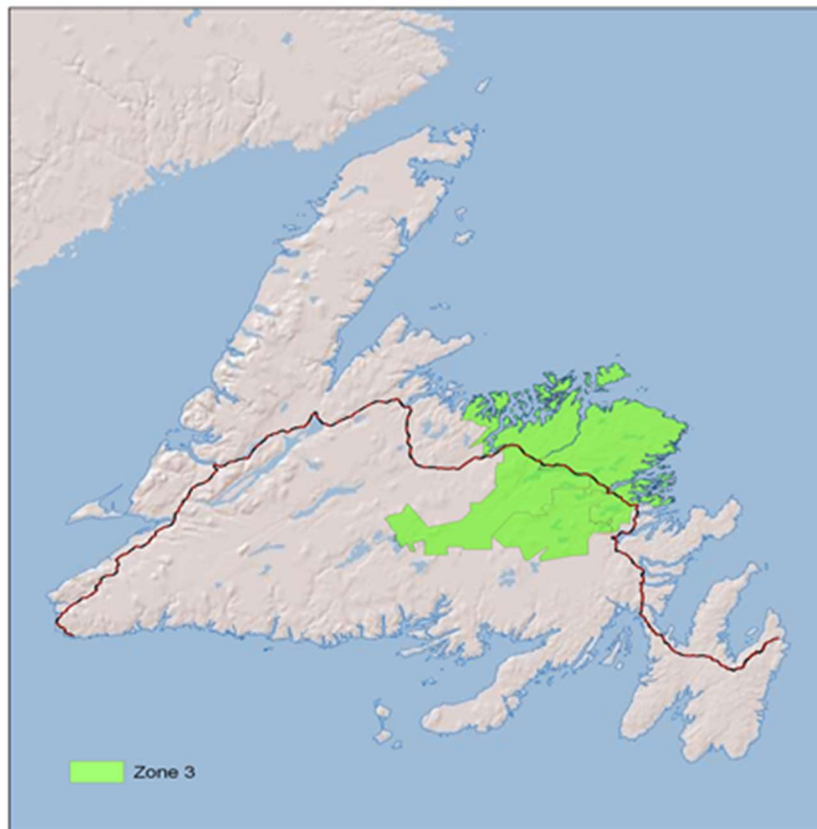


ZONE 3

FOREST MANAGEMENT PLAN

2022 – 2026



Department of Fisheries, Forestry, and Agriculture
Forestry & Wildlife Branch
Regional Services

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INTRODUCTION

This new five-year plan is scheduled for the period January 1, 2022 to December 31, 2026 and represents proposed forestry activity upon crown timber lands within Forest Management Districts 04, 05, 06 and 08. The management of this land is consistent with strategies and philosophies implemented by Fisheries, Forestry and Agriculture on all other crown land managed districts within the Province. This five-year operating plan incorporates established provincial planning requirements, environmental protection guidelines, and standard operating procedures developed under a stringent Environmental Management System (EMS) which is registered under the ISO 14001 standard. Topics that are provincial in scope such as carbon and global warming are included in the provincial sustainable forest management strategy, while sections that are more descriptive or depict local conditions such as values, forest characterization and ecosystem description are included into this five year operating plan. Forest Management Districts 04, 05, 06 and 08 are adjacent and share common ecoregion characteristics and collectively form Planning Zone Three (3). Within a planning zone, there is a requirement for each tenure to develop a five year operating plan. These plans have to be submitted to Forestry and Wildlife Branch and Department of Environment (for an environmental assessment review). Forest Management Districts 04 and 08 are comprised entirely of crown land, while FMD's 05 & 06 has both Crown and Corner Brook Pulp and Paper (CBPPL) tenure. As a result, there will be two (2) five-year plan submissions for this zone. Throughout this five-year plan, references will be made to Districts 04, 05, 06 and 08 individually but when combined they will collectively be referred to as Planning Zone Three or the zone.

This document will attempt to fully integrate the presentation of information and discussions for crown land in the zone. Discussion and information will be presented separately for each district where warranted based on unique and distinct differences in scope and content. The more descriptive sections of this plan will be generic in nature and give information for the entire zone as well as some broad comparative statistics. Finally, this document will attempt to build on the positive results of previous five-year plan documents. Information will be updated as required or new sections will be added as any new information is available.

SECTION 1 DESCRIPTION OF THE LAND BASE

1.1 General

1.1.1 Location

Planning Zone Three encompasses FMD's 4, 5, 6 and 8. It extends from Seal Bay in the northwest, easterly along the coast to New-Wes-Valley in the northeast, then southerly to Terra Nova National Park in the east and then west along the northern edge of the Bay Du' Nord Wilderness Area to the general area of the Bay D'Espoir Highway near Great Gull Lake.

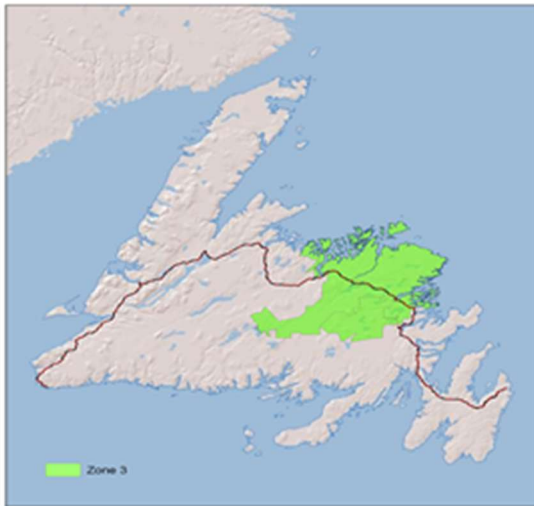


Figure 1: Location of Planning Zone 3

1.1.2 History

With the exception of Gander, the major communities within the planning zone area were built around the fishery, the railway and lumbering. In FMD 5, Gander's existence stems from the need of a stopover point for transatlantic flights in the mid 1930's, while Wesleyville-Badgers Quay area and Greenspond, were important to the fishing industry. Gambo was the site of extensive lumbering activities in the 1800's. The Terra Nova River watershed, which essentially constitutes FMD 4, was extensively logged for pulpwood and lumber during the 1940's and 50's. FMD 6 encompasses the watershed of both the Northwest and Southwest Gander Rivers and the area immediately adjacent to Glenwood. Within FMD 8, the community of Twillingate developed around the fishing and shipping industries, while Campbellton was an industrial town with a lumber mill, pulp mill and its own miniature railway. Over the past 30 years, commercial forestry activities have increased to the point where they now account for a significant portion of employment in the area. Small scale farming is carried out in the Comfort Cove, Laurenceton and

Northern Arm areas. Lewisporte; the largest community in the district is a service town with a large wholesale distribution center. It is also a main port for the coastal service to Labrador. These four districts have strong ties to the development of the forest industry in Newfoundland. In more recent years, the infrastructure, especially the network of forest access roads originally used to support the logging industry, is considered an important component of other industry developments such as hunting and fishing.

1.1.3 Ownership

There are two major ownerships in the zone which comprise of Crown and Corner Brook Pulp and Paper Limited (CBPPL). A transfer agreement was signed in 2020, which resulted in land being reverred from CBPPL to Crown in FMD's 5 & 6. As a result, within the whole zone CBPPL now only represents 21.6 % ownership.

1.2 Physical

1.2.1 Topography and Hydrology

Planning Zone 3 has generally rolling topography dissected by several large valleys including: Southwest Gander River, Northwest Gander River and Gander River valleys. These rolling hills are commonly between 100 and 200 metres (asl) and rarely extending above 300 metres (asl). A broad lowland, below 100 m elevation, is found between the Exploits River and Botwood, and north of Norris Arm. The area has an extensive coastline dominated by bedrock with scattered pocket beaches. Another exception is the area west of New-Wes-Valley, which is generally low relief lowland (less than 100 m asl) dominated by numerous lakes and wetland areas. The physiography is largely controlled by bedrock structure, shown by the numerous southwestnortheast trending valleys, lakes and ridges. Hills are commonly orientated northeastward, reflecting bedrock lineations. The highest point in the management area is Mount Peyton (482 m asl) near Glenwood in FMD 6. This region contains Gander Lake, which is one of the largest lakes in the province. The lake is 47 km long, an average of 2.0 km wide. The main rivers include: Gander, Gambo, Campbellton, and Terra Nova.

1.2.2 Geology

This region shows abundant evidence of glacial activity, and is dominated by areas of bedrock and till. Bedrock that comprises much of the coastal area and the higher ground is smoothed, commonly showing roche moutonnée forms. Drumlins are found at the head of Lewisporte Harbour, and crag-and-tail hills are found south of Loon Bay. Areas adjacent to the coast show large area of bedrock exposure, particularly west of New-Wes-Valley and north of Gander. Eskers are also found in the Caribou Lake area south of Gander Lake the Mint Brook area near Gambo and the Terra Nova area. Areas of non-glacial sediment are generally confined to the valleys. The Great Rattling Brook, Southwest Gander River, Northwest Gander River and Gander River valleys all contain moderately to well-sorted, stratified sand and gravel deposited in a glaciofluvial or

fluvial environment. The Southwest and Northwest Gander River valleys are up to 6 km wide, with flat valley floors. They contain sand and gravel deposited by glaciofluvial outwash.

1.2.3 Soils

Portions of the districts have been surveyed with respect to soil profile but information is lacking in other areas, particularly near the coast. A soil survey was conducted in the Gander – Gambo area that concluded the soils developed from glacial till. Podzolic soils are the main soils in the area with some orthic gleysols which are characterized by the lack of aeration and poor drainage. Sphagnum peat is the predominant type of organic deposit. Other types of organic soils found in the districts would be ericaceous peat and muck peat, both of which are less shallow in depth when compared to sphagnum peat. In relation to tree growth, the podzolic soils support the following species: black spruce – *Picea mariana* (Mill.) B.S.P.; balsam fir - *Abies balsamea* (L.) Mill.; white birch - *Betula papyrifera* (Marsh).

1.2.4 Climate

The climate of the four districts can be broken down into two main categories. The Central Newfoundland Ecoregion has the most continental climate on the island. As a result it has the warmest summers and the coldest winters. The mean daily temperatures for July and February are +15oC to +16oC and -4oC to -8oC, respectively. The precipitation ranges from 900 mm to 1300 mm annually with 3.0 m to 5.3 m of snowfall. This ecoregion also has the least wind and fog for the island. Due to the warm summers and the highest rates of evapo-transpiration, the soil moisture in this area is considered one of the driest on the island. A result of this is the high frequency of fire in this ecoregion due to its summer dryness. The North Shore Ecoregion has the warmest summers of all the coastal regions on the island, and the winters are cool. The mean July temperatures range from +15oC to +16oC, while the February mean temperatures range from -5oC to -7oC. The precipitation for this area is between 900 mm and 1200 mm with snowfall amounts ranging from 2.5 m to 3.5 m. Due to its exposure, the high winds and high summer temperatures the high evapo-transpiration rates cause the soil in this ecoregion to be the driest for the island. This region is also influenced by the cold Labrador Current flowing from the north, especially with its pack ice in the spring. This causes the growing season to be delayed when the ice is heavy.

1.3 Ecosystems

1.3.1 Forest Ecosystems

An ecosystem is a community of interacting and interdependent plants, animals and microorganisms, together with the physical environment within which they exist (adapted from Perry, 1994). It is important to remember that within an ecosystem the interactions between the biotic and abiotic components are at least as important as the component themselves. Another critical characteristic of ecosystems is their overlapping boundaries. While each is definable in time and space, and distinguishable from adjacent ecosystems, each is intimately integrated with other local ecosystems. Additionally, each local ecosystem is nested within increasingly larger ecosystems. The scale at which an ecosystem is viewed is contingent on the species or abiotic

characteristic under consideration. While planet earth represents the ultimate global ecosystem, complex ecosystems also exist under fallen logs and rocks.

A forest ecosystem, as the term implies, is an ecosystem dominated by tree cover. At the coarsest level, the forests of Planning Zone three, like all forests on the island, form part of the boreal forest ecosystem. The boreal forest is a green belt which spans much of the northern hemisphere. It stretches from the Atlantic shores of Scandinavia through Russia, across Alaska, through the mid latitudes of Canada until it reaches the Atlantic Ocean again in Newfoundland and Labrador. One of the distinguishing characteristics of the boreal forest is the phenomena of periodic, catastrophic stand replacement natural disturbances such as fire and insect outbreaks which typically give rise to uniform, even aged forests dominated by a few tree species.

The tree species which characterize the Canadian boreal forest include black spruce, white spruce, balsam fir, eastern larch, trembling aspen, white birch and jack pine. All of these, with the exception of jack pine, commonly occur on the Island. However, by far the dominant species are black spruce and balsam fir; together they represent more than 90 percent of the growing stock on the island. Spruce is most abundant in North Central Newfoundland where a climate characterized by relatively dry, hot summers has historically favoured this fire-adapted species. In Western and Northern Newfoundland the climate is somewhat moister and fires are far fewer in this region resulting in the ascendance of balsam fir, a species which is poorly adapted to fire.

1.3.2 Ecoregions and Subregions

Damman 1979, defined ecoregions as areas where comparable vegetation and soil can be found on sites occupying similar topographic positions on the same parent material, provided that these sites have experienced a similar history of disturbance. Thus, an ecoregion cannot be defined in isolation from the physical landscape, but vegetation toposequence, vegetation structure, floristic composition, and floristic distributions can provide the primary criteria. According to Damman, nine ecoregions are represented in Newfoundland. Each of these is further divided into subregions (also known as ecodistricts). All of the Newfoundland ecoregions and subregions contain many of the same ecosystem variables. It is the dominance and variance of these variables (e.g., vegetation and climate) that determine their classification.

Figure 2 depicts Planning Zone three relative to Damman's ecoregion classification system. The Central Newfoundland Forest Ecoregion encompasses the majority of the area in the zone and occupies the more productive sites.

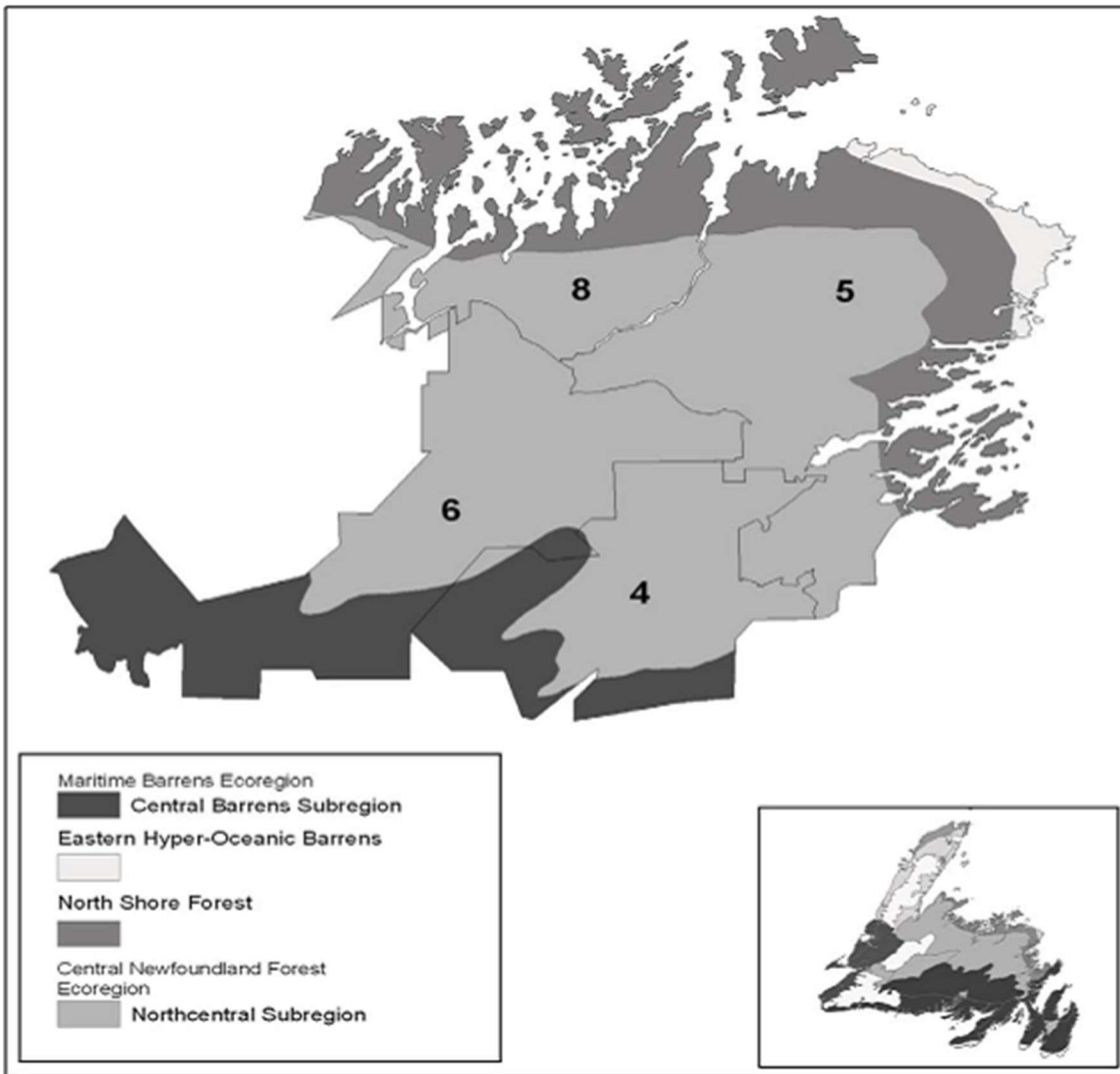


Figure 2: Ecoregions and subregions of Planning Zone 3

1.3.2.1 Central Newfoundland Forest Ecoregion

This ecoregion is located in the north-central part of the island with a small outlet near Bay d'Espoir. The topography is gently rolling to hilly with most elevations between 150 and 450 meters. It has the most continental climate in insular Newfoundland with the warmest summers and coldest winters. It has the least wind and fog of any ecoregion and a growing season of 140-160 days and average precipitation of 900-1300mm. This ecoregion is heavily forested and is the most distinctly boreal part of the island. Balsam fir, black spruce, and to a lesser extent white birch are the dominant tree species. There is an extensive fire history thus fire origin stands of black spruce and white birch cover extensive areas in the northern and eastern portions. Trembling aspen forms local stands after fire but is restricted to the central and northern portion.

Hylocomium-balsam fir is the zonal forest type and is dominant in areas not disturbed by fire. *Kalmia*-black spruce and *Pleurogium*-balsam fir forests are also common. The *Kalmia*-black spruce-lichen forests, which occur on outwash sands and gravels, are unique to this ecoregion. Red pine also occurs but is restricted to extremely dry sites.

1.3.2.1.1 North Central Subregion

The North Central Subregion has the highest maximum temperatures, lowest rainfall, and highest forest fire frequency on the island. The subregion extends from Clarenville to Deer Lake with a mostly rolling topography of less than 200 meters. The history of fire is evident by the pure black spruce forest with white birch and aspen stands that dominate the subregion.

1.3.2.1.2 North Shore Forest Ecoregion

The less prevalent North Shore Ecoregion is essentially a 20-25 km wide coastal zone that extends from Bonavista Bay to the Baie Verte Peninsula. Here, a continuous forest of black spruce and balsam fir dominates except on the coastal headlands where barrens prevail. White spruce is more common here than in central Newfoundland. The quality of growth diminishes as you approach the coastline. There are no subregions in this ecoregion.

1.3.2.1.3 Eastern Hyper-Oceanic Barrens Forest Ecoregion

This ecoregion occurs on the extreme south coast of the Avalon and Burin peninsulas and on the northeast coast near Bay de Verde and Cape Freels. Here, the extreme oceanic climate limits the development of forest other than Balsam Fir krummholz. The heaths in this ecoregion are similar to oceanic parts of northern Scotland and southern Norway. This ecoregion constitutes very little of the land mass contained within the planning area being limited to the extreme northeastern coastline in FMD 5.

1.3.2.2 Maritime Barrens Forest Ecoregion

This ecoregion extends from the east coast of Newfoundland to the west coast through the south central portion of the island. It is characterized by relatively mild winters with intermittent snow cover and the coldest summers with frequent fog and strong winds. The dominant landscape pattern consists of usually stunted, almost pure stands of Balsam fir, broken by extensive open heathland. Good forest growth is localized on long slopes of a few protected valleys. The heaths are dominated by *Kalmia angustifolia* on protected slopes where snow accumulates and by cushions of *Empetrum nigrum*, or *Empetrum eamesii* on windswept ridges. The southern portions of FMD's 4 and 6 extend into the northeastern extent of this ecoregion.

1.4 Ecosystem Dynamics

1.4.1 Ecosystem Condition and Productivity

Landscape patterns determine the variety, integrity, and interconnectedness of habitats within a region. These landscape patterns are a direct result of the relationship amongst physical landforms and soils, disturbance history, and relationships among various species that make up the ecosystem communities. These factors, while listed separately for clarity, are unavoidably interrelated. Landscape patterns play a pivotal role in determining the current conditions and health of forest ecosystems. These variables are evaluated in terms of productivity, stability and resilience.

Another important role determining the condition of a forest is change. Forests are an ever evolving entity, resisting stagnation, and constantly moving through their cycles of life, death, and renewal. The process of change over time is the essence of nature itself. It has been nature's underlying storyline since time began, and will continue to be until time ends.

The main forces of change in our natural forest ecosystems are disturbance and succession. A definition of disturbance would indicate that it initiates a change in a community structure which often ends up in the replacement of one set of species by another. However, replacement is not always the end result (e.g., a species like black spruce is aided in germination by disturbances like forest fire).

Disturbances range from the fall of a single tree, to the destruction of thousands of hectares by forest fires. While disturbances may be very destructive, they can often rejuvenate ecosystems and diversify landscapes.

Succession involves changes in both community composition and in the ecosystem structure and process. Succession is the orderly change whereby the dominant species is replaced by another species, then another etc. until a new dominant species establishes a relatively stable community. The following sections will discuss each of these concepts in more detail as they relate to the ecosystems of Planning Zone Three. For the most part this section will be descriptive and explanatory in nature.

1.4.1.1 Productivity

Productivity is the accrual of matter and energy in biomass. In simple terms, primary productivity is the sum total of all biomass produced through photosynthesis. Secondary productivity occurs when this "primary" biomass is ingested and is added to that organism's biomass. Since secondary productivity is directly dependent on primary productivity, it is this primary productivity component that drives the system.

The level of primary production is dependent on the ability to produce biomass. This in turn is dependent on landscape features, soil, climate etc. In general terms, the more productive (ability to grow trees) a site is, the higher level of primary productivity. For example a forested stand would have a higher primary productivity than a bog and a good site would have a higher potential than a poor site.

Overall, the landscape in Planning Zone Three has approximately 43 percent productive forest. The distribution of productive sites across the landscape and range of productivity within these sites is largely dependent on landscape patterns, climate, and soils.

The more productive areas occur in the lowlands and gently rolling uplands of the zone with the most productive being in the river valleys. These areas have deeper soils, less exposed bedrock and the landscape patterns are more consistent with longer growing season. In contrast, the northern parts of FMD's 5 and 8 along the coast have soils are shallower with bedrock at or near the surface. The terrain in northern parts is much rougher and the growing season is shorter than in the valley lowlands (130 as opposed to 160 days).

In practice, it is nearly impossible to measure the amount of biomass produced in an ecosystem, or the energy consumed in the process. One method is tracking mean annual increment in m³/ha/yr by tree species by ecoregion. This can be readily measured over time and manipulated through silvicultural treatments or affected by poor harvesting practices that increase soil compaction. An example of secondary productivity is the number of moose per unit area. One must also recognize the forests inherent biological limits however, when attempting to measure or manipulate site productivity.

1.4.1.2 Resilience

Ecosystem resilience reflects the ability of the ecosystem to absorb change and disturbance while maintaining the same productive capacity and the same relationships among populations. Healthy forest ecosystems maintain their resilience and adapt to periodic disturbances. The renewal of boreal forest ecosystems often depend on these disturbances. Resilience is characterized by the forest's ability to stabilize vital soil processes and maintain succession whereby the system is returned to a community composition and the productivity level is consistent with the ecosystems physical constraints following a disturbance. To a large degree, a forest ecosystem's resilience is controlled by properties such as climate, parent soil, topography and flora.

The potential for populations to recover from low levels following disturbance by having adequate regeneration capacity and a balanced distribution of forest types and age classes provides a reliable measure of resilience at the landscape level. Indicators include the percent and extent of area by forest type and age class and the percentage of disturbed areas that are successfully regenerated. Resilience is determined by measuring and monitoring these parameters. Forest activities must be carefully planned to not upset the natural balance and lower an ecosystem's resilience.

1.4.1.3 Stability

Nature is constantly changing and going through the unending processes of disturbance, growth, senescence, and decay. Therefore, stability of a forest ecosystem does not refer to one fixed position without variation. Ecosystem stability is more accurately defined as the maintenance of ecosystem changes within certain boundaries and the functional continuation of important potentials and processes such as energy capture.

There are three levels of stability; species stability, structural stability, and process stability. Species stability is the maintenance of viable populations or meta-populations of individual species. Structural stability is the stability of various aspects of ecosystem structure such as food web organization or species numbers. Process stability is the stability of processes such as primary productivity and nutrient cycling. To put stability in perspective, it must ensure that the system does not cross some threshold from which recovery to a former state is either impossible, (extinction) or occurs only after long time periods or with outside inputs (eg. loss of topsoil).

Some indicators of stability which can be monitored are: area of forest converted to non-forest use, area, percentage and representation of forest types in protected areas, percentage and extent of area by forest type and age class, and change in distribution and abundance of various fauna. These indicators can be measured and monitored to ensure stability is maintained and to evaluate the impact, if any, of forest activities on ecosystem stability.

1.4.1.4 Disturbance Regimes and Successional Patterns

There are four main driving forces that cause disturbance in the boreal forest. Forest Harvesting can be considered a major disturbance in the zone, occurring on a regular and consistent basis. Fire and insect damage are the other two major disturbances and occur on a more irregular or cyclic basis. With the exception of a major windstorm, wind throw usually occurs after a stand is weakened by some other agent like insects. For this reason successional patterns after insect damage and wind throw will be discussed together. The following is a brief synopsis of successional patterns after each major disturbance type by forest type and site type.

1.4.1.4.1 Harvesting

Regeneration patterns in the black spruce forest type after harvesting is mainly back to black spruce, the component of which increases as site productivity increases. Regeneration failure in this forest type has the potential to be high, where NSR rates increase from a low of near 10 percent on good sites to a high of approximately 50 percent on poor sites. These sites would be candidates for planting with White, Black or Norway spruce.

In the balsam fir types, regeneration success back to balsam fir is much higher averaging 65 percent. Regeneration rates to balsam fir are consistent on all site types. Regeneration failure is low at 10 percent.

Regeneration pattern in the mixed forest types is generally to balsam fir or to mixed species dominated by balsam fir. There is also a component of white spruce regeneration after harvest on these mixed forest types. There is a higher component of white birch regeneration after harvesting in types that had a higher percentage of hardwood before harvest. As well, the better the site class the more hardwood regeneration. Regeneration failure on the mixed forest types is variable across site types and ecoregions depending on local conditions but averages 15 percent and is higher as the site gets poorer

Regeneration after harvest on the hardwood types is variable. Sites regenerate back to hardwood or to balsam fir in varying proportions. Mixed wood regeneration is also common. Usually the better the site the more likely the site will regenerate to hardwood.

1.4.1.4.2 Fire

On the black spruce types regeneration is usually back to black spruce with a minor component of balsam fir. More fir regenerates after fire on the better sites. Regeneration failure on the black spruce types is low on the better sites averaging 10 percent but increases to 45 percent as the sites get poorer. Regeneration patterns after fire on the balsam fir types occurs in the same pattern as in black spruce. On the mixed wood types regeneration is variable. The softwood hardwood sites regenerate to fir and mixed wood while the hardwood softwood sites tend to have a higher component of black spruce and trembling aspen. The component of hardwood in the regeneration increases as the sites get better. Regeneration failure on the mixed wood forest types averages 10 percent and decreases as the component of hardwood in the original stand increases. Regeneration on the hardwood types is generally mixed with equal components of black spruce, balsam fir, white birch and trembling aspen. The hardwood component can be dominated by aspen if it was present in the original stand.

1.4.1.4.3 Insect

Balsam fir is highly susceptible to insect attack from the hemlock looper and spruce budworm whereas black spruce and hardwood is hardly impacted by these insects. For this reason, stands with a high component of balsam fir are more susceptible to insect attack and subsequent wind throw.

Mature balsam fir types usually regenerate to balsam fir with a component of black spruce and mixed wood on the poorer sites. Disturbance by insects in young balsam fir stands can cause succession to white spruce. In black spruce stands regeneration is usually consistently back to black spruce across site types with a lesser component of balsam fir that increases as the sites improve. Regeneration patterns in mixed wood types usually depend on the type of mixture. If black spruce is a component then it will persist and form part of the new stand. Otherwise balsam fir and balsam fir/hardwood mixtures regenerate after insect attack. Black spruce is also a component in stands with higher hardwood content. Regeneration patterns in the hardwood types

are variable and can regenerate with equal components of black spruce, balsam fir, white birch and trembling aspen. Regeneration failure occurs approximately 10 percent of the time but can be significantly higher if pure stands of immature balsam fir are killed.

1.4.2 Biodiversity

Biodiversity is a term used to describe the variety of life on earth. A basic definition of biodiversity includes the variety of animals, plants and microorganisms that exist on our planet, the genetic variety within these species and the variety of ecosystems they inhabit.

While the boreal forest may not have the extent of biodiversity that some of the equatorial regions possess, Canada does have just over 70 000 species of plants, animals, and micro organisms in its boreal and other forest regions. While the boreal forest has less diversity of large plants than many other forest regions, it has greater biological diversity in some micro organisms. For example, the boreal forest has fewer tree species than the tropical rainforest but potentially up to 500 times as many mycorrhizal fungi. Despite the large number of organisms contained within the boreal forest, only a small amount are actually plants and vertebrates. The larger portion remains largely unrecorded and unstudied. As a result, we need to manage with caution so that species are not inadvertently extirpated.

Biodiversity provides such essential services for humans as: climate control, oxygen production, purification of freshwater supplies, carbon dioxide removal from the atmosphere, soil generation, and nutrient cycling.

The three components of biodiversity are species diversity, genetic diversity, and ecosystem diversity.

1.4.2.1 Species Diversity

Species diversity describes the overall range of species in a given area or ecosystem. Species are groups of animals, plants, and micro organisms capable of producing fertile offspring. Species extinction is the most dramatic and recognizable form of reduced biodiversity; habitat loss the most drastic in terms of far reaching effect. The prevention of species extinction is a key factor in the conservation of biodiversity. Changes in species population levels indicate the potential for serious changes in ecosystem integrity.

1.4.2.2 Genetic Diversity

Genetic diversity describes the range of possible genetic characteristics found within and among different species. Hair and eye colour, weight and height, are examples of genetic diversity found in humans. Genetic diversity within species is the foundation of all biodiversity. Assessing genetic diversity does not mean tracking every gene in the zone's forest. Responsible planning should design and implement measures which maintain or enhance viable populations of all forest vegetation species and which use the genetic diversity of commercially important species to a maximum benefit. The genetic diversity of commercially important species can also be managed

to increase economic benefit from some portions of the landscape while allowing other portions to provide greater social and ecological values. Genetic diversity is the basis by which populations (flora and fauna) can adapt to changing environmental conditions.

1.4.2.3 Ecosystem Diversity

Ecosystem diversity describes the range of natural systems found throughout a region, a country, a continent, or the planet. Wetlands and grasslands are examples of ecosystems in Canada. A complex and intricate mix of plants, animals, micro organisms and the soil, water, and air they occupy create virtually limitless ecosystems around the world.

A forest interspersed with barrens, marshes, lakes and ponds provides for diversity across the landscape. Each ecoregion in the province should have representative areas protected which displays the diversity where such exists. These areas can serve as a benchmark from which to measure and guide management decisions. These representative areas protect the integrity of the ecoregion and are vital for guiding management actions. As benchmark areas, they will illustrate the multi-species mosaic that planning actions must maintain.

1.5 Forest Characterization

1.5.1 Land Classification

Table 2 displays the Crown land classification broken down by forest management district for Planning Zone 3. The total mapped land area in the zone is approximately 1.05 million hectares. There are four basic categories that currently represent how the land is classified; productive, non-productive, non-forest and fresh water.

Table 1: Land classification by district and area for Planning Zone 3.

Land Class	Total				Total
	4	5	6	8	
disturbed	6,381	10,047	6,942	8,633	32,003
age class 1	5,791	18,910	7,536	19,237	51,474
age class 2	9,519	44,329	21,427	39,751	115,026
age class 3	7,763	20,785	15,848	15,936	60,332
age class 4	1,473	5,051	3,503	16,688	26,715
age class 5	4,845	34,553	5,039	37,349	81,786
age class 6	5,315	3,322	6,305	12,164	27,106
age class 7	7,246	720	10,115	177	18,258
Total Productive	48,337	137,722	76,721	149,943	412,723
softwood scrub	46,017	105,219	38,074	42,598	231,908
hardwood scrub	1,177	8,860	1,125	7,600	18,762
Total Non-Productive	47,194	114,079	39,199	50,198	250,670
rock barren	416	19,016	277	5,006	24,715
soil barren	9,620	26,284	3,970	2,268	42,142
bog	36,927	93,124	28,842	34,675	193,568
cleared land	35	1,031	108	955	2,129
agriculture land	23	319	16	615	973
residential	108	4,348	121	4,408	8,985
right of ways	67	633	364	155	1,219
miscellaneous	45	297	196	94	632
Total Non Forested	47,241	145,052	33,894	48,176	274,363
Fresh Water	15,254	59,734	23,043	19,427	117,458
Total All Classes	158,026	456,587	172,857	267,744	1,055,214

Figures 3, 4, 5, and 6 display the relative percentages of each major land class category found within in each district

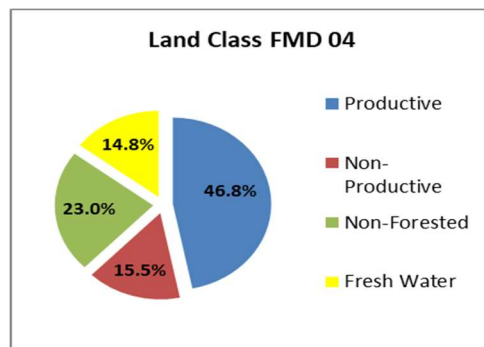


Figure 3: Land class breakdown for District 04.

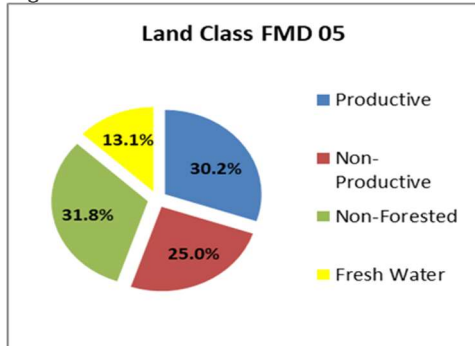


Figure 4: Land class breakdown for District 05.

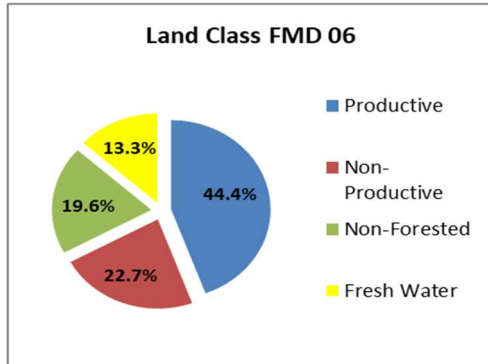


Figure 5: Land class breakdown for District 06.

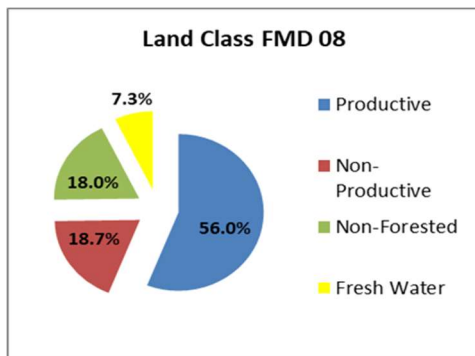


Figure 6: Land class breakdown for District 08.

1.5.2 Age Class

Individual tree ages within any given stand have the potential to be the same after fire or planting. However; in most cases the ages vary. Foresters describe forest stand age in terms of age classes which generally encompass 20 years. The age classes present in the zone are described as regenerating (age class 1, 0-20 years), immature (age class 2, 21-40 years), semi-mature (age class 3, 41-60 years), mature (age class 4, 61-80 years), and over mature (age class 5, 81-100 years), (age class 6, 100-120 years), (age class 7, 120+ years). The age class distribution in each district for the entire productive forest is shown in Figures 7, 8, 9, and 10. In general terms, a continuous timber supply is limited by the lower age class. This means a more balanced age class distribution within a district would yield a greater opportunity for an even flow sustained yield of timber.

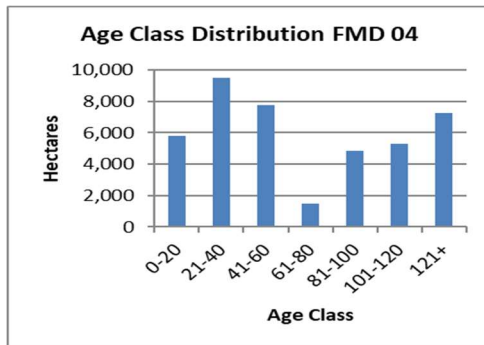


Figure 7: Age class distribution for District 04.

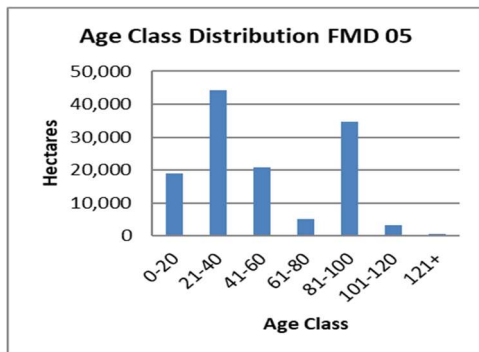


Figure 8: Age class distribution for District 05.

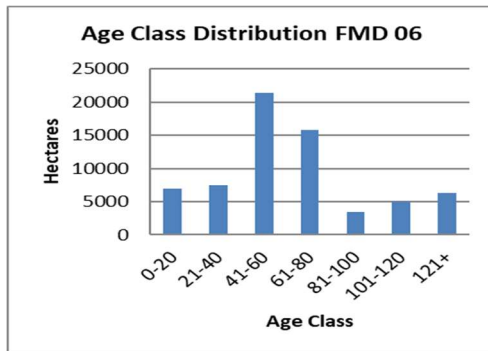


Figure 9: Age class distribution for District 06.

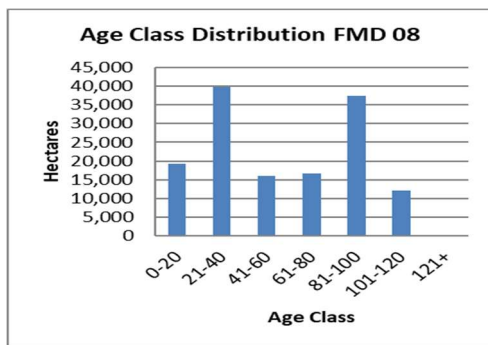


Figure 10: Age class distribution for District 08.

1.5.3 Site Class

The productive forest in the zone is further sub-divided along a gradient of productivity ranging from poor to good site class. The site class is determined through air photo interpretation supplemented with field checks, and is based primarily on the sites ability to produce timber. Site capability is determined on a number of factors including: soil fertility, moisture regime and geographic (slope) position. The distribution of area by site class for each district is shown in Figures 11, 12, 13 and 14. On average, good sites are capable of producing 2.6 m³/ha/yr, medium sites 1.7 m³/ha/yr, and poor sites 0.8 m³/ha/yr.

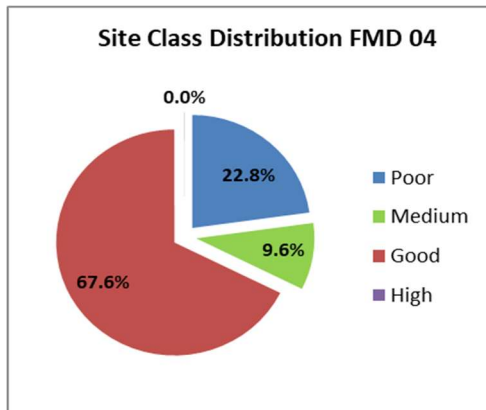


Figure 11: Site class breakdown for District 04.

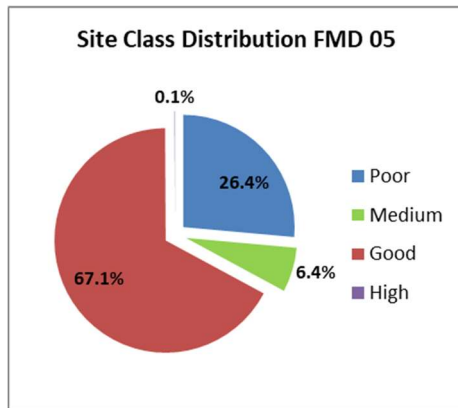


Figure 12: Site class breakdown for District 05.

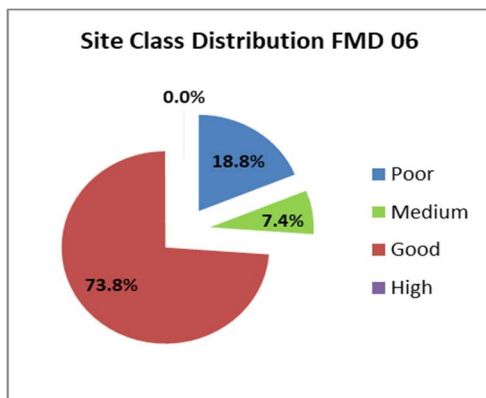


Figure 13: Site class breakdown for District 06

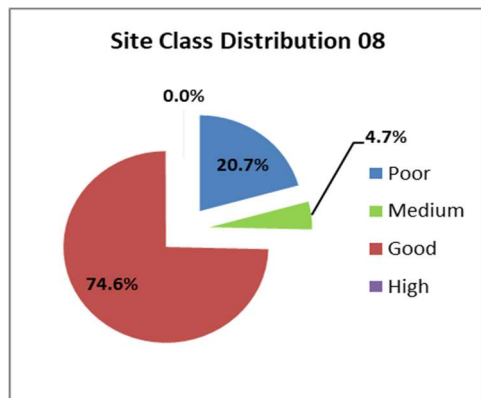


Figure 14: Site class breakdown for District 08

1.5.4 Species and Working Group

A Working group is a term used to describe the dominant tree species present in a forest stand. This species may occupy 100 percent of crown closure of a stand or may be present in association with other species. The working group designation describes the stand in general terms based on the prevalent species as opposed to species composition which specifically describes the relative proportion of each individual tree species that make up a stand.

In the zone, the softwood working groups dominate accounting for over 85 percent of the productive forest. The black spruce (bS) working group is by far the most prolific accounting for 60 percent of the working groups. Balsam fir (bF) is the second most abundant accounting for 15 percent in the four districts. Softwood/Hardwood and Hardwood/Softwood working groups occupy 10 and 4 percent of the productive forest area in FMD's 4, 5, 6, & 8. These working groups occur as varying mixtures of fir, spruce, birch and aspen. The hardwood softwood (hS), and white birch (wB), trembling aspen (tA), white spruce (wS) and jack pine (jP) working groups occupy less than 10 percent of the productive forest in the four districts. Approximately 7 percent of the productive forest is classed as disturbed (NS). NS or not stocked include disturbances other than harvesting, which accounts for most of the total, insect damage, fire, wind throw, and flooding. The relative percentages hold true for all ownerships in all four districts.

1.5.5 Forest Disturbances

Forest harvesting, fire, insects and windthrow (blowdown) are considered forest disturbance types within the zone. High summer temperatures combined with low summer precipitation and prolonged dry spells make the zone susceptible to fire. There has been a cyclical fire history in the Zone. In recent years, loss has been minimal due to weather conditions, fire prevention activities and enhanced fire suppression capability. However, a major fire can occur in any year depending on weather conditions.

SECTION 2 PAST ACTIVITIES

2.1 Harvesting

2.1.1 Commercial

Tables 2, 3, 4, & 5 summarize the commercial and some domestic harvest in the zone for the period 2017-2021.

Table 2: 2017- 2021 Commercial Harvest District 04.

District 04		Core Landbase				Operational Landbase				Non-AAC Wood	
Crown		AAC	Commercial	Domestic	Total	AAC	Commercial	Domestic	Total	Operational	Regulatory
SWD	2017	41,140				13,345	870			499	
	2018	41,140	3,355		3,555	13,345				646	
	2019	41,140	676		676	13,345				646	
	2020	41,140	2,776		2,776	13,345				73	
	2021	41,140	1,100		1,100	13,345					
	Sub-Total	205,700	7,907		7,907	66,725	870		870	1,864	
		Core Landbase				Operational Landbase				Non-AAC Wood	
HWD	Crown	AAC	Commercial	Domestic	Total	AAC	Commercial	Domestic	Total	Operational	Regulatory
	2017	935				340	76			383	0
	2018	935	211		211	340				43	
	2019	935	20		20	340					
	2020	935	200		2,200	340					
	2021	935	200		200	340					
	Sub-Total	4,675	631		631	1,700	76		76	426	
District Total		210,375	8,538		8,538	68,425	946		946	2,290	

Table 3: 2017- 2021 Commercial Harvest District 05.

District 05		Core Landbase				Operational Landbase				Non-AAC Wood	
Crown		AAC	Commercial	Domestic	Total	AAC	Commercial	Domestic	Total	Operational	Regulatory
SWD	2017	35,155	254	4,171	4,425	21,251	5,144	1,182	6,326		278
	2018	35,155	1,159	4,044	5,203	21,251	308	1,123	1,431		
	2019	35,155	470	4,721	5,191	21,251	3,430	1,155	4,585		21
	2020	35,155	39,260	4,497	43,757	21,251	6,353	1,091	7,444	35	
	2021	35,155	10,100	4,500	14,500	21,251	3,560	1,100	4,660		

	Sub-Total	175,775	51,143	21,933	73,076	106,255	18,795	5,651	24,446	35	299
		Core Landbase				Operational Landbase				Non-AAC Wood	
HWD	Crown	AAC	Commercial	Domestic	Total	AAC	Commercial	Domestic	Total	Operational	Regulatory
	2017	2,173		886	886	909		880	880	0	0
	2018	2,173		804	804	909		758	758		
	2019	2,173		878	878	909		798	798		
	2020	2,173	20	824	844	909		758	758		
	2021	2,173		850	850	909		775	775		
	Sub-Total	10,865	20	4,242	4,262	4,545		3,969	3,969	0	0
District Total		186,640	51,163	26,175	77,338	110,800	18,795	9,620	28,415	35	299

Table 4: 2017- 2021 Commercial Harvest District 06.

District 06 GAMBO Crown		Core Landbase				Operational Landbase				Non-AAC Wood	
		AAC	Commercial	Domestic	Total	AAC	Commercial	Domestic	Total	Operational	Regulatory
SWD	2017	61,699	3,023			4,740	373		373	0	0
	2018	61,699	26,149			4,740	8,792		8,792		
	2019	61,699	2,549			4,740					
	2020	61,699				4,740					
	2021	61,699	2,550			4,740					
	Sub-Total	308,495	34,271			23,700	9,165		9,165	0	0
		Core Landbase				Operational Landbase				Non-AAC Wood	
HWD	Crown	AAC	Commercial	Domestic	Total	AAC	Commercial	Domestic	Total	Operational	Regulatory
	2017	1,161				593		25	25	4	0
	2018	1,161				593		25	25	4	
	2019	1,161				593		25	25	4	
	2020	1,161				593		58	58		
	2021	1,161				593					
	Sub-Total	5,805				2965		133	133	12	0
District Total		314,300	34,271			26,665	9,165	133	9,298	12	0

District 06 Lewisporte Crown		Core Landbase				Operational Landbase				Non-AAC Wood	
		AAC	Commercial	Domestic	Total	AAC	Commercial	Domestic	Total	Operational	Regulatory
SWD	2017	61,699	1724	293	2017	4,740		85	85	96	0
	2018	61,699	2124.2	398	2522.2	4,740		119	119		
	2019	61,699	1004.4	398	1402.4	4,740		119	119		
	2020	61,699	1500	371	1871	4,740		107.7	107.7		
	2021	61,699	1588.2	365	1953.2	4,740		107.7	107.7		
	Sub-Total		7940.8	1825	9765.8			538.4	538.4	96	0
		Core Landbase				Operational Landbase				Non-AAC Wood	
HWD	Crown	AAC	Commercial	Domestic	Total	AAC	Commercial	Domestic	Total	Operational	Regulatory
	2017	1,161	202	98	300	593		28	28	31	0
	2018	1,161	663.5	134.9	798.4	593		38.1	38.1		
	2019	1,161		133.2	133.2	593		39.8	39.8		
	2020	1,161	432.8	122	554.8	593		35.3	35.3		
	2021	1,161	432.8	122	2341.2	593		35.3	35.3		
	Sub-Total		1731.1	610.1	2341.2			176.5	176.5	31	0
District Total			9671.9	2435.1	12107.0			714.9	714.9	31	0

Table 5: 2017- 2021 Commercial Harvest District 08.

District 08 Crown		Core Landbase				Operational Landbase				Non-AAC Wood	
		AAC	Commercial	Domestic	Total	AAC	Commercial	Domestic	Total	Operational	Regulatory
SWD	2017	75,840	38462.0	18255.0	56717.0	22,640		5300	5300	5888	0
	2018	75,840	32710.7	22234.5	54944.5	22,640		6641.5	6641.5		
	2019	75,840	29064.3	24612.8	53677.1	22,640		7351.9	7351.9	2213.7	
	2020	75,840	26002.62	23036.1	49038.7	22,640		6880.9	6880.9		
	2021	75,840	31559.9	22034.6	53594.5	22,640		6543.6	6543.6		
	Sub-Total		157799.5	110173.0	267971.8			32717.9	6543.6	8101.7	0
		Core Landbase				Operational Landbase				Non-AAC Wood	
HWD	Crown	AAC	Commercial	Domestic	Total	AAC	Commercial	Domestic	Total	Operational	Regulatory
	2017	2,640	6044	6084	12128	674		1866	1766	2077	0
	2018	2,640	5236.4	7505	12741.4	674		2118	2118		

	2019	2,640	102.4	8204	8306.4	674		2450	2450		
	2020	2,640	3794.3	7264.3	11058.6	674		2111.3	2111.3		
	2021	2,640	3794.3	7264.3	11058.6	674		2111.3	2111.3		
	Sub-Total		18971.4	36321.6	5529.3			10555.6	10555.6	2077	0
District Total			176770.9	146494.6	323264.8			43274.5	43274.5	10178.7	0

2.1.2. Domestic

Tables 6, 7, & 8 summarizes the Domestic harvest in the zone for the period 2017-2021

Table 6: 2017- 2021 Domestic Harvest District 04.

District 04		Domestic Landbase	
Crown		AAC	Domestic
SWD	2017	1,275	656
	2018	1,275	688
	2019	1,275	832
	2020	1,275	768
	2021	1,275	992
	Sub-Total		3,936
		Domestic Landbase	
HWD	Crown	AAC	Domestic
	2017	0	
	2018	0	
	2019	0	
	2020	0	
	2021	0	
	Sub-Total		
District Total			

Table 7: 2017- 2021 Domestic Harvest District 05.

District 05		Domestic Landbase	
Crown		AAC	Domestic
SWD	2017	41,001	25,850
	2018	41,001	24,808
	2019	41,001	26,712
	2020	41,001	24,045
	2021	41,001	25,000

	Sub-Total		126,415
		Domestic Landbase	
HWD	Crown	AAC	Domestic
	2017	2,647	1,818
	2018	2,647	1,792
	2019	2,647	1,889
	2020	2,647	1,813
	2021	2,647	1,850
	Sub-Total		9,162
District Total			135,577

Table 8: 2017- 2021 Domestic Harvest District 08.

District 08		Domestic Landbase	
	Crown	AAC	Domestic
SWD	2017	0	23555.0
	2018	0	28876.0
	2019	0	31964.7
	2020	0	29917.0
	2021	0	28578.2
	Sub-Total		142890.9
		Domestic Landbase	
HWD	Crown	AAC	Domestic
	2017	120	7850.0
	2018	120	9623.0
	2019	120	10654.0
	2020	120	9375.6
	2021	120	9375.6
	Sub-Total		46,878.2
District Total			189,769.1

2.2 Silviculture

Table 9, 10 & 11 summarizes the completed silviculture treatments in the zone for the period 2017-2021

Table 9: 2017-2021 Silviculture treatments District 04.

Treatment Type	Area (ha)	
	Proposed	Treated
Pre Commercial Thinning		
Site Preparation (raking)	104.95	109.94
Planting	146	156
Commercial Thinning		
Prescribed Burning		

Table 10: 2017-2021 Silviculture treatments District 05.

Treatment Type	Area (ha)	
	Proposed	Treated
Pre Commercial Thinning		
Site Preparation (raking)	170	179
Planting	329	329
Commercial Thinning		
Prescribed Burning		

Table 11: 2017-2021 Silviculture treatments District 06.

Treatment Type (GAMBO)	Area (ha)	
	Proposed	Treated
Pre Commercial Thinning		
Site Preparation (raking)	40	26
Planting	630	503
Commercial Thinning		
Prescribed Burning		

Treatment Type (Lewisporte)	Area (ha)	
	Proposed	Treated
Pre Commercial Thinning	0	0
Site Preparation (raking)	332.91	292.17
Planting	729.59	717.77
Commercial Thinning	0	0
Prescribed Burning	0	0

Table 12: 2017-2021 Silviculture treatments District 08.

Treatment Type	Area (ha)	
	Proposed	Treated
Pre Commercial Thinning	0	0
Site Preparation (raking)	821.53	857.19
Planting	1172.30	1097.53
Commercial Thinning	0	0
Prescribed Burning	0	0

2.3 Road Construction

Tables 12, 13, 14 & 15 summarizes forest access road construction in the zone for the period 2017-2021

Table 13: 2017-2021 Road Construction District 04.

Roads		
	Proposed (km)	Constructed (km)
New Construction	48.9	4.68
Re-Construction	29.2	0
Total	78.1	4.68
Bridges	7	0

Table 14: 2017-2021 Road Construction District 05.

Roads		
	Proposed (km)	Constructed (km)
New Construction	60.4	26.25
Re-Construction	2.5	0
Total	62.9	26.25
Bridges	5	4

Table 15: 2017-2021 Road Construction District 06.

Roads		
GAMBO	Proposed (km)	Constructed (km)
New Construction	54.3	0
Re-Construction	0	0
Total	54.3	0
Bridges	0	0

Roads		
Lewisporte	Proposed (km)	Constructed (km)
New Construction	0.501	0.501
Re-Construction	8.060	8.060
Total	8.561	8.561
Bridges	0	0

Table 16: 2017-2021 Road Construction District 08.

Roads		
	Proposed (km)	Constructed (km)
New Construction	21.728	21.728
Re-Construction	2.579	2.579
Total	24.307	24.307
Bridges	3	3

2.4 Natural Disturbance

2.4.1 Fire

This zone has had a very infrequent fire history due to its relatively long winters and abundant precipitation. There were no significant fires during the last planning period.

2.4.2 Insect

There was no defoliation and treatment for either the hemlock looper or balsam woolly adelgid in the last 5 years.

SECTION 3 TIMBER SUPPLY ANALYSIS

3.1 Introduction

The province conducts a review of timber supply every five years to reflect any changes in forest land base, growth rates, and management strategies. This schedule is consistent with the Forestry Act, with oversight by forest management districts, and mandates a wood supply analysis to be completed every five years. The result of this analysis is the establishment of annual allowable cuts (AAC's) for each forest management district. These AAC's are defined as the maximum annual rate at which timber can be harvested at a sustainable level into the future (applicable for a period of 160 years). Annual allowable cuts must be calculated on a district basis, and the cumulative sum would provide the total island annual allowable harvest level. The current Wood Supply is for the period January 1, 2016 to December 31, 2020. A new woodsupply analysis is currently being conducted for the period January 1, 2022 to December 31, 2026.

More information on the Timber Supply Analysis Program can be found on Governments Forestry website using the following address:

<https://www.faa.gov.nl.ca/forestry/timber/index.html>

3.2 Guiding Principles and Policy Direction

The key underlying principles guiding the provincial woodsupply analysis are:

- (i) the AAC must be sustainable;
- (ii) the level of uncertainty (risk) associated with the AAC must be minimized by using empirical information wherever possible;
- (iii) there must be conformity between information and assumptions used in the analysis and actions and decisions taken on the ground;
- (iv) the analysis must be consistent with other forest values and objectives; and
- (v) the timber supply calculation must consider economic factors, not solely the physical supply of timber.

In addition to the establishment of sustainable timber harvest levels, the legislation also requires that forest harvesting not exceed the established AAC's. Likewise, government's policy is to optimize forest industry opportunities from the sustainable fiber supply. Government also requires consultation be conducted during the timber analysis. In the current analysis, the forest industry was consulted directly. As well, there was a 30 day consultation process whereby a draft of the gross AAC's and methodology was published on the government web site for public review and comment.

3.3 Factors Affecting Timber Supply

The forests of insular Newfoundland are very variable in terms of age distribution. Typically, there are significant amounts of mature/over-mature forest and regenerating forest, and limited intermediate aged forests. This imbalance is not unusual in a boreal forest where cyclic catastrophic disturbances are common.

This imbalanced age class structure of intermediate age forest within insular Newfoundland is one of the most important factors influencing AAC's and is therefore the basis for many of the department's forest management strategies. Essentially, the department utilizes a matrix of management techniques designed to marginalize the imbalance in age structure. These techniques range from an aggressive forest protection program (insect control and fire suppression), forest harvesting programs that attempt to exclusively target harvesting the oldest stands first, and pre-commercial thinning of the regenerating forest so that it becomes merchantable and ready for harvest at an earlier age.

Another important aspect of the province's forest that poses a challenge to forest managers is the natural fragmentation of the resource. The province's landscape is carved by many ponds, bogs, rivers, streams, and rock outcrops resulting in relatively small pockets of timber scattered across the landscape. These adverse conditions is very challenging when determining the economic availability of timber supply.

Arguably, the most important factor affecting present and future AAC's is the land base. The land base available for forest activity is constantly being reduced as a result of other users' requirements. There is an approximate correlation between AAC and land base in that a one percent loss of land base represents a one percent drop in AAC. Therefore, it is very important that we continue to determine methods to minimize the loss of productive landbase and expand on efforts to grow more volume on the existing land base.

3.4 Timber Supply Analysis

The timber supply analysis is structured to determine sustainable timber availability, while respecting social, economic and environmental objectives. Timber supply, in this context, refers to the rate at which timber is made available for harvesting on a sustainable basis.

The determination of supply (represented as AAC's) involves the use of computer models to forecast the sustainability of possible AAC levels. These models require three basic inputs as described below:

- (1) a description of the current state of the forest (forest characterization and availability),
- (2) growth rates associated with the current forest, and
- (3) management strategies applied to the forest.

These basic inputs requires careful and detailed consideration of a broad range of both timber and non-timber values. The following topics in this chapter are considered when determining the sustainable timber supply.

3.4.1 Forest Characterization

To realize the current description of the forest resource (referred to as forest stock), the province has invested significant resources into creating and maintaining a Provincial Forest Inventory. This program is designed to ensure the estimate of forest stock is current and accurate, while other regular programs employed by the department also evaluates:

1. Natural and man-made disturbances (fire, insects and harvesting)
2. Enhancement activities (tree planting and pre-commercial thinning)
3. In addition, the actual stands within the forest inventory is updated to reflect any yield changes

3.4.2 Land Availability

Through a regular timber supply analysis, the Forest Inventory is updated and classified at the stand level on the basis of harvest potential. This classification system consists of three broad classes;

- i. Class 1 - available for harvest under normal operating conditions
- ii. Class 3 – adverse conditions for forest harvesting, making that landbase more expensive and less available under current economic conditions. However, an AAC is still calculated in the event of improved economic conditions making the area more feasible for commercial operations.
- iii. Class 5 – unavailable for forest harvesting. No AAC is calculated on this landbase, which incorporates a broad range of timber and non-timber values as indicated in the following sections.

3.4.2.1 Non-Timber Related

Implementation of non-timber values has a direct impact on provincial AAC's. As the amount of productive forested landbase available for timber management declines, so will the AAC. With the current non-timber related considerations, the net landbase (area where harvesting operations can occur) is only 17% of the total landmass on the island or 66% of the total productive forest land base. Typically, in any given year, less than 1% of the productive forest land base is influenced by harvesting operations.

3.4.2.1.1 No-Cut Buffer Zones

The Department has implemented guidelines requiring all water bodies (visible on a 1:50,000 map sheet) be given a minimum 20 meter (from the edge of water) unharvested buffer. In addition to these legislated water buffers, District Ecosystem Managers, in consultation with interested stakeholders may have increased buffer zone widths to protect special values such as; salmon spawning areas, cabin development areas, aesthetic areas, wildlife habitat, outfitting camps, etc.

3.4.2.1.2 Pine Marten and Caribou Habitat

Wildlife Habitat specialists are working in consultation with industry to ensure future adequate habitat remains available for wildlife species such as pine marten and caribou. Analysis of the landbase continues with examining the quantity and quality of habitat, as well as, the required connectivity. Wildlife specialists also examine how this arrangement of habitat would change over time. Forest management strategies take into consideration the results and recommendations of the Wildlife Habitat Specialists.

3.4.2.1.3 Protected Areas

All established and proposed protected areas approved within the Natural Areas Systems Plan (NASP) are removed from potential harvest considerations and the AAC calculations.

3.4.2.2 Timber Related

The potential AAC within a Forest Management District is also further impacted by taking into account other potential losses of landbase or timber as indicated below:

3.4.2.2.1 Insect/Fire/Disease Losses

The department reduces AAC's to account for anticipated future losses resulting from insects, disease and fire using historical information.

3.4.2.2.2 Logging Losses

Surveys of recent harvested areas are conducted each summer throughout the province to determine the quantity and quality of fiber remaining. The estimates of loss from these surveys are used to reduce the AAC.

3.4.2.2.3 Operational Constraints

Areas that are inaccessible (surrounded by bogs or hills), timber on steep slopes, and low volume stands are removed from the class 1 AAC calculation. Also, significant adjustments are applied to the provincial forest inventory for stands deemed operable in the timber analysis but left unharvested within operating areas. The reasons for this are linked to the character of Newfoundland's forests; low volume, steep slopes, rough terrain, and excessively wet ground conditions etc. All these timber and non-timber related issues are applied directly in the AAC calculation to ensure harvest levels do not exceed the sustainable level. With the introduction of new values and the broader application of current values, negative pressure on future AAC's will continue to increase.

3.4.3 Growth Forecasting

A key requirement for forecasting future wood supply is an understanding of how forest stands grow and develop through time. That is, as a forest stand develops, how much merchantable (i.e. harvestable) volume does it carry at any given point? These yield forecasts (referred to as yield curves) are required for each type of forest stand (called a stratum) comprising the forest. In Newfoundland, there are dozens of distinct forest stratum for which separate yield curves are required. These are defined by the tree species in question (e.g., balsam fir, black spruce), the

site quality (e.g., good, medium, poor), the geographic region (e.g., the Northern Peninsula, Western Newfoundland) and other factors likely to affect yield.

Yield curves are a key element in a wood supply analysis. In fact, the validity, or “usefulness”, of the wood supply analysis is determined by the truth, or “correctness”, of the yield forecasts. While there is no way of predicting with one hundred percent certainty how stands will actually grow in the future, care must be taken to ensure that the yield projections are realistic and reasonable. Respecting the sensitivity and importance of these forecasts, the department has directed a large portion of its resources and time into developing realistic yield curves. Two growth models were used, one for projecting stand development under natural conditions and the other for projecting growth under managed (i.e., silviculturally enhanced) conditions. Tree and stand development data generated from the departments forest inventory program were used to make stand growth predictions. These projections were then evaluated against empirical data from thousands of temporary plots established throughout the island. If the projections varied from the real life evidence, the curves were adjusted to make them more accurate.

In this analysis, yield curves were developed on an ecoregion basis. As well, special yield curve sets were developed for defined geographic areas with demonstrated uniqueness. These included areas where chronic insect activity is ongoing and areas that have unique growth characteristics.

3.4.4 Management Strategies

With the current state of the forest described and the yield forecasts developed, the next step was to design a management strategy for each sector of the forest. The key objective was to maximize long term AAC while at the same time taking into account other forest values. This involved developing strategies that minimize fiber losses, and enhance forest sustainability.

3.4.4.1 Harvest Flow Constraints

An even-flow harvest constraint strategy is utilized in the wood supply analysis. This strategy produces the maximum even flow harvest but results in less than optimum economic use of the forest resource. Conversely, if this strategy was not applied, then harvest levels are permitted to fluctuate which may result in increased commercial potential of the forest at specific intervals. However; applying the even-flow constraint provides more stability within the forest industry.

3.4.4.2 Spatial Analysis

The provincial wood supply analysis implements a technique of manual harvest scheduling. In 2001, the harvest scheduling was an automated process where the software allocated the stands to be harvested over the upcoming 25 years, based on user supplied criteria. The 2001 approach of scheduling harvest stands was an improvement over previous wood supply analysis. However, the software used cannot realistically know all the operational restrictions within a forest management district. By utilizing the manual process, District Staff are able to identify specific ground conditions that restrict commercial harvesting, which are then incorporated into a spatial harvest schedule. The proposed harvest schedule is then vetted back through the modeling

software to ensure sustainable and non-timber objectives are met. In most case, this process has to go through several cycles before an acceptable harvest schedule can be implemented. The spatial arrangement of areas for timber harvesting is especially challenging in this province because of the natural fragmentation of our forests. This model provided forest planners with the ability to mimic realistic timber harvest schedules based on current practices and to identify other forest stands that are not as accessible for harvesting.

Manual harvest scheduling has several major benefits. First, it fosters the long term sustainability of our AAC's by mimicking current harvest practices and accounting for actual on the ground conditions that delay or restrict the harvesting of stands. These restrictions, which were previously unaccounted for, have made our past AAC's higher than was realistically sustainable. Secondly, the mapped harvest schedules build credibility into the forest management process. A common misconception is that the province is running out of wood and soon will not be able to support existing forest industries. Every stand that will be harvested over the spatial plan must already be in the second (20-40 years old) or third (41-60) age class and can be easily identified and highlighted.

Having the ability to visualize the timber that will be harvested in the future helps reassure the resource is being used in a responsible manner. Next, harvest scheduling helps integrate the management of other forest resource values into timber management planning. Specific forest values can be directly related to forest areas, which can be mapped and potential issues can be addressed. Finally, the harvest schedule maps developed for the wood supply analysis can be a starting point for a 5 year operational planning process. Worthy to note is that harvest scheduling is completed for class 1 landbase only. The class 3 AAC, for the most part, is considered opportunistic if economic conditions become favorable.

3.4.4.3 Planning Horizons

Given the province's commitment to long term sustainability of our forest resource, timber supplies are projected 160 years (equivalent to two forest rotations) into the future to ensure actions and strategies applied today will result in a sustainable forest in the future. Long term planning is fundamental in timber supply forecasting.

3.4.4.4 Operable Growing Stock Buffer

The province imposed an operable growing stock constraint in the analysis to ensure the sustainability of calculated timber supplies. This constraint imposes a condition that in any period there must be a minimum operable growing stock of two times the harvest level on the landscape. In other words, for every hectare that is harvested another harvestable hectare must exist on the landscape. The requirement for a growing stock buffer is based on a number of factors including:

1. Some of the non-timber objectives are not explicitly accounted for in the planning process and therefore will require a growing stock buffer to achieve them.
2. The ability to completely incorporate the optimum harvest schedule due to operational restrictions on commercial harvesting.

3. Lowers the overall risk associated with the sustainability of the timber supply.

For these reasons a growing stock constraint of two times is utilized. This constraint is used in concert with harvest scheduling to help map out a reasonable harvest for the upcoming 20 years.

3.4.4.5 Old Forest Targets

Within the woodsupply analysis, the department considers a target for Old Growth forest, where at least 15 percent of forests at any given time must be older than 80 years. While this is a minimum target, actual results are usually higher. This initiative was designed to provide a coarse filter approach to maintaining representative forest structure. It ensures the presence of certain amounts of old forest across the landscape into the future and can be tracked across a district.

3.4.4.6 Operability Limits

Operability limits are considered the timeframe in which forest harvesting activity can be undertaken within specific forest stands. Stand growth development (merchantable timber volume) and individual piece size of trees are factors which determine a stand's readiness for commercial harvest activity. Some younger stands may have acceptable harvest volumes, but still contain trees that are too small (diameter and height) to commercially harvest. In the 2006 wood supply analysis both stand volume and tree size were used to determine the earliest age when a stand could be initially harvested. In addition to determining the absolute earliest age a stand can be harvested, it was recognized that not all stands on the same site develop exactly the same at the same rate. A small portion of a stand will develop faster; a small portion will lag behind; with the bulk of the stand type representing the average condition. Therefore, the first operability limit was staggered by 5 year intervals with the 10 percent, 30 percent, and 60 percent assigned to each availability class listed above respectively. The ending operability limits or the last age in which a stand can be harvested before it becomes too old to harvest is solely determined on a minimum stand volume of 60 m³/ha, after which that stand is not considered to have enough volume to make it economical feasible to commercial harvest operations. It should be noted that while the operability limits define the extreme end points of when stands can be harvested, very few stands are ever harvested at these extreme points. In order to meet other non-timber objectives and maximize the total volume of wood harvested, the model schedules stands to harvest somewhere inside the operability limit window.

3.4.4.7 Silviculture

Silviculture is one of the main forest management tools available to forest managers when analyzing the many different future forests that are generated using the wood supply modelling software.

The silvicultural actions used in the current woodsupply analysis include:

1. Pre-commercial thinning of balsam fir, black spruce, and softwood hardwood stands,
2. Full planting of any areas that do not regenerate naturally with either white spruce, black spruce, or Norway spruce, and
3. Gap planting of stands with either black spruce or balsam fir seedlings. Gap plant is

the filling in of “holes” within stands that have inadequate natural regeneration of either balsam fir or black spruce.

The thinning levels (ha) for districts 04, 05, 06, and 08 used in the analysis were 25, 25, 50 and 25 ha respectively. The planting levels (ha) for districts 04, 05, 06, and 08 used in the analysis were 300, 500, 600 and 25 ha respectively.

3.5 Inventory Adjustments

One of the limitations of the current wood supply model is its inability to account for volume depletions outside of what is reported for harvesting operations. The model produces a gross merchantable volume (GMV) figure which needs to be adjusted to account for volume losses as: fire, insects/disease, timber utilization practices and the presence of stand remnants. It was recognized that a need existed to study each component more intensely and the staff from the Forest Engineering and Industry Services Division, over a seven year period, completed an analysis of the individual components. The results of these (and other) analysis are incorporated into the current woodsupply analysis.

3.5.1 Fire

An estimate of productive area loss as a result of fire was based on an analysis of the historical fire statistics maintained by FFA

3.5.2 Insects

An aerial mortality survey was completed on areas with historically high insect infestations. This information along with a GIS analysis of areas salvaged enabled FFA to determine the amount of productive area lost to insect mortality each year.

3.5.3 Timber Utilization

Information for this adjustment was derived from a series of intensive on-the-ground surveys which measured the amount of wood remaining on cutovers following harvesting. This wood was comprised of solid merchantable wood (logging losses) and wood with inherent cull (butt/heart rot). Surveys were conducted province wide and on all tenures where the information is analyzed by harvesting system and season.

3.5.4 Stand Remnants

Following harvesting operations, small fragments of stands often are left for a variety of reasons (operational constraints, low volume stands, terrain conditions). These often result in the inability of the operator to achieve volumes predicted by the computer models. Surveys were conducted across the province and the results analyzed to determine the amount of productive area attributed to remnants.

The total inventory adjustment for Forest Management Districts 04, 05, 06 and 08 were: 15, 15, 9, and 18 percent, respectively.

3.6 Results

The results of the timber supply analysis for Forest Management Districts 04, 05, 06 & 08 for the period 2016-2020 is shown in Table 16. A new woodsupply is being developed for the same districts for the period 2022-2026.

Table 17: Annual Allowable Cut Zone 3 2016-2020

	Annual Allowable Cut Volume (m ³)		
	Core Softwood	Operational Softwood	Domestic Softwood
DISTRICT 04	41,140	13,345	1275
DISTRICT 05	35155	21251	41,001
DISTRICT 06	61,699	4,740	
DISTRICT 08	75,840	22,640	

SECTION 4 VALUES

4.0 Guiding Principles of Sustainability

Environmental, Economic, Political, Social, and Cultural are considered the five guiding principles of sustainability.

Environmental sustainability evaluates current and future ecosystem health. It ensures the needs of the present are obtained without compromising the ability of future generation's needs. Ecosystem health is determined by such factors as ecosystem integrity, biodiversity, productive capacity, and resiliency. The five year operating plan strives to ensure these factors are maintained.

Economic sustainability requires forest resources to be managed efficiently and equitably among stakeholders. Economic development remains high priority for many of the residents within the Province. However; economic development should only proceed with the incorporation of the other principles of sustainability.

Political sustainability refers to goals and management objectives being applicable, administrable, and practical. With the aid of public input and support, these goals and objectives must maintain these qualities into the future.

Social sustainability means fairness and equity to all interested stakeholders. The forest management strategy should not jeopardize the basic requirements of the public. As a result, public involvement/awareness, participation, and decision-making are considered necessary to development of proper forest management plans.

Cultural sustainability is attained by applying Newfoundland and Labrador's culture to the planning process. A forest management strategy cannot be successful without allowances within the strategy for traditional access and use of the land. For generations, many of Newfoundland and Labrador's public has had free range in our pristine wilderness, a fact that can not be ignored when planning for the zone. All are key interlocking components and each must be maintained if sustainable development is to be properly achieved.

4.1 Value Structure

The forest ecosystems of the zone provide a wide range of values to different individuals and groups, which include:

- Consumptive values such as: timber products, hunting, trapping, sport fishing, and berry picking.
- Non-Consumptive values such as: skiing, snowmobiling, hiking, and bird watching.
- Intrinsic and intangible values such as a feeling of wilderness and peace which some people describe as spiritual. Although difficult to spatially describe or quantitatively measure, spiritual values are considered to be a product or an accumulation of all values.

Other values such as water quality, parks and protected areas provide the protection of forest ecosystems, which can enhance the above identified values. Many of the values in the zone are identified by many years of forest management planning and engagement with interested stakeholders. The following represents a framework for characterizing values in a clear and consistent manner. This approach consists of three components:

VALUE STRUCTURE	
Characterization	Description: Why the value is important, types of activities, intensity, spatial extent, employment, etc. Data in support: Statistical references
Critical Elements	Forest Features: Elements at risk from harvesting or enhanced by harvesting (viewsapes, adjacency to water, mountains, habitat, wilderness ambiance, road Access, etc.)
Guiding Principles	A guiding principle can be defined as a fixed or predetermined policy or mode of action. These 'modes of action' would be implemented in the five year plan in the form of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policies that should be in place to protect or enhance the resource value; • Methods for negotiation or inclusion of other interested stakeholders in resolving potential conflicts;

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Special management provisions/strategies such as: riparian buffer zone consideration, temporal operating periods, modified harvesting, or best management practices, and/or • Models and/or forecasting strategies to determine economic contribution, biodiversity impact, or community sustainability
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In many instances, the Environmental Protection Guidelines (EPG's) developed by the department help form the guiding principles for a value. Quite often the spatial extent or location of all values is not known (eg., raptor nests). Specific guidelines are still listed in order to provide a direction or course of action when and if these values are encountered.

4.1.1 Biotic Values

4.1.1.1 Big Game

4.1.1.1.1 Moose

MOOSE	
Characterization	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Moose were introduced in 1878 (Gander Bay) and 1904 (Howley) and are now distributed throughout the entire Island. • The 2020 population estimate is 118,000 animals. • The Province is divided into Moose Management Areas (MMA); boundaries, season dates and license quotas are reviewed annually for each MMA • Approx. 100,000 residents actively participate in the annual moose license application process. If successful, it provides an opportunity to hunt, to take part in an outdoor fall activity, to be part of an important social event and to provide local food. • Non-resident harvest is conducted through outfitting establishments, employing guides, cooks, maintenance people, pilots, etc. Other businesses benefiting from the non-resident outfitting industry include local stores, accommodations and restaurants, outdoor stores, aviation companies, etc. • Moose are also important for non-consumptive activities. Intrinsic value is added to hiking, cycling, camping, paddling, sightseeing, etc., when there is a chance to view megafauna such as moose. The tourism industry relies on this intrinsic value to promote many of the activities offered.
Critical Elements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Habitat <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Moose select different habitats at different times of the year and therefore require a mixed forest landscape year-round: a mixture of closed, mature stands for cover, shelter and winter moose yards; early-seral stages (due to disturbances such as insects, fires and logging) with a high amount of young regenerating areas for browsing; and aquatic foraging areas in the summer.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Forest harvesting <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Recently harvested large scale areas can be low quality moose habitat as forage and cover are removed. 5+ year old cutovers tend to have enough regeneration to support a slow return of moose to the area. Regenerating cutovers provide excellent foraging opportunity until trees become too tall for moose to reach. • Forest roads <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Provide hunters access into areas previously free from vehicle traffic. Removal of access, in particular in areas of new forest regeneration, may allow moose densities to increase beyond sustainable levels.
Guiding Principles	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proposed forestry activity is reviewed by the staff at the Wildlife Division and recommendations are incorporated into this five-year plan.

4.1.1.1.2 Caribou

CARIBOU	
Characterization	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Caribou in Canada occur in two primary ecotypes: Barren-ground caribou and Woodland caribou, often referred to as boreal caribou. The latter ecotype inhabits mosaics of barren, wetlands, and mature forests. The herds on the island of Newfoundland belong to this ecotype. They are cyclic by nature mainly due to being density-dependent; meaning restricted by food and/or space, as well as regulated by predators such as wolves and managed hunters. ○ Caribou is the only native ungulate species on the island. Numbers are anecdotal at best for the 1800's (ranged from 40,000 to 200,000). By 1925 hunting was closed as the island population was down to a few thousand caribou. From the 1960's through the 1990's the caribou population recovered, peaking at over 90,000 in the 1990's. In late 1990's caribou started another downward trend (2014 assessment: just over 32,000 animals). The 2019 population estimates suggests 30,600 animals island-wide. ○ The Province is divided into Caribou Management Areas (CMA): boundaries, season dates and license quotas are reviewed annually for each CMA. ○ Approx. 100,000 residents actively participate in the annual big game license draw process. If successful, it provides an opportunity to hunt, to take part in an outdoor fall activity, to be part of an important social event and to provide local food. ○ Non-resident harvest is conducted through outfitting establishments, employing guides, cooks, maintenance people, pilots, etc. Other businesses benefiting from the non-resident outfitting industry include local stores, accommodations and restaurants, outdoor stores, aviation companies, etc. ○ Caribou are also important for none-consumptive activities. Intrinsic value is added to hiking, cycling, camping, paddling, sightseeing, etc., when there is a chance to view megafauna such as caribou. The tourism industry relies on this intrinsic value

	<p>to promote many of the activities offered. Caribou is also iconic to the NL Regiment.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ In 2014 the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada (COSEWIC) assessed Newfoundland caribou and recommended a listing of “special concern”. COSEWIC assessments are usually done on a 10 year cycle.
Critical Elements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Caribou display a highly mobile nature and some herds occupy large home ranges. • Caribou show a high selection for bogs and mature coniferous forests, as well as shrubs and water bodies. These habitats provide refuge from predation and support an abundance of forage. • Direct impacts from large cut overs and linear features include habitat destruction and fragmentation, increase in mortality and reduced recruitment rates likely due to increased and improved access for humans as well as predators, and avoidance of disturbed areas
Guiding Principles	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Caribou populations are monitored and assessed on a regular basis via <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Annual fall classification surveys: provide regular updates to sex ratios and recruitment within each herd. This work feeds into herd level assessments and quota evaluation/development. ○ Collar deployment: analysis of caribou movements, mortality rates and range occupation • This supports the development and assessment of Caribou Management Guidelines for forest management planning. New iterations of these guidelines may incorporate maximum targets for disturbance and linear features (e.g., forest roads) as well as no net losses within certain caribou core ranges. • The guiding principles for forestry operations and road construction will apply to all crown operations within the province. Wildlife Division will provide herd specific guidance and recommendations.

4.1.1.1.3 Black Bear

BLACK BEAR	
Characterization	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The black bear is native to the island and is found in forested areas. Black bears are solitary creatures and do not truly hibernate but enter a state of lethargic sleep. A den is chosen in mid fall under tree stumps or logs which are lined with grass, twigs and leaves. If reproducing females gained enough body fat they will give birth between January and February before emerging from the den with the cub(s) in April or May. • Currently, the number of black bears occurring on the island has been estimated at approximately 6,000 - 10,000 animals.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Province is divided into Black Bear Management Areas (BMA), which correspond to MMAs (except for sub-areas). Currently, only one license (with a bag limit at two black bears) is required by hunters on the Island to hunt black bear in both the spring and fall.
Critical Elements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Heavily wooded areas with dense bush intercepted with smaller clearings or early successional seral stages represent suitable habitat for black bears.
Guiding Principles	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A 50-metre undisturbed buffer must be maintained around known bear den sites (winter) or those encountered during harvesting.

4.1.1.2 Furbearers

FURBEARERS	
Characterization	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There are a variety of furbearers within the Province: lynx, red fox, beaver, otter, muskrat, short-tailed weasel, red squirrel, mink, coyote, wolf (Labrador) and Newfoundland marten (currently listed as a Species at Risk). Of these, mink and red squirrel are not native to the Island and coyotes are considered recent colonizers as they expanded their range naturally. Furbearer populations fluctuate from year to year and are influenced by factors such as predator/prey relationships, food supply and disease. Trapping pressure (i.e. due to fur market prices) can also influence population growth or decline. Trapping furbearers for their fur, meat and other natural products has a long tradition in this Province. Today's trapping is a choice of lifestyle, most times deeply rooted in the family and local culture, provides food, clothing and money as well as an enduring connection and experience with nature. Approx. 2,500 people in the province trap and snare furbearers. Management of furbearer species within the province is highly regulated and the responsibility of the Wildlife Division. There are 13 furbearer management zones throughout Newfoundland and Labrador. Within these zones, harvest activities for each species occurs during optimum periods for fur quality, which is generally during the fall and winter period. However, furbearer seasons may vary for each different species.
Critical Elements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Embedded in conservation of furbearers is the conservation of biodiversity and the ecological processes that support that biodiversity. Furbearers depend on other species; lynx on snowshoe hares, marten on mice and beaver on deciduous trees. Each species belong to a diverse community that depends on specific habitat conditions. Habitats change from one forest successional stage to another and are therefore inextricably linked to forest management. (Fur Institute of Canada, 2019) Species respond differently to logging operations or Silviculture treatments (i.e. thinning, prescribed burns). Hare and grouse increase with logging, which is

	<p>advantageous to lynx, coyote and fox. The wolf depends on caribou and moose, and beaver.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Snags, coarse woody debris, and sufficient understory provide sites for shelter, denning, nesting, traveling, etc. • Maintaining sufficient undisturbed riparian buffer zones along aquatic areas such as wetlands and waterbodies ensures water quality maintenance as well as shelter from upland disturbances • A mix of various forest conditions and successional stages that provides diversity of habitats supports a diversity of prey and thus a diversity of furbearers.
Guiding Principles	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Wildlife Division develops and implements an annual <i>Furbearer Management Strategy</i>. Similar to the big game management plan, a furbearer management plan reviews the status of each furbearer species, addresses the season dates and lengths, and if necessary closure of areas (or no open season as currently in place for marten).

4.1.1.3 Species of Interest

4.1.1.3.1 American Marten

AMERICAN MARTEN	
Characterization	<p>In 1986, the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada (COSEWIC) assessed the Newfoundland population of the american marten and the species was listed as threatened. Revisions in 1996 and 2000 resulted in an uplisting to “endangered” due to further declines. <i>Habitat loss, trapping and incidental snaring are possible reasons for the marten population decline.</i> Through the work of the Marten Recovery Team, the status of marten has been upgraded from “endangered” to “threatened” in 2007 because new population estimates were stable and distribution of marten was increasing. The American marten (island population) is currently (2010) listed as “threatened” under both the federal <i>Species at Risk Act</i> and provincial <i>Endangered Species Act</i>.</p> <p>To identify factors affecting marten survival, stakeholders from the Canadian Forest Service, Wildlife Division, Corner Brook Pulp and Paper and the Forestry Branch became members of the Newfoundland Marten Recovery Team. The primary function of the Recovery Team was to prepare and periodically revise the recovery plan for American marten in Newfoundland and to provide advice on species recovery. The initiation of the live-trapping program, revealed that Main River, Little Grand Lake and Red-Indian Lake are high-density marten areas on the island. Based on this information, it is important that marten habitat be protected in these areas. Furthermore, it is important that some remnant stands of old growth (80+) forests remain on harvested areas throughout the province and provision made to have connectivity (i.e., unbroken corridors of forest).</p>
Critical Elements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Older studies of habitat associations of American marten in Newfoundland have found that they are dependent on old-growth or overmature (>80-years-old)

	<p>forests due to a depauperate prey base which restricts marten to older forests where prey are accessible. More recent research suggests that marten will use a wide variety of habitat types, including immature regenerating forests, precommercially thinned forests, areas disturbed by forest insects, and areas of mature and overmature forests sufficient habitat to support a viable population of marten;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overall experts agreed that forest management promotes marten populations when some remnant stands of over mature/ old-growth (80+) forests remain unharvested across the island and a provision made to have connectivity between these over mature or old growth stand with the habitats that are listed above in the first bullet (this does not include recently harvested areas). • Under Brian Hearn’s work with the Canadian Forest Service, previous proposed harvest schedules within various forest management districts have been analyzed and indicate suitable habitat remained after harvest.
<p>Guiding Principles</p>	<p>These guiding principles are put in place to further recovery of the Newfoundland Marten and allow for forest harvesting.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sustainably manage and conserve core marten areas: In the early 1990’s-2000’s there were three high-density marten areas on the island: Main River (southern Northern Peninsula), Little Grand Lake- Red-Indian Lake (Western) and Terra Nova (Eastern). Marten have and continue to expand their range from these core areas. Based on this information, it is important that marten habitat be managed with a focus on the sustainable use and conservation of these core areas and the management of forests to promote and continue range expansions beyond the three core areas. • Ensure habitat connectivity: Forest planning ensure sufficient connectivity between habitat patches to allow continued dispersal and expansion of the species back to its historical range. • Protect denning female and kits: Activities previously identified by the Newfoundland Marten Recovery Team, as having the potential to disrupt female marten and her kits during the critical denning period, where possible should be limited during the period April 1st to June 30th within the areas identified as marten critical habitat in the 2010 Provincial Recovery Plan. This includes any activity that results in the removal of trees, significant noise, or compression or disturbance to brush or soil. Wildlife Division must be consulted on activities proposed in critical habitat during this period. • The guiding principles for Habitat requirements during forestry operations will apply to all crown operations within the province.

4.1.1.3.2 Rare Plants

RARE PLANTS	
Characterization	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The distribution of specific species as well as plant communities depend on regional and landscape-level factors, such as climate, geology, altitude and terrain as well as more local factors, such as the depth, moisture regime and fertility of the soil, microclimate and other biota, such as presence of herbivores, pathogens or pollinators. • Information on the distribution of plant species in Newfoundland and Labrador is obtained from various surveys initiated by government, research institutions, individual naturalists or local organizations, as well as those by consulting firms required through Environmental Assessment processes. • Currently, 27 plant and 3 lichen species are listed under the <i>Endangered Species Act</i>, with several hundred other plant and lichen species considered to be of conservation concern. • Four of the Endangered plant species are not found anywhere in the world outside of the Gulf of St. Lawrence Region, and three of them, the Fernald's Braya, Long's Braya and Barrens willow, are only found on the Island of Newfoundland. • There are many species of plants, lichen and fungi throughout the Province that are not rare or endangered but still have an important social or economic value. Many of these species also play important roles in the functioning of the province's ecosystems. • The vast majority of the rare plant species throughout Newfoundland are inhabitants of open habitats, such as river gravels, salt marshes, wetlands, aquatic habitats, alpine areas and coastal barrens, which are not targeted by commercial forest operations and in some cases receive special protection
Critical Elements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A small subset of the plant and lichen species of conservation concern, such as the Endangered Graceful Felt Lichen, depends on forests, and some of them are specialists requiring late-successional forests. • Without proper protection measures, negative effects can occur from: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ quarrying and road construction ○ logging and extraction using heavy equipment ○ mechanical site preparation ○ all terrain vehicle traffic ○ prescribed burning ○ stand conversion to different tree species and/or earlier seral stages

Guiding Principles	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Work with the Wildlife Division to educate forestry Personnel and develop mitigative measures in areas where rare plants occur. ○ Identify and update all rare plant sites on GIS forestry data base ○ Encourage domestic harvesting in the winter <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The guiding principles for Protection during forestry operations will apply to all crown operations within the province.
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4.1.1.3.3 Waterfowl

WATERFOWL	
Characterization	Maintaining waterfowl populations depends on effective conservation efforts throughout North America. Newfoundland and Labrador most productive waterfowl breeding and staging areas are either owned by or are under management control of major corporations, private or communities. To help manage for waterfowl areas, stewardship agreements are signed at either the municipal, corporate or private levels.
Critical Elements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Habitat <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ maintenance of habitat • Breeding <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ disturbance of waterfowl during the brood rearing, breeding, and staging period
Guiding Principles	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Habitat <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 50-metre treed buffer will be established around designated sensitive waterfowl areas. • Breeding <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ A minimum 30-metre, treed buffer must be maintained from the high water mark in other waterfowl breeding, molting, and staging areas. ○ no forestry activities are recommended during the brood rearing, breeding, and staging period • The guiding principles for Habitat and Breeding during forestry operations will apply to all crown operations within the province.

4.1.1.3.4 Other Species

Other species, particularly the red crossbill, are currently listed as endangered. The Forestry and Wildlife Division has a representatives on the recovery team for this species. Any recommendations on modified forestry activities, if any, for this species will be developed with input from all members and implemented accordingly.

4.1.1.4 Water Resources

WATER RESOURCES	
Characterization	The protection of water resources is an important topic both nationally and provincially. Human impacts both locally and globally have the potential to impair or alter water quality and water quantity.
Critical Elements	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Road construction / maintenance, Timber harvesting, and Silviculture<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Potential to alter the quantity and quality of water draining from watersheds.○ Negative Impacts could include: Negative impacts could include: stream hydrology (e.g. water quantity/flood risk),sediment loadings, and stream characteristics. Such activity would also potentially increase access by the public to land inside a Protected Public Water Supply Area (PPWSA) that was not previously accessible.• Storage and handling of fuels• Public Protected Watersupply Areas (PPWSA)<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Human Activity (e.g. domestic and commercial forestry has the potential to negatively affect the area of land and water designated as a Protected Public Water Supply Area, for a municipal authority or local service district (LSD) operating a waterworks or using or intending to use a water sources, under Section 39 of the Water Resources Act. 3• Working in and within 15 metres of a waterbody or wetland<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ The management of water resources helps to protect, enhance, conserve, develop and effectively utilize NL water resources and is accomplished through the issuance of Permits to Alter a Body of Water and Water Use Licences under Section 48 and Part 1 of the Water Resources Act respectively.
Guiding Principles	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Road Construction<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Any alteration to a body of water (e.g. culvert or bridge installation) within 15 metres of a natural waterbody (i.e. any water identified on the latest 1:50,000 NTS map) or development within a protected public water supply area, will require prior approval by the Water Resources Management Division of the Department of Environment and Climate Change (ECC).

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Approvals from Transport Canada are required for culverts, bridges and abutments on navigable waters (i.e. any waterbody capable of being navigated by floating vessels of any description for the purpose of transportation, commerce or recreation. Transport Canada's Navigability Self-Assessment Tree) must be utilized for each project to determine if a stream is Navigable or Not Navigable. ○ When extraction trails and winter roads are to be constructed, soil disturbance and impacts on water bodies are to be minimized. ● Timber Harvesting <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Heavy equipment and machinery are not permitted in any waterbody, on a wetland or a bog, unless frozen, without a permit from Water Resources Management Division ○ Woody material of any kind (i.e. trees, slash, sawdust, slabs, etc.) is not permitted to enter a waterbody. Depositing woody material on ice within the high water floodplain of any waterbody is also prohibited. ○ Buffers inside PPWSAs vary and are applied using Policy 95-01 (Policy for Land and Water Related Developments in Protected Public Water Supply Areas) ○ Extraction trails and landings shall not be established within 30 metres of a waterbody ○ A minimum 30 metre, no harvesting activity buffer zone shall be established around all water bodies that are identified on the latest 1:50,000 national topographic system (NTS) maps. ○ All buffers may be increased inside PPWSAs. ○ Where possible, a closure plan will be identified at the end of Forestry activity to minimize access. ● Storage and handling of fuels <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ No heavy equipment or machinery is to be refueled, serviced, or washed within 30 metres of a waterbody. ○ Gasoline or lubricant depots must be placed at least 100 metres from the nearest waterbody ○ All fuel-storage tanks must be registered with Digital Government and Service NL ○ Used oil storage, handling and disposal is to comply with the Used Oil Control Regulations, NLR, 82/02 under the Environmental Protection Act. ○ Contaminated soil or snow must be disposed of at an approved treatment facility ● Protected Public Watersupply Areas (PPWSA) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ In Newfoundland and Labrador forestry operations may be permitted in Protected Public Water Supply Areas on a limited and controlled basis provided the potential negative impacts of the proposed operations can be mitigated. ○ Approvals required include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Approval of the Five-year operating plan by the Environmental Assessment Division of ECC, and
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Issuance of a permit under section 39(6) of the Water Resources Act which will include consultation with the community involved. ○ Buffers inside PPWSAs vary and are applied using Policy 95-01 (Policy for Land and Water Related Developments in Protected Public Water Supply Areas) ○ Refueling must not take place within 150 meters of an intake pond. ○ Fuel storage tanks approved by Digital Government and Service NL must be located at a minimum distance of 500 meters from any major waterbody. ○ A fuel or oil spill clean-up kit must be kept on site to facilitate any clean-up in the event of a spill. ○ Policy Directive 95-01 (Land and Water Related Developments in PPWSAs) shall apply <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Working in and within 15 metres of a waterbody <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ All waterbodies, including wetlands will be identified within the project area as per the most up to date 1:50,000 NTS topographic maps. ○ Work within mapped wetland areas will follow the WRMD's Policy for Development in Wetlands to ensure that adverse effects to water quantity, quality, hydrological functions and terrestrial and aquatic habitats are restricted. ○ All necessary erosion/siltation control measures will be taken during infilling, dredging and debris removal activities near waterbodies. ○ Impacts to the natural drainage pattern of the work area shall be identified including the redirection and discharge of water. ○ Flood risk areas will be identified and work activities categorized as per the WRMD Policy for Flood Plain Management to ensure structural, public, and environmental health and safety. ○ Required permits and licenses will be attained prior to commencing work include; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Issuance of a Permit to Alter a Body of Water under Section 48 of the Water Resources Act ▪ Issuance of a Part 1 – Water Use Licence for all non-domestic water use. • The guiding principles for forestry operations, road construction, fuel handling and operating with PPWSA's will apply to all crown operations within the province.
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4.1.2 Human Values

4.1.2.1 Timber Resource

TIMBER RESOURCE	
Characterization	Commercial logging contractors are allocated the majority of the annual allowable cut level in the zone. Commercial harvesting and sawmilling activity provides many jobs in harvesting, sawmilling, trucking, pulp and paper manufacturing and related spin off

	<p>industries for local residents. Commercial uses have arisen for timber, which includes: lumber, pulp and paper products, and value added products.</p> <p>Domestic harvesting provides fuelwood to heat many homes and sawlog material for residential house construction in the zone. Domestic harvesting is conducted in specific domestic cutting areas via a crown domestic cutting permit that is required and issued within each forest management district. Unless otherwise specified; domestic cutting is limited to these designated cutting areas. A Domestic Permit specifies the volume and species that can be harvested, utilization standards, and other relevant conditions. While some domestic cutting areas are designated for hardwood only, the majority of areas will allow the harvest of all hardwood and softwood species.</p> <p>Silviculture treatments are important to the forest resource of the zone as it ensures that a vigorous and healthy forest is maintained. Forest renewal activities facilitate renewal of productive landbase by manual planting areas that are not sufficiently restocked. Forest improvement activities help improve and enhance the growing stock which can reduce harvest cost, enhance forest product options and increase sustainable timber supply. There will be a significant investment on silviculture in the zone each year creating seasonal employment.</p> <p>Timely access to timber is critical to planning any forestry operations. Primary, secondary and tertiary roads form an integral part of operating areas for commercial harvesting activity. Upon completion, these roads are often used for silviculture and recreational purposes. A significant amount of money will be spent to construct forest access roads each year in the zone.</p> <p>Protection of the forest from various disturbances is a major characteristic of resource management, which includes: integrated pest management and forest fire prevention/suppression techniques. Other resource values are protected through modification of activities and enforcement.</p>
Critical Elements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • maintenance or enhancement of productive land base • planting of non-regenerating areas • minimizing loss of land base to other users • minimize losses to fire, insect and disease • timely access road construction • enhancement of younger age classes through thinning to correct age class imbalance
Guiding Principles	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • enforcement of forestry act, regulations, guidelines and policies • minimize loss of productive land base through spatial and temporal compromises and continuous dialogue with other resource users • education (staff, public, operators) • aggressively conduct silviculture, access road, and protection activities

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • implement best management practices. The <i>EPG's</i> outline courses of action and mitigative measures for forest activities. These <i>EPG's</i> are outlined in their entirety in Appendix, with some highlighted subject areas listed below. • garbage disposal • fuel storage • mineral soil exposure • buffer requirements • road and bridge construction • silviculture and harvesting activities
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4.1.2.2 Agriculture

AGRICULTURE	
Characterization	The agricultural industry provides both direct and indirect employment to residents of the province.
Critical Elements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Landbase <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Land resources are at the foundation of all agricultural enterprises and provide the requirements for crop production. It is not possible to identify and plan all sites for future agriculture use and often there is a conflict with other land uses particularly forestry because these sites are of high growing capability. ○ Although a suitable landbase is the first critical element necessary for a successful agriculture operation, markets and the interest of individuals are also prime factors in the development and location of future farms. • Operational Requirements <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ When approval is granted for an agricultural lease, the land needs to be cleared and prepared for production
Guiding Principles	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Landbase <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Both the Forestry and Agrifoods sections have identified Agricultural Areas of Interest (AOI's) across the province, representing approximately 155,600 hectares. The area in AOI's have been removed from woodsupply calculations and is available for agricultural development. ○ Agricultural Development is still considered for areas falling outside established AOI's • Operational Requirements <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Forestry Act has been amended to allow clearing of land to occur without a commercial cutting permit if applicant is utilizing the fibre for their own private use. ○ Where possible, existing commercial forest operators should be encouraged to work with farmers to clear new land for development.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Where possible, existing commercial forest operators are encouraged to clear identified land within the departments Agriculture areas of Interest (AOI's). Five Year Plans includes AOI areas which are not part of woodsupply calculations ○ Home gardening leases should be confined to areas already developed for this activity. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The guiding principles for Landbase and operational requirements will apply to all crown operations within the province.
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4.1.2.3 Mining, Mineral Exploration and Quarrying

MINING, Mineral Exploration, and Quarrying	
Characterization	<p>Mineral exploration, mining, and quarrying are recognized as separate and distinct activities, each of which is approved and regulated under a separate piece of legislation.</p> <p>Mineral exploration activities may consist of prospecting, geological mapping, grid line-cutting, geochemical surveys, ground-based and airborne geophysical surveys, the preparation and use of access trails, mechanized trenching, diamond drilling, and – in remote areas – the preparation and use of campsites.</p> <p>Mineral exploration takes place province-wide and is a significant contributor to the provincial economy, particularly in rural areas.</p> <p>There are a large number of active quarries throughout the province which generate significant royalties and which provide the raw material for the development and maintenance of infrastructure such as highways, building lots, and concrete.</p> <p>There are a number of active mines in the province at any given time and mining represents a major component of the provincial economy.</p>
Critical Elements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Forest Ecosystem <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Mining, quarrying, and mineral exploration activities can have potential negative impacts to Forest Ecosystems and future Woodsupply calculations. Mining and quarrying represent permanent (but sequenced – not all at once) alterations to the landscape whereas mineral exploration activities at most involve temporary disturbance. Each activity is subject to rehabilitation requirements. • Utilization of Timber Resource <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ When exploration activity occurs, merchantable trees may need to be harvested to gain access to work sites. Under forestry act, all merchantable trees can only be removed with a cutting permit and that holders of a cutting permit must utilize all portions of the tree to a top diameter of 8cm (outside bark). Section 18 of cutting of timber regulations state that all

	<p>timber cut shall be removed from the cutting area to a roadway while harvesting operations are in progress unless otherwise specified in the cutting permit.</p>
Guiding Principles	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Forest Ecosystem <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Regulations and permitting conditions require that all mine sites, quarry sites, and mineral exploration sites be rehabilitated. While each activity is regulated separately, rehabilitation requirements for each include the requirement that the organic overburden (e.g., topsoil, ground vegetation) be stockpiled and stored in a manner so that it can be used to rehabilitate the site. Rehabilitation requirements can be further specified in special terms and conditions and could include, if warranted, the requirement that the site be left in a condition conducive to forest regrowth. • Utilization of Timber Resource <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ As part of exploration and development activities, individuals must attempt to extract timber harvested. If timber cannot be feasibly extracted using conventional means, then timber shall be piled so that it may be extracted during winter months by snowmobiles. ○ Mineral Exploration companies are permitted to use some harvested timber within access routes for the purposes of corduroy or brushmatting to prevent rutting and minimize ground disturbance on sensitive sites. • Additional: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The Forestry Branch will consult with the Mining and Mineral Development Branch in determining appropriate silviculture buffer distances from the boundaries of sites covered by a quarry permit or quarry lease. In many cases, 100 meters is an appropriate buffer distance that will accommodate discrepancies in plotting. However, in other cases, there may be valuable aggregate resources present and expectations that the area will see proposals for new quarry developments in the foreseeable future, in which case a buffer zone should be specially planned in consultation with Mines. In other cases, where quarry development is expected to proceed slowly, silviculture buffer distances may be much reduced. ○ For mine sites (including all associated infrastructure), an appropriate silviculture buffer distance should be chosen in consultation with the site operator and the Mining and Mineral Development Branch. ○ Mineral exploration activity that proposes to explore or develop within a silviculturally treated area must be undertaken with minimal disturbance and under approval of Forestry Branch. A standard condition has been developed by the Mineral Development Branch and Forestry Services Branch to include as a condition in mineral exploration approvals document where silviculture treatments may be impacted. ○ Mineral exploration and/or development on mineral licenses will not be impeded and will follow government policy. Specific proposed forest management activities are identified in annual operating plans for each upcoming calendar year.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Should future quarry or mineral resource developments or exploration programs (i.e., new quarry development, existing quarry expansion, new mine development, exploration for quarry materials, or mineral exploration) be considered by the Forestry Services Branch as having the potential to cause a significant impact on the forest resource and forest resource users, the Forestry Services Branch will work closely with the Mining and Mineral Development Branch and the proponent to ensure that mutual impacts are minimized. ○ For the purpose of road construction, quarry permits or quarry leases are required only for aggregate material taken outside of the road right-of-way. ○ Non-compliance with exploration permits identified by Forestry Branch will be passed to Mining and Mineral Development Branch. ○ Many forest access roads and bridges are used by other land users, among them parties carrying out mineral exploration or quarrying. Where possible, the Forestry Services Branch will forward plans to decommission roads or bridges as a matter of course to ensure that all road/bridge rehabilitation and decommissioning plans are reviewed to consider whether mineral exploration, quarrying, or mining may be affected. Plans should be forwarded to MinesBranchReferrals@gov.nl.ca <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The guiding principles for Forest Ecosystem, Utilization of Timber Resource, and additional comments will apply to all crown operations within the province
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4.1.2.4 Historic Resources

HISTORIC RESOURCES	
Characterization	<p>The provincial archeology office (PAO) is the agency responsible for the management and protection of archaeological sites and artifacts in Newfoundland and Labrador. This program is carried out under the Historic Resources Act which ensures that developments with potential to have adverse impacts on historic resources are investigated as and monitored by a qualified archaeologist through archaeological impact assessments.</p> <p>Archaeological sites are non-renewable resources and play a vital role in understanding our heritage. Most often, archaeological sites are small in size, so it is important to protect these sites and professionally record as much information possible to fully understand its history. To do this properly, the site must not be disturbed.</p>
Critical Elements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protection <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Activities which disturb soil layers and/or provide unintended public access to an archaeological site can have a negative impact on that historic resource. Without applying best management practices, forestry activities such as: construction of access roads and bridges,

	<p>harvesting, and mechanical site preparation have the potential to destroy historic resources.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ While forestry activities can have adverse impacts on historic resources, beneficial effects can be realized. Where impact assessments are carried out and new sites found, it adds to our understanding of Newfoundland and Labrador's heritage. When archaeological sites are discovered through impact assessments, these resources are protected from damage or destruction and preserved.
Guiding Principles	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protection <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ the provincial archaeology office will review forestry's five year plan proposals through the Environmental Assessment process. Applicable protection measures will be identified by the archaeology department and incorporated into the forestry plans. ○ Buffer Zones will be implemented to protect known archaeological sites and potential unknown sites. If deemed necessary, archaeological assessments may be required to fully assess the site. ○ Buffer zones are required along all rivers and ponds, as well as along the coastline, where there is potential for archaeological resources to be found. ○ Occasionally there are accidental discoveries made of historic resources. In the event that this does happen, activities should cease in this area and contact be made immediately with the provincial archaeologists. • The guiding principles for Protection during forest Harvesting will apply to all crown operations within the province.

4.1.2.5 Newfoundland T'Railway

NEWFOUNDLAND T'RAILWAY	
Characterization	<p>The T'Railway is a linear park approximately 850 km in length, comprising the former CNR right of way, which varies from 25 to 100 feet each side of the center line. It provides for an all season, multi-use recreation corridor and is developed and managed with Parks and Natural Areas Division in conjunction with the T'Railway Council. The <i>Provincial Parks Act</i> provides the legislative framework for the administration and management of the T'Railway and is protected for present and future enjoyment of the public. The T'Railway constitutes the province's contribution to the Trans Canada Trail System and is used primarily by snowmobile and all-terrain vehicles. Industrial or traditional uses such as: commercial and domestic harvesting, quarry and mining access and cabin access are also granted with a special permit.</p>
Critical Elements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protection <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ protection of the historical landscape integrity of the T'Railway corridor ○ preservation of the scenic quality along the corridor • Operational

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Regulating land usage adjacent to the T’Railway
Guiding Principles	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protection <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ co-ordination of activities with various other agencies responsible for land management outside the T’Railway corridor to ensure that the integrity of the park is maintained ○ build partnerships with other stakeholders and user groups such as communities, industry and recreational organizations for the long term maintenance and development of the T’Railway ○ Establishment of a 100 meter buffer along the right-of-way corridor to preserve the natural value of the T’Railway. Also, consider viewscales in forestry management plans. ○ where access is required, any landings or turnaround areas shall be 100 meters or more along the resource roads from the T’Railway. • Operational <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ where feasible and possible, Forestry Activity utilizing the T’Railway will avoid peak snowmobile and ATV seasons. ○ Applicable permits will be obtained for use of vehicular and heavy equipment on the T’railway • The guiding principles for Protection and operational requirements will apply to all crown operations within the province.

4.1.2.6 Parks and Protected Areas

PARKS AND PROTECTED AREAS	
Characterization	<p>There are several different types of conservation areas in the province contributing to the provincial system of protected areas.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Wilderness Reserves are designed to protect complete ecological systems, while Ecological Reserves may be established to protect representative samples of each of the province’s natural regions. Both Wilderness and Ecological Reserves are established via the <i>Wilderness and Ecological Reserves Act</i>. ○ Provincial Parks established under the <i>Provincial Parks Act</i>, do play a conservation role, but are primarily established as sites for outdoor recreation and nature-based education. ○ Wildlife Reserves may be established under the <i>Wildlife Act</i> for the protection of specific species or habitats. ○ Public or Crown Reserves may be established for conservation reasons under the <i>Lands Act</i>. ○ National Parks such as Terra Nova, Gros Morne and Torngat Mountains are established under the federal <i>National Parks Act</i>. <p>The benefits of protected areas are to preserve biodiversity, provide areas for scientific research, opportunities for environmental education, provide standards against which</p>

	the effects of development can be measured, and provide natural venues for enjoyment of nature.
Critical Elements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protection <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ preservation of biodiversity ○ maintenance of protected area integrity ○ maintain natural processes and features • Operational <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Forestry activity occurring around Parks and Protected Areas.
Guiding Principles	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protection <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Some protected areas prohibit new development such as mining activity, hydroelectric projects, forestry activity, agriculture activity, roads/trails, cabins and new structures; ○ the type of activities encouraged or permitted within various protected areas in the province depends entirely on the type of protected area and the rationale for its establishment • Operational <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ a 500 m no roads buffer is to be maintained around all existing and proposed protected areas to reduce access and minimize damage from motorized vehicles ○ where forestry operations are scheduled within one kilometre of provisional and ecological reserves, wilderness reserves or provincial parks, modified operations may be necessary • The guiding principles for Protection and operational requirements will apply to all crown operations within the province.

4.1.2.7 Outfitting

OUTFITTING	
Characterization	<p>Outfitting is an iconic, high yield tourism demand generator and one of Newfoundland and Labrador's most developed tourism products. Outfitters annually attract high end hunting and angling enthusiasts that benefit local communities, other private operators, transportation providers and guides.</p> <p>Since the early 1900's, the outfitting industry has been an integral component of the tourism industry in Newfoundland and Labrador. The province has been a popular hunting and fishing destination because of the pristine environment and abundance of fish and wildlife species. There are many outfitters operating within the boundaries of this forest management zone, which provide seasonal employment for many local individuals.</p> <p>Over the past decade or so, a significant number of traditional hunting and fishing facilities have diversified into the non-consumptive areas of the tourism industry. Such activities include: snowmobiling, dog sledding, kayaking, canoeing, nature viewing, hiking, and wildlife photography. The ability to diversify has positively impacted the</p>

	<p>viability of outfitting operations and as a result, increasing numbers of operators are considering this opportunities. Pristine wilderness settings are necessary for many of these types of diversification.</p>
Critical Elements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Resource Roads <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Some outfitting camps are considered remote and construction of forest access roads too closely to a main camp could have negative impacts to this remote appeal. ○ Increasing accessibility through increased access roads has the potential for increased hunting and fishing pressures within in a given area. Increased pressure on the wildlife resource within a given area could potentially lead to decreased success rates of outfitter guests. ○ With improved road access, there is also a potential for increased cottage development, which can also impact both remoteness and wildlife availability. • Visual <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ While clients of hunting and fishing outfitters are primarily interested in the actual hunting or fishing experiences, they also show a great respect and admiration for pristine conditions and a healthy looking landscape. Activities such as forest harvesting can potentially detract from the overall visitor experience. ○ The landscape view experienced by clients plays a large role in leaving a lasting impression of the province. The viewscape experience may also have a direct impact on repeat client bookings and recommending the destination to others. ○ Viewscapes become even more important as outfitters begin diversification into non-consumptive tourism activities. • Wildlife <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Without proper application of best management practices, forest harvesting has the ability to negatively impact wildlife travel corridors, bear denning areas, and moose and caribou feeding and calving areas. Removal of large areas of forest can simulate the same effect of reducing wildlife habitat, particularly winter staging areas. ○ Forest harvesting has the ability to lead to disturbances of wildlife, including shifts in where they live, disturbances for hunters accessing hunting areas and finding animals in these traditional hunting areas, and other disturbances for outfitters. This has the potential to significantly impact their business.
Guiding Principles	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Resource Roads <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Where possible, new access roads will be strategically located away from an outfitters existing main outfitting Lodge. ○ Consideration will be given to decommissioning roads and bridges (where possible) after harvesting is completed, which will help reduce possibilities of increased hunting pressure. ○ When roads are in use actively for harvesting purposes, access to hunters could be restricted or limited.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Where possible and feasible, conduct harvest activity in the winter and construct winter roads that are less passable in summer/fall and will help to reduce vehicular traffic around an outfitters main lodge. • Visual <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ In consultation with the outfitter, efforts will be made to minimize negative effects regarding the view from the outfitter's main lodge and their hunting areas when conducting nearby forest operations. ○ Environmental Management System (EMS), developed procedures for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Ensuring all garbage is removed from the harvest area. ▪ Appropriate stream and wildlife buffers are implemented and maintained • Wildlife <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ All forestry Plans are reviewed by the Wildlife Branch. ○ Travel Corridors and Buffer Requirements are designed and implemented upon direction of Wildlife Branch using scientific data. ○ Modified or deferred harvest based on Wildlife Habitat requirements is under the direction of the Wildlife Branch • Forest Operations <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ shall be undertaken in compliance with existing regulations ○ In consultation with the outfitter, the timing forest harvesting can be modified around the main lodge during the season of operation. ○ Unless located on registered crown land issued to the specific outfitting business, Bear Bait Stands are considered temporary hunting tools, which do not require protection mechanisms and are not considered permanent fixtures on the landscape. ○ However, through the five year plan development and consultation process, outfitters can identify the location of temporary hunting tools such as Bear Bait Stands in an effort to mitigate any issues prior to implementation. • The guiding Principles for Resource Roads, Visual, Wildlife and Forest Operations above are applicable for all licensed outfitting businesses within the province. In addition, direct consultations with specific outfitters and the Newfoundland and Labrador Outfitters Association may occur to mitigate specific forestry proposals near the Main Lodge.

4.1.2.8 Tourism / Recreation

TOURISM / RECREATION	
Characterization	Non-timber values such as: hiking, skiing, canoeing/kayaking, ATV/UTV and snowmobiling constitute an important role within the Province for tourism and recreational purposes. The Province has outstanding scenery, varying topography and opportunities for viewing wildlife and flora in a natural setting.

	<p>The tourism industry in Newfoundland and Labrador has experienced significant growth over the years and is now a significant economic driver, generating \$1.14 billion in revenue in 2019. Newfoundland and Labrador has the resources to compete nationally and internationally with tourist destinations. As such, protection of these resources is vital for continued growth and prosperity.</p>
Critical Elements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wilderness <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Adventure tourism activities require the existence of wilderness areas. If best management techniques are not applied, forest harvesting may result in the alteration of this feeling of pristine wilderness, which could have short and long term adverse effects. • Accessibility <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Construction and maintenance of Forest Access roads has both a positive and negative effect. On a positive side, it provides the ability to increase vehicular and ATV/UTV traffic allowing more opportunity for this activity. However, on a negative side, it also has the potential to decrease the value of the experience for those individuals seeking a “remote” type setting. • Viewscapes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Either walking a trail, snowmobiling on a groomed trail or canoeing down a river, the visual experience of the surrounding landbase plays an important role in the overall pleasure of the activity. Over the past number of years, viewscapes have become an integral portion of forest management planning. ○ The Trans Canada Highway is a strategically important touring route for the tourism industry. Any development that is near this touring route and would impact scenic settings, must be managed to minimize the negative visual viewscapes.
Guiding Principles	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wilderness <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Forest operations will avoid established ecological reserve areas and will make every attempt to consult with local stakeholders in areas of high concentrations of tourism and recreational activities. In such areas, stakeholder meetings could prevent conflicts through temporal scheduling. • Limiting Accessibility <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Where possible in sensitive areas, forest harvesting will be scheduled during winter months and take advantage of winter road construction techniques. Winter roads usually restrict vehicular traffic and decommission naturally. In addition, decommissioning of regular forest access roads near sensitive areas is a possible option when forest operations are completed. • Viewscape <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Where possible within areas where high concentrations of tourism and recreational activities occur, negative impacts to viewscapes could be managed using landscape design techniques. This could mean that forest harvesting operations employ: treed buffers, tree retention methods or implement reforestation activity immediately to return the site to a forested condition. Viewscape analysis using computer modelling has been

	<p>completed in areas along the Exploits River and the Trans Canada Highway to minimize the initial visual effects of Forest Harvesting.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The guiding principles for Wilderness, Accessibility, and Viewscapes will apply to all crown operations within the province.
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SECTION 5 MITIGATIONS

5.1 General

Best Management Practices adopted from previous planning processes to be incorporated into this plan

- A 30 m buffer will be maintained on both sides of any other rivers, brook, ponds or other water bodies that are shown on 1:50,000 topographic maps.
- There will be no cutting buffer within 100 meters of the Newfoundland T'Railway.
- There will be no cutting buffer within 100 meters of a cabin development area and 30 meters of an approved cabin.
- Scheduled salmon rivers will be evaluated on a site-by-site basis and buffers will vary in width from 30 -100 meters.
- Within protected water supplies, there will be no cutting within 150 meters of the intake pond or stream and no cutting within 75 meters of the main river channel. There will be no cutting within 50 meters of all ponds and streams flowing into the intake pond or stream.
- 100 meter no cutting buffer on along the coastline of Bay of Exploits

Local known stakeholders were notified as per section 6. Some further information was required as indicated below

DATE	Community	Reason for Contact	Action for Forestry	Results
6/4/2021	Town of Norris Arm	Requesting PDF maps for proposed activity near community	Detailed maps provided	No issues
06/07/21	New Wes Valley	Inquiry on Domestic areas proposed near the community	Detailed maps provided	Letter received from town on June 24 requesting 2 domestic areas to be removed and no objections with other domestic areas. Requested changes made to proposed plan
06/24/21	Town of Gambo	Email to confirm receipt of plan but Council has not reviewed yet	Replied email to indicate when Council reviews, if any issues, forward along	Any concerns will be reviewed when received
6/25/21	Little Burnt Bay	Followup on initial email and requesting that areas surrounding the community be opened up for harvesting	District to review request	

DATE	Outfitter	Reason for Contact	Action for Forestry	Results
6/14/2021	Gander River Outfitters	Sent email requesting further information of initial email.	Additional information sent on June 15, with pdf of location of lodge and closest 2 operating areas.	Email discussion regarding the potential effects of the 2 operating areas. Forestry indicated it was carryover areas from previous plan. Proponent purchased outfitting business in 2017. No specific issues identified regarding past or proposed forestry activity.

SECTION 6 PUBLIC CONSULTATION

6.1 Planning Framework

Forest Resource managers in Canada are striving for a society that successfully integrates economic, environmental and social considerations into all resource-related decision making. Since the early 1990's, there has been a country-wide shift from single resource management to a more comprehensive approach of forest ecosystem management. Sustainable Forest Management (SFM) must be balanced in light of social, economic, and environmental issues. In the context of SFM, this shift has resulted in a move from the traditional narrow focus of timber management, to incorporate non-timber values into the management planning framework. Another term that has become closely associated with SFM is "sustainable development" or in this case "sustainable forests", which not only takes into account the social, cultural, economic, and environmental benefits of the present, but those of future generations as well. Involvement of Interested Stakeholders into the five-year planning process is recognized by the Forestry Services Branch as a key component to achieving sustainable development.

As a result of the 1995 Environmental Preview Report, the Forestry Services Branch adopted an adaptive management planning process, which has three objectives:

- Establish a productive planning framework to include all interested stakeholders. An effective planning framework must have information and defined spatial issues.
- Learn more about forest ecosystems while they are being actively managed (i.e. adaptive management). Adaptive management incorporates strategies which help us learn about the forest ecosystem and to deal with uncertainties.
- Establish an ecosystem approach to forest management which integrates the scientific knowledge of ecological relations and limits of growth with social values. This will help to attain the goal of sustaining natural ecosystem integrity and health over the long term.

Adaptive management makes decisions based on input from interested stakeholders and establishes a continuous learning program. The adaptive approach allows us to communicate, share information and learn about forests being managed. This sharing of information, both old and new, then provides the flexibility necessary to adjust to changes and to set new goals. Such interaction is an absolute necessity for a subject as complex as an ecosystem.

More information on the Forest Management Planning Process can be found on Governments Forestry website using the following addresses

(<https://www.faa.gov.nl.ca/forestry/managing/district.html>) and

(https://www.faa.gov.nl.ca/forestry/managing/public_consultation.html), as well as Governments Engage NL website.

6.2 Stakeholder Involvement

Since the mid 1990's, for each five-year plan, the Forestry Services Branch embarked upon a rigorous public consultation process involving a series of meetings spanning a number of months at an established venue, where interested stakeholders could discuss a range of forest management issues at an operational level.

With respect to the strategic level, in 2014, the Forestry Services Branch released a 10- year Provincial Sustainable Forest Management Strategy (PSFMS) Document (2014-2024), which emerged through wide consultation with citizens of the Province. The 2014-2024 PSFMS builds on the strengths of the previous strategy plans and uses a landscape-scale planning approach to implement the progressive and innovative ecological policies required for Sustainable Forest Management (SFM). The strategy builds on the strengths of the many modern and high-quality forest management programs that are currently being implemented in this province to ensure a vibrant and competitive forest industry. Taking into account the many five-year plans successfully implemented within the province since the mid 1990's through public consultation processes and the recent PSFMS developed through public consultations, The Forestry Services Branch strives to improve its methods to garner advice from the public while also mitigating land-use conflicts. To this effect, as new five-year plans are being developed and implemented provincially, relevant issues raised from previous planning processes are considered the foundation the new plans.

A new stakeholder involvement process was initiated in 2020 utilizing the department of Engage NI. Through this process, interested individuals could either contact forestry directly or complete an online form that specifically indicates a particular issue or concern. For Zone 3, an Engage NI consultation process was targeted and directed stakeholder involvement began on June 03, through emails to targeted groups. Information regarding the proposed forest management plan, and associated google earth files were provided to

1) Town Councils – email sent on June 03, 2021

Appleton	
Baytona	
Baytona	Lewisporte
Birchy Bay	Little Burnt Bay
Botwood	Lumsden
Campbellton	Musgrave Harbour
Carmanville	New-Wes-Valley
Centreville-Wareham-Trinity	Norris Arm
Change Islands	Northern Arm
Comfort Cove-Newstead	Peterview
Cottlesville	Point Leamington
Dover	Point of Bay
Eastport	Salvage
Embree	Sandringham
Fogo Island	Sandy Cove (Bonavista Bay)
Gambo	St. Brendan's
Gander	Summerford
Glenwood	Traytown
Glovertown	
Happy Adventure	
Hare Bay	
Indian Bay	
Leading Ticks	

2) Local MHA's – email sent on June 03, 2021

3) Outfitters / Tourism – email sent on June 03, 2021

Beaulieus Caribou Hunts (2005) Limited (Kepenkeck Lake Lodge)
Birchy Point Lodge
Efford's Hunting Adventures
Mountain Top Cabin Ltd. (Deer Pond Lodge)
Banting Lake Lodge
Bear Cliff Lodge
Nakiska on the River
Caribou Pond Outfitting Ltd.
Central Newfoundland Outfitters (Little Gull Lodge)
Hinterland Outfitting Ltd. (Quiet Haven Lodge)
Mount Peyton Outfitters
Mountain Top Cabin Ltd. (Eastern Pond Camp)
Newfoundland Wilderness Outfitters Inc.
Northwest Gander Outfitters
River Run Outfitting & Tours
Sandy Lake Lodge Outfitting Limited (Atlantic Lake Camp)
Sitdown Pond Lodge
Sylt Lake Tent Camp
Beaver Lodge
Gander River Outfitters
Honey Buckette Rod & Gun Club
Ocean Side Country Lodge
Saunders Camps
Twelve Acre Lodge
Terra Nova National Park
Cape Freels Development Association
Newfoundland and Labrador Outfitters Association
Newfoundland and Labrador Snowmobile Federation
Hospitality NL
Legendary Coasts NL DMO
Adventure Central DMO
Go Western DMO

4) Indigenous Leaders – email sent on June 03, 2021

- Qalipu First Nation
- Miawpukek First nation

SECTION 7 MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES AND STRATEGIES

7.1 Harvesting

The boreal forest is characterized by natural stand replacement following a natural disturbance, which results in the formation of relatively even aged stands. A forest management technique called the Clearcut Silvicultural system is utilized as it closely emulates this natural disturbance pattern. The size, shape, arrangement and juxtaposition of harvest areas vary across the landscape depending on localized topography and terrain conditions.

7.1.1 Commercial

The older unalienated timber considered in the worst condition is targeted as a high harvest priority, followed by stands that have been damaged by insects and disease. In managed stands, this priority changes to allow for a faster rotation on sites that have been silviculturally treated.

Specific commercial strategies include:

- design irregular cut blocks that follow contours and natural boundaries
- vary buffer widths to protect other values (ie. larger buffers on salmon rivers)
- utilize winter harvest on wet and sensitive sites
- maintain current size and distribution of clear cuts
- where possible, maintain unharvested strips between harvest blocks as wildlife utilization corridors
- use landscape design techniques to mitigate viewscales
- minimize timber utilization loss (< 6 m³/ha)

7.1.2 Domestic

The harvest of domestic fuelwood and sawlogs occurs from designated areas, recent commercial harvest areas and sporadically throughout the zone with the removal of blowdown trees. Utilization of cutover residue, dead timber and scrub areas do not form part of the woodsupply analysis. Generally, domestic cutting areas are generally established near communities. However, within areas of the zone not covered by any operating areas, domestic permits may be issued to remote cabin owners for firewood as requested. The number of permits and volume associated with these permits will be extremely low and insignificant.

Specific domestic strategies include:

- target low volume stands having poor commercial opportunity
- encourage use of poor quality hardwood (birch, larch and aspen). In areas where there are future softwood commercial operations, domestic harvesting is limited to non-commercial hardwoods
- target dead, burnt and insect damaged stands that are beyond commercial salvage throughout the zone and specifically within 100 meter buffer of highways.
- target alienation class 3 lands that have low commercial opportunity

- in areas of high domestic demand, limit volume allocation in designated cutting areas and encourage alternate sources (cutovers, landings, scrub etc)

7.2 Silviculture

As a general rule, approximately 80% of the Boreal Forest regenerates naturally following a disturbance. Forest renewal management programs are applied by forest managers within the 20% that do not successfully natural regenerate. Forest renewal silvicultural treatments are designed to help facilitate a new forest after disturbances caused by harvesting, insect, wind or fire. These prescriptions can involve either Site Preparation (scarification), Planting or Pre-Commercial Thinning.

Site Preparation

When a site does not regenerate at all, a full planting program is required. In some cases, the site may need to be manually prepared to aid in the establishment and growth of the planted seedlings (generally black or white spruce and to a lesser extent, norway spruce). Site preparation techniques can include:

- Mechanical site preparation (scarification) involves using heavy equipment (skidder) equipped with special attachments to reduce the thickness of the duff layer, and remove or disturb any kalmia that is present, which would restrict seedling growth.
- Prescribed burning is used to sanitize some sites where adelgid is present. This treatment reduces the slash loading and duff thickness to prepare the site for planting and kills any balsam fir which could potentially perpetuate the adelgid problem.
- Treatment to prepare sites that have been overgrown with hardwoods and other herbaceous species has been done with herbicides to reduce this competition, making the site more accessible and suitable for planting. Release herbicide treatment reduces the competition for a few years to allow planted seedlings to get established. In other instances, herbicides are used to control Kalmia either before or after planting. Herbicides, while used sparingly, are sometimes a necessary tool to help establishment of a new forest, particularly on the better sites.

Planting

A full planting technique is required when no regeneration occurs to ensure regeneration of selected tree species is at acceptable levels. Gap planting is normally achieved with spruce seedlings, coupled with the natural regeneration already present on site to increase seedling density to acceptable levels.

On adelgid sites partially regenerated to balsam fir, planting is done through the existing regeneration to obtain a sufficient stocking level of an adelgid resistance species. However, where adelgid has been a problem, balsam fir regeneration is sometimes ignored and the site is planted with spruce seedlings.

Where possible, seedlings used in the silviculture program are grown with seed from local sources. Seed orchards have been established at Pynns Brook and Wooddale to produce seed from plus trees collected throughout the province. Plus trees are normally selected because they have superior growth and physiological characteristics. It is hoped that once the orchard is in full production, the majority of the planting stock will be grown from this source. The ultimate goal is to plant seedlings that have superior growth characteristics and thus increase yield and maintain genetic diversity.

Exotic species have been planted in trials at some locations in the zone. However; it is not anticipated to form any substantive proportion of the planting program in the foreseeable future.

Thinning

In an attempt to enhance development, silviculture thinning programs are designed to treat established forest stands.

Pre-Commercial Thinning (PCT) usually involves partial removal of overstocked balsam fir stands at a young age 10 -15 years. In areas which have high moose browsing potential, the age is increased to 20 – 25 years, so that crop trees are tall enough to be out of reach of moose. PCT reduces density levels which facilitates maximizing volume increment and operability (piece size). Trees removed are not of merchantable size and remain on site, returning the nutrients back into the soil. In the zone, balsam fir is usually thinned to favour any spruce present within the stand. This prescription results in a mixed softwood stand (depending on the original density of spruce) which is more diverse and less susceptible to insect infestation. As well, any hardwood species that are not in direct competition with spruce or fir are left to increase the biodiversity of the stand.

Commercial and Diameter Limit thinning would occur in the intermediate age 25 - 35 years and is undertaken in older balsam fir stands (either natural or previously thinned). It is designed to capture any mortality that would normally occur in the stand through self thinning. The trees removed from commercial thinning operations are extracted and utilized. The remaining trees are left to grow, free from competition and are harvested when mature. As with PCT, spruce and hardwoods are left where possible to increase the stand diversity.

Thinning programs aim to shorten the rotation period of a stand and produce large diameter stems. This program should increase the percentage of merchantable volume considered suitable for sawlogs. Commercial thinning has not been completed in the zone and diameter limit thinning has been done sparingly. In recent years the precommercial thinning program has dropped significantly. This trend is expected to continue.

More information on the Silviculture Program can be found on Governments Forestry website using the following address

<https://www.faa.gov.nl.ca/forestry/managing/silviculture/index.html>)

Specific silviculture strategies include:

- ensure regeneration of areas disturbed by harvest, insect, wind and fire to prevent loss of productive land base
- use thinning techniques in young stands to promote enhanced stand development, reduce rotation age, and increase the percentage of sawlogs
- leave hardwoods, where possible, in pre-commercially thinned areas to increase stand diversity
- where possible, promote species mixes particularly with spruce and hardwoods to reduce susceptibility to insect attack and increase biological diversity
- where possible, use seedlings grown from local seed sources to protect genetic diversity
- ensure levels of planting and thinning used in the wood supply analysis are achieved
- work towards pre harvest planning to identify areas with potential silviculture problems so that optimal prescriptions can be promptly employed

7.3 Access Roads

Forestry roads are required to gain access to scheduled commercial harvest areas. Access roads also provide opportunities for other recreational and commercial values such as: hunting, fishing, skiing, berry picking, hiking, outfitting, cabin development and mineral exploration.

As a general rule of thumb, only the minimal amount of access roads are constructed to effectively and efficiently conduct commercial harvest operations. Access roads are constructed to specifications minimizing right-of-way and running surface width. Forwarding distances will be maximized to curtail the overall amount of road constructed. In sensitive and wet areas, winter harvesting and road construction are encouraged. Following these principles helps to ensure the minimum amount of road will be constructed, reducing the loss of productive forest landbase and minimizing environmental disturbance. Road and bridge maintenance and/or decommissioning are considered depending on cost, and mitigation of conflicting uses for a particular road.

More information on the Roads Program can be found on Governments Forestry website using the following address (<https://www.faa.gov.nl.ca/forestry/roads/index.html>)

Specific roads strategies include:

- construct winter roads in sensitive and wet areas
- minimize amount of road built by maximizing forwarding distances
- use minimum road standard to safely and effectively match the logging chance
- consider road decommissioning on roads near remote outfitting lodges and other areas of concern where requested and where feasibly possible
- determine impacts and explore alternatives (cost sharing) in areas where road and bridge decommissioning impacts other stakeholders
- explore all avenues to secure funding for road construction and encourage operators to build their own roads in exchange for royalty reductions

7.4 Forest Protection

7.4.1 Insects and Disease

As indicated in section 1.5.5, insects have been considered a major natural disturbance within the zone. Balsam fir is susceptible to most of the major insects including spruce budworm, hemlock looper, and balsam woolly adelgid. In the event of a major insect infestation, salvage efforts may change harvest priorities. However, deviations from harvest schedules will be closely monitored to ensure that the validity of the AAC is not compromised.

Monitoring and protection programs for insects and disease are coordinated by the forest protection division in Corner Brook. Local district staff provide assistance in detection, monitoring, and protection surveys against insects and disease. More information on the Forest Insect Control Program can be found on Governments Forestry website using the following address (<https://www.faa.gov.nl.ca/forestry/idc/index.html>)

Specific insect and disease strategies include:

- use silvicultural techniques at the stand level to alter species mix and increase stand vigor to make stands less susceptible to insect attack
- where possible, use harvest scheduling techniques to alter species mix across the landscape to minimize potential for severe insect infestation
- in conjunction with provincial and federal initiatives, use pertinent and approved insecticides

7.4.2 Fire

There has been a cyclic fire history in the zone. A fire in an unusually dry year can have devastating effects on the forest and can exacerbate an established wood supply. The risk of a serious forest fire can be minimized by maintaining a highly trained, efficient and effective fire control program and by minimizing the risk in forest stands through maintenance of forest health and vigour. Within the zone, there have been major forest fires in the past. However, in recent years, wildfire has not been a major issue. There have been some minor wildfires but all have been quickly contained and not much timber has been lost. The Department of Fisheries, Forestry and Agriculture is committed to protection of the resource and continues to invest in a fire suppression program to ensure any future losses are minimized. There are fire crews and equipment stationed at local forestry depots within the zone during the forest fire season, whose direct responsibility is forest fire protection. In addition, support, equipment and manpower at both the regional and provincial level is available should the need arise. There are air tankers stationed at Deer Lake and Gander and helicopters in Gander that are available for initial attack. More information on the Forest Fire Program can be found on Governments Forestry website using the following address (https://www.faa.gov.nl.ca/forestry/forest_fires/index.html)

Specific fire strategies include:

- use silvicultural treatments and protection from insects to increase health and vigour of stands
- maintain fire control capabilities
- promote species mixes in stands to minimize risk

7.4.3 Windthrow

Wind throw usually occurs in older stands that have been predisposed by some other disturbance such as insects and disease. To minimize the effects of Windthrow (blowdown), stands will be managed to promote forest health and vigour mainly through silvicultural treatments and protection from insects.

Specific windthrow strategies include:

- avoid thinning in areas with high wind damage potential (hilltops on high elevations etc.)
- maintain forest in healthy vigorous condition through silvicultural treatments and protection from insects
- design cut blocks to follow contours and natural boundaries to minimize risk of windthrow to residual forest

7.5 Environmental Protection & Climate Change

7.5.1 General Environment

The Department of Fisheries, Forestry and Agriculture has developed an Environmental Management System (EMS) that is registered with the International Standards Organization (ISO). As part of this process, an EMS Policy was developed and proper operating procedures developed for various forest management activity. Initial registration was on December 17, 2015 and through regular monitoring and audits (internal and external), the EMS remains registered. Under the EMS, the department has developed stringent operating procedures for fuel handling, working around waterbodies, and overall pollution prevention. In addition, inspection programs are implemented to evaluate forest operations and rectify any deviations from established protocols. More information on the EMS can be found on Governments Forestry website using the following address

(<https://www.faa.gov.nl.ca/forestry/ems/index.html>)

To ensure forestry activity is conducted to minimize any potential negative impacts to the environment, operating procedures and best management practices called Environmental Protection Guidelines (EPG's) have been developed and implemented across the province. Highlights of measures to avoid these impacts include no activity buffer zones, modification of harvesting design and equipment, avoidance of sensitive site during critical periods, consultation with other regulatory agencies, and monitoring. More information on EPG's can be found on Governments Forestry website using the following address

(<https://www.faa.gov.nl.ca/forestry/managing/pdf/Environmental-Protection-Guidelines.pdf>)

Through implementation of the EMS and the EPG's, the department strives to be responsible stewards of the landbase. As well, the programs illustrated in this document relating to forest protection from Insects and Fires, help to maintain a forested landbase. As indicated in previous sections, harvested sites are evaluated for regeneration potential and proper reforestation techniques are implemented to facilitate tree growth. Maintaining and achieving a stocked forest at the earliest timeframe help provide for carbon storage.

7.5.2 Climate Change

From an initial review, it appears there are two options for incorporating carbon accounting into our standard wood supply modelling process. First, there is the option of using the National carbon accounting model CBM3. CBM3 accepts outputs from Woodstock, the wood supply model used by the Department, and from these Woodstock outputs generated the expected carbon flows. The advantage of this approach is that CBM3 is an internationally recognized model that is used nationally to project carbon flows for Canada. The disadvantage of the CMB3 that the model is that can only process Woodstock models with 10 or less landscape themes. A landscape theme is a feature used to describe or characterized the area being modeled. Our present Woodstock model has 13 themes and reducing the themes down to 10 will not meet some of our planning commitments. There have been scripts developed by the Federal scientists that can convert models with more than 10 themes down to 10 themes models, however using these scripts requires additional data processing and adds complexity to the model structure.

The second options involves developing similar carbon curves as the ones used in CBM3 and incorporating them into Woodstock itself. With these carbon curve in place it will be possible to tracking carbon outputs similar to the CBM3. The advantage of the carbon curve approach is it reduces over all modelling complexity; however, this approach does not have the "brand recognition" of the CBM3 modelling approach.

The plan going forward is to hire a wood supply analyst who will spend 50% of his time evaluating the two approaches highlighted above, or any other approach that becomes apparent, and recommend the approach that will works the best for the Department. The remaining 50% of the analyst time will be spending supporting the ongoing Province wood supply review.

7.5.3 Surveys

Utilization surveys will be conducted on both commercial and domestic cutovers to ensure loss of merchantable timber is minimized. Results of these surveys will be used to evaluate the expected volume in an operating areas to those actually attained. The results of this survey will help refine inventory deductions in future woodsupply analysis.

Reconnaissance and intensive regeneration surveys will be conducted on commercial cutovers in this upcoming five year period, and as well as those created in the past five years to determine the requirement for silvicultural activity. Reconnaissance surveys will be completed on regenerating stands to determine the suitability for pre-commercial thinning.

7.6 Information and Education

Information and education is one of the key elements to providing active and effective participation in the planning process at all levels. Through interaction with various user groups and the general public, a better understanding of ones values and positions is gained. The more we know about other values and their location, the better the ability to mitigate any potential negative impacts. For example, learning where a cabin is located can help planners when selecting areas for harvest and provide a contact to discuss impacts and mitigations. Districts within the zone will continue to educate the general public and engage in meaningful consultations with interested stakeholders where applicable. Annual National Forest Week activities provides a great opportunity for interested individuals to gain a greater understanding of the Provinces' Forest.

Sources of information can include:

- government website
- field trips
- school visits
- information meetings
- general day to day contact

SECTION 8 PROPOSED ACTIVITIES

8.1 overview

This section will outline all forest activities that will occur on crown land in the zone from 2022-2026, including: proposed commercial and domestic harvesting, silviculture, access road construction, and activities proposed within protected water supply areas.

To present a more comprehensive overview of proposed activities on the entire district an overview map is presented in Appendix 3. This map shows all proposed operating areas so that operations can be viewed from a landscape perspective. Maps of individual operating areas and summary sheets are also presented in Appendix 3. The summary sheets give a brief description of each area, the type of activities that will occur and any issues raised and mitigative measures employed.

Digital copies of the Zone 5 plan can be found on the governments forestry website at the following address

https://www.faa.gov.nl.ca/forestry/managing/public_consultation.html

8.1.1 Allocation of Timber Supply

Table 17 below indicates the scheduled proposed forest harvest for the upcoming five year period 2022-2026. Note: the total volume identified maybe over the final AAC for each forest management district, but when scheduling activity, the maximum sustainable harvest over the five year period will not be exceeded.

Table 18: Proposed forest harvest in Zone 3 from 2022-2026

	PROPOSED HARVEST TOTAL VOLUME m ³			
HARVEST TYPE	Class 1 softwood	Class 3 Softwood	Hardwood	TOTAL
COMMERCIAL	1,493,530	276,702	292,813	2,053,045
DOMESTIC	711,312		79,071	790,383
TOTAL	2,204,842	276,702	371,884	2,843,428

**note: when final AAC's are developed for this zone, if the above schedule represents more than the established AAC, the harvest will be monitored to ensure established AAC's are not exceeded.*

8.1.1.1 Commercial

The timber scheduled for commercial harvest in the district is overmature with some small pockets of mature dispersed throughout. This proposed harvest approximates the harvest schedule that was used to determine the AAC. The allocated operating area and associated harvest volumes represent as much as two times the actual proposed harvest. The purpose of including more volume than is actually proposed is to allow for operational flexibility and inventory deviations

within operating areas without having to constantly amend the plan. These operations occur manually or mechanically using conventional harvesting equipment such as chainsaws, shortwood harvesters, skidders and forwarders and are conducted year round. The more sensitive sites are usually harvested in winter and most operations are integrated utilizing sawlogs, pulpwood and fuelwood.

Table 19: FMD 04 Proposed Commercial Harvesting from 2022 to 2026.

Operating Area		FMD 04 (Gambo) Crown Proposed Commercial Harvest (m ³) 2022-2026							
		Softwood				Hardwood			
Number	Name	Core	Operational	Total	Area (Ha)	Core	Operational	Total	Area (Ha)
CC04001	Fleighers	1,848		1848	22				
CC04002	Camp Ten	2,991		2991	28	80		80	2
CC04003	Pine Brook	6,500		6,500	70	100		100	2
CC04004	Triton South	23,000	660	23,660	193	9273		9273	74
CC04005	Dennis Brook	12,405		12,405	146	130		130	3
CC04006a	Southwest pond a	15,720		15,720	246	200		200	4
CC04006b	Southwest pond b	17,002	82	17,084	278				
CC04006c	Southwest pond c	32,614	1,496	34,110	376				
CC04008	Deadwolf	6,410		6,410	64	100		100	2
CC04009	Rocky Brook	1,060		1,060	12	40		40	1
CC04010	Masons Pond	8,430		8,430	83	300		300	4
CC04013	Rocky Brook - Nalcor	2,222	3,273	5,495	57	300		300	4
TOTAL		130,202	5,511	135,713	1547	10,443		10,523	96

Operating Area		FMD 04 (Clareville) Crown Proposed Commercial Harvest (m ³) 2022-2026							
		Softwood				Hardwood			
Number	Name	Core	Operational	Total	Area (Ha)	Core	Operational	Total	Area (Ha)
CC04011	Terra Nova River	15751	159	15910	178	0	0	0	0
CC04012	Lake St. John	68508	5203	73711	1933	0	0	0	0

Table 20: FMD 05 Proposed Commercial Harvesting from 2022 to 2026.

Operating Area		FMD 05 Crown Proposed Commercial Harvest (m ³) 2022-2026							
		Softwood				Hardwood			
Number	Name	Core	Operational	Total	Area (Ha)	Core	Operational	Total	Area (Ha)
CC05001	Harvey Pond		7,877	7,877	72		600	600	6
CC05003	Island Pond	25,000		25,000	232	1,700		1,700	21
CC05004	Boot Pond		7,300	7,300	92		1,250	1,200	15
CC05005	Maccles Lake South	27,468		27,468	276	1000		1000	12
CC05007	Lower Dark Cove	32,437		32,437	363	6,241		6,241	76
CC05008	Content East	21,306	7,102	28,408	263	254		254	3
CC05009	Maccles Lake North	850	7,650	8,500	100		500	500	6
CC05010	Millers Angle	6,190		6,190	70	1,600		1,600	20
CC05011	T'railway East	16,107	19,687	35,794	402	2,475	3,025	5,500	68
CC05012a	Chain Pond West a	6,350	4,000	10,350	93	240		240	3
CC05013	Rocky Pond Northwest	59,212	1,845	61,057	720	1,843	57	1,900	24
CC05016	Chain Pond East	8,000		8,000	120	1,000		1,000	12
CC05017	Turkey Farm		9,257	9,257	75		3,400	3,400	40
CC05018	Blade Road		10,475	10,475	86		2,700	2,700	33
CC05019a	Rocky Pond South a	5,800		5,800	78				
CC05020	Chain Pond South	11,745	2,755	14,500	147	1,140	260	1,400	17
TOTAL		220,415	77,948	298,443	3,198	17,493	10,542	29,235	356

Table 21: FMD 06 Proposed Commercial Harvesting from 2026 to 2026.

Operating Area		FMD 06 (GAMBO) Crown Proposed Commercial Harvest (m ³) 2022-2026							
		Softwood				Hardwood			
Number	Name	Core	Operational	Total	Area (Ha)	Core	Operational	Total	Area (Ha)
CC06009	Camp Ten – North Branch	5,018	2,150	7,168	60	504	216	720	10
CC06010	Bog Camp Brook	34,907		37,907	742	2,000		2,000	25
CC06011	Little Deadwolf	2,997	3,670	6,697	80		200	200	4
CC06012	Hunts Pond East	67,631	1,471	69,102	688	1960	40	2000	28
CC06016	Hunts Pond West	89,309		89,309	1,601				
CC06019	Skin Bridge	7,546	198	7,744	80	300		300	4
CC06020	Deadwolf	570	502	1,072	11				
TOTAL		207,978	7,991	218,999	3,182	4,764	456	5,220	71

Operating Area		FMD 06 (Lewisporte) Crown Proposed Commercial Harvest (m ³) 2022-2026							
		Softwood				Hardwood			
Number	Name	Core	Operational	Total	Area (Ha)	Core	Operational	Total	Area (Ha)
CC06001	Snows Pond / Grants Lake	10,899	2,743	13,642	174				
CC06002	Burnt Bay Lake	49,185	915	50,100	470				
CC06003	Scottwell Pond / Phillips Lake	44,275	168	44,443	419				
CC06004	Conway Lake / Neyles Brook	53,247		53,247	467				
CC06005	Sylt Lake	16,010	3,666	19,676	190				
CC06006	Upper Salmon Brook	114,425	13,441	127,867	1285				

CC06007	Sammy Martins Pond	29,121		29,121	283				
TOTAL		317,162	20,933	338,096	3,288				

Table 22: FMD 08 Proposed Commercial Harvesting From 2022 to 2026.

Operating Area		FMD 08 Crown Proposed Commercial Harvest (m³) 2022-2026							
		Softwood				Hardwood			
Number	Name	Core	Operational	Total	Area (Ha)	Core	Operational	Total	Area (Ha)
CC08001	Budgells Pond	36,867	7,975	44,842	423	29,999	7,499	37,498	
CC08002	Snake Lake	38,375	9,594	47,969	605	5,646	1,411	7,057	
CC08003	Southern Lake	6,835	1,709	8,544	110	882	220	1,102	
CC08004	Osmonton Arm	50,527	12,632	63,159	859	10,434	2,608	13,042	
CC08005	Askel Lake	15,160	3790	18,950	307	11,401	2,851	14,252	
CC08006	West Arm	1,974	494	2,468	34		1,601		
CC08007	Big Lake	3,884	971	4,855	64		919		
CC08009	Diver Pond	79,018	19,754	98,772	1347		54,728		
CC08010	Winter Tickle	68,823	17,206	86,029	889		15,889		
CC08011	North Harbour	7,609	6	7,615	91		1,206		
CC08012	Pine Pond	18,512	4,628	23,140	277			3,650	
CC08013	Rowells Lake	107	27	134	13			557	
CC08014	Exploits River	2,350	587	2,937	40			143	
CC08015	Wilf Keats Road	23,162	5,797	28,953	329			13,301	
CC08016	Norris Arm North	12,236	3,060	15,296	208			6,678	
CC08017	Otter Pond	13,550	3,387	16,937	263			14,926	
CC08018	Norris Arm South	11,137	2,154	13,291	181			5,477	
CC08019	Monroe's Pond	1,951	488	2,439	40			1,398	
CC08020	Rod & Gun Club Road	6,583	1,646	8,229	107			2,238	
CC08021	Campbellton River	168	42	210	5			329	

CC08022	Dans Pond	4,259	1,065	5,324	161			478	
CC08023	Shipbuilders Pond	25,855	6,464	32,319	474			24,682	
CC08024	Brinks Pond	10,250	2,563	12,813	153			4,055	
CC08025	Salmon Pond	11,140	2,785	13,925	170			4,856	
CC08026	Loon Bay	9,464	2,366	11,830	166			6,604	
CC08027	Birchy Bay	10,911	2,728	13,639	141			934	
CC08028	South Pond	5,070	1,267	6,337	110			3,885	
CC08029	Long Pond	1,168	292	1,460	18			76	
CC08030	Fourth Pond	23,087	5,772	28,859	322			7,006	
CC08031	Third Pond	512	128	640	8			35	
CC08032	Baytona	8,376	2,094	10,470	114			1,798	
CC08033	Jumpers Pond	6,230	1,558	7,788	119			5,594	
CC08034	Burnt Lake	19,894	4,973	24,867	493			28,912	
CC08035	Greenwood Pond	3,007	752	3,759	47			515	
CC08036	Bellmans Pond	13,650	3,412	17,062	156			1,943	
CC08037	Clarks Head	12,239	3,060	15,299	135			1,346	
CC08038	Rocky Pond	6,596	1,649	8,245	87			2,440	
CC08039	Second Pond	20,837	5,209	26,046	291			8,616	
CC08040	Stoneville	16,050	4,012	20,062	273			7,060	
CC08041	Celies Cove	3,330	832	4,162	50			653	
CC08042	Little Indian Pd	3,872	968	4,840	61			1,488	
CC08043	Charles Pond	16,415	4,094	20,509	232			1,863	
CC08044	Snow's Pond	19,519	4,880	24,399	268			10,538	
CC08045	Mark Snow's Pd	348	87	435	10			810	
TOTAL		533,514	158,957	809,858	10,251	58,362	88,932	247,835	

8.1.2.2 Domestic

Harvesting will occur in designated domestic cutting areas and is generally conducted on a small patch cut system. However, within areas of the zone not covered by any operating areas, domestic permits may be issued to remote cabin owners for firewood as requested. The number of permits and volume associated with these permits will be extremely low and insignificant. All

domestic cutting is done under permit which has conditions attached that outline the species, volume, location and utilization standards to be employed. Most cutting occurs in fall and winter with extraction by snowmobile or ATV. Domestic permit allocation is 23 m3.

Table 23: FMD 04 Proposed Domestic Harvesting From 2022 to 2026.

FMD 04					Estimated 5 year volume (m ³)	
Number	Name	Tenure	Total Area (ha)	Number of Permits	Softwood	Hardwood
CC04536	Mint Brook	Crown	15,819	50	Deadwood only	Deadwood only
CC04590	Terra Nova	Crown	1,326	310	4,960	50
Total	Domestic	Crown	17,145	360	4,960	50

Table 24: FMD 05 Proposed Domestic Harvesting From 2022 to 2026.

FMD 05					Estimated 5 year volume (m ³)	
Number	Name	Tenure	Total Area (ha)	Number of Permits/yr	Softwood	Hardwood
CC05501	Fogo Island West	Crown	5,431	148	10,210	0
CC05502	Fogo Island East	Crown	7,179	60	4,140	0
CC05504	Frederickton	Crown	5,980	193	13,315	500
CC05505	Gander Bay South	Crown	4,170	84	5,795	500
CC05506	Carmanville	Crown	18,724	120	8,280	500
CC05507	Centerville-Wareham-Trinity	Crown	6,259	46	3,175	500
CC05508	Ladle Cove	Crown	1,744	30	2,070	250
CC05509	Musgrave Harbour	Crown	9,861	80	5,520	250
CC05510	Shalloway brook	Crown	4,188	45	3,105	250
CC05511	Deadman's Bay	Crown	4,256	95	6,555	250
CC05512	Cape Freels	Crown	6,335	15	1,035	100
CC05513	Pound Cove	Crown	2,202	18	1,240	100
CC05514	Greenspond	Crown	6,814	96	6,625	500
CC05515	Indian Bay Waters	Crown	28,732	95	2,700	3,500
CC05516	CWT - Indian Bay	Crown	7,868	63	Hardwoods only	4,345
CC05517	Trinity	Crown	6,593	102	7,040	500
CC05518	Hare Bay - Dover	Crown	4,503	97	6,695	500
CC05519	Traverse Brook - Gambo	Crown	2,866	52	3,590	500
CC05520	Gambo	Crown	2,640	72	4,970	500

CC05521	Drovers Ridge	Crown	4,043	68	4,690	500
CC05522	Glovertown	Crown	3,757	103	7,105	500
CC05523	Grants Pit	Crown	2,225	12	830	50
CC05524	Terra Nova River	Crown	4,071	50	3,450	250
CC05525	Traytown	Crown	1,456	41	2,830	250
CC05526	Alexander Bay	Crown	583	8	550	150
CC05527	St. Chad's	Crown	2,494	114	7,865	250
CC05528	Salvage	Crown	3,679	26	1,795	100
CC05529	St. Brendans	Crown	4,500	16	1,105	100
CC05531	Benton	Crown	1,942	47	3,245	250
CC05532	Gander	Crown	299	11	760	100
CC05533	Weirs Pond	Crown	7,793	120	9,410	350
CC05535	Cat Bay	Crown	1,039	8	550	100
CC05537	Terra Nova	Crown	5,418	25	1,725	50
CC05539	Boot Pond	Crown	19,251	195	13,455	50
CC05540	Indian Bay	Crown	7,627	67	4,625	500
Total	Domestic	Crown	206,522	2,422	460,050	17,095

Table 25: FMD 06 Proposed Domestic Harvesting From 2022 to 2026.

FMD 06 (Gambo)					Estimated 5 year volume (m ³)	
Number	Name	Tenure	Total Area (ha)	Number of Permits/yr	Softwood	Hardwood
CC06542	Mint Brook	Crown	25668	2	Hardwoods only	175
CC06543	Larsons Falls	Crown	41430	2	Hardwoods only	175
Total	Domestic	Crown	67,098	4		350

FMD 06 (Lewisporte)					Estimated 5 year volume (m ³)	
Number	Name	Tenure	Total Area (ha)	Number of Permits per year (x5 for 5 yr)	Softwood	Hardwood
CC06529	Burnt Bay Lake / Bear Lake	Crown	362	7	644	161
CC06530	Eel Lake	Crown	88	14	1330	333
CC06541	Glenwood	Crown	261	20	2466	617

CC06542	Burnt Bay Lake / Makey Freaks	Crown	885	14	1491	373
Total	Domestic	Crown		54	5931	1483

Table 26: FMD 08 Proposed Domestic Harvesting From 2022 to 2026.

FMD 08					Estimated 5 year volume (m ³)	
Number	Name	Tenure	Total Area (ha)	Number of Permits per year (x5 for 5 yr)	Softwood	Hardwood
CC08501	Change Island	Crown	2012	45	3508	877
CC08503	New World Island	Crown	30677	468	39882	9971
CC08504	Chapel Island	Crown	10975	51	4422	1106
CC08505	Stoneville	Crown	4424	90	8021	2005
CC08506	Horwood	Crown	4687	89	8033	2008
CC08507	Boyd's Cv. 1 st & 2 nd Pond	Crown	4353	51	4570	1143
CC08508	Gander Bay / Wing's Point	Crown	6153	125	11494	2874
CC08509	Clark's Head / Burnt Lake	Crown	5283	28	2396	599
CC08510	Lewisporte	Crown	2700	94	8272	2068
CC08511	Horse Chops / Celies Cv. / 7 Mile	Crown	4879	133	11724	2931
CC08512	Baytona	Crown	1246	39	3555	889
CC08514	Birchy Bay Access Road	Crown	2945	77	6743	1686
CC08515	Loon Bay	Crown	971	36	3171	793
CC08517	Shipbuilder's Pond	Crown	2090	92	8349	2087
CC08518	Comfort Cove	Crown	1348	18	1637	409
CC08519	Michael's Harbour Access Road	Crown	5913	46	4107	1027
CC08520	Lewisporte South Side	Crown	3021	58	5075	1269
CC08521	Pit Road	Crown	663	51	4046	1012
CC08522	Otter Pond / Philpott's Road	Crown	2033	74	6627	1657
CC08523	Ten Mile Lake East Side	Crown	4629	28	2470	618
CC08524	Bellman's Pond	Crown	7382	10	978	245

CC08525	Embree / Little Burnt Bay	Crown	3434	93	8159	2040
CC08526	Wilf Keats Road	Crown	2616	88	7754	1939
CC08527	Lawrenceton	Crown	4592	44	3913	978
CC08528	Norris Arm North	Crown	3023	44	4020	1005
CC08531	Norris Arm South	Crown	677	40	3168	792
CC08534	Rattling Brook / Jumpers Brook	Crown	934	32	3110	778
CC08536	Peterview	Crown	2995	94	9492	2373
CC08537	Northern Arm	Crown	1448	107	10198	2550
CC08538	Phillips Head	Crown	1252	63	5011	1253
CC08539	Point of Bay	Crown	1694	33	3529	882
CC08540	Thwart Island	Crown	2952	5	425	106
CC08543	Fortune Harbour	Crown	8561	12	1808	452
CC08543A	Ritters Arm	Crown	1555	76	7082	1771
CC08544	Point Leamington	Crown	2016	43	3691	923
CC08545	Paradise	Crown	4042	29	2732	683
CC08547	Big Lake	Crown	2904	94	7675	1919
CC08548	Leading Ticks	Crown	8915	104	9524	2381
Total	Domestic	Crown		2700	240371	60093

8.1.2.3 Hardwoods

This domestic harvest of birch occurs as a mixture in softwood stands and is utilized as fuelwood. The commercial hardwood harvest is for sawlogs and fuelwood and occurs in some pure stands but mostly as residual in hardwood/softwood and softwood/hardwood stands.

8.1.3 Silviculture

Potential silvicultural treatment areas need to undergo reconnaissance and / or intensive surveys to determine the regeneration level and severity adelgid attack. Such surveys will be conducted during this five year period but until they are completed, specific locations and treatment amounts cannot be identified. However, silviculture prescriptions have been developed for implementation on specific site conditions. Areas that are scheduled for commercial harvest or have been harvested are identified on the operating area maps and are candidates for planting or gap

planting to black, white or Norway spruce. These areas will undergo reconnaissance and or intensive regeneration surveys to determine the need for planting and the presence of adelgid.

Site preparation using either mechanical methods or prescribed burning will be employed on suitable sites having impediments to planting. On black spruce cutovers where kalmia is present, mechanical site preparation (row scarification) or prescribed burning will be used to disturb the kalmia and create suitable microsites to plant black spruce. In fir areas, burning is a preferred treatment to sanitize the site of any existing adelgid infested trees.

There have been problems in some parts of District 11 and 12 with sites transitioning to alders after harvest. A treatment employing mulching, herbicide and planting in successive years has been conducted to try and reclaim some of these highly productive sites. The effectiveness of this treatment is still being evaluated; however it has been discontinued due to high cost. Since there is a known regeneration problem on these sites, planting with white spruce immediately after harvest is employed to allow the seedlings to “get the jump” on the alders.

Table 27: FMD 04 Proposed Silviculture treatment 2022-2026.

FMD	BLOCK ID	NAME	PROPOSED TREATMENT
04	CC04001	Fleighers	Scarification/Planting
04	CC04002	Camp Ten	Scarification/Planting
04	CC04003	Pine Brook	Scarification/Planting
04	CC04004	Triton South	Scarification/Planting
04	CC04005	Dennis Brook	Scarification/Planting
04	CC04006a	Southwest pond a	Scarification/Planting
04	CC04006b	Southwest pond b	Scarification/Planting
04	CC04006c	Southwest pond c	Scarification/Planting
04	CC04008	Deadwolf	Scarification/Planting
04	CC04009	Rocky Brook	Scarification/Planting
04	CC04010	Masons Pond	Scarification/Planting
04	CC04013	Rocky Brook -Nalcor	Scarification/Planting
04	CC04011	Terra Nova	Scarification/Planting
04	CC04012	Lake St. John	Scarification/Planting

Table 28: FMD 05 Proposed Silviculture treatment 2022-2026.

FMD	BLOCK ID	NAME	PROPOSED TREATMENT
05	CC05001	Harvey Pond	Scarification/Planting
05	CC05003	Island Pond	Scarification/Planting
05	CC05004	Boot Pond	Scarification/Planting
05	CC05005	Maccles Lake South	Scarification/Planting
05	CC05007	Lower Dark Cove	Scarification/Planting
05	CC05008	Content East	Scarification/Planting
05	CC05009	Maccles Lake North	Scarification/Planting
05	CC05009b	Maccles Lake North	Scarification/Planting
05	CC05010	Millers Angle	Scarification/Planting
05	CC05011	T'railway East	Scarification/Planting
05	CC05012a	Chain Pond West a	Scarification/Planting
05	CC05012b	Chain Pond West b	Scarification/Planting
05	CC05013	Rocky Pond Northwest	Scarification/Planting
05	CC05016	Chain Pond East	Scarification/Planting
05	CC05017	Turkey Farm	Scarification/Planting
05	CC05018	Blade Road	Scarification/Planting
05	CC05019a	Rocky Pond South a	Scarification/Planting
05	CC05019b	Rocky Pond South b	Scarification/Planting
05	CC05020	Chain Pond South	Scarification/Planting

Table 29: FMD 06 Proposed Silviculture treatment 2022-2026.

FMD (Gambo)	BLOCK ID	NAME	PROPOSED TREATMENT
06	CC06009	Camp Ten – North Branch	Scarification/Planting
06	CC06010	Bog Camp Brook	Scarification/Planting
06	CC06011a	Little Deadwolf a	Scarification/Planting
06	CC06011b	Little Deadwolf b	Scarification/Planting
06	CC06012	Hunts Pond East	Scarification/Planting
06	CC06013	Camp Ten South	Scarification/Planting
06	CC06016	Hunts Pond West	Scarification/Planting
06	CC06019	Skin Bridge	Scarification/Planting
06	CC06020	Deadwolf	Scarification/Planting

FMD (Lewisperste)	BLOCK ID	NAME	PROPOSED TREATMENT
06	CC06001	Snows Pond / Grant's Lake	Site Prep/Planting/Plant Main/PCT
06	CC06002	Burnt Bay Lake	Site Prep/Planting/Plant Main/PCT
06	CC06003	Scottwell Pond / Phillips Lake	Site Prep/Planting/Plant Main/PCT
06	CC06004	Conway Lake / Neyles Book	Site Prep/Planting/Plant Main/PCT
06	CC06005	Sylt Lake	Site Prep/Planting/Plant Main/PCT
06	CC06006	Upper Salmon Brook	Site Prep/Planting/Plant Main/PCT
06	CC06007	Sammy Martins Pond	Site Prep/Planting/Plant Main/PCT

Table 30: FMD 08 Proposed Silviculture treatment 2022-2026.

FMD	BLOCK ID	NAME	PROPOSED TREATMENT
08	CC08001	Budgells Pond	Site Prep/Planting/Plant Main/PCT
08	CC08002	Snake Lake	Site Prep/Planting/Plant Main/PCT
08	CC08003	Southern Lake	Site Prep/Planting/Plant Main/PCT
08	CC08004	Osmonon Arm	Site Prep/Planting/Plant Main/PCT
08	CC08005	Askel Lake	Site Prep/Planting/Plant Main/PCT
08	CC08006	West Arm	Site Prep/Planting/Plant Main/PCT
08	CC08007	Big Lake	Site Prep/Planting/Plant Main/PCT
08	CC08009	Diver Pond	Site Prep/Planting/Plant Main/PCT
08	CC08010	Winter Tickle	Site Prep/Planting/Plant Main/PCT
08	CC08011	North Harbour	Site Prep/Planting/Plant Main/PCT
08	CC08012	Pine Pond	Site Prep/Planting/Plant Main/PCT
08	CC08013	Rowsells Lake	Site Prep/Planting/Plant Main/PCT
08	CC08014	Exploits River	Site Prep/Planting/Plant Main/PCT
08	CC08015	Wilf Keats Road	Site Prep/Planting/Plant Main/PCT
08	CC08016	Norris Arm North	Site Prep/Planting/Plant Main/PCT
08	CC08017	Otter Pond	Site Prep/Planting/Plant Main/PCT
08	CC08018	Norris Arm South	Site Prep/Planting/Plant Main/PCT
08	CC08019	Monroe's Pond	Site Prep/Planting/Plant Main/PCT
08	CC08020	Rod & Gun Club Road	Site Prep/Planting/Plant Main/PCT
08	CC08021	Campbellton River	Site Prep/Planting/Plant Main/PCT
08	CC08022	Dans Pond	Site Prep/Planting/Plant Main/PCT
08	CC08023	Shipbuilder's Pond	Site Prep/Planting/Plant Main/PCT
08	CC08024	Brinks Pond	Site Prep/Planting/Plant Main/PCT
08	CC08025	Salmon Pond	Site Prep/Planting/Plant Main/PCT

08	CC08026	Loon Bay	Site Prep/Planting/Plant Main/PCT
08	CC08027	Birchy Bay	Site Prep/Planting/Plant Main/PCT
08	CC08028	South Pond	Site Prep/Planting/Plant Main/PCT
08	CC08029	Long Pond	Site Prep/Planting/Plant Main/PCT
08	CC08030	Fourth Pond	Site Prep/Planting/Plant Main/PCT
08	CC08031	Third Pond	Site Prep/Planting/Plant Main/PCT
08	CC08032	Baytona	Site Prep/Planting/Plant Main/PCT
08	CC08033	Jumpers Pond	Site Prep/Planting/Plant Main/PCT
08	CC08034	Burnt Lake	Site Prep/Planting/Plant Main/PCT
08	CC08035	Greenwood Pond	Site Prep/Planting/Plant Main/PCT
08	CC08036	Bellmans Pond	Site Prep/Planting/Plant Main/PCT
08	CC08037	Clarks Head	Site Prep/Planting/Plant Main/PCT
08	CC08038	Rocky Pond	Site Prep/Planting/Plant Main/PCT
08	CC08039	Second Pond	Site Prep/Planting/Plant Main/PCT
08	CC08040	Stoneville	Site Prep/Planting/Plant Main/PCT
08	CC08041	Celies Cove	Site Prep/Planting/Plant Main/PCT
08	CC08042	Little Indian Pond	Site Prep/Planting/Plant Main/PCT
08	CC08043	Charles Pond	Site Prep/Planting/Plant Main/PCT
08	CC08044	Snow's Pond	Site Prep/Planting/Plant Main/PCT
08	CC08045	Mark Snows Pond	Site Prep/Planting/Plant Main/PCT

8.1.4 Primary Access Roads and Bridges

There are 324 km's of new forest access roads scheduled to be constructed within the zone for the next five years to access timber for commercial purposes. All roads will be built to the specifications of the Class C, C-2 standards and all pertinent EPG's will be followed. In addition, secondary, operational and winter access roads and upgrading of existing road will be required and will be submitted in the annual operating plan prior to the year that they are planned to be built. As well, referrals will be sent to all relevant agencies (including DFO and Water Resources Division) before any construction is initiated.

Table 31: FMD 04 Proposed Road Constructions for 2022 to 2026.

Operating Area		Construction/ Reconstruction	Length (km)	Water Crossings	
Name	Harvest Block			Culverts	Bridges
Pine Brook	CC04003	Construction	1		
Triton Brook	CC04004	Construction	1		
Dennis Brook	CC04005	Construction	4		
Dennis Brook	CC04005	Reconstruction	1	1	
Southwest Pond a	CC04006a	Construction	1		
Southwest Pond a	CC04006a	Reconstruction	13.9	1	
Southwest Pond b	CC04006b	Construction	6.1	3	1
Southwest Pond b	CC04006b	Reconstruction	14.3	1	1
Southwest Pond c	CC04006c	Construction	15.8	4	1
Dead Wolf	CC04008	Construction	1		
Masons Pond	CC04010	Construction	6.6		
Terra Nova River	CC04011	Construction	9.5	10	1
Lake St. John	CC04012	Reconstruction	18.2	9	2
Lake St. John	CC04012	Construction	10.5	10	1

Table 32: FMD 05 Proposed Road Constructions for 2022 to 2026.

Operating Area		Construction/ Reconstruction	Length (km)	Water Crossings	
Name	Harvest Block			Culverts	Bridges
Island Pond	CC05003	Construction	4.8	1	
Boot Pond	CC05004	Construction	1.32		
Boot Pond	CC05004	Reconstruction	4.7		
Maccles Lake South	CC05005	Construction	2	1	
Lower Dark Cove	CC05007	Construction	6.8		
Content East	CC05008	Construction	1.4	1	
Maccles Lake North	CC05009	Construction	1.5		
Trailway East	CC05011	Construction	4.5		
Chain Pond West a	CC0512a	Construction	1.5		
Rocky Pond	CC05013	Construction	9.5	6	1
Chain Pond East	CC05016	Construction	1.5		
Blade Road	CC05018	Construction	1.4		
Blade Road	CC05018	Reconstruction	1.4		
Rocky Pond Southeast	CC05019a	Construction	1.4	1	
Chain Pond South	CC05020	Construction	4	1	2

Table 33: FMD 06 Proposed Road Constructions for 2022 to 2026.

GAMBO - Operating Area		Construction/ Reconstruction	Length (km)	Water Crossings	
Name	Harvest Block			Culverts	Bridges
Camp 10 - North Branch	CC06009	Construction	1		
Bog Camp Brook	CC06010	Construction	12.5	6	
Hunts Pond East	CC06012	Construction	3		
Hunts Pond West	CC06016	Construction	20		1
Deadwolf	CC06020	Construction	1.5		

LEWISPORTE - Operating Area		Construction/ Reconstruction	Length (km)	Water Crossings	
Name	Harvest Block			Culverts	Bridges
Snows Pond / Grant's Lake	CC06001	Construction	4.5	6	
Snows Pond / Grant's Lake	CC06001	Reconstruction	2.3	2	
Scottwell Pond / Phillips Lake	CC06003	Construction	3	6	
Scottwell Pond / Phillips Lake	CC06003	Reconstruction	10	5	
Conway Lake / Neyles Book	CC06004	Construction	4.5	6	1
Conway Lake / Neyles Book	CC06004	Reconstruction	0.122	0	
Sylt Lake	CC06005	Construction	3.2	5	
Upper Salmon Brook	CC06006	Construction	9.4	19	
Upper Salmon Brook	CC06006	Reconstruction	23	28	1
Sammy Martins Pond	CC06007	Construction	2.3	3	

Table 34: FMD 08 Proposed Road Constructions For 2022 To 2026.

Operating Area		Construction/ Reconstruction	Length (km)	Water Crossings	
Name	Harvest Block			Culverts	Bridges
Budgells Pond	CC08001	Construction	5.3	2	
Snake Lake	CC08002	Construction	10.4	5	

Southern Lake	CC08003	Construction	1	1	
Osmonton Arm	CC08004	Construction	14.5	10	
Askel Lake	CC08005	Construction	6	6	
West Arm	CC08006	Construction	1	0	
Diver Pond	CC08009	Construction	22	21	
Diver Pond	CC08009	Re-construction	3.252	2	
Winter Tickle	CC08010b	Construction	15.8	11	
North Harbour	CC08011	Construction	2.5	3	
Pine Pond	CC08012	Construction	7.2	14	
Wilf Keats Road	CC08015	Construction	5.2	9	
Norris Arm North	CC08016	Construction	5.5	7	
Otter Pond	CC08017	Construction	2.5	3	
Monroe's Pond	CC08019	Construction	3.1	9	
Campbellton River	CC08021	Construction	3.8	9	
Dans Pond	CC08022	Re-construction	23.5	28	1
Dans Pond	CC08022	Construction	5.4	10	
Shipbuilder's Pond	CC08023	Construction	6.6	6	
Brinks Pond	CC08024	Construction	3.5	5	
Salmon Pond	CC08025	Re - Construction	1	1	
Salmon Pond	CC08025	Construction	5	5	
South Pond	CC08028	Re - Construction	3.8	4	
South Pond	CC08028	Construction	4	3	
Fourth Pond	CC08030	Construction	1.2	2	
Fourth Pond	CC08030	Re - Construction	0.5	1	
Baytona	CC08032	Construction	3.3	3	
Jumpers Pond	CC08033	Re - Construction	6.5	5	
Jumpers Pond	CC08033	Construction	2.6	3	

Greenwood Pond	CC08035	Construction	2.6	2	
Bellmans Pond	CC08036	Construction	2.2	3	
Clarks Head	CC08037	Construction	1	2	
Stoneville	CC08040	Construction	1.6	2	
Celies Cove	CC08041	Construction	1	1	
Charles Pond	CC08043	Construction	6.4	11	
Snows Pond	CC08044	Construction	1	1	
Snows Pond	CC08044	Re - Construction	0.5	1	
Mark Snows Pond	CC08045	Construction	8	15	

8.1.5 Activities in Protected Water Supply Areas

Larger buffers are established inside PWSA and the pertinent EPG's will be attached to any commercial or domestic permits issued for these areas. There will be continuous monitoring inside these areas and buffers will be flagged to ensure compliance with the guidelines. All activity within a PPWSA must be approved by the Department of Environment.

SECTION 9 PLAN ADMINISTRATION

9.1 Monitoring

Monitoring of planned activities is critical to ensure objectives and operations are carried out in a manner consistent with various guidelines and provincial and federal legislation. Monitoring occurs at the operational level and the planning level. Forest harvesting activity is regulated using a permitting system and all activities are inspected and monitored on the ground by conservation officers to ensure compliance with applicable legislation, cutting permit conditions, and Environmental Protection Guidelines. Permit holders and contractors are also subject to financial penalties if deviations occur.

9.2 Amendments

Changes to an approved Operating Plan maybe required occasionally resulting from operational challenges or unforeseen circumstances. These changes are submitted as amendments and must be approved by the Forest Ecosystem Management Division prior to implementation.

There are two types of possible amendments:

- 1) Internally within the Department of Fisheries, Forestry and Agriculture, where approval is required by the Forest Ecosystem Management Division. Internal amendments are governed by the following conditions:

- a. within one kilometer of an operating area described in the five year operating plan, an additional area for timber harvesting that is, in total, not more than 50 hectares in each year of the plan
 - b. within a forest management district, an additional areas for silviculture treatment of not more that 20 percent of the total operating area described in the five year operating plan over the five year term of the plan
 - c. within an operating area described in the five year operating plan, not more than one kilometer, in total, of new primary forest access road in addition to existing and proposed primary forest access road in each year of the plan
 - d. adjacent to an operating area described in the five year operating plan, not more that half a kilometer, in total, of new primary forest access road in each year of that plan.
- 2) Externally, through the Department of Environment. Any required revisions which are not covered by the above internal requirements must be submitted for Environmental Assessment (EA) in the form of an amendment to the five year operating plan.