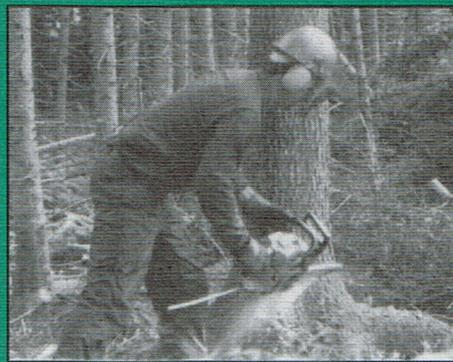


New Brunswick Woodlot Owners' Code of Practice



*NB Federation of
Woodlot Owners*

BACKGROUND

The New Brunswick Woodlot Owners' Code of Practice promotes the environmentally and financially sustainable operation of working woodlots within the framework of woodlot owners' objectives. It is a re-commitment to stewardship.

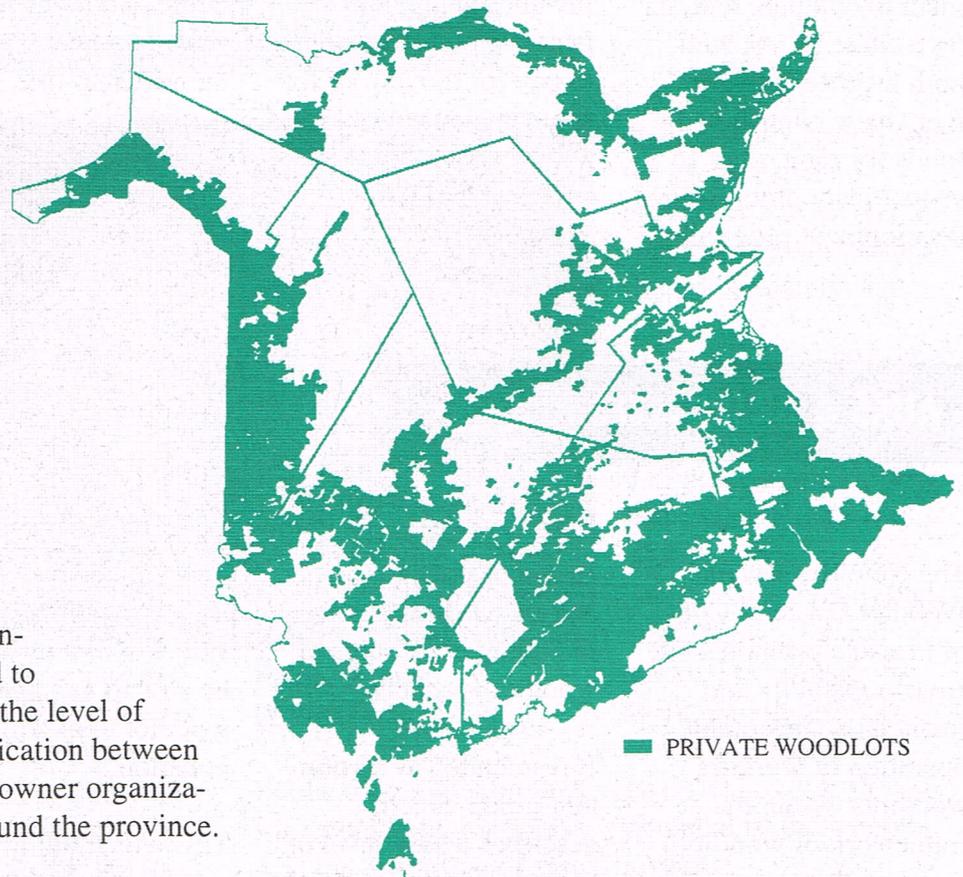
Woodlot owners are a vital component of New Brunswick's economic and social fabric. There are approximately 41,000 private woodlot owners who own over 1.8 million hectares of the province's total forested area. From this land base, private woodlot owners generate over 90 million dollars worth of economic activity, while supplying the forest products processing sector with more than 25 percent of its annual fibre requirements.

Over the past four decades, woodlot owners have established regional organizations and the New Brunswick Federation of Woodlot Owners. The Federation is an association of the province's seven regional forest products marketing boards. It was formed in 1965 to represent the concerns of woodlot owners

to Government and to improve the level of communication between woodlot owner organizations around the province.

From the beginning, the Federation's purpose has been to do all that is necessary to promote the economic and social interests of woodlot owners. Specifically:

- Woodlot owners want a market price that covers all production costs and provides a fair return on investment.
- Woodlot owners want an adequately funded forest management program until these costs can be recovered in the marketplace.



- Woodlot owners want, and are working to develop, markets for the full range of woodlot products.

- Woodlot owners want to maintain the share of productive forest currently held in the hands of private woodlot owners.

- Woodlot owners want to ensure, through the means that are available, the sustainability of our forests.

If the goal of sustainable management is to be achieved, woodlot own-

ers need the support of both provincial and federal Departments of Natural Resources.

In the past, this support was recognized through the provincial policy known as "Primary Source of Supply." This policy stated that private woodlot wood was industry's primary source of supply and that Crown land wood was the residual supply.

Through guaranteed access to markets, the Department of Natural Resources and Energy

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and the Province recognized (in principle) that it is wrong for the government to compete with its own citizens. As well, both levels of government have contributed funds for more than 15 years to woodlot resource development programs.

Woodlot owners are small business people concerned with unfair market barriers. This concern includes being able to generate enough revenue to pay for the cost of forest management over and above what present markets provide.

Woodlot owners are also the stewards of 30.5 percent of the total forested land in New Brunswick. More and more woodlot owners are taking this stewardship role seriously.

Through the practice of sustainable management, the private woodlot

resource will be of a quality and quantity that will continue to benefit future generations.

If this management is continued by future generations, the benefits of private woodlots will be available to woodlot owners and the larger community on an indefinite basis.

AIMS & OBJECTIVES

The New Brunswick Woodlot Owners' Code of Practice promotes the environmentally and financially sustainable operation of working woodlots within the framework of woodlot owners' objectives. It is a re-commitment to stewardship.

The Code will serve as a valuable tool in the edu-

cation of woodlot owners and the general public, including consumers of woodlot products.

It is intended as a voluntary guide which describes a base level of acceptable standards for private woodlot management activities.

The Code was created as a guide for woodlot man-

agement decisions. With the help of this Code, private woodlot owners will be able to manage each woodlot to its full potential.

This will result in private woodlots becoming economically viable and environmentally sustainable management units. Each woodlot will be capable of realizing its

full potential for the owner, and for society, without externally imposed constraints.

The Code recognizes the regional variations throughout New Brunswick. It is expected to continue evolving through time - reflecting the increasing knowledge and changing values of woodlot owners.

WOODLOT OWNER MARKETING BOARDS

	Established	# Owners	Area (ha)
<i>North Shore</i>	1973	9,063	266,429
<i>Madawaska</i>	1962	2,153	99,164
<i>Carleton-Victoria</i>	1978	4,072	238,298
<i>Northumberland</i>	1974	3,686	142,537
<i>York Sunbury Charlotte</i>	1977	6,230	368,413
<i>South East N.B.</i>	1981	8,739	294,894
<i>Southern N.B.</i>	1979	6,985	448,149
Total		40,928	1,857,884

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

AN ACTIVE AND RESPONSIBLE WOODLOT COMMUNITY

Boundary Lines

Woodlot owner organizations shall encourage owners to co-operate with their neighbours to maintain their property lines in good order. This includes periodic repainting of old blazes, and agreement on making new blazes and other boundary monuments when required.

Blazes on line trees, corner posts, and other boundary monuments shall not be disturbed or removed.

Woodlot Owner Rights

Owners have the right to enjoy and manage their woodlots according to their own objectives. It is the owner's responsibility to ensure that these objectives and the way in



which they are pursued are in harmony with the needs of the larger community. In cases where public goals conflict with property rights, the owners affected must be fully involved in planning such restrictions on land use as are thought to be required, including the provision of incentives or compensation where appropriate.

Public Access to Woodlots

Public access to woodlots for recreational purposes is at the discretion of the owner. The owner's goals and management plan will determine what limits to access shall be in place. This may mean no access for any reason, or free access without any restriction, or something in between.

Human Resources

The woodlot owner's skills, knowledge, ingenuity, and commitment to the best possible stewardship of his or her land is recognized as an invaluable component of the overall woodlot resource. This potential for intensive, sustainable manage-

ment is a key reason why the present share of provincial forest land in small private ownership should be maintained.

Participation in Woodlot Owner Organizations

Woodlot owners of New Brunswick have a responsibility to take an active part in the affairs of their local, provincial and national organizations. Participation provides a means to achieve their goals and realize the full potential of the woodlot resource.

Legislation and Government Policies

Woodlot owner organizations shall work together for the establishment of sound and fair government policies, legislation and enforcement which support the sustainability of private woodlots. This commitment to fairness includes the following:

- Trespass penalties and enforcement
- Expropriation compensation



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- Clean Water Act interpretation
- Scaling regulations
- Transportation regulations
- Income tax incentives for management
- Protection from unfair competition from publicly-owned forest products

Education and Technical Advice

Woodlot owner organizations will encourage participation by woodlot owners in continuing technical education to strengthen their ability to

make and carry out sound decisions, both as individuals, and organizations. The organizations will also work to ensure that well-trained, competent and experienced technical personnel are available to provide sound woodlot management technical assistance to woodlot owners in New Brunswick.

Technical assistance for silviculture activities shall include harvesting prescriptions as well as advice on reforestation and stand development.

Technical assistance shall encourage multiple use management practices. In order to facilitate a broad range of woodlot owner

objectives, consideration will be given to wildlife habitat, recreation, viewscape, added-value and speciality products.

Woodlot owner organizations support the concept of developing and maintaining a skilled forestry workforce.

Resource Planning for Sustainability

Woodlot owner organizations are committed to continue planning for a range of economic, biological and social values. These can be achieved collectively through the sound management of private woodlot resources. The most appropriate and effective

scale for such planning is at the regional level.

Programs at the provincial level must be developed from these regional planning initiatives.

Research & Technology Transfer

Effective research and development contribute to the ongoing improvement of woodlot management practices. Woodlot owner organizations will continue to support effective research endeavours and promote the application of useful results.

SUSTAINABLE WOODLOT ECONOMICS

Economic Viability

Woodlot owner organizations are committed to the continued development and enhancement of private woodlots as sustainable economic units in harmony with the needs of the owner, the larger community and the environment.

Multiple Use Management

Woodlot owner organizations recognize the practice of multiple use resource management as a fundamental condition for economic sustainability and are committed to continuing intensive management practices for multiple use.



Allowable Annual Cut

Woodlot owner organizations support the principle of sustainable harvesting on a regional basis. Management activities which are aimed at increasing AAC shall be encouraged to meet the demands of the local and global economies and to enhance the principles of sustainable development.

Forest Product Utilization

Woodlot owner organizations are committed to

encouraging forest product utilization that achieves the highest end value of forest resources at roadside.

Marketing Strategies

The priority in regional and provincial marketing strategies shall be to pursue market development for currently nonmarketable species which occur and are expected to regenerate on private woodlots.

Speciality and Added-Value Products

Woodlot owner organizations will encourage man-

agement of woodlots for speciality and added-value products (both timber and non-timber). Assistance shall be aimed at enhancing the resources and opportunities for the production of these products.

Harvesting Agreements

Woodlot owners shall be encouraged to use a written stumpage sale agreement whenever selling forest products stumpage. Such an agreement should address the following points to achieve the expectations of both the owner and the purchaser:

- A clear description of the property
- Method of payment
- Duration of the agreement
- Responsibility to ensure that environmental and other legal regulations are respected
- Harvesting standards

HEALTHY AND PRODUCTIVE FORESTS

Woodlot Management Plans

Woodlot owner organizations will encourage owners to manage their woodlot operations with the aid of a long-term plan that spells out their objectives and the methods by which these will be achieved. These plans will be based on the condition of the woodlot and the realities of the marketplace. Effective plans will contain sufficient flexibility to allow for changes in market conditions and owner objectives.

Biodiversity

Woodlot owners recognize the wide variety of plants and animals presently existing throughout the private woodlots of New Brunswick and will work to maintain and protect this diversity on a regional basis.

Fish and Wildlife Habitat

Woodlot owners recognize that their management activities can have both positive and negative influences on fish



and wildlife species and that these effects can and should be managed.

Woodlot owners will be encouraged to maintain the habitat necessary to

support healthy, viable fish and wildlife populations.

Environmental Protection

Woodlot owner organizations will encourage owners to minimize adverse environmental impacts resulting from their woodlot management activities, restore any damaged sites and ensure that wastes generated are handled and disposed of safely. All provincial and federal environmental laws shall be respected. Should any of these laws become outdated, inadequate or inappropriate, woodlot owner organizations will actively pursue remedial legislation.

Access Development

Woodlot owners should develop roads and access systems which meet the standards appropriate for the intended use and minimize the impact on forest ecosystems and drainage. Special priority will be given to stream crossings. They should be designed to minimize any adverse impact on water quality and aquatic habitat. As well, road construction on environmentally sensitive areas and areas with unstable soils should be avoided.

Safety

Occupational Health and Safety Commission regulations are the basic standards of safe work practices. Taking all reasonable steps to ensure the safety of forest workers and visitors is a fundamental responsibility.

Harvesting Methods

Woodlot owner organizations will promote harvesting systems through which site specific harvest-

ing prescriptions will integrate harvesting and regeneration objectives. The development of integrated harvesting will consider these principles:

- Protection and promotion of natural regeneration and of crop trees in intermediate cuttings will be of primary concern.
- Harvesting prescriptions will reflect both woodlot owner objectives and stand characteristics.



- Harvesting systems will be designed to protect the ecological integrity of each site, its regeneration potential and its soil and water quality.
- The harvesting of multi-aged/mixed species stands will be designed to maintain these characteristics.
- Harvesting prescriptions may be altered based on the availability of appropriate equipment.
- In regions where the lack of appropriate equipment interferes

with the delivery of valid harvesting prescriptions, woodlot owner organizations will work to ensure that the necessary equipment is available.

Forest Renewal

Woodlot owner organizations will encourage owners to make every attempt to stimulate the development of natural regeneration.

Because of our commitment to natural regeneration, artificial reforestation will be carried out only where natural regeneration is less than adequate or on marginal agricultural land.

Landscape Management

Woodlot owner organizations will encourage woodlot owners to recognize that the appearance of certain woodlot management activities may offend some members of the public. An effort will be made to manage the visual impact of such activities in high traffic areas and places of particular scenic value.

Forest Protection

Woodlot management activities have an effect on the risk of fire, insects, disease, and vulnerability to other acts of nature. This effect should be an important consideration when planning and carrying out woodlot management activities.

Pesticides should never be used when effective and economical alternatives are available.

Woodlot owners will be encouraged to assist government agencies in the detection and monitoring of disease and insect infestations.