



SNB Forest Management Fund

Silviculture and Infrastructure Assistance Programs

2023 - 2024

Table of Contents

<u>Activity</u>	<u>Page</u>
Commercial Thinning	4
Pre-Merchantable Thinning	5
Crop Tree Release Tolerant Hardwoods	6
Variable Thinning	7
Plantation Pre-Cleaning	8
Uniform Shelterwood.....	9
Uniform Selection Harvesting.....	10
Release Cutting.....	11
Under planting.....	12
Inter Planting.....	13
Augmented Natural Fill Planting	14
Remedial Fill Planting.....	15
Hardwood Plantations	17
Hardwood Plantation Tending & Maintenance	19
Technical Assistance for Watercourse Crossings	20
Woodlot Management Plan Preparation.....	21
Boundary Line Reconnaissance.....	22
Boundary Line Maintenance.....	23
Road Construction.....	24
Retail Seedling Purchases	25
Special Case Activities	26

SNB Forest Management Fund

It is recognised that these assistance rates may not represent the full cost of the activities on all sites but is simply an incentive to compensate the actual costs. No site is to receive assistance more than once for activities where wood is being removed for commercial value.

Sites should not be laid out on landowner's property with less than a total of 100 cord of wood to be harvested on the entire property unless the landowner is going to do the work himself or has someone prepared to do the work.

Staff, in consultation with the owner, recommend volume range (guidelines 25-40% of basal area) to be harvested and not approve jobs over or under harvested. Care should be taken not to recommend over-harvesting which could result in excessive blow-down.

All woodlot owners are eligible to access the forest management fund assistance. A **maximum of \$5,000** is available/year to owner's names that come up on the request list for programs that fall under the **New Forestry Incentive Program**.

This program was implemented primarily to provide incentives for alternative harvesting operations that promoted natural regeneration, improved residual crop tree growth, removed low quality species, in stands with acceptable species for longer term rotations and could be managed as un-even aged forest areas. This category was expanded in 1997 to site specific alternative harvest treatments which included: commercial and semi-commercial thinning, selection harvesting, release cutting, shelterwood treatments, crop tree release, under and inter planting, variable thinning and special case treatments. It generally provides opportunities for landowners to manage their properties with more diversity by utilizing more diverse harvest methods than just clearcutting if their properties have ecosystem types that can support the more shade tolerant species.

New Forestry Incentive Program funding rate summary:

54 - Commercial Thinning	\$560/ha
57 - Pre-Merchantable Thinning	\$985/ha
55 - Crop Tree Release	\$495/ha
52 - Variable Thinning	based on calculation
63 - Plantation Pre-Cleaning	\$404/ha
56 - Uniform Shelterwood Cutting	\$385/ha
51 - Uniform Selection Cutting	\$550/ha
53 - Release Cutting	\$275/ha
59 - Under Planting	\$0.36/tree
58 - Inter Planting	\$0.36/tree
61 - Remedial Fill Planting	\$579 - \$329/ha
64 - Augmented Natural Fill	\$538 - \$288/ha
60 - Special Case	

Commercial Thinning

The uniform spacing of dense, natural or previously treated, immature softwood, mixed-wood or hardwood stands to select the best quality stems, as crop trees to be left and thus improve species composition and enhance growth of the spaced crop trees. The majority of stems removed with this treatment are of merchantable size.

Eligibility Criteria:

- Stands must have the potential to develop a minimum of 250-crop trees/ha of sawlog and veneer quality.
- Crop trees must be wind firm, healthy dominants, and co-dominants of the desired species with well-formed crowns.
- A live crown ratio of at least one-third is required.
- Low thinnings are not eligible under this treatment.
- Thinnings must be done to release the crown of crop trees.
- Stands must have a minimum basal area of 18m²/ha of stems 8cm (or greater) at dbh.
- Maximum density eligible under this treatment is 3,000 stems/ha. (1,200 stems/acre)
- Eligible stands must not exceed the maximum age requirements outlined below.

<u>Species</u>	<u>Max. DBH Age</u>
fir and field white spruce	45
spruce, cedar	55
jack pine	*
red pine	50
white pine, hemlock	60
tamarack	40
white ash	55
yellow birch, sugar maple	60
red oak, red maple	60
white birch, poplar	40

*Jack pine is eligible for this treatment only if the diameter increment indicates less than 10 years suppression. Maximum age is 45 years.

Inspection Criteria:

- Basal area to be removed must be between 25-40% in a uniform manner.
- Hy-grading is not permitted.
- Stocking of poplar not to exceed 25%.
- A minimum of 250-crop trees/ha must have been released on at least three sides.
- Post treatment densities must fall between 1,000-2,000 stems/ha.
- A minimum stocking requirement of 60% is required.

SNB Fund Assistance Rate: \$560/ha

Pre-Merchantable Thinning

The uniform spacing of dense, natural, or previously treated, sapling to young softwood, mixedwood or hardwood stands to select the best quality stems, as crop trees, thus improve species composition and enhance growth of the spaced crop trees. Stems removed during this treatment will be both commercial and non-commercial size.

Eligibility Criteria:

- Stands must have the potential to develop a minimum of 250-crop trees/ha of sawlog and veneer quality.
- Crop trees must be windfirm, healthy dominants and co-dominants of the desired species with well-formed crowns.
- A live crown ratio of at least one-third is required.
- Low thinnings are not eligible under this treatment.
- Thinnings must be done to release the crown of crop trees.
- Stands must have a basal area ranging between 10-18m²/ha stems 8cm (or greater) at dbh.
- Minimum density eligible for this treatment is 3,000 stems/ha. (1,200 stems/acre)
- Eligible stands must not exceed the maximum age requirements outlined below.

<u>Species</u>	<u>Max. DBH Age</u>
fir and field white spruce	45
spruce, cedar	55
jack pine	*
red pine	50
white pine, hemlock	60
tamarack	40
white ash	55
yellow birch, sugar maple	60
red oak, red maple	60
white birch, poplar	40

*Jack pine is eligible for this treatment only if the diameter increment indicates less than 10 years suppression. Maximum age is 45 years.

Inspection Criteria:

- Basal area to be removed must be between 25-40% in a uniform manner.
- Hy-grading is not permitted.
- Stocking of poplar not to exceed 25%.
- A minimum of 250-crop trees/ha must have been released on at least three sides.
- Post treatment densities must fall between 1,200-2,200 stems/ha.
- A minimum stocking requirement of 60% is required.

SNB Fund Assistance Rate: \$985/ha
Recommended Landowner Cost: \$35/ha

Crop Tree Release Tolerant Hardwoods

The spacing of healthy, tolerant hardwood stands (including red maple but excluding diseased beech) in the polewood stage or greater to mold species composition, to encourage the crown expansion heeded to sustain rapid growth during the later part of the rotation and to favour trees of high quality. The management objective is for a final product of high value bolt wood, veneer wood, or sawlog material.

Eligibility Criteria:

- The stand must contain a minimum of 300 uniformly distributed potential crop trees per hectare with a minimum bole length of 5.5 meters.
- Crop trees must require releasing in at least 2 sides of their crown.
- Basal area prior to treatment must fall within section C of the Stocking Chart for Tolerant Hardwoods (Appendix II I).
- A maximum of 90 m³(st)/ha (10 cd/ac.) of merchantable volume can be removed.
- Crop trees are defined as: Healthy, vigorous, dominant, or co-dominant tolerant hardwoods (including red maple but excluding diseased beech) with a minimum diameter of 12 cm at breast height.
- Crop trees must have a bole of at least 5.5 meters free of the following major defects:
 - bulges
 - cankers (cat faces)
 - porcupine scars
 - bear peels
 - large burls
 - seams
 - branches (on two or more faces of the bole)
 - poor form (very crooked trees; excessively large branches)
 - dead top
 - serious crook or sweep (more than 25%), or crotch
 - large holes or large dead branches
 - open cracks
 - hollow but
 - conks
 - butt rot

Inspection Criteria:

- A minimum of 250 uniformly distributed crop trees/ha must be crown released on two or three sides.
- Crop trees must have a clear bole of a minimum of 5.5 meters.
- Basal area following treatment must fall within section B of the Stocking Chart for Tolerant Hardwoods (Appendix II).
- A minimum of 25% of the basal area must be removed from the stand.
- All merchantable material has been removed or prepared for extraction and non-merchantable material laid close to the ground.
- Total merchantable volume removed does not exceed 90 m³(st)/ha.

SNB Fund Assistance Rate: \$495/ha

Variable Thinning

The removal of trees to control stand spacing and favour desired trees using a combination of thinning criteria/methods without regard to crown position.

Eligibility Criteria:

- Applicable to stands of a patchy uneven-aged or multi-stage nature which do not qualify for a single treatment, but which would benefit from a combination of treatments.
- Treatment combinations may include S.N.B. activities (i.e.: selective harvesting) and/or a combination of government funded activities and/or improvement cutting.
- This assistance shall not be available for stands which qualify for government assistance.
- The assistance rate will be based on conducting one full treatment of variable thinning comprised of a weighted average rate per activity based upon established silviculture rates. i.e.: the rate calculation for a patchy stand requiring that 50% pre-commercially thinned; 25% release cutting and 25% should be semi-commercially thinned would be as follows:

<u>Treatment</u>	<u>% of Area</u>		<u>100% Rate/Ha</u>		<u>\$/Hectare</u>
Pre-Commercial	50%	X	\$985	=	\$492.50
Release Cutting	25%	X	\$275	=	\$ 68.75
Semi-Commercial	25%	X	\$985	=	<u>\$246.25</u>

Total Assistance Available @ 100% Rate:
\$807.50

Total Assistance Available @ 65% Rate:
\$524.88

Inspection Criteria:

The entire area being funded must be worked through.

- Treatments of individual micro sites must be consistent with the relevant criteria. (i.e.: PCT densities, commercial thinning densities, etc.).
- All merchantable wood must be prepared for extraction.

SNB Fund Assistance Rate: calculated 100% rate.

Recommended Landowner Cost: Based on calculation.

Plantation Pre-Cleaning

The removal of undesirable natural regeneration on a softwood plantation site using a thinning saw, allowing the remaining planted crop trees to maximize their growth.

Eligibility Criteria:

- Plantation has missed herbicide treatment or herbicide treatment was ineffective.
- Hardwood competition occupies $\geq 80\%$ of site.
- $\geq 40\%$ of the planted crop trees are overtopped.
- Density is > 5000 stems/ha.
- Stocking has $\geq 60\%$ acceptable softwood crop tree species.
- Crop trees within the plantation have an average height of 1 meter.
 - Ideal plantation age is between 4 to 6 years of age.
- Plantation is not in a “free-to-grow” condition.

Inspection Criteria:

- The entire area being funded must be worked through.
- Acceptable crop tree density must be between 1500 to 3000 stems/ha.
- Minimum softwood stocking requirement of 60% is required.

SNB Fund Assistance Rate: \$404/ha

Recommended Landowner Cost: \$50/ha

Uniform Shelterwood

Shelterwood is defined as one or more thinning operation(s) carried out in stands in order to provide conditions conducive to the establishment of natural regeneration and/or enhance the growth of regeneration already present (which is not completely established) under the protection of the old stand, and to salvage wood that would normally be lost to mortality.

Eligibility Criteria:

- Mature, windfirm, softwood stands.
- The stocking of these stands must be at least 20 percent spruce*, white pine, cedar and/or hemlock. Special considerations for high density, balsam fir stands.
- Stocking of established natural regeneration is < 60%.
- Established regeneration is defined as seedling that are firmly rooted in the mineral soil and at least 30-cm tall. (12" +)
- Low light conditions at the forest floor resulting from excessive crown closure must be inhibiting the natural regeneration process.
- Stands must have an average merchantable diameter of at least 14-cm at breast height and be located on good sites.
- Only the initial treatment is eligible for financial assistance.

* Note: Old field white spruce does not respond to this treatment unless sufficient soil disturbance is achieved through scarification.

Inspection Criteria:

- Basal area removal in the range of 25-40%.
- Residual trees must be of the desired species, be windfirm, and have good branch, stem and form characteristics.
- Crown to stem ratio must be one-third or better.
- Residual spacing, density and crown closure must be adequate to meet the stated objectives.
- Stand must be stocked to at least 20% with spruce, white pine, cedar and/or hemlock.
- Average merchantable diameter of the stand at breast height is 14 cm or greater.
- All merchantable material must be removed or prepared for extraction and non-merchantable material laid close to the ground.
- Stocking of acceptable established natural regeneration is < 60%.
- Merchantable volume removed does not exceed 90 m³(st)/ha. (10 cd/ac).

SNB Fund Assistance Rate: \$385/ha.

Uniform Selection Harvesting

Is a method of selection harvesting in which individual trees are removed more or less uniformly throughout the stand. This treatment is aimed at the creation or maintenance of balanced, uneven-aged (3 or more) stands which will provide the opportunity for regular entries, without ever clear-cutting the stand.

Eligibility Criteria:

- Stands must appear windfirm.
- Stands will not qualify for assistance under current government funded programs.
- Stands must be immature, mature, over-mature or uneven-aged.

Inspection Criteria:

- Uniform removal of between 25-40% of the basal area.
- Removed trees must be poor quality, poor vigour, undesirable species and/or impeding the development of more desirable trees in the stand.
- Residual crop trees are to be sturdy, healthy and defect free.
- An effort must be made to try and develop balanced uneven-aged class structure.
- Remaining crop trees must be uniformly distributed throughout the stand.
- This activity is not applicable to the "hy-grading" of stands or diameter limit cutting.
- Upon completion, stands should have a minimum of 30% of the stems being comprised of shade tolerant, long-lived species (i.e.: red spruce, white pine, sugar maple, yellow birch, etc.).
- The objective of this treatment is to create or maintain an uneven-aged class structure.

Additional Information:

It is recommended that SNBFPMB field staff, in consultation with the woodlot owner, prepare a detailed harvesting prescription for each stand receiving assistance.

SNB Fund Assistance Rate: \$550/ha.

Release Cutting

The felling or felling/removal of the overstory from a two-story stand where the overstory is suppressed or threatening to suppress a young stand of desirable softwood trees not past the sapling stage.

Eligibility Criteria:

- The overstory is generally of merchantable size but because of low merchantable volumes per hectare, it cannot be economically removed.
- A minimum of 60% stocking of desirable softwood regeneration.
- The overstory shall not exceed an average total merchantable volume of 90 m³(st)/ha. (10cd/ac).
- Total volumes in excess of 63 m³(st)/ha must be removed. (7 cd/ac).
- The overstory must have a minimum of 25% crown closure.
- This treatment is not to be used to remove residual trees from cutover areas.

Inspection Criteria:

- A minimum of 60% stocking of desirable softwood regeneration.
- A maximum total volume of 63 m³(st)/ha has been laid on the ground. (7 cd/ac).
- Overstory trees have been either: felled and laid close to the ground; or felled and removed to roadside.
- All merchantable material has been removed or prepared for extraction and non-merchantable material laid close to the ground.
- A maximum of 90 m³(st)/ha of merchantable volume has been removed.

Methods:

- Prior to treatment, the understory must be assessed for its ability to respond, thus avoiding treatment of suppressed stands that are incapable of release.

SNB Fund Assistance Rate: \$275/ha.

Under planting

Objective: Recommended when the owner wants to promote regeneration stocking levels, and add stand diversity in the regeneration layer. This treatment is eligible if the stand was:

- (A) Recently partially harvested (25-75% crown closure).
- (B) Or in the stem exclusion stage (gaps begin to develop due to natural mortality, and the crown closure is reduced \leq 75%.

Eligibility Criteria:

- The stand is not considered to provide **adequate/desirable** natural regeneration on its own, due to various stand characteristics and soil conditions.
- The owner wants to consider **adding or promoting a new species** that are **considered to be more adaptable to climate change** (white pine, red oak, eastern hemlock, etc) to improve stand diversity, and long term management options.
- Stand crown closure must be between 25-75%.

Inspection Criteria:

- A silviculture prescription will be written in the owner's management plan, or when the stand is assessed for approval.
- The silviculture prescription must be followed when inspected, with the objective of improving regeneration stocking levels and stand diversity, while considering climate change and species adaptation.
- Must meet planting quality requirements. (see Planting Quality Requirements Appendix)
- Planted trees must be either softwood or hardwood with a minimum of intermediate for shade tolerance.
- Species included are:
 - red spruce sugar maple black spruce yellow birch
 - white pine red oak Eastern hemlock white ash
 - Eastern white cedar black ashOther tolerant species may be considered. Must be native species.

SNB Fund Assistance Rate:

- **\$0.36 cents/tree if owner has purchased seedlings, \$0.16 cents/tree if seedlings sourced from SNB.**
- **Recommended Landowner Cost: \$0.10 cents/tree.**
- Retail seedling assistance cannot be used for this treatment.

Landowner Commitment:

This treatment is not for aesthetics. Landowners must be aware of the need and be willing to perform partial or total harvesting once the planted and natural regeneration becomes established in the understory (minimum 0.5m in height with the roots penetrating into the mineral soil).

Inter Planting

Objective: Recommended following a harvest treatment where the owner's **objective is to work with existing natural regeneration**, and improve stocking levels, and stand diversity.

Eligibility Criteria:

- Site preparation is not an option due to site condition, and/or the stand area is too small to qualify for site preparation.
- Crown closure is < 25%.
- Adequate planting opportunity is required.

Inspection Criteria:

- A silviculture prescription will be written in the owner's management plan, or when the stand is assessed for approval.
- The silviculture prescription must be followed when inspected, with the objective of improving regeneration stocking levels and stand diversity, while considering climate change and species adaptation.
- Must meet planting quality requirements. (see Planting Quality Requirements Appendix).
- Planted trees must be either softwood or hardwood that are considered to grow well on the particular site.
- Vegetation control measures, and tree tubes (on hardwood trees), will be required depending on the site conditions.

SNB Fund Assistance Rate:

- **\$0.36 cents/tree if owner has purchased seedlings, \$0.16 cents/tree if seedlings sourced from SNB.**
- **Recommended Landowner Cost: \$0.10 cents/tree.**
- Retail seedling assistance cannot be used for this treatment.

Augmented Natural Fill Planting

Objective: To speed up stand regeneration and improve stand quality using improved planting stock where natural regeneration is not adequately occupying the site.

Eligibility Criteria:

- Stocking: must be less than 60% of acceptable softwood and hardwood crop tree species (using 1.26 m radius (5 m²) plots where one "in" tree represents stocked).
- Planting Opportunities: Must have sufficient natural regeneration plus planting opportunities to accommodate 75% or greater stocking. **Sites must be stratified to identify fill-planting areas.**
- Remnant overstory: less than 25% crown closure (8 m² residual basal area).

Inspection Criteria:

- Species: Planted seedlings must be native commercial softwood or hardwood species. Wild seedling transplants are not acceptable.
- Stocking: must be 75% or more of acceptable planted and natural trees. Stocking of planted trees must be 30 - 60%. Record a planted tree if stocked to both planted and natural.
- Density: 1,800 or greater planted plus natural seedlings/ha for forest sites, and 1,800 - 3,000 for farm land sites (using 3.57 m radius (40 m²) plots where 1 "in" tree represents 250 trees/ha).
- Must meet planting quality requirements.

SNB Fund Assistance Rate:

- **Augmented Natural Fill Planting Rate: \$538/ha. Includes cost of seedling. \$288/ha if NRED free seedlings used.**
- **Recommended Landowner Cost: \$50/ha.**
- Retail seedling assistance cannot be used for this treatment.

Remedial Fill Planting

Objective: To enhance stocking of a previously reforested site where mortality has occurred and planted and natural regeneration is not adequately occupying the site.

Eligibility Criteria:

- Stocking is less than 60% of acceptable softwood crop tree species (using 1.26 m radius (5 m²) plots where one "in" tree represents stocked).
- Planting Opportunities: Must have sufficient natural regeneration plus planting opportunities to accommodate 90% stocking. **Sites must be stratified to identify fill-planting areas.**
- Initial planting failure: sites with poor planted tree survival due to site quality constraints (excessively wet or dry) or insect, animal or disease damage which are likely to persist are not eligible.

Inspection Criteria:

- Species: Planted seedlings must be native commercial softwood species. Wild seedling transplants are not acceptable.
- Stocking: must be 90% or greater of acceptable planted and natural trees. Stocking of planted trees must be 30 - 60%. Record a planted tree if stocked to both planted and natural.
- Density: 1,800 - 2,500 planted plus natural seedlings/ha for forest sites, and 1,800 - 3,000 for farm land sites (using 3.57 m radius (40 m²) plots where 1 "in" tree represents 250 trees/ha).
- Must meet planting quality requirements. A seedling is considered planted if all the following criteria are satisfied:
 - alive or estimated to have been alive when planted and planted properly.
 - firmly imbedded to the root collar.
 - roots must have mineral soil contact.
 - no exposed roots.
 - not broken below the top whorl.
 - multiple stems are counted as one.
 - not planted on severe microsites.

SNB Fund Assistance Rate:

- **Remedial Fill Planting Rate: \$579/ha. Includes cost of seedling. \$329/ha if NRED free seedlings used.**
- **Recommended Landowner Cost: \$50/ha.**
- Retail seedling assistance cannot be used for this treatment.

Planting Quality Requirements Appendix

- A seedling is considered properly planted if all the following criteria are satisfied:
 - alive or estimated to have been alive when planted and planted properly.
 - firmly imbedded to the root collar.
 - roots must have mineral soil contact.
 - no exposed roots.
 - not broken below the top whorl.
 - multiple stems are counted as one.
 - not planted on severe microsites.

Hardwood Plantations

The establishment of young hardwood trees in a uniform manner, in areas that have been clearcut or previously used for agricultural purposes.

Eligibility Criteria:

- Hardwood seedlings must be purchased from a recognized tree nursery or experienced grower (i.e. can't be dug-up and replanted).
- Documentation of seed source is required for all seedlings.
- Hardwood seedlings must closely match the soil type for the area.
- Minimum size of seedlings to be planted is 6" and maximum of 6'.
- All trees must be protected by either tree guards, shelters, cages, or fenced in.
- All trees must have the site prepared, grass competition removed and some type of vegetation control in place (i.e. brush blanket, filter fabric, herbicide treatment, etc.).
- All sites must be pre-approved by SNBFPMB before planting, to approve of species mix and site quality.
- Native hard mast producing species is preferred with some exceptions to be considered for soft mast producing trees such as apple, sugar maple, yellow birch, etc.
- 100% apple tree planting or orchard establishment is not funded under this program.
- Maximum apple tree and/or fruit trees (i.e. peach, pear, nectarine, sweet cherry, etc.) percentage to be funded would be 25% of the species mix.
- Scattered clump plantings are not eligible, only uniform contiguous blocks.

Eligible Species

red, white & bur oak

butternut

black walnut

sugar maple

yellow birch

white & black ash

black cherry

*other approved Zone 3-5 hardy species

* must be clearly demonstrated that it will grow in our southern NB climate and nursery documentation provided if requested

Hardwood Plantations: - page 2

Inspection Criteria:

- Site cleared of all competing vegetation and setup to provide easy access for annual maintenance.
- All trees planted properly, protected and vegetation control measures/strategy in place.
- A minimum of 100 trees planted and spaced out according to the species profile.
- An overall target density reaches 300-500 trees/acre depending on the species profile and minimum block size is ¼ acre.
- Trees are all in rows and spaced out in a uniform manner.

SNB Fund Assistance Rate:

\$500 per 100 trees planted to max of \$1,000 per site.

Estimated Cost Per Site (averages only)

Hardwood trees (6-12") = \$3 each *** fruit trees +\$10
Tree guards/Stakes = \$5 each
Vegetation Control Measures = \$2 each
Site preparation = \$500 (or \$5/tree for 100 trees)
Planting & Guard Installation = \$5 each

A very rough estimate of the cost for a landowner to plant 100 trees would then be ~\$2,000. That would make the funding level for the smallest plantation of \$500 to be at the **25%** level.

Hardwood Plantation Tending & Maintenance

The tending of hardwood plantations previously established through the SNB Forest Management Fund.

Eligibility Criteria:

- Hardwood planted stock has become overtopped by competing vegetation.
- Hardwood plantation is less than five years old.
- Stocking of planted hardwood species is a minimum of 60%.
- Hardwood planted stock has not become overly suppressed and is expected to respond to a release.
- Planting tubes (if used) require maintenance due to animal and or wind damage.
- Replacement of damaged or dead seedlings is also eligible.

Inspection Criteria:

- All competing vegetation has been removed from planted hardwood stock through the use of manual brushing, bush hogging or application of herbicides.
- Planted stock has not been damaged and stocking remains at 60% or more.
- All damaged planting tubes have been replaced or repaired and are standing upright.
-

SNB Fund Assistance Rate:

The SNB Fund will contribute 50% of the gross cost for annual maintenance and tending expenses, up to an annual maximum of \$200 per plantation. Hardwood plantations are only eligible for the first five years after establishment.

Technical Assistance for Watercourse Crossings

This assistance is provided to help landowners cover the cost associated with having one of SNBFPMB's Certified Watercourse installers assist with the installation of culvert on recognized watercourse.

Eligibility Criteria:

- This activity and assistance is for the cost associated with having SNBFPMB Certified Watercourse Installers supervise the installation of the watercourse crossing structure and performing the necessary sizing on GIS.
- Watercourse alteration permits have been received, where required by the Clean Water Act or have been issued by SNBFPMB Certified Watercourse Installer.

Inspection Criteria:

To be eligible for S.N.B. Fund General Assistance:

- Materials are of adequate size and design to carry the flow of water anticipated.
- Materials are properly installed, back-filled and maintained.
- All watercourse alteration permits requirements have been performed.

S.N.B. Fund Assistance Rate:

One time assistance for 50% of the invoiced cost for having SNBFPMB Certified Watercourse Installer involved with the installation of a bridge or culvert that requires a Water Course alteration permit. Costs of material involved in the crossing are not eligible for assistance.

Woodlot Management Plan Preparation

Plans eligible for assistance from the S.N.B. Fund must address and/or provide the minimum information required in the S.N.B. Best Management Practices Manual; Chapter 1; Getting Started with the Sustainable Management of Your Woodlot; page 1-4 to 1-8; Example of a Sample Management Plan.

Eligibility Criteria:

Management Plans must include the following:

- Woodlot Owner Identification and Contact Information
- Date, Name and Affiliation of person who prepared the plan
- Owner's Objectives and Priorities
- Boundary Line Conditions and Recommendations
- Access Road Conditions and Recommendations
- Forest Stand Descriptions, Area and Recommendations
- Other relevant recommendations to meet owner's objectives
- Action Plan (chronologically listed, by year)
- Detailed map of woodlot (prepared to min 1:12,500 scale)
- ***Outside agencies that produce management plans must meet the requirements of "SNB's Management Plan Funding Policy, Appendix***

Inspection Criteria:

Inspection Criteria: to be eligible for assistance, the management plan must:

- Address all eligibility requirements (above)
- Provide recommendations consistent with the S.N.B. Best Management Practices Manual for Woodlot Owners
- Be prepared in an organized format (see sample)
- Must adequately delineate the stands on the woodlot to provide a satisfactory description and analysis of the woodlot
- Must be signed by the woodlot owner indicating their receipt of the plan, satisfaction and acceptance
- A copy must be available to file with the S.N.B. Sustainable Forest Management Department

SNB Fund Assistance Rate:

As per S.N.B. Recognized W.M.R. Rate Schedule, less eligible government or other available assistance(combined SNB Fund, Government & other assistance may not exceed 80% of gross costs)

Boundary Line Reconnaissance

The re-tracing of a property line and marking the line with flagging tape.

Eligibility Criteria:

- No previous government or S.N.B. Fund Assistance has been received to maintain the section of property lines to be assisted at this time.
- Lines have not been previously intentionally removed by the woodlot owner applying for this assistance, or their agents or contractors.
- The line must have deteriorated to the point where it is not clearly evident.
- Only registered land surveyors or qualified SNBFPMB field staff are permitted to provide this service.
- If the landowner wishes to hire anyone other than the above, pre-approval from the SNB Forest Management Committee must be obtained along with documentation that the individual in question has experience and training to perform boundary line reconnaissance.

Inspection Criteria:

To be eligible for S.N.B. General Fund Assistance:

- The line shall be flagged along its original location.
- Bearing changes should be double flagged and corners triple flagged for easy identification.
- No attempt will be made to renew an old line where there is insufficient evidence to ensure the line is properly retraced.
- Documentation includes a map of the woodlot showing the section of lines which have been up re-traced, and what evidence existed to support the location of the line.
- Field inspection of boundary line reconnaissance by SNBFPMB Field Staff
- **A signed statement from the owner stating that they take full responsibility for the line in question and will get adjacent landowner acceptance of the retraced line before they perform any further work, i.e. blazing and painting.**

SNB Fund Assistance Rate:

The owner is eligible to receive one half (\$32.50/hr) of the invoiced hourly rate charged for the reconnaissance (\$65/hr - 2023) Agencies other than SNBFPMB staff must be pre-approved by SNBFPMB staff and or the Forest Management Committee.

Boundary Line Maintenance

The re-blazing, clearing and painting of a traceable boundary line so as to make it readily visible.

Eligibility Criteria:

- No previous government or S.N.B. Fund Assistance has been received to maintain the section of property lines to be assisted at this time.
- The lines are located, flagged or otherwise visible by physical evidence other than blazes and paint.
- Lines have not been previously intentionally removed by the woodlot owner applying for this assistance, or their agents or contractors.
- **Adjacent owners are made aware that maintenance is to be carried out and provide written consent.**

Inspection Criteria:

To be eligible for S.N.B. General Fund Assistance:

- Lines must be cleared of debris, branches and natural regeneration greater than 20 cm in height to a minimum width of 1 meter from the centerline and to minimum height of 2 meters. Individual young trees growing directly on the line may be saved or left if they are to be used as future line trees.
- Suitable trees must be blazed such that the blazes are readily visible from one to the next and painted with bright colored paint.
- All blazes must be at least 30 cm in length and painted.
- Old “witness blazes” or other evidence must not be removed and new blazes located above or below the old blazes so as to preserve the evidence of the original line.
- Debris from the boundary line is to be placed away from the area and not where water levels could deposit it into a watercourse.
- Documentation includes a map of the woodlot showing the section of lines which have been up-graded, a sketch or survey plan of the lines showing what evidence existed to support the maintenance and location of the line, and a copy of the property deed description.
- Field inspection of boundary line maintenance must be carried out by SNBFPMB Field Staff.
- **Written approval by adjacent Owner.**

S.N.B. Fund Assistance Rate:

50% (\$325/km) of the current SNB charge out for boundary line maintenance (2023 = \$650/km)

Road Construction

The construction/ maintenance/ repair of woodlot access roads for the purpose of implementing long term, woodlot management objectives.

Eligibility Criteria:

This activity and assistance is for the cost of road construction/ maintenance/ improvement/ materials and repair where:

- The road construction activity has been pre-approved by SNBFPMB Field staff.
- This assistance is not intended for single culvert installation projects.
- Watercourse alteration permits have been received where required by the Clean Water Act.
- Road assistance must be paid to the land owner and the owner must request the assistance.
- A complete invoice has been submitted including hours and rate(s) and has been billed to the owner.
- A detailed road location map illustrating the location of all mapped and unmapped watercourses and wetlands.
- An overview of long and short term management plans for the property.
- This assistance is not intended for application of short term liquidation of a woodlot.

Inspection Criteria:

To be eligible for S.N.B. Fund Assistance:

- A copy of the watercourse alteration permits (if applicable) and invoices for construction costs are provided to SNBFPMB.
- Materials are of adequate size and design to carry the flow of water anticipated.
- Materials are properly installed, back-filled and maintained.
- All watercourse alteration permits requirements have been performed.
- Construction materials that are eligible for reimbursement include: rock, gravel, and culverts.
- The completed road location is consistent with original road location map that was prepared.

S.N.B. Fund Assistance Rate:

One time assistance for 30% of the invoiced cost, up to a maximum of \$3000 per owner, per year.

If staff feel the invoice is excessive or the application is not consistent with the road funding criteria, it can be presented to the Forest Management Committee for approval or modification.

Retail Seedling Purchases

The Forest Management Fund will cover a portion of the cost of landowners wishing to retail purchase seedlings from SNB.

Eligibility Criteria:

- Must be a woodlot owner in the SNB Board area.
- Assistance will apply on small quantities of seedlings up to a maximum of 2000 per owner.

Inspection Criteria:

NA

S.N.B. Fund Assistance Rate:

Assistance will cover the first \$122/1000 of the retail price of seedlings acquired from SNB. The net cost to the owner will \$78/1000 (fiscal 2023).

Special Case Activities

If an owner has a woodlot improvement or silviculture activity in mind that is not covered by the current list of funded activities, please contact one of our field staff who will assist you in drawing up a proposal to be reviewed for consideration by the Forest Management Committee.