

Ecological Forestry Forum

LANDS AND FORESTRY

JUNE 25, 2019

Forum Objectives

- ▶ Information sharing
- ▶ Opportunity to hear from you

Project Governance

- ▶ Project Management Approach
- ▶ Cross-department Steering Committee
- ▶ Strategic Lead
- ▶ Multiple projects (handout)
 - ▶ Cross-department and Cross-functional Project Teams
 - ▶ Project Leads
 - ▶ External Experts
- ▶ Communication
- ▶ Stakeholder and/or Public Participation (Engagement)
- ▶ Formal Evaluation

Project Updates

- ▶ Forest Management Guide
- ▶ High Production Forestry (Leg of the Triad)
- ▶ Natural Disturbance Regimes (NDR)
- ▶ Old Forest
- ▶ Outcomes Based Forest Management
- ▶ Reporting on State of the Forest
- ▶ Small Scale Wood Energy Initiative
- ▶ Species at Risk Program Renewal

- ▶ Other
 - In development – Environmental Assessments

Forest Management Guide

Project Objective: To review and update the current Pre-treatment Assessment (PTA) Process and the Forest Management Guide (FMG) to focus on long-lived, uneven-aged management species in support of the conservation and sustainable use of Nova Scotia's natural resources

Key Deliverables:

- ▶ revised FMG
- ▶ revised PTA process

Expected Areas of Stakeholder and/or Public Participation: (may not be limited to)

- ▶ draft revised FMG and PTA process

Project Objective
Project Lead & Team
External Expert(s)
Key Deliverables
Stakeholder/ Public Participation

High Production Forestry (Leg of the Triad)

Project Objective: To develop a strategic approach, involving methods and procedures for identifying, ranking and selecting sites for High Production forest management on Crown land

Key Deliverables for Phase 1 (anticipated completion by the end of 2019) include:

- ▶ High Definition for High Production Forestry (HPF) in Nova Scotia context
- ▶ Procedures for the selection of potential HPF areas on Crown land
- ▶ Analysis of HPF on provincial wood supply

Expected Areas of Stakeholder and/or Public Participation:

- ▶ Overall plan
- ▶ Silviculture methods and strategy
- ▶ Implementation

Project Objective
Project Lead & Team
External Expert(s)
Key Deliverables
Stakeholder/ Public Participation

Natural Disturbance Regimes

Project Objective: To establish and implement an approach for publication of a peer-reviewed scientific paper on Nova Scotia natural disturbance agents (fire, insects, wind), to subsequently inform a second peer-reviewed scientific paper on the methodology used to map Nova Scotia's natural disturbance regimes

Key Deliverables:

- Foundational scientific paper assessing Nova Scotia's natural disturbance regime agents

Expected Areas of Stakeholder and/or Public Participation: (may not be limited to)

- ▶ Draft foundational scientific paper
- ▶ Final peer-reviewed paper posted online

Project Objective
Project Lead & Team
External Expert(s)
Key Deliverables
Stakeholder/ Public Participation

Old Forest

Project Objective: To review the Old Forest Policy, and further develop identification criteria that will facilitate more effective land use planning by accelerating assessments of potential old forest and the conservation of old growth.

Key Deliverables:

- ▶ Updated Old Forest Policy
- ▶ Methodologies for identification of old forests and acceleration of their assessment
- ▶ Research to better understand and identify old growth conditions in non-traditional species
- ▶ Updated old forest layer (GIS) on the Provincial Landscape Viewer
- ▶ A restoration pathway for inclusion in the Forest Management Guide

Expected Areas of Stakeholder and/or Public Participation:

- ▶ Updates to Policy
- ▶ Identification of Pre-Treatment Assessment triggers
- ▶ Restoration pathway
- ▶ Approaches to managing hardwood old forest

Project Objective
Project Lead & Team
External Expert(s)
Key Deliverables
Stakeholder/ Public Participation

Outcomes-Based Forest Management

Project Objective: To design an outcomes-based approach to forest management on Crown land that will support increased efficiency in forest management while ensuring ecological, social, and economic values are recognized and considered.

Key Deliverables:

- Guide to outcomes-based forest management
- Plan for implementing outcomes-based forestry management on Crown land

Expected Areas of Stakeholder and/or Public Participation: (may not be limited to)

- Values and indicators for outcomes-based forest management
- Options of models for implementation

Project Objective
Project Lead & Team
External Expert(s)
Key Deliverables
Stakeholder/ Public Participation

Reporting on State of the Forest

Project Objective: To improve the State of the Forest Report by addressing identified gaps in the current report, and by making it more accessible for the general public

Key Deliverables:

- ▶ An enhanced, and more transparent State of the Forest Report through:
 - ▶ Better alignment of the Report with social, economic and environmental values
 - ▶ Improved reporting through the use of more robust data and information from partners including other departments, academics and field experts
 - ▶ Easily accessible and understandable information about Nova Scotia's Forests

Expected Areas of Stakeholder and/or Public Participation:

- ▶ Collaboration with academic and other external experts on information not currently being tracked by Lands and Forestry
- ▶ Accessibly presenting the information for the general public and to improve reporting transparency
- ▶ Traditional M'ikmaq forest use

Project Objective
Project Lead & Team
External Expert(s)
Key Deliverables
Stakeholder/ Public Participation

Small Scale Wood Energy Initiative

Project Objective: Convert fossil fuel heating systems to wood chip heating systems in select public buildings (e.g., schools, government offices, health facilities), ensuring the use of locally-sourced wood chips primarily from small private woodlots on a long-term basis. Benefits include building the market for lower grade wood fibre; substituting fuel imports with local, renewable, carbon-friendly fuel; providing reliable, stable and predictable heating costs for public buildings; and supporting sustainable forest management and strengthen wood supply chain.

Key Deliverables:

- ▶ Phase 1 deliverable includes implementing wood heat energy systems into a select number of public buildings, aiming to be ready for the 2019-2020 heating season
- ▶ Subsequent phases will involve expanding the number of facilities

Expected Areas of Stakeholder and/or Public Participation: (may not be limited to)

- ▶ Procurement process for interested suppliers; requirement for local private woodlot sources
- ▶ Woodlot owners can become aware of opportunities by maintaining contact with local woodlot associations, cooperatives, and/or direct contact with energy service providers.

Project Objective
Project Lead & Team
External Expert(s)
Key Deliverables
Stakeholder/ Public Participation

Species at Risk Program Renewal

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Project Objective: To renew the management system for the Species at Risk program that institutionalizes a collaborative approach to recovery, leverages diverse resources, and uses risk management within a framework of robust and current policy

Key Deliverables:

- ▶ New and/or updated priority policy and procedures to form a Species-at-Risk Operations Manual
- ▶ Outstanding Provincial Recovery Plans for species solely listed in Nova Scotia
- ▶ Recovery Action Forums to engage experts and practitioners for input on a renewed Species at Risk Program

Expected Areas of Stakeholder and/or Public Participation:

- ▶ Advice on issues and ideas from NS SAR Working Group, Recovery Team and stakeholders
- ▶ Some policies and procedures may require additional consultation

Project Objective
Project Lead & Team
External Expert(s)
Key Deliverables
Stakeholder/ Public Participation

Research Planning

▶ **Ecosystem Management & Landscape Planning**

- ▶ Understanding Ecosite Disturbance and Succession and develop management systems to emulate natural disturbance

▶ **Biodiversity: Enhancing Populations, Habitat**

- ▶ Expanding and promoting biodiversity
- ▶ Improve understanding of wildlife/habitat relationships, habitat ecology & distribution
- ▶ Wildlife population inventory, modelling, threat assessment and monitoring
- ▶ Continue & expand ecosystem classification, mapping, modelling and status assessment

▶ **Forest Operations Management**

- ▶ Optimizing riparian zones buffers
- ▶ Affect of silviculture prescriptions on biodiversity and stand composition
- ▶ Soil, Water, Nutrient, Plant Genetics

▶ **Climate Change and Carbon Management**

- ▶ Adapting to climate change and acting on opportunities

▶ **Protecting and Enhancing Old Growth Forests**

▶ **Advanced Modeling and Measurement**

- ▶ Developing improved tools for and inventory assessments and predicting forests growth

Recent/Current Research Partnerships

▶ **University of Ottawa**

- ▶ Research to expand scientific knowledge of historical natural disturbance in NS.

▶ **Dalhousie University**

- ▶ Research on soils to support Nutrient Budget Model and on habitat connectedness.

▶ **Acadia University**

- ▶ Research on specific wildlife species (moose, white-tailed deer, coyote)

▶ **St Mary's University**

- ▶ Research related to old forests in NS.

▶ **University of New Brunswick**

- ▶ Research related to old forests in NS and development of LIDAR tools and metrics based on NS PSP data.

Questions?