

TERMS OF REFERENCE - Forest Biodiversity Science Advisory Committee

1. BACKGROUND

The Department of Natural Resources (DNR) is entering a new phase in its implementation of an ecosystem approach to forestry and conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity. The Science Advisory Committee will provide independent advice on science and research. They will also provide high level advice on departmental initiatives including the Forest Management Policy, Ecological Landscape Analysis and Landscape Scale Management Planning.

2. GOALS

- Identify knowledge gaps and provide advice on the ecosystem approach to forestry and biodiversity conservation
- Advise on approaches and priorities for research, data gathering or the development of tools
- Advise on the new Forest Management Policy (2016)
- Advise on the design and implementation of a Landscape Scale Management Planning

3. OBJECTIVES

- Undertake a current state assessment of DNR knowledge as it pertains to the goals;
- Identify priorities for the development of existing knowledge, research, data gathering and the development of tools;
- Propose a strategic research plan that outlines the Department's research priorities and requirements over the next 10 years.
- Assist in the design of research projects under the strategic research plan.

4. GUIDING PRINCIPLES AND CONTEXT

Significant building blocks are now in place within DNR to move forward with implementing ecosystem-based management. This foundation includes the Natural Resources Strategy, a provincial Ecological Landscape Classification, Ecological Landscape Analyses, and Forest Ecosystem Classification.

- The Committee will recognize the current requirements and strategic direction of existing Regulations and Policy at DNR;
- Fiscal constraints may affect the scale, timing or decisions to proceed with recommendations for action on science priorities identified by the Committee;
- The Committee's work will complement existing scientific expertise and advice within the department by adding additional perspective and expertise.
- Communication and knowledge sharing will be encouraged between Committee members and DNR experts. Committee members will respect

confidentiality around draft documents, data and analysis not yet released to the public.

5. MEMBERSHIP

The FBSA Committee comprises six (6) members drawn from the appropriate disciplines necessary to achieve the goals. Where possible members shall be drawn from Nova Scotia, or the Maritimes region to maximize efficiency and familiarity with local forest/biodiversity conditions and issues. The Committee should collectively have expertise in forest science, biodiversity, ecological planning, spatial modelling or other related science knowledge.

Membership will include a Forestry Division representative and a Wildlife Division representative. One of these two members will serve as Chair.

Committee appointments shall normally be for 2 year terms and subject to renewal with the agreement of the Department and incumbent(s).

Additional committee members may be appointed as dictated by the known priorities and associated experience required.

DNR will provide DNR administrative support for the Committee.

6. MEETINGS AND REPORTING

The Committee will meet at least quarterly.

DNR will reimburse for travel expenses incurred to attend meeting according to established government rates.

Meeting minutes will be taken, provided to DNR and made available to the public on request.

Ongoing communication and advice between the Committee and DNR will be coordinated by the Executive Director of Renewable Resources Branch and the Chair of the Committee

The Committee may provide periodic advice and updates directly to the Minister

Approved on _____, 2015

On behalf of the *Department of Natural Resources*:

Jon Porter, Executive Director, Renewable Resources

Allan Eddy, Associate Deputy Minister
Renewable Resources

On behalf of the *Forest Biodiversity Science Advisory Committee*:

Dr Peter Bush
Provincial Landscape Ecologist, NSDNR

Dr Peter Duinker
Professor, Dalhousie University

Dr Thom Erdle
Professor, University of New Brunswick

Dr Graham Forbes
Professor, University of New Brunswick

Dr Tom Herman
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Dr J Sherman Boates
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