

## What Can FIPs Tell Us?

Forest Inventory Plots provide a wealth of forestry information to aid in ecosystem management, forest protection, as well as the maintenance of bio-diversity, wildlife habitat, and parks. In addition to the inventory of trees described previously, other data will be collected from small subplots within the larger plot. This will include indexing of woody debris, shrubs, regeneration and fire hazard, as well as some details on wildlife activity. When individual plot data is combined with data from other plots, DNR will be able to more effectively report on changes to our forest resources at regional and County levels. By participating in the inventory program, you are making a valuable contribution to the management of Nova Scotia's forests.

## For More Information

Any questions on Forest Inventory Plots should be directed to:

Forest Inventory Manager,  
(902) 893-5653

or

your local Department of  
Natural Resources office.



Information Circular FOR-1

# Forest Inventory Plots



## Taking the Pulse of Our Forests

# The Forest Inventory Plot Program

Beginning in 1965-70, the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) established 1,765 Forest Inventory Plots (FIPs) in random locations across Nova Scotia. The purpose of these plots was to provide growth and mortality information on the province's forests. They have been revisited every five years to update the information on each plot. Over time, this information has proven valuable in the effective management of the province's forest resources. It will also be incorporated into a national forest inventory presently being assembled. A recent review of Nova Scotia's inventory program indicated that a more integrated approach to forest management could be achieved with additional information.

## New Forest Inventory Plots to be Established

Between 1998 and 2002, a total of 2,100 new Forest Inventory Plots will be established in Nova Scotia. These will be randomly located across the province to accurately reflect the diversity in our forests. The Department asks landowners to include Inventory Plots in any silvicultural treatments they are carrying out on their property. This will

make the FIPs a more accurate reflection of the surrounding stand, allowing DNR to effectively gauge what is happening in Nova Scotia's forests. The Department requests that landowners do not remove the stake at the centre of each plot, as these allow crews to easily find the site again.

## What is a Forest Inventory Plot (FIP)?

A FIP is circular and 0.04 ha (1/10 of an acre) in size. Within that area, all trees greater than 9.1 cm in diameter at 1.3 metres

above the ground are numbered with paint and measured for height and diameter. As well, each tree has a small tag attached at ground level. All live trees 3.1 cm to 9.0 cm in diameter are counted by species and have a small dot of paint put on them to avoid double-counting. A stake sits at the centre of the circle, with blue paint marks put on the trees immediately outside the plot. Because a Global Positioning System is used in locating the plots, no tie lines are needed to mark the route to each site. All FIPs are remeasured every five years.

