

ALGONQUIN FORESTRY AUTHORITY

2007-2008 ANNUAL SUSTAINABLE FOREST MANAGEMENT REPORT



March 2009

***CAN/CSA-Z809-02 CERTIFICATION
FOR SUSTAINABLE FOREST MANAGEMENT***

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Executive Summary

The 2007-2008 Annual Sustainable Forest Management (SFM) report is the first SFM report to be produced by the Algonquin Forestry Authority (AFA) under CSA certification. The SFM system was officially registered to the CSA Z809 standard on February 4, 2008. This report is based on the AFA fiscal year April 1, 2007 to March 31, 2008.

The prime objective of the report is to report on progress that has been made to fulfill commitments identified in the CSA SFM plan. Secondary objectives of the report are to demonstrate that the AFA and their partners are living up to the SFM requirements and commitments outlined in the SFM Plan, and to demonstrate a commitment to continual improvement. Included in the report are inserted segments from the original SFM plan that are intended to help refresh the reader on components of the SFM plan.

The report provides updates on targets for individual Values, Objectives, Indicators and Targets (VOIT) and from the results of these updates; progress, successes, and shortcomings may be measured.

There are 51 indicators within the SFM plan that have associated targets, not all of which will be reported on an annual basis. There are 15 indicators to be reported on in 2010, as they pertain to the development of the 2010 Forest Management Plan (FMP) and the 10-Year Annual Report, as required under the Crown Forest Sustainability Act (CFSA). There is one indicator to be assessed in 2009, one indicator to be assessed in 2012, and one indicator to be determined by the Algonquin Treaty Chief Negotiator. The remaining 33 indicators have an annual target. Of these 33 annual indicators, 30 have had their targets achieved (91%). There are 3 indicators of the 33 annual indicators reported where the target has not been achieved. Within the report there is an explanation of the shortfall for each of these indicators.

The 3 indicators where targets have not been achieved are:

1.2.1.1.2 Critical habitat for forest-dependent species at risk

5.3.1.1.1 Level of crown stumpage paid to government consolidated revenue

5.3.2.1.2 Percentage of tree marking conducted by Algonquin Aboriginal organizations/people

For those indicators that are assessed on an annual basis it is concluded that, on balance, the majority of targets are being met and progress has been made to fulfill the commitments identified in the CSA SFM Plan. AFA and their partners are living up to the SFM requirements and commitments outlined in the SFM Plan and a commitment to continual improvement is being demonstrated.

A summary of the results from the registration audit in 2007 complete the monitoring and measurement component of this report.

The final component of the report describes future plans and initiatives directed at the achievement of continual improvement on the Algonquin Park Forest.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 *Purpose of AFA SFM Plan*

The Algonquin Forestry Authority Sustainable Forest Management Plan (SFM Plan) is required as part of the definition and implementation of a Sustainable Forest Management System under the CAN/CSA-Z809-02 standard. The SFM Plan describes the SFM System and includes specific Values, Objectives, Indicators and Targets (VOITs) for Algonquin Park, which constitutes the defined forest area (DFA). The SFM plan is a framework document that summarizes the key components of the management system used by AFA to manage the DFA.

Sustainable Forest Management certification is a voluntary tool available to forestry organizations that wish to demonstrate corporate responsibility by having their forest management planning and practices independently certified to a sustainable forest management standard. Sustainable Forest Management refers to maintaining and enhancing the long-term health of forest ecosystems for current and future generations. Certification goes beyond regulatory requirements and takes environmental, economic and social values into consideration.

Algonquin Forestry Authority chose to seek registration to the CAN/CSA-Z809-02 sustainable forest management standard to demonstrate to the public and its customers that the Algonquin Park Forest is being managed on a sustainable basis. The SFM standard gives AFA the opportunity to continually improve forest management performance while engaging interested parties in a focused public participation process.

As the Crown Agency responsible for sustainable forest management in Algonquin Provincial Park, AFA assumed lead responsibility for developing and implementing the SFM system for the DFA. Algonquin Forestry Authority has an Environmental Management System (EMS) registered to the ISO14001:2004 standard, which provides a framework for planning, implementing and monitoring sustainable forestry operations in the forest. Algonquin Forestry Authority has appointed an SFM/EMS Coordinator who, irrespective of other responsibilities, has defined roles, authority and responsibilities for:

- Ensuring that SFM requirements are established and maintained in accordance with this standard
- Reporting on SFM requirements to top management for review and as a basis for continual improvement

In developing the SFM Plan, AFA has endeavored to ensure that all parties necessary to address the CSA SFM elements for the DFA were involved in the process. This was accomplished by conducting broad public consultation, consulting with Algonquin aboriginal communities and forming a forest certification advisory group.

To ensure that all necessary stakeholders were involved, AFA selected 19 representatives from a comprehensive list of potential stakeholders to serve as the Forest Certification Advisory Group (herein referred to as the Advisory Group) and liaise on a continuing basis with AFA. The list of potential stakeholders was developed through a review of values, issues and interest groups and a stakeholder analysis.

The Advisory Group consultation process included introductory training and facilitated workshops dealing with the identification and selection of VOITs for the SFM plan. Subsequent meetings involved the identification of values of specific importance to environmental, social and economic concerns and needs of members and stakeholder groups including the development of suitable objectives, indicators and targets for each.

2.0 GUIDING PRINCIPLES

2.1 AFA's Sustainable Forest Management Principles

As noted previously, the AFA is the Ontario Crown Agency responsible for sustainable forest management in Algonquin Provincial Park. Algonquin Forestry Authority's responsibilities also include the harvesting and distribution of wood products to mills in communities within the region. The AFA's vision is to achieve the highest standards of sustainable forest management practices, in order to maintain Park values for future generations, with the mission to ensure the long-term health of Algonquin's forests while producing a sustainable supply of forest products for the forest industry of the region.

The AFA is also guided by 6 commitments and strategies:

1. Sustainable Forest Management:

The AFA is committed to conform with the requirements of the international standards for environmental management (ISO 14001:2004), for sustainable forest management (CAN/CSA-Z809-02), and to managing Algonquin's forests in a sustainable manner consistent with requirements of the SFM plan.

This includes:

- Conserving biological diversity
- Conserving forest ecosystem condition and productivity by maintaining the health, vitality and rates of biological production
- Conserving soil and water resources
- Maintaining forest conditions and management activities that contribute to the health of global ecological cycles
- Providing multiple benefits to society
- Accepting society's responsibility for sustainable development

2. Compliance with Laws:

The AFA will meet or exceed all applicable laws, regulations, policies, standards and other requirements to which AFA subscribes. In addition, the AFA will prevent pollution using processes, practices, materials or products that avoid, reduce, or control pollution and will continuously evaluate compliance with current laws and regulations and the prevention of pollution. Periodic independent audits shall ensure that operations are consistent with established policies and objectives.

3. Public Participation:

The AFA will provide opportunities for public consultation on sustainable forest management practices in Algonquin Park, including a public advisory committee to provide input on the Sustainable Forest Management plan. The AFA will also facilitate public review and input on the FMP and work schedules and will respond to comments in a timely fashion. These strategies and others will help to effectively communicate forest management practices in the Park to the public. Finally, the AFA will make public the results of independent audits and ongoing assessments in Annual Reports.

4. Aboriginal Rights and Participation:

The AFA will respect Aboriginal and Treaty rights, provide participation opportunities for Aboriginal peoples with respect to their rights and interests in sustainable forest management and will work cooperatively with local Aboriginal communities to identify and implement ways of achieving a more equal participation by Aboriginal communities in the benefits provided through forest management planning in Algonquin Park.

5. Health and Safety:

The AFA will provide conditions and safeguards for the health and safety of workers and the public. In order to achieve this, the AFA will establish and communicate safe working habits to employees of the AFA and its contractors; organize training programs for AFA employees and assist contractors in their training programs; and maintain and communicate emergency response plans and procedures.

6. Continual Improvement:

The AFA will work towards improving knowledge about the forest and about sustainable forest management; monitor advances in sustainable forest management science and technology; and incorporate these advances where applicable. In addition, the AFA will participate in research projects that contribute to the health of the forest ecosystem and productivity of the forest.

3.0 PLAN AREA AND OWNERSHIP RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

3.1 *Defined Forest Area*

Algonquin Park constitutes the Defined Forest Area (DFA). Forest management activities occur only within the Recreation/Utilization zone (RU zone) of the Park.

The Algonquin Provincial Park Management Plan (1998) establishes the framework for all activities within the Park. This SFM plan is written in accordance with said plan and other relevant provincial guidelines and manuals.

Algonquin is designated a natural environment park under the Ontario Provincial Park System. As such, it will be planned, zoned, and managed in accordance with policies for this classification. A major mechanism to control land use is the zoning of the Park into land use categories: categories are Access, Development, Historic, Nature Reserve, Natural Environment, Wilderness, and Recreation/Utilization. A description of the purpose for each zone is found in the Algonquin Park Management Plan.

While the RU zone is the only zone of the Park where forest management operations are permitted, the other zones of the Park fall within the management unit boundary and contribute to non-timber objectives identified in this SFM plan (i.e. wildlife, forest diversity and old growth). As a result, these other zones are included in the DFA. This approach to planning is consistent with the approved 2005-2025 FMP (CFSA) for the Algonquin Park Forest.

At the time of production of this annual report, preparation is underway for the 2010-2020 FMP, as required under the CFSA. Upon approval of this FMP (expected April 1, 2010) VOITs will be reviewed with the advisory group and the changes to some of the FMP-related VOITs is anticipated due to policy changes and advances in science and computer modeling approaches.

3.2 *Rights and Obligations*

3.2.1 *Legislation and Regulatory Requirements*

A list of all relevant legislation and regulatory requirements that relate to the DFA is maintained within section 4.3.2 of the AFA's EMS.

AFA's SFM policy lists 4 commitments or strategies for compliance with laws:

1. Meet or exceed all applicable laws, regulations, policies, standards and other requirements to which AFA subscribes
2. Prevent pollution using processes, practices, materials or products that avoid, reduce or control pollution

3. Continuously evaluate compliance with current laws and regulations, and the prevention of pollution
4. Periodic independent audits shall ensure that operations are consistent with established policies and objectives

3.2.2 Aboriginal and Treaty Rights

As stated in the SFM policy, AFA is committed to:

- Respecting Aboriginal and Treaty rights
- Providing participation opportunities for Aboriginal people with respect to their rights and interests in sustainable forest management
- Working cooperatively with local Aboriginal communities to identify and implement ways of achieving a more equal participation by Aboriginal communities in the benefits provided through forest management planning in Algonquin Park

Negotiations are ongoing with respect to an Aboriginal land claim that affects a portion of the DFA. AFA is committed to monitoring the progress of the land claim and recognizing associated Treaty rights once finalized. It is understood by AFA and Aboriginal community members that participation in the CSA consultation process will not prejudice those rights.

3.2.3 DFA Workers

Algonquin Forestry Authority promotes the legal, constitutional rights, and health and safety within the DFA of AFA employees and contractors to AFA. The Ministry of Natural Resources (Ontario Parks) has this responsibility for their employees and contractors within the DFA.

AFA's commitment to health and safety includes:

- Providing conditions and safeguards for the health and safety of workers and the public
- Establishing and communicating safe working habits to employees of the AFA and its contractors
- Organizing training programs for AFA employees and assist contractors in their training programs
- Maintaining and communicating emergency response plans and procedures

DFA workers contributions to SFM are encouraged through training and SFM awareness programs.

3.3 Legal Requirements

The Management System Procedure (MSP) 4.3.2 (Legal and Other Requirements) of the Authority's EMS includes methodologies and responsibilities for identifying, accessing, reviewing, monitoring and maintaining documentation on legal and other requirements.

4.0 PLANNING AND PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROCESSES

4.1 Continuing Role of Advisory Group

Public participation through the Advisory Committee is an ongoing process of providing input into the continual improvement of the AFA's SFM system and performance. Advisory Group input will continue during the monitoring and follow-up phases of implementation of the CSA SFM system.

The Advisory Group will continue to meet annually and members will be asked to:

- Identify opportunities for improvement
- Discuss and provide input into issues relevant to SFM on the DFA
- Provide input during reviews of VOITs
- Provide input on monitoring programs

- Review Annual Reports
- Provide input on new components of the SFM Plan
- Participate in an external certification audit, if required

5.0 Values, Objectives and Performance Indicators

5.1 Development of the Values, Objectives and Performance Indicators

The CSA Standard provides the following definitions for VOITs which form the basis of the SFM plan:

Value: A DFA characteristic, component, or quality considered by an interested party to be important in relation to a CSA SFM element or other locally identified element.

Objective: A broad statement describing a desired future state or condition of a value.

Indicator: A variable that measures or describes the state or condition of a value.

Target: A specific statement describing a desired future state or condition of an indicator. Targets should be clearly defined, time-limited, and quantified, if possible.

Values, objectives and performance indicators included in this SFM plan were developed through the public consultation process associated with the 2005-2025 Algonquin Park FMP and the consultation process for the SFM plan. At least one DFA specific VOIT has been created for each CCFM SFM criterion and CSA SFM element associated with the CAN/CSA-Z809-02 Standard.

5.2 Detailed Values, Objectives, Indicators and Targets

CRITERION: 1. CONSERVATION OF BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY

ELEMENT: **1.1 Ecosystem Diversity**
Conserve ecosystem diversity at the landscape level by maintaining the variety of communities and ecosystems that naturally occur on the Defined Forest Area.

VALUE: **1.1.1 Forested Ecosystems**

OBJECTIVE: 1.1.1.1 To maintain a mosaic of constantly changing yet ever-present forest types within the Bounds of Natural Variation.

Indicator 1.1.1.1	Target	Variance
Ecosite area (hectares) over time	Maintain ecosites within acceptable levels* of the BNV for the next 100 years.	+/- 20 % of the 2005 FMP natural benchmark scenario

* Acceptable levels as defined by the "Landscape Analysis and Assessment Paper for Southcentral Region Management Units" - MNR Planning Direction 2003.

What is this indicator and why is it important?

There is a diverse population of tree species within the Algonquin Park Forest. These species tend to be associated in stands with similar physical and ecological features. Ecosites are developed to allow managers and planners to describe the Algonquin Park Forest types in detail. Based on the classification used in the 2005 FMP, there are 25 ecosites in Algonquin Park. These are described in Chambers *et. al.* 1997¹ and McCarthy *et. al.* 1994². The proportion will vary from time to time due to ecological factors and

¹ Chambers, B.A., B. J. Naylor, J. Nieppola, B. Merchant and P. Uhlig. 1997. Field guide to forest ecosystems of central Ontario. Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources, Southcentral Sciences Section, North Bay. SCSS Field Guide FG-01.

² McCarthy, T.G., R.W. Arnup, J. Nieppola, B.G. Merchant, K.C. Taylor and W.J. Parton. 1994. Field guide to forest ecosystems of northeastern Ontario. Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources, North East Science and Technology, Timmins. Field Guide FG-001.

SFM activities. The Bounds of Natural Variation (BNV) define the threshold levels for each ecosite. Conceptually, the BNV represent the range of ecosystem behavior that might exist in the absence of further human interference. It is important to maintain acceptable levels of each ecosite in order to support other values such as wildlife or plant habitat types.

Current Status

All 25 ecosites are currently within the target range. See Table FMP-13 (2005).

2007-2008 Status Update

No update for 2007-2008. The assessments are scheduled for 2010 and 2020.

Forecast

All ecosites are forecast to remain within the BNV for the next 100 years with the exception of ecosite 15. Current analysis shows that the lack of ability to manage stand conditions in the unmanaged portion of the Forest (nature reserve and wilderness) will result in a loss of jack pine area over time (ecosite 15). An effort is being made to counter the loss of jack pine in the unmanaged areas by ensuring the maintenance of jack pine area in the managed portion of the Forest. At five to ten year intervals, the planned forest management activities and projected natural disturbance and succession events will be forecast for subsequent years and reported in Table FMP-13.

Management Strategies and Implementation

Harvest areas will be allocated carefully and appropriate silviculture systems will be utilized in order to maintain ecosite representation within the BNV. Harvest constraints will maintain minimum ecosite area thresholds and areas will be regenerated to their planned forest unit according to the preferred or alternative Silviculture Ground Rule (Table FMP-10, 2005), as specified in the Forest Operations Prescription. A minimum of 1,750 hectares of the jack pine forest unit will be maintained in the available forest over the next 100 years.

Research and Monitoring Plan

It is the responsibility of the AFA to monitor the status of appropriate ecosites. A current Forest Resources Inventory (FRI) is critical to this plan. Annual monitoring of depletion and renewal activities will allow the inventory to be updated at regular intervals. Based upon new inventory data and updates from depletion and renewal activities, a new status report and future projection of ecosites will be produced for the 2010 FMP. Subsequent forest management plans are scheduled to be produced every ten years afterward.

Comparative Assessment of Planned versus Actual Levels

The assessments are scheduled for 2010 and 2020. At these times, an assessment of the previous term's performance will be conducted.

CRITERION: 1. CONSERVATION OF BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY

ELEMENT: 1.1 Ecosystem Diversity

Conserve ecosystem diversity at the landscape level by maintaining the variety of communities and ecosystems that naturally occur on the Defined Forest Area.

VALUE: 1.1.1 Forested Ecosystems

OBJECTIVE: 1.1.1.1 To maintain a mosaic of constantly changing, yet ever-present, forest types within the Bounds of Natural Variation.

Indicator 1.1.1.1.2	Target	Variance
Old age classes red and white pine	Achieve 25% of the area of red and white pine forest units in old age classes (>120 years) on the DFA landscape by 2025. Planning direction as required under the FMP process in Ontario will be followed.	0

What is this indicator and why is it important?

Red and white pine has long been desired as species that can achieve old growth. This popular notion was further acknowledged in Ontario by the *Conservation Strategy for Old Growth Red and White Pine Forest Ecosystems for Ontario* (1995). The goal of this strategy was "to ensure that red and white pine ecosystems, including old growth stands, are present on the landscape of Ontario now and into the future, while permitting a sustainable harvest of red and white pine". This indicator is important to maintain the diversity of flora and fauna that old growth red and white pine ecosystems support.

Current Status

Table FMP-12 (2005) shows a baseline of 17% in 2005. Levels are forecast to increase to 43% by 2025.

2007-2008 Status Update

No update for 2007-2008. The assessments are scheduled for 2010 and 2020.

Forecast

At five to ten year intervals, the planned forest management activities and projected natural disturbance and succession events will be forecast for subsequent years and reported in Table FMP-13.

Management Strategies and Implementation

The balance between old growth retention and recruitment from younger age classes will be optimized. Harvest areas will be allocated carefully to avoid unnecessary loss of old growth red and white pine and appropriate silviculture systems will be utilized in order to maintain old growth representation. Areas will be regenerated to their planned forest unit according to the preferred or alternative Silviculture Ground Rule (Table FMP-10, 2005), as specified in the Forest Operations Prescription. This will allow new stands of old growth to replace those lost to natural causes and harvesting. These strategies are reflected in the forest management plan currently being implemented.

Research and Monitoring Plan

Similar to the previous indicator, it is the responsibility of the AFA to report on the area of old growth red and white pine ecosystems. A current FRI is critical to this plan. Annual monitoring of depletion and renewal activities will allow the inventory to be updated at regular intervals. Based upon new inventory data and updates from depletion and renewal activities, a new status report and future projection of old growth red and white pine will be produced for the 2010 FMP. Subsequent forest management plans are scheduled to be produced every ten years afterward. In addition, the 2010 FMP will be prepared using the new *Old Growth Policy for Ontario's Crown Forests* (OMNR, 2003). It is expected that this will impact the scope and methodology for old growth planning in the Algonquin Park Forest.

Comparative Assessment of Planned versus Actual Levels

The assessments are scheduled for 2010 and 2020. At these times, an assessment of the previous term's performance will be conducted.

CRITERION: 1. CONSERVATION OF BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY

ELEMENT: 1.1 Ecosystem Diversity

Conserve ecosystem diversity at the landscape level by maintaining the variety of communities and ecosystems that naturally occur on the Defined Forest Area.

VALUE: 1.1.1 Forested Ecosystems

OBJECTIVE: 1.1.1.1 To maintain a mosaic of constantly changing yet ever-present forest types within the Bounds of Natural Variation.

Indicator 1.1.1.3	Target	Variance
Hemlock presence	Maintain the hemlock forest unit within acceptable levels* of the BNV for the next 100 years. Calculate forest unit BNV using new science as it becomes available.	+/- 20 % of the 2005 FMP natural benchmark scenario

Acceptable levels as defined by the "Landscape Analysis and Assessment Paper for Southcentral Region Management Units" MNR Planning Direction 2003.

What is this indicator and why is it important?

Hemlock provides an important habitat for several wildlife species, especially deer, in the winter. Many species such as barred owl, blackburnian warbler, northern flying squirrel, and pine marten make extensive use of the hemlock forest. Values include shelter, food and perching sites. Hemlock is a heavily used browse species for deer and moose and the seeds provide food for small mammals and birds. Kershaw (1991) states that "hemlock contributes to biodiversity both at the stand and landscape level". The presence of hemlock in the hardwood forest adds to species diversity within the stand. At the landscape level, islands and corridors of hemlock aid in the dispersal of animal species from one area to another. Hemlock is of low value as a commercial lumber species.

Current Status

The hemlock working group occupies 40,288 hectares or 6.5% of the total productive forested land in the Park. This area has increased since 1995 (AFA FRI updates) as a result of forest management practices. Recent science (OMNR - 2007 Landscape Guide) indicates that hemlock levels in Algonquin Park are currently above the simulated range of natural variation (SRNV) for the Algonquin Park Forest. About 85% of this working group is, however, in the late successional stage, with little area identified in the FRI in the regeneration and immature stages. Hemlock studies in the Park (Vasiliauskas, 1995) have shown that the lack of younger age classes is a result of extensive deer browsing in the early 1900s and current browsing by moose. Hemlock was also heavily cut during the 1960s for construction ties to be used in the Toronto subway, and many of these stands are now typed as MhHeBy ecosite. Areas restricted from forest management activities contain 23% of the hemlock working group area.

2007-2008 Status Update

No update for 2007-2008. The assessments are scheduled for 2010 and 2020.

Forecast

At five to ten year intervals, the planned forest management activities and projected natural disturbance and succession events will be forecast for subsequent years and reported in Table FMP-13.

Management Strategies and Implementation

Changes were made to Algonquin Provincial Park tree marking prescriptions in the early 1990s to maintain more hemlock and a strategy to get hemlock from the regeneration stage to free-growing status was developed with the 2000-2020 FMP. The 1997 independent forest audit recommended that a hemlock management strategy be developed. The 2005 plan addresses hemlock establishment, ensuring seedling growth to the free growing stage, in an integrated wildlife/forestry approach and the hemlock forest unit was changed from a uniform shelterwood to a selection forest unit (HeSEL) in order to more effectively manage regeneration and ensure its establishment and recruitment into the forest canopy. The *Hemlock Strategy for Algonquin Park Forest* is in Appendix 16 of the 2000-2005 FMP.

Research and Monitoring Plan

Similar to the previous indicator, it is the responsibility of the AFA to report on the status of hemlock ecosystems. A current FRI is critical to this plan, however, hemlock regeneration and younger age classes do not appear in the FRI because they exist as an understory. An additional VOIT (1.2.2.2) has been created to further investigate hemlock regeneration and recruitment status. Annual monitoring of depletion and renewal activities will allow the inventory to be updated at regular intervals. Based upon new inventory data and updates from depletion and renewal activities, a future projection of hemlock will be produced with the 2010 FMP. Subsequent forest management plans are scheduled to be produced every ten years afterward.

Comparative Assessment of Planned versus Actual Levels

The assessments are scheduled for 2010 and 2020. At these times, an assessment of the previous term's performance will be conducted.

CRITERION: 1. CONSERVATION OF BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY

ELEMENT: 1.1 Ecosystem Diversity

Conserve ecosystem diversity at the landscape level by maintaining the variety of communities and ecosystems that naturally occur on the Defined Forest Area.

VALUE: 1.1.1 Forested Ecosystems

OBJECTIVE: 1.1.1.2 To maintain landscape diversity by minimizing landscape fragmentation.

Indicator 1.1.1.2.1	Target	Variance
Range of disturbance patch sizes within the BNV	A distribution of disturbance areas that will result in a patch size pattern over the long term that shows movement towards natural disturbance frequency by size class. Use new science as it becomes available.	Within the BNV

What is this indicator and why is it important?

This indicator relates to Ontario's direction to emulate natural disturbance patterns through forest management. At the landscape (or DFA) level, this is accomplished by maintaining a range of disturbance patch sizes that emulates (as closely as possible) the patterns that would be created naturally by fire, blowdown, insect outbreaks, and gap phase dynamics. It is assumed that by maintaining a landscape pattern that emulates natural disturbances, a variety of habitats and ecosystems will be maintained, consistent with the BNV.

Current Status

Appendix 8 of the 2005-2025 FMP outlines the current and forecasted disturbance frequency distribution by size class. As discussed in section 5.5.2.8 of the FMP, movement towards the regional template has been accomplished as four of the six size (0 to 10 ha, 11 to 70 ha, 261-520 ha and 521+ ha) classes are showing movement towards the regional median disturbance frequency from 2005 to 2010.

2007-2008 Status Update

No update for 2007-2008. The assessments are scheduled for 2010 and 2020.

Forecast

At five to ten year intervals, the planned forest management activities and projected natural disturbance and succession events will be forecast for subsequent years and reported in Table FMP-12. An analysis of forest disturbances will be completed with the year seven and year ten annual reports.

Management Strategies and Implementation

N/A

Research and Monitoring Plan

Similar to the previous indicator, it is the responsibility of the AFA to monitor the sizes of disturbances (harvest and natural disturbance). A current FRI is critical to this plan. Annual monitoring of depletion and renewal activities will allow the inventory to be updated at regular intervals.

Comparative Assessment of Planned versus Actual Levels

The assessments are scheduled for 2010 and 2020. At these times, an assessment of the previous term's performance will be conducted.

CRITERION: 1. CONSERVATION OF BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY

ELEMENT: 1.2 Species Diversity

Conserve species diversity by ensuring that habitats for the native species found on the Defined Forest Area are maintained through time.

VALUE: 1.2.1 Wildlife Species Habitat

OBJECTIVE: 1.2.1.1 To maintain wildlife habitat within the Bounds of Natural Variation.

Indicator 1.2.1.1.1	Target	Variance
Area of habitat for forest-dependent provincially and locally featured species	Maintain wildlife habitat within acceptable levels* of the BNV for the selected wildlife species (from Table FMP-5, 2005) for the next 100 years (2105) as required under the FMP process in Ontario.	Lower bound = -20% of the natural benchmark scenario. No upper bound.

* Acceptable levels as defined by the "Landscape Analysis and Assessment Paper for Southcentral Region Management Units" MNR Planning Direction 2003.

What is this indicator and why is it important?

Forest management activities can impact wildlife species through the maintenance or alteration of their habitat. Many species of wildlife can be found within the Algonquin Park Forest. During preparation of the 2005 FMP, 15 wildlife species (mammals, birds and amphibians) representing 18 different habitats (black bear, moose and white-tailed deer each have two habitat types) were analyzed to ensure that habitat availability was not deviating below the threshold limits. The species and habitat types are listed in Table FMP-5 (2005).

Current Status

Of the 18 habitat types, all currently meet the target (2005 FMP).

2007-2008 Status Update

No update for 2007-2008. Levels are acceptable for the duration of the 2005-2010 FMP.

Forecast

At five to ten year intervals, the planned forest management activities and projected natural disturbance and succession events will be forecast for subsequent years and reported in Table FMP-8.

Management Strategies and Implementation

Forestry practices will continue to be modified to account for habitat needs of the native fauna as new scientific information becomes available and is accepted by the Ministry of Natural Resources. Specific types of wildlife trees will be maintained as per MNR guidelines, and provincial wildlife guidelines will

continue to be implemented. The 2005 FMP guides the creation of a diversity of habitat conditions within the BNV for each ecosite and special provisions will also be made for protecting the habitat requirements of sensitive species. Dialogue with forest industry and logging contractors on the intent and practice of maintaining forest cover for other forest values will be continued. These strategies are reflected in the forest management plan currently being implemented.

Research and Monitoring Plan

The AFA will monitor the status of habitat for forest-dependent provincially and locally featured species. The analysis requires a current FRI to determine habitat types based on forest cover. The habitat matrix is developed by government researchers and scientists³. It helps determine the significance of each particular forest stand as preferred and/or used habitat. This assignment of habitat value will change over time as stands age and develop. Based upon actual forest management activities, an updated status report and future projection of wildlife habitat will be produced for the 2010 FMP and subsequent forest management plans are scheduled to be produced every ten years afterward.

Comparative Assessment of Planned versus Actual Levels

The calculation of new habitat levels is scheduled for 2010 and 2020.

CRITERION: 1. CONSERVATION OF BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY

ELEMENT: 1.2 Species Diversity

Conserve species diversity by ensuring that habitats for the native species found on the Defined Forest Area are maintained through time.

VALUE: 1.2.1 Wildlife Species Habitat

OBJECTIVE: 1.2.1.1 To maintain wildlife habitat within the Bounds of Natural Variation.

Indicator 1.2.1.1.2	Target	Variance
Critical habitat for forest-dependent Species at Risk (SAR)	100% compliance with Area of Concern (AOC) prescriptions for the protection of species at risk habitat (for OPU's with SAR values only).	0

What is this indicator and why is it important?

In 1983, the United Nations identified the need for sustainable development, and a cornerstone of this intention was the maintenance of biological diversity. The loss of species was immediately acknowledged as an issue requiring intense conservation and protection measures, as extinct species cannot be replaced. The *Endangered Species Act* (Ontario) and *Species at Risk Act* (Canada) require the identification, protection and monitoring of species at risk.

There are 7 species at risk that can be found in the Algonquin Park Forest: the Deepwater Sculpin, Shortjaw Cisco, Eastern Hognose Snake, Red Shouldered Hawk, Wood Turtle, Bald Eagle and Eastern Wolf. The first 2 are fish, found each as isolated and disjunct populations in the Forest and are in no way impacted by forest management activities (*Algonquin Park Biologist, 2005 FMP*). There are only a few dated records of the Eastern Hognose Snake, mainly from the Highway 60 corridor, and its existence in the Forest is in doubt. The Red Shouldered Hawk exists only in several mature hardwood stands in the Forest's extreme south end and in fact may be delisted as a species of concern in Ontario. There is 1 confirmed nest of the Bald Eagle in the Forest and that was discovered in 2003. Bald Eagles are

³ As of 2004, the matrix is based upon Holloway, G.L., B. J. Naylor, and W. R. Watt, Editors. 2004. *Habitat relationships of wildlife in Ontario. Revised habitat suitability models for the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence and Boreal East forests*. Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources, Science and Information Branch, Southern Science and Information and Northeast Science and Information Joint Technical Report #1. 110p.

expanding their range in Ontario and we may expect them to become more common in the Forest (the Bald Eagle is now classed as “special concern” north of the French and Mattawa Rivers, although it is endangered in southern Ontario; see www.e-laws.gov.on.ca/DBLaws/Regs/English/900328.htm). The Eastern Wolf has been the subject of intense study since the early 1990s and is the primary issue driving some of the habitat management initiatives in the 2005 FMP.

The 1 remaining species, the Wood Turtle, is in fact the only rare vertebrate in the Forest for which there is a major and immediate provincial (even global) conservation concern. The Wood Turtle, considered “endangered” by Ontario, and listed as a species of “special concern” by the Federal Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada (COSEWIC), has its major foothold in Ontario in the Algonquin Park Forest where it is found as several presumably disconnected populations on the Forest’s east side.

Current Status

2005-2006 = 90%

2006-2007 = 98%

2007-2008 Status Update

Target not met.

2007-2008 = 97%

There were 35 compliance reports conducted in harvest operating units where species at risk values were known and AOC protection was applied. One non-compliance issue was reported which resulted in this target falling below the 100% level.

An area was harvested within an AOC timing restriction for the protection of a Wolf Rendezvous site. The Supervisors responsible for this area recognized that they had missed seeing this AOC on the operational map for the operating unit. The AOC prescription does not allow for harvesting from June 15 to September 30 within the modified 150 m AOC on the Wolf Rendezvous Site. Harvesting began 10 days before it should have on the 20th of September. The preventative action taken in response to this non-compliance was for AFA to review the Wolf Rendezvous AOC prescription with their Supervisors and contractor supervisors. The Ontario Parks Biologist also spoke about this topic at the Ontario Parks/AFA Joint Workshop in the spring of 2008. This non-compliance was viewed by Ontario Parks as minor in significance and was resolved by a “warning”.

Forecast

Monitoring indicator - no forecast required.

Management Strategies and Implementation

Forest management activities will be monitored to avoid infringing on species at risk populations and habitat (see attached Area of Concern category descriptions for species and habitat specific strategies.) Ontario Parks, with the assistance of the AFA, have begun to assess areas in the Recreation/Utilization zone that have forest riparian zone characteristics suitable for the improvement of beaver habitat. This will aid in providing increased prey for the eastern wolves - a species at risk. Small areas, approximately 1 hectare in size, will be harvested and monitored to determine if these forest management actions have a positive effect on beaver populations in these environments. Prescriptions and strategies are already being implemented as species at risk and their habitat are encountered.

Research and Monitoring Plan

Monitoring of this indicator for the purpose of the forest management plan, will be conducted concurrent with the Forest Operations Information Program. From the 2005 FMP, the AOC categories that guide prescriptions for the species at risk include; BE – bald eagle nesting site; RSC – red shouldered hawk (nest); WT – wood turtle habitat; WTN – wood turtle nest site; BH – beaver habitat (wolf prey); WRS – wolf rendezvous site; WDS – wolf den site. Compliance percentages are calculated only on OPUs that contain the applicable AOC types. Both AFA and MNR compliance reports are summarized.

A few key initiatives for some of the species include the AFA partnership on the implementation of the Ministry of Natural Resources' *Algonquin Wolf Advisory Group Report* and 2005 *Strategy for Wolf Conservation in Ontario*. This is reflected in the selection of AOC prescriptions for wolves, including the creation of prey habitat (beavers). The AFA is also contributing \$5,000 per year for five years (2005-2009, inclusive) to assist with Wood Turtle research and monitoring in the Algonquin Park Forest. The AFA has also contributed \$20,000 per year for wolf research in the Algonquin Park Forest.

Comparative Assessment of Planned versus Actual Levels

Compliance with AOC prescriptions will be measured annually to ensure the target is being met. Reports will be presented in Annual Report Tables AR-12 and AR-13.

CRITERION: 1. CONSERVATION OF BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY

ELEMENT: 1.2 Species Diversity

Conserve species diversity by ensuring that habitats for the native species found on the Defined Forest Area are maintained through time.

VALUE: 1.2.1 Wildlife Species Habitat

OBJECTIVE: 1.2.1.2 Retain ecological values and functions associated with sensitive brook trout riparian areas.

Indicator 1.2.1.2.1	Target	Variance
Riparian buffers	100% compliance with AOC prescriptions for the protection of fisheries habitat around designated brook trout lakes.	0

What is this indicator and why is it important?

Brook trout rely on groundwater flow to create necessary spawning and rearing habitat. Riparian buffers will ensure the protection of these cold water habitats. These areas are generally stands dominated by cedar, larch, or mixed conifers adjacent to brook trout streams in low-lying areas.

Current Status

2005-2006 = 97%
2006-2007 = 93%

2007-2008 Status Update

Target met.
2007-2008 = 100%
There were no reports of non-compliance from 46 reports where AOC protection was applied for the purpose of brook trout habitat.

Forecast

Monitoring indicator - no forecast required.

Management Strategies and Implementation

Self-sustaining brook trout lakes are mapped during FMP development and the BT AOC prescription is applied. In addition, a protocol has been developed between AFA and Ontario Parks to survey the perimeter of all BT lakes prior to operations and identify previously unmapped nursery creeks. When identified, these nursery creeks are protected with the Critical Fish Habitat (CFH) AOC prescription. Operators are trained regularly to ensure they understand how to apply AOC prescriptions in the field.

Research and Monitoring Plan

Compliance percentages are calculated only on OPU's that contain the BT AOC, and includes the CFH AOC. Both AFA and MNR compliance reports are summarized.

Comparative Assessment of Planned versus Actual Levels

Compliance with AOC prescriptions will be measured annually to ensure the target is being met. Reports will be presented in Annual Report Tables AR-12 and AR-13.

CRITERION: 1. CONSERVATION OF BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY

ELEMENT: 1.2 Species Diversity

Conserve species diversity by ensuring that habitats for the native species found on the Defined Forest Area are maintained through time.

VALUE: 1.2.2 Tree Species Diversity

OBJECTIVE: 1.2.2.1 To maintain red spruce in the Defined Forest Area.

Indicator 1.2.2.1.1	Target	Variance
Status of red spruce as documented in tree marking records, Silvicultural Effectiveness Monitoring (SEM) records and the use of local knowledge	1) Establish/maintain operational controls to ensure the identification and management of red spruce as encountered within the Recreation/Utilization Zone. 2) Produce a map showing known historic and present red spruce areas by March 31, 2009.	As reported annually

What is this indicator and why is it important?

Red spruce is uncommon in the Province, being primarily associated with the Maritimes. In Ontario, red spruce exists on the western edge of its natural range. Red spruce has experienced a decline in abundance and vigor throughout its entire range during the last 50 years. This VOIT is important to establish the level of abundance of red spruce in the DFA and ensure its maintenance over the long term.

Current Status

There are no red spruce stands or species identified in the Algonquin Park FRI. Known occurrences of red spruce are protected in the following 3 Natural Zones: N45 - Cauliflower Lake Sr zone; N46 - Bruton and Clyde Sr zone; and N47 - Oak Lake Sr zone. Red spruce regeneration has been noted on several occasions during field operations, especially in the south-western part of the DFA.

2007-2008 Status Update

Target met.

(1) Red spruce identification and protection training provided to tree markers in 2007 and 2008 annual tree marker refresher course. Annual field level training is ongoing. (2) Algonquin EcoWatch is working on acquiring an historic red spruce map (Dec. 2008), to which areas known by AFA will be added.

Though not part of the VOIT target, AFA collected approximately 14,000 red spruce seeds and is having 2,000 seedlings grown for planting in 2010 on a suitable site.

Forecast

Monitoring indicator - no forecast required.

Management Strategies and Implementation

Tree marking prescriptions for Sr are contained in the 2005 FMP, if encountered. Tree marker training was conducted in 1998, 2001 and 2007 specifically around Sr identification and protection (annual training also).

Research and Monitoring Plan

Refer to target (2) above.

Comparative Assessment of Planned versus Actual Levels

N/A – there are no planned levels for red spruce. Manage as encountered.

CRITERION: 1. CONSERVATION OF BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY

ELEMENT: 1.2 Species Diversity

Conserve species diversity by ensuring that habitats for the native species found on the Defined Forest Area are maintained through time.

VALUE: 1.2.2 Tree Species Diversity

OBJECTIVE: 1.2.2.2 Quantify the status of hemlock in the Defined Forest Area.

Indicator 1.2.2.2.1	Target	Variance
Hemlock regeneration and recruitment status	Establish a committee consisting of members from the Advisory Group, Ontario Parks, Algonquin Ecowatch, AFA and others to review and report on the status of hemlock in Algonquin Park (regeneration and recruitment) by January 1, 2009. This committee will provide recommendations regarding hemlock management in Algonquin Park to the Advisory Group, LCC, Ontario Parks and AFA.	+/- three months

What is this indicator and why is it important?

Hemlock provides an important habitat for several wildlife species, especially deer, in the winter. Many species such as barred owl, Blackburnian warbler, northern flying squirrel, and pine marten make extensive use of the hemlock forest. Values include shelter, food and perching sites. Hemlock is a heavily used browse species for deer and moose and the seeds provide food for small mammals and birds. Kershaw (1991) states that hemlock contributes to biodiversity both at the stand and landscape level. The presence of hemlock in the hardwood forest adds to species diversity within the stand. At the landscape level, islands and corridors of hemlock aid in the dispersal of animal species from one area to another. Hemlock is of low value as a commercial lumber species.

Current Status

The hemlock working group occupies 40,288 hectares or 6.5% of the total productive forested land in the Park. This area has increased since 1995 (AFA FRI updates) as a result of forest management practices. Recent science (OMNR - 2007 Landscape Guide) indicates that hemlock levels in Algonquin Park are currently above the simulated range of natural variation (SRNV) for the Algonquin Park Forest. About 85% of this working group is however in the late successional stage, with little area identified in the FRI in the regeneration and immature stages. Hemlock studies in the Park (Vasiliasauskas, 1995) have shown that the lack of younger age classes is a result of extensive deer browsing in the early 1900s and current browsing by moose. Hemlock was also heavily cut during the 1960s for construction ties to be used in the Toronto subway, and many of these stands are now typed as MhHeBy ecosite. Areas restricted from forest management activities contain 23% of the hemlock working group area.

2007-2008 Status Update

Target met.

A six member committee has been assembled in December 2008 – 3 AFA, 1 Ontario Parks, 1 Algonquin representative and 1 Algonquin EcoWatch representative. AFA will gather the background information and send out to the committee members in preparation for a meeting. AFA has contacted MNR regarding the re-measurement of Stan Vasiliauskus' hemlock plots. Research dollars are being budgeted for the 2009/10 season for this project. AFA is seeking other funding partners to assist with this project.

Forecast

Monitoring indicator - no forecast required.

Management Strategies and Implementation

Changes were made to Algonquin Provincial Park tree marking prescriptions in the early 1990s to maintain more hemlock and a strategy to get hemlock from the regeneration stage to free-growing status was developed with the 2000-2020 FMP. The 2005 plan addresses hemlock establishment, ensuring seedling growth to the free-growing stage, in an integrated wildlife/forestry approach and the hemlock forest unit was changed from a uniform shelterwood to a selection forest unit (HeSEL) in order to more effectively manage regeneration and ensure its establishment and recruitment into the forest canopy. The *Hemlock Strategy for Algonquin Park Forest* is in Appendix 16 of the 2000-2005 FMP.

Research and Monitoring Plan

N/A

Comparative Assessment of Planned versus Actual Levels

N/A

CRITERION: 1. CONSERVATION OF BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY

ELEMENT: 1.3 Genetic Diversity

Conserve genetic diversity by maintaining the variation of genes within the species.

VALUE: 1.3.1 Genetic Diversity of Tree Species

OBJECTIVE: 1.3.1.1 To maintain genetic diversity within the tree species native to the Defined Forest Area.

Indicator 1.3.1.1.1	Target	Variance
Application of tree marking guidelines	100% of sites where natural regeneration is a preferred treatment must retain appropriate leave trees as a seed source or retain local genetic reproductive material.	0

What is this indicator and why is it important?

Genetic information forms the building blocks of diversity within an individual and its species. Since most of the silviculture activities within the Algonquin Park Forest are conducted using partial harvesting techniques and natural regeneration, tree marking is important to the selection of leave trees. Unless superseded by more critical requirements, leave trees are selected for their ability to form high quality stands, including genetic excellence.

Current Status

Due to the diligence in inspection and re-marking, the trend has been to achieve 100% marking compliance with the prescription every year.

2007-2008 Status Update

Target met.

2007-2008 = 100%

From the 2007 summary of tree marking reports, there were 0.12% species priority infractions from all of the trees tallied. All tree marking inspections were acceptable before areas were harvested.

Future reports on this target will be based on inspections, not individual trees.

Forecast: Monitoring indicator - no forecast required.

Management Strategies and Implementation

Tree marking guidelines will be applied to assist in the maintenance of genetic diversity. The guidelines will ensure that dominant/co-dominate trees in good health will be retained as a seed source while maintaining cavity trees, mast producing trees and den trees for wildlife.

The objectives and strategies are implemented during the tree marking field season by trained and qualified crews. These activities are guided by Tree Marking Prescriptions (FMP appendix), Silviculture Ground Rules and Annual Work Schedules.

Research and Monitoring Plan

The monitoring program is comprised of inspection of the tree marking. Algonquin Forestry Authority supervisors regularly inspect the tree marking program to the standards that are in place. This is done using the EMS Tree Marking Inspection form. A variance of +/- 5% is allowed from the standards and variations beyond this point usually require that the area be re-marked. However, as indicated above, 100% compliance is expected so variance is shown as zero. Ministry of Natural Resources technicians also audit the tree marking throughout the year. Results of all AFA tree marking inspections are forwarded to the Ministry of Natural Resources.

Comparative Assessment of Planned versus Actual Levels: N/A

CRITERION: 1. CONSERVATION OF BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY

ELEMENT: 1.3 Genetic Diversity

Conserve genetic diversity by maintaining the variation of genes within the species.

VALUE: 1.3.1 Genetic Diversity of Tree Species

OBJECTIVE: 1.3.1.1 To maintain genetic diversity within the tree species native to the Defined Forest Area.

Indicator 1.3.1.1.2	Target	Variance
Proportion of seed used in artificial renewal derived from appropriate seed zone	100% of seed used on the DFA is from the appropriate seed zone and/or within transfer guidelines.	0

What is this indicator and why is it important?

While artificial regeneration is less common on the Algonquin Park Forest than natural regeneration, this indicator complements the previous one. Here we focus on appropriate genetic measures for artificial regeneration; that is, regeneration with some direct assistance from forestry activities.

Provincial guidelines require that artificial regeneration be derived from local seed sources in order to maintain the appropriate genetic adaptations and ensure good growth and vigour.

Current Status

The 2004-2005 Annual Report indicates that 100% of all seed collected was from the appropriate local seed zone.

2007-2008 Status Update

Target met.
100% of the seed was from the appropriate local seed zone.

Forecast

No forecasting is required.

Management Strategies and Implementation

Every effort will be made to use tree seed and stock within seed zones for artificial regeneration. If this is not possible, stand collection tree seed and stock will be used in adjacent seed zones on a last resort basis and must conform to provincial standards for similarity of seed origin and host site. In the case of cross-zone movement, the origin of the seed must be well documented and the environment of the seed origin must be similar to that of the planting site. These strategies are reflected in the forest management plan currently being implemented.

Research and Monitoring Plan

Seed collection activities will be monitored by the AFA and reported in annual report Table AR-8 each year. Seed records from Angus Seed Plant are to be used.

Comparative Assessment of Planned versus Actual Levels

N/A

CRITERION: 1. CONSERVATION OF BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY**ELEMENT: 1.4 Protected Areas and Sites of Special Biological Significance**

Respect protected areas identified through government processes. Identify sites of special biological significance within the Defined Forest Area and implement management strategies appropriate to their long-term maintenance.

VALUE: 1.4.1 Algonquin Provincial Park Management Plan Zones

OBJECTIVE: 1.4.1.1 Protect the special values represented by the four land use categories defined by the Algonquin Provincial Park Management Plan.

Indicator 1.4.1.1.1	Target	Variance
Identification and protection of zone boundaries	100% compliance with zone boundary locations.	0

What is this indicator and why is it important?

The Algonquin Park Forest has a long history of integrated resource management as witnessed by the policies and objectives for the Forest, and the long standing identification of seven land use zones. Excluding the Recreation/Utilization zone, there are four zones of biological significance: the Nature Reserve zone; Historical zone; Wilderness zone; and Natural Environment zone. As per the 1998 Algonquin Provincial Park Management Plan, these protected zones represent 19% of the gross area. The Development and Access zones are the two remaining categories, but were felt to represent no biological significance.

In order to maintain these special biological areas, this indicator will monitor the maintenance of the boundaries with the Recreation/Utilization zone.

Current Status

The boundaries are currently intact.

2005-2006 = 100%

2006-2007 = 100%

2007-2008 Status Update

Target met.

2007-2008 = 100%

There were 45 FOIP reports where zone boundaries were encountered within or formed a part of the operating unit boundary. There were 0 non-compliance issues reported.

Forecast

No forecasting is required.

Management Strategies and Implementation

Proposed operations in the vicinity of zone boundaries will be carefully marked so operators will not infringe upon them. Where the zone boundary is also the Algonquin Park Forest boundary, there is an AOC category that results in a prescription to leave a buffer on the boundary. These strategies are reflected in the FMP currently being implemented.

Research and Monitoring Plan

Monitoring will be conducted through the Forest Operations Information Program. The degree of compliance, with the target of zero infractions due to zone boundary infringement, will be reported annually. There is no acceptable variance. Compliance percentages are calculated only on OPUs that are adjacent to non RU zone boundaries. Both AFA and MNR compliance reports are summarized.

Comparative Assessment of Planned versus Actual Levels: N/A

CRITERION: 2. MAINTENANCE AND ENHANCEMENT OF FOREST ECOSYSTEM CONDITION AND PRODUCTIVITY

ELEMENT: 2.1 Forest Ecosystem Resilience
Conserve ecosystem resilience by maintaining both ecosystem processes and ecosystem conditions.

VALUE: 2.1.1 Resilient Great Lakes-St. Lawrence Forested Ecosystems

OBJECTIVE: 2.1.1.1 Assist those ecosystems as required whose growth has been impacted by fire, insect, disease, blowdown or harvesting to regenerate or otherwise continue along their successional pathway.

Indicator 2.1.1.1.1	Target	Variance
Area successfully regenerated	100% regeneration success as forecast in table FMP-28 (2005 FMP).	0 – time frame as prescribed in silvicultural ground rules (table FMP-10 in the 2005 FMP)

What is this indicator and why is it important?

Areas that are impacted by natural disturbance or forest management activities will be most productive if they return to a vigorous state within a certain time frame. Silvicultural Ground Rules are developed to aid in the achievement of a new stand following such disturbance. This ensures the resiliency of the forest ecosystem.

Current Status

Seventy-eight percent (78%) of the total area assessed for the 2000-2005 term is successfully regenerated. Sixty-nine percent (69%) of this area has regenerated to the projected forest unit. The remaining area that has not successfully regenerated will continue to be monitored in future forest management plans or treated as required to meet free-to-grow standards.

2007-2008 Status Update

Complete evaluation of this target is scheduled for 2010 – final year of FMP.

The Annual Report (CFSA AR-Table 14) for 2007-2008 indicates that a total of 5,476 hectares was assessed in 2007. Of this total, 75% has regenerated to the projected forest unit, 5% has regenerated to another forest unit and 20% has not yet successfully regenerated.

After the first 3 years of the 2005 FMP term a total of 17, 492 ha. has been assessed with 86% of this area successfully regenerated. After the first 3 years of the 5-year term, the level of regeneration assessment is below that forecast in the FMP for many forest units. AFA is committed to monitoring and assessing regeneration success and will endeavor to increase the level of assessment in the remaining two years of the FMP term. It should be noted that some forecasts, such as HDSEL are based on projected harvest levels, which are not being experienced and therefore the level of assessment will not reach the forecast levels, but will be based on actual levels harvested.

The 2005 FMP text for Table 28 also states that “Not all of the area forecasted for assessment will be successfully regenerated. It is anticipated that approximately 84% (from historical assessment records) of the area identified in FMP-28 will be successfully regenerated when assessed the first time. The remaining area will either require more time to meet standards, require further silvicultural treatments or an additional harvest.

Forecast

Table FMP-28 from the 2005 Forest Management Plan identifies a target assessment area of 54,272 ha spread among a number of Forest Units and Silviculture Ground Rules. Assessments in the HDSEL (hardwood selection) Forest Unit and some of the HeSEL (hemlock selection) Forest Unit are unique

compared to the other even-aged Forest Units. The HDSEL and HeSEL Forest Units require assessments of management standards and not regeneration assessments. They have been included to reflect the planned level of harvesting activity.

Management Strategies and Implementation

Areas will be regenerated according to the preferred or alternative Silviculture Ground Rule (Table FMP-10, 2005), as specified in the Forest Operations Prescription. Silvicultural effectiveness monitoring assessments will be conducted each year as areas become available and as operational conditions allow.

Research and Monitoring Plan

Silvicultural effectiveness monitoring assessments are performed regularly in order to meet the five-year target identified in Table FMP-28 (2005 FMP). The success of these activities is reported in Annual Report Table AR-14.

Comparative Assessment of Planned versus Actual Levels

The assessment is scheduled for 2010 and 2020. At these times, an assessment of the previous term's performance will be conducted.

CRITERION: 2. MAINTENANCE AND ENHANCEMENT OF FOREST ECOSYSTEM CONDITION AND PRODUCTIVITY

ELEMENT: 2.2 Forest Ecosystem Productivity

Conserve forest ecosystem productivity and productive capacity by maintaining ecosystem conditions that are capable of supporting naturally occurring species.

VALUE: 2.2.1 Healthy, Productive Forests

OBJECTIVE: 2.2.1.1 To maintain the ecological and productive capacity of the Defined Forest Area in order to provide society with a sustainable harvest of forest-based material and social values.

Indicator 2.2.1.1.1	Target	Variance
Crown Managed Production Forest Area	Less than 2.5% of production forest area harvested used for roads, landings and aggregate pits.	+ 10%

What is this indicator and why is it important?

This land classification indicates the extent to which sustainable forest management activities might be conducted. In addition, various wildlife habitat and other values are present and can potentially be influenced on the Crown Managed Productive Forest area. Other categories include non-forested areas like water or muskeg, as well as patent land and area outside of the Recreation/Utilization zone (wilderness, natural environment, etc.).

This is a monitoring indicator that will provide an early indication of any undesirable loss to the managed productive forest land base.

Current Status

There are 481,214 ha of Crown Managed Production Forest (FMP 2005).

2007-2008 Status Update

Next update scheduled for 2010. (Variance should be one sided (+10%) – revised above), Draft 2010 FMP indicates 1.5% of area harvested used for roads, landings and aggregate pits. Next assessment is scheduled for 2010 at which time this indicator can be analyzed.

Forecast

No forecasting is required.

Management Strategies and Implementation

The maximum road right-of-way is 13.7 metres for primary roads and 9.1 metres for secondary and tertiary roads. Whenever possible, existing roads (roads that were used in the previous harvest) will be used to gain access to proposed harvested areas except where Forest values will be compromised by their use. Existing roads in the Recreation/Utilization zone may also be phased out if alternative means of access, which would have a lesser impact on Forest values, are available or possible. To prevent excessive disturbance outside the road right-of-way, borrow pits will be limited to a maximum of five per kilometre.

The size of borrow pits will not exceed six metres including side slopes of 1.5:1 and will be limited to ten metres from the tree line of the road right-of-way. Maximum aggregate pit size, not including rehabilitated area, will be one hectare (2.5 acres). Landings for logs shall not exceed 0.2 hectares.

Operators have been informed of the requirements for access structures through the Standard Operating Procedure for Road and Landing Construction.

Research and Monitoring Plan

At each Forest Management Plan renewal date, the Crown Managed Productive Forest area is determined. The next renewal is scheduled for 2010 at which time this indicator can be analyzed.

Comparative Assessment of Planned versus Actual Levels

This indicator is not projected into the future. The assessment is scheduled for 2010 and 2020. At these times an assessment of any change will be conducted.

CRITERION: 3. CONSERVATION OF SOIL AND WATER RESOURCES**ELEMENT: 3.1 Soil Quality and Quantity**

Conserve soil resources by maintaining soil quality and quantity.

VALUE: 3.1.1 Soils of the Precambrian Upland and Ottawa Lowland

OBJECTIVE: 3.1.1.1 To maintain the living substrate for forest stands.

Indicator 3.1.1.1	Target	Variance
Rate of compliance for soil conservation with the AFA site impact guidelines	100% of area harvested in compliance with AFA site impact guidelines.	- 5%

What is this indicator and why is it important?

Algonquin Forestry Authority has developed guidelines to assist operators with identifying and avoiding potential site hazards and detrimental conditions. These will minimize the amount of rutting and compaction that can have negative impacts upon the soil that trees and other plants require. This is consistent with the Ministry of Natural Resources' efforts to maintain productive soils via the *Forest Management Guidelines for the Protection of the Physical Environment*.

This is an operational monitoring indicator that will identify when and where undesirable effects are taking place.

Current Status

2004-2005 = 99.6%

2005-2006 = 100%

2006-2007 = 100%

2007-2008 Status Update

Target met.

2007-2008 = 100%

From 92 Harvest FOIP reports filed in 2007/2008 there were 0 reports where the site impact guidelines have been exceeded.

Forecast

No forecasting is required.

Management Strategies and Implementation

Extra care is taken in wet or soft conditions, or alternate (drier) routes are used. Seeps and woodland pools are avoided – tree markers identify these sensitive areas where possible with an "S" marking. Operational controls are in place for operating in sensitive areas.

Research and Monitoring Plan

Monitoring will be conducted through the Forest Operations Information Program. The target will be reported annually. Both AFA and MNR Compliance reports are summarized.

Comparative Assessment of Planned versus Actual Levels

N/A

CRITERION: 3. CONSERVATION OF SOIL AND WATER RESOURCES**ELEMENT: 3.2 Water Quality and Quantity**

Conserve water resources by maintaining water quality and quantity.

VALUE: 3.2.1 Algonquin Dome Headwaters

OBJECTIVE: 3.2.1.1 Conserve the quality and quantity of interior waterways, wetlands and catchment areas within the Defined Forest Area.

Indicator 3.2.1.1.1	Target	Variance
Proportion of water crossings that are properly installed and removed	100% compliance as measured by Forest Operation Inspections on access.	- 5%

What is this indicator and why is it important?

One of the initial environmental goals stated when the Algonquin Park Forest was designated was the protection of major interior waterways. These waterways include such rivers as the Oxtongue, Big East, Madawaska, Bonnechere, Amable de Fond, York, Barron, South and Petawawa. Water crossings can have significant impacts upon waterways if not properly installed or removed. This indicator is an operational monitoring one that will apply to waterways of all sizes, and ensure the protection of these quality watersheds.

Current Status

2005-2006 = 97%

2006-2007 = 95%

2007-2008 Status Update

Target met.

2007-2008 = 100%

In 2007-2008 there were 22 installations and 35 removals of water crossings reported in FOIP. There were 0 reports of non-compliance.

The South River has been included as one of the identified waterways.

Forecast

No forecasting is required.

Management Strategies and Implementation Plan

Waterway crossing installations and removals are conducted according to the Ministry of Natural Resources' *Environmental Guidelines for Access Roads and Water Crossings and the Forest Management Planning Manual (2004)*. The extensive use of portable bridges significantly reduces impacts at water crossings. Reporting of water crossing installation and removal success will be tailored from the existing Forest Operations Information Program.

Research and Monitoring Plan

Monitoring will be conducted through the Forest Operations Information Program. The target will be reported annually. Progress will be reported through Annual Reports, particularly Table AR-12. Both AFA and MNR compliance reports are summarized.

Comparative Assessment of Planned versus Actual Levels

N/A

CRITERION: 3. CONSERVATION OF SOIL AND WATER RESOURCES**ELEMENT: 3.2 Water Quality and Quantity**

Conserve water resources by maintaining water quality and quantity.

VALUE: 3.2.1 Algonquin Dome Headwaters

OBJECTIVE: 3.2.1.1 Conserve the quality and quantity of interior waterways, wetlands and catchment areas within the Defined Forest Area.

Indicator 3.2.1.1.2	Target	Variance
Compliance with prescriptions developed for the protection of water quality and fish habitat	100% compliance as measured by Forest Operation Inspections.	- 5%

What is this indicator and why is it important?

Water quality and fish habitat are significant environmental values on the Algonquin Park Forest that are interrelated. The water provides exceptional opportunities for recreationalists as well as a source of life for many species of wildlife. Quality habitat supports many species of fish and other living creatures that prey on those fish or use the same habitat.

As part of a carefully planned forestry operation, AFA has developed site level prescriptions for forest management activities conducted near these values. The prescriptions are documented in the FMP and are categorized as follows:

- CW - Lake Trout Lakes, Coldwater Streams and Unknown Lakes/Streams
- BT - Self-Sustaining Brook Trout Lakes
- CFH - Critical Fish Habitat (including Brook Trout Nursery Creeks)
- WW - Other Lakes, Coolwater and Warmwater Streams
- WT - Wood Turtle Habitat
- BH - Beaver Habitat
- MAFA - Moose Aquatic Feeding Areas and mineral licks

Current Status

2004-2005 = 97%
 2005-2006 = 99%
 2006-2007 = 97%

2007-2008 Status Update

Target met.

2007-2008 = 99%

There was 1 non-compliance issue reported in a CW AOC where a landing was constructed within 120m of the feature without approval from Ontario Parks. There were 157 FOIP reports reviewed.

Forecast

No forecasting is required.

Management Strategies and Implementation

Forest management activities are monitored in order to avoid infringing on fish habitat or negatively impacting water quality. Skidding across streams is avoided. Clear cutting or road building is generally not permitted in these Areas of Concern (see attached Area of Concern category descriptions for species and habitat specific strategies). Reporting will be tailored from the existing Forest Operations Information Program.

Research and Monitoring Plan

The Algonquin Forestry Authority is responsible for monitoring the status of this indicator. This will be completed through the current Forest Operation Information Program which ensures that AOC prescriptions are implemented properly. Annual Reports document each year's success, but the year seven and year ten reports will constitute the official occasion to compare actual measurements with the target. Compliance percentages are calculated only on OPU's that contain the applicable AOC types. Both AFA and MNR compliance reports are summarized.

Comparative Assessment of Planned versus Actual Levels

The assessment is scheduled for 2010 and then seven and ten years thereafter. At these times, an assessment of the previous term's performance will be conducted.

CRITERION: 3. CONSERVATION OF SOIL AND WATER RESOURCES

ELEMENT: 3.2 Water Quality and Quantity

Conserve water resources by maintaining water quality and quantity.

VALUE: 3.2.1 Algonquin Dome Headwaters

OBJECTIVE: 3.2.1.1 Conserve the quality and quantity of interior waterways, wetlands and catchment areas within the Defined Forest Area.

Indicator 3.2.1.1.3	Target	Variance
Number of spills that enter waterbodies	Zero spills entering waterbodies, as recorded by the Environmental Management System Spill Incident Form.	+ 1

What is this indicator and why is it important?

The prevention of pollution is one of the major aspects of AFA's Forestry Policy. This indicator provides a direct link between the Forestry Policy and the element. Preventing spills will help maintain the quality of the Algonquin Park Forest's interior waterways.

Current Status

Spills are tracked under the AFA's Environmental Management System.

2004-2005 = 0

2005-2006 = 0

2006-2007 = 0

2007-2008 Status Update

Target met.

2007-2008 = 0

There are no spills entering waterbodies.

Forecast

No forecasting is required.

Management Strategies and Implementation

Follow the AFA SOP for Handling and Dispensing Fuel. Monitoring is conducted through AFA's Spill Incident Form, and reporting will be customized to suit this indicator.

Research and Monitoring Plan

The Algonquin Forestry Authority is responsible for monitoring the status of this indicator. This will be completed through the current Environmental Management System. This indicator is designed to be reported every year.

Comparative Assessment of Planned versus Actual Levels

N/A

CRITERION: 3. CONSERVATION OF SOIL AND WATER RESOURCES

ELEMENT: 3.2 Water Quality and Quantity

Conserve water resources by maintaining water quality and quantity.

VALUE: 3.2.1 Algonquin Dome Headwaters

OBJECTIVE: 3.2.1.2. To ensure the maintenance of water quality and quantity during development of aggregate pits.

Indicator 3.2.1.2.1	Target	Variance
Impacts of aggregate pits on water quality and quantity, as measured in established monitoring wells	Establish monitoring wells in 2 aggregate pits in 2008 using methodology required by MNR's Aggregate Resources Program.	As budgeted

What is this indicator and why is it important?

Aggregate extraction has the potential to impact ground water and the water table, especially when near or adjacent to brook trout waters. Potential impacts include a lowering of the water table that provides source water to upwellings, seeps and nursery creeks.

Current Status

This is a new indicator – no current status to report.

2007-2008 Status Update

Target met.

One monitoring well was installed in a pit in the west operations area and one in the east during 2007-2008. Continued monitoring and interpretation of results of these test wells can only be performed by a qualified hydro-geologist.

Forecast

No forecasting is required.

Management Strategies and Implementation

Monitoring wells will be established in two aggregate pits in 2008 using methodology required by MNR's Aggregate Resources Program.

Research and Monitoring Plan

The Algonquin Forestry Authority is responsible for monitoring the status of this indicator. This indicator will be reported on annually.

Comparative Assessment of Planned versus Actual Levels

N/A

CRITERION: 4. FOREST ECOSYSTEM CONTRIBUTIONS TO GLOBAL ECOLOGICAL CYCLES

ELEMENT: 4.1 Carbon Uptake and Storage

Maintain the processes that take carbon from the atmosphere and store it in forest ecosystems.

VALUE: 4.1.1 Forest Ecosystem Carbon

OBJECTIVE: 4.1.1.1 To provide a pre-determined rate of carbon storage in the Defined Forest Area.

Indicator 4.1.1.1.1	Target	Variance
Carbon storage capacity in the Defined Forest Area as calculated by the FORCARB-ON model	Maintain an overall positive percent change in forest carbon (carbon sink) from the DFA for the next 100 years (to 2105). Adjust target if necessary as new science is developed.	0

What is this indicator and why is it important?

Forest management activities can have substantial impacts on the role of forests in the carbon cycle. The forests use, store and release carbon. The longevity and large area of forests make them particularly well adapted to long-term positive carbon balance. Conversely, conversion of forest lands to low biomass, short-lived standing crops with rapid turnover rates, or the permanent removal of forest cover, can reduce the lands capacity to absorb and store carbon. As such, AFA will monitor the degree to which its forests store carbon.

Current Status

Maintain or exceed the net forest carbon balance. Value estimated at 119.3 million tonnes of carbon in 2005. Re-calculate for every update in the FMP.

2007-2008 Status Update

No update. The benchmark established in 2005 is maintained until 2010.

Forecast

Refer to FORCARB model output – percent change in Forest Carbon graph. In three future decades there are slight decreases in forest carbon, but these are never more than 0.3% of the total. The remaining seven decades forecast a positive percentage change in forest carbon (a steadily increasing carbon sink).

Management Strategies and Implementation

As indicated in the FMP currently being implemented, the amount of forested areas (carbon storage areas) will be maintained and vigorous regeneration encouraged.

Research and Monitoring Plan

Every ten years, as forest stands grow and develop the status of the indicator will be re-evaluated by staff at the Ontario Centre for Forest Research⁴. The assessment will be conducted using a carbon budget model called FORCARB-ON. This model estimates the carbon stored by the forest in living and dead trees and other plants, woody debris on the ground and even carbon in the soil.

Comparative Assessment of Planned versus Actual Levels

⁴ Dr. Steve Colombo works for the Ontario Forest Research Center which maintains an office at the Centre for Northern Forest Ecosystem Research, 955 Oliver Road, Thunder Bay, ON P7B 5E1, Canada
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The assessment is scheduled for 2010 and ten years thereafter.

CRITERION: 4. FOREST ECOSYSTEM CONTRIBUTIONS TO GLOBAL ECOLOGICAL CYCLES

ELEMENT: 4.2 Forest Land Conversion

Protect forestlands from deforestation or conversion to non-forests.

VALUE: 4.2.1 Extent of the Defined Forest Area Production Forest Area

OBJECTIVE: 4.2.1.1 To minimize the conversion of production forest to non-forested area in the recreation/utilization zone.

Indicator 4.2.1.1.1	Target	Variance
Managed production forest area	Less than 2.5% of production forest area harvested used for roads, landings and aggregate pits.	+ 10%

What is this indicator and why is it important?

Maintaining the land base in a forested state is a key principle of avoiding forest land conversion. While necessary to conduct forest management activities, the construction of access structures poses a threat to the extent of productive forest area. These access structures need to be carefully planned and their use optimized in order to avoid unnecessary losses.

Current Status

There are 481,214 hectares of Crown Managed Production Forest (FMP 2005).

2007-2008 Status Update

Target met.

Draft 2010 FMP indicates 1.5% of area harvested used for roads, landings and aggregate pits. Next assessment is scheduled for 2010 at which time this indicator can be analyzed.

Forecast Assumptions and Analytical Methods

Forecasting is not required.

Management Strategies and Implementation

The maximum road right-of-way is 13.7 metres for primary roads and 9.1 metres for secondary and tertiary roads. Whenever possible, existing roads (roads that were used in the previous harvest) will be used to gain access to proposed harvested areas except where Forest values will be compromised by their use. Existing roads in the Recreation/Utilization zone may also be phased out if alternative means of access, which would have a lesser impact on Forest values, are available or possible. To prevent excessive disturbance outside the road right-of-way, borrow pits will be limited to a maximum of five per kilometre.

The size of borrow pits will not exceed 6 metres including side slopes of 1.5:1 and will be limited to 10 metres from the tree line of the road right-of-way. Maximum aggregate pit size, not including rehabilitated area, will be 1 hectare (2.5 acres). Landings for logs shall not exceed 0.2 hectares.

Operators have been informed of the requirements for access structures through the SOP for Road and Landing Construction.

Research and Monitoring Plan

At each FMP renewal date the Crown Managed Production Forest area is determined. The next renewal is scheduled for 2010 at which time this indicator can be analyzed.

Comparative Assessment of Planned versus Actual Levels

This indicator is not projected into the future. The assessment is scheduled for 2010 and 2020. At these times, an assessment of any change will be conducted.

CRITERION: 5. MULTIPLE BENEFITS TO SOCIETY

ELEMENT: 5.1 Timber and Non-Timber Benefits
 Manage the forest sustainably to produce an acceptable and feasible mix of both timber and non-timber benefits.

VALUE: 5.1.1 Timber Resources

OBJECTIVE: 5.1.1.1. To provide timber resources from the Defined Forest Area for local industry.

Indicator 5.1.1.1.1	Target	Variance
Long-term projected available harvest volume by product	1. Average volume of white and red pine sawlogs for the first 10 terms >110,000 m ³ . 2. Red pine poles/treelength annually in 5 or more terms >16,700 m ³ . 3. Hardwood and white birch sawlogs for each of the first 10 terms >70,000 m ³ per year. 4. Produce 520,000 m ³ of forest products on an annual basis - 248,000 m ³ is in sawlog and better products and 272,000 m ³ of pulp and composite quality products. Note: 1 term = 10 years	+/- 25% over 5 year period

What is this indicator and why is it important?

Building on the broad measure identified in the previous indicator, this one identifies the details of product diversification on value added derived from the available timber harvest. The manufacturing of sawlogs, veneer and poles requires higher quality logs than pulp and composite products. Targets 1 to 3 identify these higher quality products, while target 4 compares the balance of higher quality products to pulp. These targets will be measured using the AFA Sales System.

Current Status

Prior to implementation of the FMP, the level of this indicator was as follows⁵:

- 1. 113,252 m³
- 2. 14,755 m³
- 3. 75,998 m³
- 4. 253,772 m³ sawlog and better / 306,456 m³ pulp

2007-2008 Status Update

No update until 2010.

Forecast

⁵ Average for the 2000-2005 period from the 2004-2005 Year Ten Annual Report (AFA Sales System). Note that the previous targets were slightly different.

The forecast uses historical harvest data combined with projected harvest and sales. Unforeseen deviations from the planned harvest such as fires, mill closures or market disturbances will have an impact upon the targets.

Management Strategies and Implementation

The wood supply will be allocated to individual companies based on the range of species and qualities available from particular cutting areas. Surplus species and quantities will be identified and made known to the forest industry, so that it may assess the feasibility of altering its operations to utilize this material. Alternative opportunities will be provided, where possible, to industries which face shortages of traditional raw materials and provide for the use of wood fibre as a source of energy. New markets for pulp quality material will be actively sought.

Research and Monitoring Plan

Algonquin Forestry Authority is responsible for monitoring this indicator. AFA sales records will be used to evaluate performance. Evaluation will be conducted in 2010 – plan end.

Comparative Assessment of Planned versus Actual Levels

N/A

CRITERION: 5. MULTIPLE BENEFITS TO SOCIETY

ELEMENT: 5.1 Timber and Non-Timber Benefits

Manage the forest sustainably to produce an acceptable and feasible mix of both timber and non-timber benefits.

VALUE: 5.1.1 Timber Resources

OBJECTIVE: 5.1.1.2. To maintain the Ministerial wood supply commitments from the DFA.

Indicator 5.1.1.2.1	Target	Variance
Directly link wood supply commitment to long term, sustainable wood supply volume	No new wood supply allocations without adjustment to existing volumes by the Minister.	N/A

What is this indicator and why is it important?

Local mills rely upon a predictable flow of wood, which is partially based upon the Ministerial commitments. Therefore, it is important to maintain the commitment levels in order to ensure the continued and reliable provision of wood to the dependent mills, and the associated socio-economic benefits. Further, if new wood supply allocations are made by the Minister of Natural Resources, the existing volume commitments must be adjusted in order to maintain a reliable flow of timber for all users.

Current Status

The Ministerial commitments are identified in table FMP-24 (2005–2025 FMP) and are re-evaluated with each FMP. These Ministerial commitments are currently being met.

2007-2008 Status Update

No annual update. Update with the 2010 FMP.

Forecast

N/A

Management Strategies and Implementation

Prior to the preparation of the FMP, the forest resource inventory is updated to reflect recent depletions and accruals. This updated inventory is the basis for the determination of the available harvest area and volume in the FMP, and the subsequent wood supply commitments made by the Minster.

Research and Monitoring Plan

N/A

Comparative Assessment of Planned versus Actual Levels

N/A

CRITERION: 5. MULTIPLE BENEFITS TO SOCIETY

ELEMENT: 5.1 Timber and Non-Timber Benefits

Manage the forest sustainably to produce an acceptable and feasible mix of both timber and non-timber benefits.

VALUE: 5.1.1 Timber Resources

OBJECTIVE: 5.1.1.3. To recognize good forestry practices within the Defined Forest Area.

Indicator 5.1.1.3.1	Target	Variance
Certification status	Achieve and maintain registration to CAN/CSA-Z809 SFM standard by end of 2007.	+/- 3 months

What is this indicator and why is it important?

- To demonstrate to the public and its customers that the Algonquin Park Forest is being managed on a sustainable basis
- Allows AFA to promote the successful results of their SFM efforts using independent, third-party verification
- Voluntary participation in the requirements of the standard will provide AFA with the opportunity to continually improve forest management performance and engage interested parties in a focused public participation process
- Certification verifies that forests are well managed as defined by the standard

Certification ensures that planning and operations are conducted in a consistent, transparent, and sustainable manner. This is becoming an increasingly common practice, and will ensure that the Defined Forest Area is managed in accordance with the principles of Sustainable Forest Management (environmental, economic and social).

Current Status

The Defined Forest Area is not currently certified.

2007-2008 Status Update

Target met.

CAN/CSA Z809 certificate has been received dated February 4, 2008.

Forecast

Maintenance of certification and re-certification prior to expiry date of February 3, 2011.

Management Strategies and Implementation

N/A

Research and Monitoring Plan

The CAN/CSA-Z809 SFM standard requires annual third party audits. Once achieved, certification requirements will be monitored on a regular basis in accordance with the standard.

Comparative Assessment of Planned versus Actual Levels

N/A

CRITERION: 5. MULTIPLE BENEFITS TO SOCIETY

ELEMENT: 5.1 Timber and Non-Timber Benefits

Manage the forest sustainably to produce an acceptable and feasible mix of both timber and non-timber benefits.

VALUE: 5.1.2 Recreation and Tourism

OBJECTIVE: 5.1.2.1 To maintain or improve the back country qualities of recreation and tourism opportunities within the DFA, through the reduction of sight and sound evidence of AFA operations.

Indicator 5.1.2.1.1	Target	Variance
Number of documented public complaints about forestry impacts on back-country recreation	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. 100% of documented public responses (to redesigned feedback program) from interior users within the RU zone without noted logging impacts.2. Establish a simple system to measure on the ground conflicts/complaints between Park users and forest industry by December 1, 2008 and review the system with the Advisory Group before implementation. (A sub-group will be set-up to determine the methodology with representation from Ontario Parks, Friends of Algonquin, Outfitters, Recreational Users and an AFA designate).3. Complaints to be investigated in relation to the FMP's Operational Prescriptions for Areas of Concern including designated canoe routes, campsites, portages and hiking/back-packing trails – towards having the complaints resolved and/or the prescription reviewed.	- 5%

What is this indicator and why is it important?

Recreation and tourism are major benefits provided by the DFA. This is reflected in the Algonquin Provincial Park Management Plan.

Still relating to the recreation and tourism value, the objective of this indicator is to directly monitor public feedback on the impacts of forestry operations on recreation values and activities. It is assumed that many comments may not be associated with any direct impact resulting from forestry operations. Where a comment is related to an impact resulting from a forestry operation and it is possible to address the concern through forest management activities, the target is to implement mitigation in 100% of instances. This contributes to the continual improvement of forestry operations.

Current Status

Regarding visitor complaints, new reporting program - no previous data available. Consult with Ontario Parks regarding availability of public comment information for use in tracking this indicator.

2007-2008 Status Update

Target met.

2007-2008 = 100%

- (1) The AFA public input tracking program has two recorded public complaints. Neither complaint was specific to "impacts on back country recreation". Both complaints were responded to in writing.
- (2) A Draft – Forestry – Recreation Visitor Comment Management System (FRVCMMS, October 2007) has been prepared by Ontario Parks. Scheduled roll out of this program is in the spring of 2009. The database system is to record information on forestry recreation comments and track response to these comments.
- (3) None of the complaints received were related to operational prescriptions surrounding recreational values.

Forecast

The assumption used in setting this target is that the number of visitors to the Algonquin Park Forest will continue on a steady basis unless management decisions deter visitors. Uncontrollable factors that may also influence this indicator include such things as weather and/or various economic conditions. No forecast necessary for number of complaints.

Management Strategies and Implementation

Recreational values will be identified on values maps and Area of Concern guidelines will be implemented to ensure protection of these values. These strategies are reflected in the FMP currently being implemented. When possible, public concerns will be addressed through forest management activities. Continue to utilize Environmental Management System procedure 4.4.3 Communication, and develop a reporting mechanism.

Research and Monitoring Plan

A system for reviewing comments is already operating and documentation resulting from it will be tailored to suit this indicator. This will be monitored on a yearly basis in order to allow for timely improvements. Data will be requested from Ontario Parks annually to supplement the information.

Comparative Assessment of Planned versus Actual Levels

N/A

CRITERION: 5. MULTIPLE BENEFITS TO SOCIETY

ELEMENT: 5.1 Timber and Non-Timber Benefits

Manage the forest sustainably to produce an acceptable and feasible mix of both timber and non-timber benefits.

VALUE: 5.1.2 Recreation and Tourism

OBJECTIVE: 5.1.2.1 To maintain or improve the back-country qualities of recreation and tourism opportunities within the DFA, through the reduction of sight and sound evidence of AFA operations.

Indicator 5.1.2.1.2	Target	Variance
Provision of information with respect to location of planned forest operations on the AFA website	Post harvest schedule map with primary haul routes for summer operations on AFA website.	N/A

What is this indicator and why is it important?

The internet is increasingly the most easily accessible source of information for a growing number of Canadians. Posting information on the website will ensure that AFA’s operational plans are accessible to as many members of the public as possible, including recreational users who may be concerned about the proximity of forestry operations during their stay in Algonquin Park.

Current Status

Map already posted at <http://www.algonquinforestry.on.ca/summary.htm>

2007-2008 Status Update

Target met.
Map completed and posted to website April 1, 2007 for 2007-2008.

Forecast

No forecasting is necessary.

Management Strategies and Implementation

AFA updates this map annually after the Annual Work Schedule approval.

Research and Monitoring Plan

N/A

Comparative Assessment of Planned versus Actual Levels

N/A

CRITERION: 5. MULTIPLE BENEFITS TO SOCIETY

ELEMENT: 5.1 Timber and Non-Timber Benefits

Manage the forest sustainably to produce an acceptable and feasible mix of both timber and non-timber benefits.

VALUE: 5.1.3 Cultural Heritage

OBJECTIVE: 5.1.3.1 To collect and preserve knowledge.

Indicator 5.1.3.1.1	Target	Variance
On going research/ assessment/support	Demonstrate financial and/or in-kind support for cultural heritage initiatives beyond those mandated or required.	As budgeted

What is this indicator and why is it important?

Algonquin has a rich and varied human history, with traditional dependence upon the resources of the Park being a dominant theme. Extensive field research has identified more than 300 areas of historical human activity and a comparable number of archaeological sites. Those sites that provided the best representation of the Parks history have been selected as Historical Zones. Ongoing research and assessment is important to complete the system of archaeological and historical sites. The collection and preservation of knowledge will provide opportunities to enhance the publics understanding and awareness and appreciation of Algonquin Park's heritage.

Current Status

The historical zones in Algonquin Park encompass 1,680 hectares and include 48 historical sites and 38 archaeological sites. The location of archeological sites is confidential in order to ensure their protection. The park protects all newly discovered historical resources dated prior to 1940, pending thorough study and documentation of their significance. A major focus of historical resources interpretation is at the Algonquin Logging Museum near the east gate. Algonquin Forestry Authority contributes annually to the Algonquin Park Loggers Day (cash and in-kind). Cultural heritage training of woodworkers and tree markers has been conducted. Funding for a new roof on the cabin at Basin Depot was provided by AFA. Stage 2 archaeological assessments were conducted in 2004-2005 in order to determine the presence of cultural artifacts in areas scheduled for forestry operations.

2007-2008 Status Update

Target met.

In 2007-2008 a \$5,000 contribution was made for Logging Museum upgrades. A stage two archaeological assessment in 2007-2008 was conducted in order to determine the presence of cultural artifacts in areas scheduled for forestry operations.

Forecast

No forecasting is necessary.

Management Strategies and Implementation

During forest management activities (primarily tree marking), all newly discovered potential archaeological sites are identified and verified by Ontario Parks prior to operations. An AOC is established if warranted. In addition, high potential cultural heritage areas are identified during the FMP process and have an AOC prescription identified that includes a stage two archaeological assessment for certain activities to be permitted.

Research and Monitoring Plan

Document activities and expenditures.

Comparative Assessment of Planned versus Actual Levels: N/A

CRITERION: 5. MULTIPLE BENEFITS TO SOCIETY

ELEMENT: 5.1 Timber and Non-Timber Benefits

Manage the forest sustainably to produce an acceptable and feasible mix of both timber and non-timber benefits.

VALUE: 5.1.3 Cultural Heritage

OBJECTIVE: 5.1.3.1 To collect and preserve knowledge.

Indicator 5.1.3.1.2	Target	Variance
Clarification of sensitive vs. non-sensitive information	September 2009.	As budgeted

What is this indicator and why is it important?

Some cultural and historical knowledge needs to be protected from general use, such as areas on the landscape that are sensitive to disruption (e.g. burial or spiritual sites). This type of information also needs to be preserved, but this must be done while protecting its confidentiality. In order to determine what types of information require confidentiality, types of information need to be identified as sensitive and non-sensitive. The Ontario Ministry of Culture is the custodian for all registered archeological site data and therefore sets conditions to access this data. The promotion of cultural heritage values is currently limited by Ministry of Culture directives to maintain this as sensitive information. While archaeological values are considered sensitive, other cultural heritage values may not be.

Current Status

The current FMP treats all cultural heritage information as sensitive. The new Forest Management Guide for Cultural Heritage Values (2007) provides new direction on the confidentiality of cultural heritage information. This new guide will be used for the preparation of the 2010 FMP.

2007-2008 Status Update

No update for 2007/2008. Time frame for completion is September 2009.

Forecast

No forecasting is necessary.

Management Strategies and Implementation

Clarification will be provided during the development of the 2010 FMP.

Research and Monitoring Plan

N/A

Comparative Assessment of Planned versus Actual Levels

N/A

CRITERION: 5. MULTIPLE BENEFITS TO SOCIETY

ELEMENT: 5.1 Timber and Non-Timber Benefits

Manage the forest sustainably to produce an acceptable and feasible mix of both timber and non-timber benefits.

VALUE: 5.1.3 Cultural Heritage

OBJECTIVE: 5.1.3.2 To assist in the sharing/promotion of cultural heritage information.

Indicator 5.1.3.2.1	Target	Variance
Establishment of website linkages to information (within the constraints of confidentiality) and	Provide information (publications, website linkages) as allowed by provincial guidelines/direction.	As budgeted

promotion of cultural heritage events		
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What is this indicator and why is it important?

Information that can be provided to the general public is distributed most widely via the internet, as noted in relation to indicator 5.1.2.1.2. Therefore, non-sensitive cultural information can be provided to the public via websites. Linkages to relevant available information will be established from the AFA website. Sharing this type of information will help ensure the appreciation of these values and that it is not lost to future generations.

Current Status

N/A – new indicator.

2007-2008 Status Update

Target met

AFA assisted in the construction of the Big Pines Trail and continued support for Loggers Day.

Forecast

No forecasting is necessary.

Management Strategies and Implementation

The availability of relevant cultural heritage information will be determined. Linkages to this information on the AFA website will be established where possible.

Research and Monitoring Plan

Document information provided and expenditures.

Comparative Assessment of Planned versus Actual Levels

N/A

CRITERION: 5. MULTIPLE BENEFITS TO SOCIETY

ELEMENT: 5.1 Timber and Non-Timber Benefits

Manage the forest sustainably to produce an acceptable and feasible mix of both timber and non-timber benefits.

VALUE: 5.1.4 Natural and Spiritual

OBJECTIVE: 5.1.4.1 To maintain a wilderness-like experience for users within the Defined Forest Area.

Indicator 5.1.4.1.1	Target	Variance
Compliance with Area of Concern prescriptions which schedule operations such that there is a separation in time and/or space between wilderness recreation and forestry operations	100% compliance with applicable AOCs in 2005 FMP Table 17.	0

What is this indicator and why is it important?

The sound of forestry operations can negatively impact the perceived wilderness experience of recreationalists within the Park. This indicator will assess whether or not the careful scheduling of operations, through the use of Area of Concern prescriptions, can successfully ensure that operations occur at times and places that are separate from wilderness recreation.

As part of a carefully planned forestry operation, AFA has developed site level prescriptions for forest management activities conducted near these values. The prescriptions are documented in the FMP and are categorized as follows:

- CR – MNR Designated Canoe Routes
- C – Campsites
- P – Portages
- H – MNR Designated Hiking/Backpack Trails
- ST – MNR Designated Cross Country Ski Trails

Current Status

2005-2006 = 99%
2006-2007 = 97%

2007-2008 Status Update

Target met.
2007-2008 = 100%
There were 0 reports of non-compliance from 64 reports where these values were found.

Forecast

No forecasting is necessary.

Management Strategies and Implementation

Based on the land use direction summarized in Table FMP-7 (2005), Area of Concern prescriptions will be developed that will place timing restrictions upon operations within wilderness zones during the tourist season.

Research and Monitoring Plan

The Algonquin Forestry Authority is responsible for monitoring the status of this indicator. This will be completed through the current Forest Operation Information Program which ensures that Area of Concern prescriptions are implemented as prescribed. Annual Reports document each year's success. Compliance percentages are calculated only on OPUs that contain these applicable AOC types and from both AFA and MNR compliance reports.

Comparative Assessment of Planned versus Actual Levels

Annual Reports document each year's success.

CRITERION: 5. MULTIPLE BENEFITS TO SOCIETY

ELEMENT: 5.2 Communities and Sustainability

Contribute to the sustainability of communities by providing diverse opportunities to derive benefits from forests and to participate in their use and management.

VALUE: 5.2.1 Economic Value Added

OBJECTIVE: 5.2.1.1. To maintain or enhance the economic value added that harvesting in the Defined Forest Area contributes to the provincial and local economies.

Indicator 5.2.1.1.1	Target	Variance
Managed Crown Forest area available for timber production	Maintain the area available for forestry management within the DFA.	+/- 10%

What is this indicator and why is it important?

The managed Crown forest area available for timber production is the area used to calculate the available harvest area. Any reduction in this area will result in reduced area available for forest management operations, and a reduction in economic value added.

Current Status

There are 481,214 ha of managed Crown forest available for timber production (FMP 2005).

2007-2008 Status Update

No update. Next assessment scheduled for 2010.

Forecast

No forecasting is necessary.

Management Strategies and Implementation

The Algonquin Park Management Plan defines the area that is available for timber production in Algonquin Park.

Research and Monitoring Plan

The assessment is scheduled for 2010 and seven and ten years thereafter.

Comparative Assessment of Planned versus Actual Levels

N/A

CRITERION: 5. MULTIPLE BENEFITS TO SOCIETY

ELEMENT: 5.2 Communities and Sustainability

Contribute to the sustainability of communities by providing diverse opportunities to derive benefits from forests and to participate in their use and management.

VALUE: 5.2.1 Economic Value Added

OBJECTIVE: 5.2.1.1. To maintain or enhance the economic value added that harvesting in the Defined Forest Area contributes to the provincial and local economies.

Indicator 5.2.1.1.2	Target	Variance
Amount of available harvest volume utilized (short term)	Full utilization of the planned 2005-2010 available harvest volume of 3,386,492 m ³ .	+/- 20%

What is this indicator and why is it important?

This indicator is identical to that used for value 5.1.1 (indicator 5.1.1.1). For this value the objective is similar; to maintain the economic and employment contribution from the Forest.

Current Status

Prior to the current Forest Management Plan period, the 2004-2005 Annual Report shows that the level achieved for this indicator was 2,707,148 m³. Note that the target was less during that time (2000-2005 FMP). The target has therefore been revised.

2007-2008 Status Update

No update for 2007-2008. The report date for this information is 2010.

Forecast

The available harvest area is determined by the Strategic Forest Management Model. From this area, volumes are calculated based on species and forest unit yield curves and reported in the FMP Table FMP-15. Forecast and utilized volumes are generally considered to match when the utilized volume is within 20% of the forecast volume.

Management Strategies and Implementation

The wood supply will be allocated to individual companies based on the range of species and qualities available from particular cutting areas. Surplus species and quantities will be identified and made known to the forest industry, so that it may assess the feasibility of altering its operations to utilize this material. Alternative opportunities will be provided, where possible, to industries which face shortages of traditional raw materials and provide for the use of wood fibre as a source of energy. New markets for pulp quality material will be actively sought.

Research and Monitoring Plan

Algonquin Forestry Authority is responsible for monitoring the volume of timber harvested from the Algonquin Park Forest. This information is summarized annually in Annual Report Table AR-4. The indicator will be evaluated at the end of the current five year term (2010) and at seven and ten year intervals thereafter (2017 and 2020) using Annual Report Table AR-4.

Comparative Assessment of Planned versus Actual Levels

The assessment is scheduled for 2010 and seven and ten years thereafter.

CRITERION: 5. MULTIPLE BENEFITS TO SOCIETY

ELEMENT: 5.2 Communities and Sustainability

Contribute to the sustainability of communities by providing diverse opportunities to derive benefits from forests and to participate in their use and management.

VALUE: 5.2.1 Economic Value Added

OBJECTIVE: 5.2.1.1. To maintain or enhance the economic value added that harvesting in the Defined Forest Area contributes to the provincial and local economies.

Indicator 5.2.1.1.3	Target	Variance
Value added per cubic metre	Maintain the value of the previous five year harvest volume times the value added per cubic metre (Living Legacy Trust 2001 report).	+/- 20%

What is this indicator and why is it important?

Value added is a measure of enhanced economic benefit to a community. By further processing timber resources, an increased level of employment and manufacturing is supported. In addition, value added increases the diversification of an area's economy.

Current Status

\$288 per cubic metre or \$779,658,624 for the 2000-2005 period.

2007-2008 Status Update

No update for 2007-2008. The report date for this information is 2010.

Forecast

No forecasting is necessary.

Management Strategies and Implementation

The strategies referenced by indicator 5.1.1.1 will continue to be pursued with an emphasis on value added production.

Research and Monitoring Plan

The harvest level will be monitored annually using Annual Report Table AR-4. In addition, updates to the base factor will be monitored. The current value is \$288 per cubic metre⁶. The indicator will be evaluated at the end of the current five year term (2010) and at seven and ten year intervals thereafter (2017 and 2020) using Annual Report Table AR-4.

Comparative Assessment of Planned versus Actual Levels

N/A

CRITERION: 5. MULTIPLE BENEFITS TO SOCIETY

ELEMENT: 5.2 Communities and Sustainability

Contribute to the sustainability of communities by providing diverse opportunities to derive benefits from forests and to participate in their use and management.

VALUE: 5.2.1 Economic Value Added

OBJECTIVE: 5.2.1.2. To support local production facilities by providing affordable wood fibre from the Defined Forest Area.

Indicator 5.2.1.2.1	Target	Variance
Number of local production facilities (wood supply commitment holders) that utilize wood fibre from the DFA	Establish a benchmark from 2006-07, monitor trends and maintain production facilities over time.	N/A

What is this indicator and why is it important?

The number of local production facilities using wood from the forest is an indicator of the local economic benefits derived from the forest. If more of the wood remains in the local area, the economic benefit to local communities and businesses is greater.

Current Status

There are currently 13 local production facilities that utilize wood fibre from the DFA. These are identified in Table FMP-24 of the 2005-2025 Forest Management Plan.

2007-2008 Status Update

Target met.

⁶ Jaakko Poyry Consulting. 2001. Assessment of the Status and Future Opportunities of Ontario's Solid Wood Value-Added Sector, Final Summary Report. Prepared for the Living Legacy Trust, Government of Ontario.

A benchmark has been prepared from 2006-2007 - 12 wood supply commitment holders utilized wood fibre from the DFA.

In 2007-2008 there were also 12 commitment holders that utilized wood fibre from the DFA. The two facilities that did not receive wood were Grant Forest products in Englehart and Pre-cut Hardwood in North Bay.

Forecast

This is a monitoring indicator – no forecast required.

Management Strategies and Implementation

The wood supply will be allocated to individual companies based on the range of species and qualities available from particular cutting areas. Surplus species and quantities will be identified and made known to the forest industry, so that it may assess the feasibility of utilizing this material. New markets for pulp quality material will be actively sought.

Research and Monitoring Plan

Local production facilities that utilize wood from the DFA is currently defined as the 2005 FMP client mills (Table FMP-24).

Comparative Assessment of Planned versus Actual Levels

The assessment is scheduled for 2010 and seven and ten years thereafter.

CRITERION: 5. MULTIPLE BENEFITS TO SOCIETY

ELEMENT: 5.2 Communities and Sustainability

Contribute to the sustainability of communities by providing diverse opportunities to derive benefits from forests and to participate in their use and management.

VALUE: 5.2.1 Economic Value Added

OBJECTIVE: 5.2.1.3. To ensure that if wood volume becomes available, local production facilities will receive first opportunity to receive the wood volume.

Indicator 5.2.1.3.1	Target	Variance
Available wood volume offered to local production facilities	100% is offered.	0

What is this indicator and why is it important?

The wood volume available to local production facilities is an indicator of the local economic benefits derived from the forest. If more of the wood is made available to facilities in the local area, the economic benefit to local communities and businesses is greater.

Current Status

2000-2005 = 90% sold to commitment holders; 10% outside sales

2006-2007 = 93% sold to commitment holders; 7% outside sales

2007-2008 Status Update

Target met.

2007-2008 = 96% sold to commitment holders; 4% outside sales

Outside sales were: local fuelwood contractors: Domtar in Espanola, Freymond in Bancroft, Stein in Palmer Rapids, Norampac in Trenton, and St. Mary's in Sault Ste. Marie.

Forecast

N/A

Management Strategies and Implementation

The Algonquin Park Forestry Agreement provides AFA with the direction to meet wood supply commitments that are set by the Minister of Natural Resources. These commitments are spelled out in Table FMP-24 of the 2005-2025 Forest Management Plan. In the event that a commitment holder is unable to utilize its committed volume, AFA may offer the wood to other commitment holders and/or other existing markets. The volume of wood sold to these other existing markets will be summarized for reporting on this Value, Objective, Indicator and Target.

Research and Monitoring Plan

This will be accomplished by reviewing the annual report and reporting on the percent of volume sold to commitment holders and facilities other than commitment holders.

Comparative Assessment of Planned versus Actual Levels

The assessment is scheduled for 2010 and 2020. At these times, an assessment of any change will be conducted.

CRITERION: 5. MULTIPLE BENEFITS TO SOCIETY

ELEMENT: 5.2 Communities and Sustainability

Contribute to the sustainability of communities by providing diverse opportunities to derive benefits from forests and to participate in their use and management.

VALUE: 5.2.2 Cottage Experience

OBJECTIVE: 5.2.2.1. To maintain the quality of the cottage experience within the Recreation/Utilization (RU) zone of the Defined Forest Area.

Indicator 5.2.2.1.1	Target	Variance
Compliance with the cottage/lease AOCs	100% compliance with cottage lease AOCs.	0

What is this indicator and why is it important?

There are 305 cottage properties held under lease, license or land use permit in the Park as of January 1998 (Algonquin Park Management Plan). Only a small percentage of these are in the RU zone and are potentially impacted by forest management operations. An AOC has been developed to afford protection for these features within the RU zone.

Current Status

2005-2006 = no active operations adjacent to cottage leases

2006-2007 = 100%

2007-2008 Status Update

Target met.

2007-2008 = 100%

There were no active operations or FOIP reports where the operating units were adjacent to cottage leases.

Forecast

No forecast necessary.

Management Strategies and Implementation

Cottaging/lease values will be identified on values maps and Area of Concern guidelines will be implemented to ensure that operations do not negatively impact the cottaging experience. These strategies are reflected in the forest management plan currently being implemented.

Research and Monitoring Plan

This will be monitored annually. Compliance percentages are calculated only on OPUs that contain the cottage lease AOC. Both AFA and MNR compliance reports are summarized.

Comparative Assessment of Planned versus Actual Levels

N/A

CRITERION: 5. MULTIPLE BENEFITS TO SOCIETY

ELEMENT: 5.3 Fair Distribution of Benefits and Costs

Promote the fair distribution of timber and non-timber benefits and costs.

VALUE: 5.3.1 Revenues to the Crown

OBJECTIVE: 5.3.1.1. To provide Crown timber stumpage revenue from the Defined Forest Area.

Indicator 5.3.1.1.1	Target	Variance
Crown timber stumpage paid to government consolidated revenues	Maintain/increase a revenue stream of \$2.6 million per year of Crown stumpage payments from the DFA (2000-2005 annual average).	+/- 20%

What is this indicator and why is it important?

A fee, called stumpage, is paid to the province for the harvest of Crown timber from the Algonquin Park Forest. Stumpage fees are used for the benefit of the entire province; to pay for expenditures from such activities as highway maintenance, operation of schools and hospitals, and civil service payroll, making this a good indicator of how society benefits from forest management activities. Stumpage fees for this indicator do not include fees paid to the Forestry Futures Trust Fund or the Forest Renewal Fund.

Current Status

As stated by the target, past revenues averaged \$2.6 million per year for the 2000-2005 period.

2007-2008 Status Update

Target not met.

Annual Report Table AR-11 reports \$1.002 million paid in Crown stumpage. Due to deteriorating market conditions, the "residual rate" component of the Ontario Crown Timber Charges was reduced to zero for most sectors and species in 2007-08. As a result, the Crown stumpage per m3 collected by the Province was significantly less than in previous years. Harvest volumes have also dropped by 25% from 2006/07.

The Advisory Group advised during the review of this annual report that the target be reported on annually but that a 5 year rolling average would provide a better measure of the VOIT. The target should also be revised to maintain a revenue stream to the Crown as per the stumpage matrix.

Forecast

No forecasting required.

Management Strategies and Implementation

Strategies referenced by indicator 5.1.1.1, with an emphasis on value added production, will continue to be pursued.

Research and Monitoring Plan

The annual value of payments made to the Crown is monitored in Annual Report Table AR-11.

Comparative Assessment of Planned versus Actual Levels

N/A

CRITERION: 5. MULTIPLE BENEFITS TO SOCIETY**ELEMENT: 5.3 Fair Distribution of Benefits and Costs**

Promote the fair distribution of timber and non-timber benefits and costs.

VALUE: 5.3.2 Opportunities to Local Aboriginal Communities

OBJECTIVE: 5.3.2.1. Encourage participation of local Algonquin's and increase involvement of Algonquin Negotiation Representative (ANR) communities/people in the economic opportunities provided by forest management.

Indicator 5.3.2.1.1	Target	Variance
Percentage of total volume harvested by Algonquin Aboriginal organizations/people.	Maintain/increase the total volume harvested by ANR communities per year (from a benchmark set in 2006-2007).	As defined by target.

What is this indicator and why is it important?

This indicator is a measure of the distribution of economic opportunities to various demographic groups. In this particular case, Aboriginal people are identified in respect of the unique role they play in forest management.

Current Status

2006-2007 = 12.2%

2007-2008 Status Update

Target met.

2007-2008 = 16.7%

Forecast

No forecasting is required.

Management Strategies and Implementation

The 2005 Year Ten Annual Report explains the initiative to date. "Work opportunities were provided for the Algonquin First Nation communities in tree marking, road construction and maintenance, logging, releasing trees from competition, and growing nursery stock. Value of all work to Aboriginal contractors in

2003-2004 was \$4.2 million, in 2004-2005 was \$3.3 million, in 2005-2006 was \$3.5 million and in 2006-2007 was \$3.7 million.

Research and Monitoring Plan

As part of the Annual Report prepared by AFA, the Ministry of Natural Resources provides information on the progress toward implementing ways of achieving a more equal participation by Aboriginal communities in the benefits provided through forest management activities. This is referred to as the Environmental Assessment Condition 34 Report and will be coordinated between AFA and the Ministry of Natural Resources. This information will be used to assess progress towards meeting these targets. To be tracked from 2000 looking at volume and percent of total volume harvested, with 2007 as the benchmark year.

Comparative Assessment of Planned versus Actual Levels

N/A

CRITERION: 5. MULTIPLE BENEFITS TO SOCIETY

ELEMENT: 5.3 Fair Distribution of Benefits and Costs

Promote the fair distribution of timber and non-timber benefits and costs.

VALUE: 5.3.2 Opportunities to Local Aboriginal Communities

OBJECTIVE: 5.3.2.1. Encourage participation of local Algonquin’s and increase involvement of Algonquin Negotiation Representative (ANR) communities/people in the economic opportunities provided by forest management.

Indicator 5.3.2.1.2	Target	Variance
Percentage of tree marking by Algonquin Aboriginal organizations/people	Percent of total area tree marked by Algonquin organizations/people per year (from a benchmark set in 2006-2007).	As defined by target

What is this indicator and why is it important?

This indicator is a measure of the distribution of economic opportunities to various demographic groups. In this particular case, Aboriginal people are identified in respect of the unique role they play in forest management.

Current Status

2005 = 26.6%
2006 = 25.2% - benchmark

2007-2008 Status Update

Target not met.
2007-2008 = 13.9%
The reduced harvest due to the slowing economy also meant a reduction in the area required to be tree marked. Total area marked in 07/08 was down by 14% from 06/07.

The Advisory Group recognized that the percentage may fluctuate but recommended to continue tracking as per the target.

Forecast

No forecasting is required.

Management Strategies and Implementation

The 2005 Year Ten Annual Report explains the initiative to date. "Work opportunities were provided for the Algonquin First Nation communities in tree marking, road construction and maintenance, logging, releasing trees from competition and growing nursery stock.

Research and Monitoring Plan

As part of the Annual Report prepared by AFA, the Ministry of Natural Resources provides information on the progress toward implementing ways of achieving a more equal participation by Aboriginal communities in the benefits provided through forest management activities. This is referred to as the Environmental Assessment Condition 34 Report and will be coordinated between AFA and the Ministry of Natural Resources. This information will be used to assess progress towards meeting these targets.

Comparative Assessment of Planned versus Actual Levels

N/A

CRITERION: 5. MULTIPLE BENEFITS TO SOCIETY

ELEMENT: 5.3 Fair Distribution of Benefits and Costs

Promote the fair distribution of timber and non-timber benefits and costs.

VALUE: 5.3.2 Opportunities to Local Aboriginal Communities

OBJECTIVE: 5.3.2.1. Encourage participation of local Algonquin's and increase involvement of Algonquin Negotiation Representative (ANR) communities/people in the economic opportunities provided by forest management.

Indicator 5.3.2.1.3	Target	Variance
Provide Algonquin Aboriginal organizations/people fair sharing of economic opportunities/silvicultural activities when available	To be recorded as it happens (no target).	N/A

What is this indicator and why is it important?

This indicator is a measure of the distribution of economic opportunities to various demographic groups. In this particular case, Aboriginal people are identified in respect of the unique role they play in forest management.

Current Status

Value of all work to Aboriginal contractors in 2003-2004 was \$4.2 million, in 2004-2005 was \$3.3 million, in 2005-2006 was \$3.5 million and in 2006-2007 was \$3.7 million.

2007-2008 Status Update

Value of all work to Aboriginal contractors for 2007-2008 was \$3.8 million.

Forecast

No forecasting is required.

Management Strategies and Implementation

The 2005 Year Ten Annual Report explains the initiative to date. "Work opportunities were provided for the Algonquin First Nation communities in tree marking, road construction and maintenance, logging, releasing trees from competition and growing nursery stock. Contracts for this work in 2000-2001 totaled \$1.2 million and were \$1.4 million as of January 31, 2002 for the 2001-2002 fiscal year. Value of all work to contractors in 2003-2004 was \$4.2 million and in 2004-2005 was \$3.3 million (the difference was reduced harvest activity by the Algonquin First Nation communities)."

Research and Monitoring Plan

As part of the Annual Report prepared by AFA, the Ministry of Natural Resources provides information on the progress toward implementing ways of achieving a more equal participation by Aboriginal communities in the benefits provided through forest management activities. This is referred to as the Environmental Assessment Condition 34 Report and will be coordinated between AFA and the Ministry of Natural Resources.

Comparative Assessment of Planned versus Actual Levels

N/A

CRITERION: 5. MULTIPLE BENEFITS TO SOCIETY

ELEMENT: 5.3 Fair Distribution of Benefits and Costs

Promote the fair distribution of timber and non-timber benefits and costs.

VALUE: 5.3.2 Opportunities to Local Aboriginal Communities

OBJECTIVE: 5.3.2.2. Shared stewardship, co-management for Aboriginal people.

Indicator 5.3.2.2.1	Target	Variance
Increased participation	As determined by the Treaty under negotiation.	N/A

What is this indicator and why is it important?

This indicator is a measure of the distribution of economic opportunities to various demographic groups. In this particular case, Aboriginal people are identified in respect of the unique role they play in forest management.

Current Status

No shared stewardship or co-management agreements have been made at this time.

2007-2008 Status Update

No update.

Forecast

No forecasting is required.

Management Strategies and Implementation

The Algonquin's of Ontario are currently engaged in negotiations with Ontario and Canada working towards an Agreement in Principle and eventually a Treaty. These discussions involve the future of Algonquin Park and the Algonquin's participation in the future management of the Park.

Research and Monitoring Plan

As part of the Annual Report prepared by AFA, the Ministry of Natural Resources provides information on the progress toward implementing ways of achieving a more equal participation by Aboriginal

communities in the benefits provided through forest management activities. This is referred to as the Environmental Assessment Condition 34 Report and will be coordinated between AFA and the Ministry of Natural Resources.

Comparative Assessment of Planned versus Actual Levels

N/A

CRITERION: 5. MULTIPLE BENEFITS TO SOCIETY

ELEMENT: 5.3 Fair Distribution of Benefits and Costs

Promote the fair distribution of timber and non-timber benefits and costs.

VALUE: 5.3.3 Direct and Indirect Employment

OBJECTIVE: 5.3.3.1. Maintain non-forestry benefits.

Indicator 5.3.3.1.1	Target	Variance
Interior visitor days per year	Maintain the current level of interior visitor days at 300,000/year.	+/- 10%

What is this indicator and why is it important?

Algonquin has experienced steady visitation growth in the past thirty years. Since 1985, total Park visitation has nearly doubled from 500,000 to 1,000,000 visits annually. While Algonquin Park continues to be an important destination for domestic users, the Park has witnessed an increase in the number of international visitors. International visitation to the Park has doubled since 1995, and Algonquin has become a cornerstone Ontario Tourism’s outdoor product. For the past fifteen years interior camping use has grown on average from 175,000 to 300,000 camper nights.

Current Status

300,000 /year

2007-2008 Status Update

Target met.
2007-2008 = 272,000

Forecast

No forecasting is required.

Management Strategies and Implementation

The management of non-timber values information is the responsibility of the Ministry of Natural Resources (*Forest Information Manual, 2007*). Non-timber values discovered as new, or in a different location, are identified by AFA during tree marking/operations and verified by MNR. All values are protected according to Area of Concern prescriptions – as identified in table FMP-17. These AOC prescriptions include buffers and timing restrictions designed to maintain recreational values throughout the forest. In addition, AFA posts a Schedule of Operations map on its internet site to provide information to the public on the location of planned forest management operations (VOIT 5.1.2.1).

Research and Monitoring Plan

Numbers are to be provided by Ontario Parks on an annual basis.

Comparative Assessment of Planned versus Actual Levels

N/A

CRITERION: 5. MULTIPLE BENEFITS TO SOCIETY

ELEMENT: 5.3 Fair Distribution of Benefits and Costs

Promote the fair distribution of timber and non-timber benefits and costs.

VALUE: 5.3.3 Direct and Indirect Employment

OBJECTIVE: 5.3.3.1. Maintain non-forestry benefits.

Indicator 5.3.3.1.2	Target	Variance
The amount of revenue generated by the visitor days	Sustain the revenue generated by interior visitor days/year.	+/- 10%

What is this indicator and why is it important?

Algonquin has experienced steady visitation growth in the past thirty years. Since 1985, total Park visitation has nearly doubled from 500,000 to 1,000,000 visits annually. While Algonquin continues to be an important destination for domestic users, the Park has witnessed an increase in the number of international visitors. International visitation to the Park has doubled since 1995, and Algonquin has become a cornerstone Ontario Tourism's outdoor product. For the past fifteen years, interior camping use has grown on average from 175,000 to 300,000 camper nights.

Current Status

Impact	Park Management	Park Visitors	Total
Initial Expenditure	\$2.48 million	\$3.30 million	\$5.78 million
Value Added	\$3.95 million	\$3.59 million	\$7.54 million
Wages & Salaries	\$3.04 million	\$2.12 million	\$5.16 million
Employment (py's)	105 person years	53 person years	158 person years

Note: Figures do not include revenue from the purchase of park permits.

Source: SEIM 2000 Version 7.1 April 2004 and Algonquin Park Economic Impact Fact Sheet

2007-2008 Status

No update. Will be assessed every 5 years – next update 2012.

Forecast

No forecasting is required.

Management Strategies and Implementation

The management of non-timber values information is the responsibility of the Ministry of Natural Resources (*Forest Information Manual, 2007*). Non-timber values discovered as new, or in a different location, are identified by AFA during tree marking/operations and verified by MNR. All values are protected according to Area of Concern prescriptions – as identified in Table FMP-17. These AOC prescriptions include buffers and timing restrictions designed to maintain recreational values throughout the forest. In addition, AFA posts a Schedule of Operations map on its internet site to provide information to the public on the location of planned forest management operations (VOIT 5.1.2.1).

Research and Monitoring Plan

Numbers are provided by Ontario Parks every five years.

Comparative Assessment of Planned versus Actual Levels

N/A

CRITERION: 6. ACCEPTING SOCIETY'S RESPONSIBILITY FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

ELEMENT: 6.1 Aboriginal and Treaty Rights
Recognize and respect Aboriginal and Treaty rights.

VALUE: 6.1.1 Aboriginal and Treaty Rights

OBJECTIVE: 6.1.1.1 To recognize the Aboriginal and Treaty rights applicable to the Defined Forest Area.

Indicator 6.1.1.1	Target	Variance
Respect and allow for Aboriginal treaty rights during management of forest resources/harvesting within the DFA	Identification of Aboriginal values in the DFA and 100% compliance with Aboriginal-value Area of Concern prescriptions.	0

What is this indicator and why is it important?

During preparation of Forest Management Plans, consultation is conducted with Aboriginal communities and prescriptions are developed and implemented for the protection of Aboriginal values. The goal of this indicator is to ensure that these values receive the protection that they require. Aboriginal values are protected in the current FMP under the following categories:

- CHS – cultural heritage site
- HPA – high potential cultural heritage areas

The CHS AOC type includes more than just aboriginal values. Instances of non-compliance will be verified on a case-by-case basis.

Current Status

Section E of the 2005 Forest Management Plan Supplementary Documentation contains the current Native Background Information Report and Section M contains the Native Consultation Summary. A summary of the Forest Operations Information Program reveals the following:

2005-2006 = 99.5%

2006-2007 = 99%

2007-2008 Status Update

Target met.

2007-2008 = 100%

There were 0 non-compliance issues from the 108 FOIP reports where cultural heritage sites or high potential heritage values were identified within operationally active operating units.

Forecast

No forecasting is required.

Management Strategies and Implementation

Tree marking and harvest layout crews will be kept informed of Aboriginal value locations and prescriptions in order that they may receive adequate protection. Ensure that operational crews follow stop work procedures when unidentified values are discovered, and that they report such values to their supervisors and to the Ministry of Natural Resources for verification. Roads, harvesting and other disturbances may be restricted within these areas. Where operations are allowed, they will be in a modified manner in order to minimize the disturbance of soil and physical values (modified conditions identified in Table FMP-17, 2005).

Reporting will be tailored from within the existing Forest Operations Information Program.

Research and Monitoring Plan

Algonquin Forestry Authority is responsible for monitoring compliance with Aboriginal Area of Concern prescriptions. The Area of Concern categories are CHS - Cultural Heritage Site (known) and HPA - High Potential Cultural Heritage Areas. The values represented by these categories may be confidential and thereby require that their location remain undisclosed on maps presented to the public. Compliance is reported on an annual basis in the Annual Report Tables AR-12 and AR-13.

Compliance percentages are calculated only on OPU's that contain the applicable AOC types. Both AFA and MNR compliance reports are summarized.

Comparative Assessment of Planned versus Actual Levels

N/A

CRITERION: 6. ACCEPTING SOCIETY'S RESPONSIBILITY FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

ELEMENT: 6.2 Respect for Aboriginal Forest Values, Knowledge, and Uses

Respect traditional Aboriginal forest values and uses identified through the Aboriginal input process.

VALUE: 6.2.1 Aboriginal Consultation in the Forest Management Planning Process

OBJECTIVE: 6.2.1.1. Involve Algonquin Communities (Algonquin Negotiation Representatives) and other Aboriginal Groups on the identification and protection of Aboriginal values and uses in the Defined Forest Area.

Indicator 6.2.1.1.1	Target	Variance
Opportunities for involvement provided to, and involvement of, Aboriginal communities in forest management planning activities	1. Meet as required with those Aboriginal communities expressing interest to participate in forest management planning. 2. Notifying the Algonquin Negotiation table of the certification process and its outcomes.	0

What is this indicator and why is it important?

One of the first steps in achieving meaningful respect for Aboriginal values is communication and consultation. This indicator ensures that AFA, with the assistance of the Ministry of Natural Resources, if necessary, remains available to consult with Aboriginal communities as required.

Current Status

New reporting program - no previous data available.

2007-2008 Status Update

Target met.

- (1) The 2010 FMP Planning Team includes 9 members from Aboriginal communities. The attendance level for meetings held in 2007-2008 is 91%. In addition, individual communities have been consulted and are actively involved with the preparation of Native Background Information Reports for the 2010 FMP.
- (2) A letter was sent to all Algonquin communities to invite participants to be a member in the advisory committee (Aug. 25, 2006). The Principal Negotiator (B. Potts) was sent a letter on June 18, 2007 to advise of developments and encourage ongoing participation.

Forecast

No forecasting is required.

Management Strategies and Implementation

An enhanced effort is made through the forest management planning process and the *Crown Forest Sustainability Act* to involve Aboriginal communities. Updated contact information for all interested Aboriginal communities is maintained. Requests will be responded to in a timely manner.

Research and Monitoring Plan

The number of meetings will be monitored against the requests of Aboriginal communities. Currently, the Ministry of Natural Resources provides information on the progress toward this target as an addition to the Annual Report prepared by the AFA.

Comparative Assessment of Planned versus Actual Levels

N/A

CRITERION: 6. ACCEPTING SOCIETY'S RESPONSIBILITY FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

ELEMENT: 6.3 Public Participation

Demonstrate that the Sustainable Forest Management public participation process is designed and functioning to the satisfaction of the participants.

VALUE: 6.3.1 SFM Public Participation Performance

OBJECTIVE: 6.3.1.1. To implement a public participation process that is supported by the participants.

Indicator 6.3.1.1.1	Target	Variance
SFM public participation evaluation by the Advisory Group	Achieve a satisfactory evaluation from a minimum of two-thirds of the Advisory Group members.	0

What is this indicator and why is it important?

Public participation is a major requirement of the forest management system in Ontario. Since forest management is conducted on Crown land, the public has the right to influence it. Algonquin Forestry Authority's mandate for Sustainable Forest Management arises from public influence as well as formal legislative and contractual arrangements with the government. These mechanisms ensure that the social and environmental values that benefit the province are respected⁷. The Advisory Group is the mechanism that AFA is using to maintain communication with the public and stakeholder groups. Public consultation is also undertaken during the development of Forest Management Plans and through ongoing consultation with a Local Citizens Committee.

Current Status

New reporting program - no previous data available.

2007-2008 Status Update

Target met.

An evaluation from the Advisory Group showed the overall satisfaction rating of 85%.

The Advisory Group expressed their desire to receive a copy of the evaluation. This was sent to the Advisory Group in April, 2009.

Forecast

No forecasting is required.

Management Strategies and Implementation

⁷ Wang, Sen. 2005. Managing Canada's forests under a new social contract. The Forestry Chronicle. Volume 81 Number 4. pp.486-490.

Ensure that members of the Advisory Group are included in all aspects of the forest management planning process. This can be done by confirming that required information is sent to them before each meeting so that they can be prepared to take part. The assessment will be conducted every three years using a standardized survey.

Research and Monitoring Plan

Every three years, an assessment will be conducted in order to determine the satisfaction of the Advisory Group with the public participation process. The target is to achieve a passing grade on this evaluation.

Comparative Assessment of Planned versus Actual Levels

N/A

CRITERION: 6. ACCEPTING SOCIETY'S RESPONSIBILITY FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

ELEMENT: 6.3 Public Participation

Demonstrate that the sustainable forest management (SFM) public participation process is designed and functioning to the satisfaction of the participants.

VALUE: 6.3.1 SFM Public Participation Performance

OBJECTIVE: 6.3.1.1. To implement a public participation process that is supported by the participants.

Indicator 6.3.1.1.2	Target	Variance
SFM public participation evaluation by the broader public	Annually review with the Advisory Group all public comments with respect to forestry activities and how they were responded to.	N/A

What is this indicator and why is it important?

Similar to the preceding indicator, this one focuses on the broader public not directly engaged in the Advisory Group. Combined with the Advisory Group evaluation, this will ensure a thorough assessment of public satisfaction.

Current Status

New reporting program - no previous data available.

2007-2008 Status Update

Target met.

A review of public comments occurred during review of the 2007-2008 Annual Report with the Public Advisory Group (March 2009).

Forecast

No forecast required.

Management Strategies and Implementation

Information regarding the Sustainable Forest Management process will be distributed to the public. Members of the public will be encouraged to comment and take part in the process and each suggestion will be considered. The assessment will be conducted every five years using a standardized survey, similar to the survey distributed to the Advisory Group.

Research and Monitoring Plan

Every five years, an assessment will be conducted in order to determine the satisfaction of the broader public with the public participation process. Individuals will be selected at random from a list of individuals expressing interest in the FMP or general interest in management of the Algonquin Park Forest.

Comparative Assessment of Planned versus Actual Levels
N/A

CRITERION: 6. ACCEPTING SOCIETY'S RESPONSIBILITY FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

ELEMENT: 6.4 Information for Decision Making
Provide relevant information to interested parties to support their involvement in the public participation process, and increase knowledge of ecosystem processes and human interactions with forest ecosystems.

VALUE: 6.4.1 SFM Education

OBJECTIVE: 6.4.1.1. To maintain/increase the knowledge and awareness of SFM to the general public.

Indicator 6.4.1.1.1	Target	Variance
SFM education evaluation	Identify new and ongoing opportunities for public awareness, including, but not limited to the list below: a) Update and monitor the AFA website b) Provide educational tours/seminars on SFM c) Loggers Day d) Support of high school forestry initiative e) Brochure f) Track enquiries from interested parties g) FMP open houses h) Friends of Algonquin Park publications i) Explore partnerships	N/A

What is this indicator and why is it important?

This indicator provides the most direct measure of the element. An increase in Sustainable Forest Management knowledge by the public will result in more meaningful consultation and a greater awareness of the issues involved in the management of the Algonquin Park Forest.

Current Status

New reporting program - no previous data available.

2007-2008 Status Update

Target met.

In 2007-2008 the following groups were provided a field tour of forest management activities in the DFA: committee members from Nature Quebec, Laval University, students from Algonquin College, 2 representatives from the Wildlands League, the Niagara Horticultural School Group, 4th year students from Lakehead University and visitors from Belgium.

A presentation regarding CSA/ISO certification was heard by the Ottawa Valley Sustainable Forest License (SFL), Lanark Mazinaw SFL, the Bancroft Minden SFL, and by the Algonquin Nation Kijicho Manito of Bancroft.

Algonquin Forestry Authority participated in the annual Loggers Day at the Algonquin Park Logging Museum. AFA also participated in the Killaloe Centennial Loggers Event.

There were 10 recipients of the AFA funded Forest Industry Scholarships in 2007 to students attending Secondary Schools in communities around Algonquin Park.

Forecast

No forecasting is required.

Management Strategies and Implementation

Displays and information booths will be set up during the Loggers Day events, which demonstrate and explain the forest management process in Ontario. Brochures or other printed information will also be available at the Algonquin Park Information Centre throughout the year. The public will be encouraged to view the website for more information. Algonquin Forestry Authority's participation in the Canadian Ecology Centre Annual Teacher's Tour program also contributes to this target.

Research and Monitoring Plan

Every year at the Loggers Day events held in the Algonquin Park Forest, a survey will be conducted to determine whether knowledge and awareness of the forest management process has increased. The target is to increase the number of parties who respond positively every year.

Comparative Assessment of Planned versus Actual Levels

N/A

Forecast Assumptions and Analytical Methods

N/A

CRITERION: 6. ACCEPTING SOCIETY'S RESPONSIBILITY FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

ELEMENT: 6.4 Information for Decision Making

Provide relevant information to interested parties to support their involvement in the public participation process, and increase knowledge of ecosystem processes and human interactions with forest ecosystems.

VALUE: 6.4.1 SFM Education

OBJECTIVE: 6.4.1.1. To maintain/increase the knowledge and awareness of SFM to the general public.

Indicator 6.4.1.1.2	Target	Variance
Forestry research funding and/or in-kind assistance	1. Expenditure of \$20,000 per year (3 year rolling average). 2. The AFA reports annually to the Advisory Group on funding expended and projects undertaken.	+/- \$5,000 per year

What is this indicator and why is it important?

Research and development are necessary to support improvements and adaptive management. The trend in natural resource management has been toward an ever increasing awareness of issues and values that require addressing. This can only be successful with the type of research that this funding will support. Algonquin Forestry Authority already participates on directed and integrated studies within the Algonquin Park Forest.

Current Status

2004-2005 = \$22,000

2005-2006 = \$15,750

2006-2007 = \$26,200

2007-2008 Status Update

Target met (3 year rolling average target was accepted by the Advisory Group during the Annual Report review.)

(1) 2007-2008 = \$8,660; the 3 year rolling average is \$16,870

(2) Projects undertaken were Wood Turtle Research and Hardwood Selection Research.

Forecast

N/A

Management Strategies and Implementation

Resources will be provided to research projects of a high priority.

Research and Monitoring Plan

With the assistance of AFA, financial information will be summarized regarding research efforts.

Comparative Assessment of Planned versus Actual Levels

N/A

CRITERION: 6. ACCEPTING SOCIETY'S RESPONSIBILITY FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

ELEMENT: 6.4 Information for Decision Making

Provide relevant information to interested parties to support their involvement in the public participation process, and increase knowledge of ecosystem processes and human interactions with forest ecosystems.

VALUE: 6.4.1 SFM Education

OBJECTIVE: 6.4.1.1. To maintain/increase the knowledge and awareness of SFM to the general public.

Indicator 6.4.1.1.3	Target	Variance
Local Citizens Committee self-evaluation of its effectiveness in forest management plan development	Achieve a satisfactory evaluation from a minimum of two thirds of the Local Citizens Committee on the effectiveness of the LCC.	0

What is this indicator and why is it important?

The Local Citizens Committee is hosted by the District Manager of the Ministry of Natural Resources. This committee participates in forest management planning activities, similar to the Algonquin Park Forest Advisory Group. They will have some knowledge of forest management activities. Monitoring their effectiveness in forest management plan development will provide an indirect indicator towards an informed public.

Current Status

Prior to the implementation of the FMP, the Year Ten Annual Report prepared in 2005 for the 2000-2005 period indicated that the Local Citizens Committee rated their performance at 81%.

2007-2008 Status

No update. Next LCC survey to be completed in 2010.

Forecast

Forecasting is not required.

Management Strategies and Implementation

Participation of the Local Citizens Committee in the planning process will be encouraged.

Research and Monitoring Plan

Every five years, as part of Algonquin Forestry Authority's annual reporting requirements, this evaluation is required. It will be provided in the Annual Report Table RPFO-18.

Comparative Assessment of Planned versus Actual Levels

N/A

CRITERION: 6. ACCEPTING SOCIETY'S RESPONSIBILITY FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

ELEMENT: 6.4 Information for Decision Making

Provide relevant information to interested parties to support their involvement in the public participation process, and increase knowledge of ecosystem processes and human interactions with forest ecosystems.

VALUE: 6.4.1 SFM Education

OBJECTIVE: 6.4.1.2. Promote and market achievement of certification.

Indicator 6.4.1.2.1	Target	Variance
Efforts made to create awareness of certification designation on the DFA	1. Make information available to the public and document. 2. Advertise.	N/A

What is this indicator and why is it important?

The general public is often unaware of efforts made by the forest industry to contribute to Sustainable Forest Management. Making the public aware of SFM certification will assist in broadening public understanding of Sustainable Forest Management in the DFA. It is important in order to increase the knowledge of the general public with respect to SFM practices in the DFA to enable them to develop informed opinions.

Current Status

AFA currently provides information regarding Sustainable Forest Management on its website at <http://www.algonquinforestry.on.ca/>. Information is also presented to the public during FMP open houses and annually at Loggers Day in Algonquin Park.

2007-2008 Status Update

Target met.

(1) Printed copies of SFM Policy (February 2007) arrived in July 2007 and were distributed to AFA Staff and Directors, Ontario Parks, clients and contractors, LCC and to the public at Loggers Day.

(2) Advertising announcing the Algonquin Park's Forest to CSA/Z809 certification was sent out March 4, 2008 by the AFA Chair. In February and March, newspapers from communities surrounding the park printed a similar message.

Forecast

Forecasting is not required.

Management Strategies and Implementation

Build on existing mechanisms to provide information on SFM certification to the public.

Research and Monitoring Plan

Document advertising efforts and information made available to the public.

Comparative Assessment of Planned versus Actual Levels
N/A

6.0 SUMMARY

6.1 2007 Audit Summary

The December 2007 Registration Audit findings were: 0 non-conformances, 6 system weaknesses and 3 opportunities for improvement recommendations. An action plan was prepared and all of the findings were addressed. The detailed audit report can be found on the AFA website under Forest Certification/Audit Reports.

6.2 Future Plans

Future plans are derived from responses to audits performed by the registrar and internal audits, and from the review that AFA conducts at the annual Management Review of the ISO 14000 and CSA Z809 systems. Reports of non-compliance or concerns received from the public, or during joint workshops conducted with Ontario Parks, are also considered in future planning.

Management Review is conducted annually. It is at this time that audits, compliance to legal requirements, compliance trends, communication's with external parties, environmental programs, suitability, adequacy and effectiveness of the Environmental Management System from the past season are reviewed. It is from this comprehensive review that many future plans and up-coming training plans are developed.

The Management Review conducted in November 2007 resulted in three system revisions for clarification purposes, a training topic for the annual contractors meeting, training of AFA Operations Supervisors in the new compliance philosophy, the formation of an internal committee to address Area of Concern incursions, the decision to advertise the SFM plan and confirmation of computer systems back-up procedures.

At the time of production of this annual report, preparation is underway for the 2010-2020 FMP as required under the CFSA. Upon approval of this FMP (expected April 1, 2010) VOITs will be reviewed with the advisory group and the changes to some of the FMP-related VOITs is anticipated.

6.3 Conclusion

There are 51 indicators within the SFM plan that have associated targets, not all of which will be reported on an annual basis. There are 15 indicators to be reported on in 2010, as they pertain to the development of the 2010 Forest Management Plan (FMP) and the 10-Year Annual Report, as required under the Crown Forest Sustainability Act (CFSA). There is one indicator to be assessed in 2009, one indicator to be assessed in 2012 and one indicator to be determined by the Algonquin Treaty Chief negotiator. The remaining 33 indicators have an annual target.

Of these 33 annual indicators, 30 have had their targets achieved (91%). There are 3 indicators of the 33 annual indicators reported where the target has not been achieved. Two of these shortfalls are directly related to depressed market conditions and reduced harvest levels.

For those indicators that are assessed on an annual basis it is concluded that, on balance, the majority of targets are being met and progress has been made to fulfill the commitments identified in the CSA SFM Plan. AFA and their partners are living up to the SFM requirements and commitments outlined in the SFM Plan and a commitment to continual improvement is being demonstrated.