



FORESTRY FUTURES TRUST ONTARIO

Forestry Futures Trust Committee

2019/20 Annual Report

Forestry Futures Trust Committee

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FFTC FOREST OBSERVATIONS - 2019

On Continuing to Refine the Role of FFTC:

In setting out FFTC's annual operating plan for 2020-2021, guided by our Strategic Plan for 2016-2021, the Committee again reflected on its role on behalf of the Minister.

The CFSA in Sec 51 (7) provides the following direction on (and to) the Forest Futures Trust Committee:

“(7) The Minister may establish a committee to,

Advise the Minister on the criteria referred in subsection (6) [i.e., the Minister shall establish criteria (emphasis added) to be used in making payment], and

Issue directions to the trustee on how much of the funds of the Trust shall be paid out in any year and on what payments to make from those funds to best carry out the criteria established under subsection (6)”.

To summarize, the CFSA clearly sets out two parallel yet interrelated roles for FFTC, i) advise the Minister on “criteria”, and ii) issue instructions on payments to the Trustee.

In the matter of the first role, FFTC interprets this as an oversight role on behalf of the Minister in respect of both program “criteria” and associated funding authorization. It follows that for the most part FFTC advice should be focused on the criteria emanating from, or assigned to, those purposes specified by the Minister to be the purview of the Committee. Such a focus should not, however, prevent the Committee from advising the Minister on a matter for future forestry consideration which has not yet been assigned to the Committee, but such circumstances should be the exception.

On the matter of the second role, issuing instructions to the Trustee, practice to date has seen FFTC instructions issued indirectly via the MNRF Trust secretariat. This process appears to work well, guarantees strong information flow between FFTC and MNRF, and as a result, should continue. To further strengthen communication and perhaps find efficiencies of administration, FFTC will be seeking an ‘information seat’ at the Forest Renewal Trust Committee table over the next year.

On the Matter of Covid-19 and Forest Management in Ontario:

Covid-19 became recognized as a significant threat for Ontario in mid-March of 2020, the final month of the 2019-2020 fiscal year. Since that time the Government of Ontario has been focused on providing strong leadership in the attempt to manage the pandemic which has affected all walks of Provincial life, including forestry. While most of the effect on the forest industry will be realized later in 2020-2021, a brief perspective here of the initial reaction to the Covid-19 situation in a forestry context would appear to be in order.

On May 7, 2020, Minister Yakabuski, using the authority of Section 51(3)4 of the *Crown Forest Sustainability Act* (CFSA), declared a new purpose for the Forestry Futures Trust designed to support COVID-19 related incremental silviculture costs. In that declaration, he noted that the Covid-19 program would be active as long as silvicultural activities incurred additional costs attributed to Covid-19 and that the Covid-19 support funding would take priority over new funding for other projects or programs typically funded via the FFT base charge. The mission of the new program was stated to be the “health of silvicultural workers conducting essential activities for the sustainability of Crown forests”. On the same day, Minister Yakabuski announced that the Government was making \$3.5 million available specifically to cover the incremental costs of Covid-19 on the 2020 Ontario tree plant, an undertaking estimated at 70 million trees. Responsibility for program implementation was assigned to FFTC.

The May announcement brought worried forest industry partners, both SFL holders and planting contractors, onboard and planning for the spring plant intensified. Since that time several silvicultural undertakings beyond the

tree plant needing assistance have been identified, and Canada has expressed an interest in possibly financially assisting the forestry vs Covid-19 battle in Ontario. Watch this space for a summary of program details in the 2020-2021 Annual Report.

On the Matter of FFTC Involvement in Ontario's Forest Resources Inventory Initiative:

FFTC carries an oversight role for the monies directed by forest consumers into Ontario's Forest Resources Inventory (FRI) program. To this end, FFTC has worked with MNRF's FRI staff and Industry in the development of a renewed 10-year strategy. Much of the focus of this strategy has been on LiDAR acquisition, defining an IM/IT server solution, field sampling, and costs associated with maintaining a continuous forest inventory. An annual FRI work plan was developed to nest within this 10-year strategy.

In concert with this, MNRF has focused on the delivery of these programs with the use of single-photon LiDAR and less reliance on optical imagery acquisition.

Planning for the procurement of 2020-21 FRI field sampling was well underway when the COVID-19 pandemic situation resulted in the deferral of most of this activity. Four priority units (Dog River, Kenogami, French Severn, and Algonquin) where LiDAR has already been procured needed the field sampling/verification data to allow projects, including forest management planning, to proceed. The necessary confirming field plot measurement processes by which the LiDAR results are confirmed have been assigned to the respective SFL holders by MNRF using a cooperatively developed refined set of data standards. FFTC will cover the data collection costs directly with the SFLs involved.

On the Matter of Ontario's Forest Sector Strategy:

Ontario's draft Forest Sector Strategy was posted on the Province's Environmental Registry (ERO) on Dec 4, 2019, for public review and comment, and the report was accepted by the Ontario government in mid-August. At the same time, MNRF had 4 related items on the ERO: (i) proposed changes to the Crown Forest Sustainability Act (CFSA), (ii) proposed changes to the Forest Management Planning Manual (FMPM) with a strong connection to the Independent Forest Audits (IFAs), (iii) proposed changes to the regulation governing Independent Forest Audits (IFA) (an FFTC program), and (iv) proposed changes to managing forest pests (another FFTC program). At the same time the Ministry of Environment, Conservation, and Parks (MECP) also had an item on the ERO proposing to exempt forest management from the Environmental Assessment Act (EAA). Public consultation closed on the proposed changes to the CFSA on Jan 20, and on the other three items on February 18. These items were all generated from input into the Government's draft Forest Sector Strategy and collectively form a package of changes to assist the Government in building the four pillars of the draft strategy of: 1) promoting forest stewardship and sustainability, 2) putting more Ontario wood to work, 3) improving Ontario's cost competitiveness, and 4) fostering forest innovation, forest markets, and forest talent.

The proposed legislative changes were all promulgated on July 1, 2020.

On the Matter of two Significant Events in Recent Forest Management History in Ontario:

1. In 1975 Ontario passed the Environmental Assessment Act, legislation which set the rules by which government projects would be environmentally assessed for eventual approval; public consultation figured significantly in that approval process. Government projects of a 'repetitive nature' would be subject to a class environmental assessment and as long as the rules for the class were followed, the EA would usually be approved for implementation by the Minister of Environment; however, the public did have the right under the legislation to request that the Minister of Environment "bump-up" any particular project and have it become subject to an Individual Environmental Assessment (EA). The government

deemed that the process of forest management planning was sufficiently repetitive that it would fit under the Class EA process and in the late-1970s MNR was obliged to begin the process of developing a Class EA for Timber Management, which by definition included forest access, harvesting, renewal, maintenance, and planning. In 1988 the draft EA went before a three-person Environmental Assessment Panel established by the Minister of Environment and was subject to much debate from both its supporters and detractors. The document was approved in 1994 with 115 terms and conditions. Three Declaration Orders, refining the original approval, were issued by MOE in 2003, 2007, and 2013; the 2003 Declaration Order changed the name of the EA from Timber Management to Forest Management.

The Timber EA development process was a significant challenge and a significant opportunity for MNR. The challenge was involved in organizing and communicating the processes used/to be used in timber management. The opportunity involved the updating and consolidation of forest management practices and processes; it became a major learning experience! By the early 1990s, it became apparent that the current legislation governing Ontario forestry (The Crown Timber Act of the 1930s) was simply out of date. In 1994 government approved new forest legislation, The Crown Forest Sustainability Act which was built upon much of the learning of the Class EA process. Changes to the Environmental Assessment Act on July 1, 2020, have effectively exempted appropriately planned forest management on Crown lands in Ontario from the EA Act. It took 45 years, a four-year public hearing process, the development of the CFSA, and some 25 years of successful independent forest audits but forest management in Ontario is once again solely within the purview of one Ministry, the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry.

2. It had become apparent by the mid-1970s that Ontario had to find a new way of operationally managing Ontario's forest estate – while continuing to do it with civil servants was demonstrably successful, it would not be financially sustainable into the future. There had to be a better way.

By the late 1970's the concept of shifting the responsibility for managing the forest to Industry had come of age and the Forest Management Agreement, essentially a formal contract between a license holder/group of holders and the Government was born; they were gradually negotiated across most of the forest estate during the 1980s. Refinement of forest policy in the late 1980s and early 1990s saw the formal adoption of the principle of sustainability into Ontario forest management and with that introduction a refinement of the forest management relationship between Industry and government into the Sustainable Forest License. The past decade has seen the SFL migrate to the more inclusive eSFL involving a variety of forest partners and First Nation/aboriginal interests, a process that is still underway. The bottom line here is that Industry has assumed operational responsibility for the management for most of Ontario's Crown forest estate while the reduced MNRF forestry cadre sets the standards and oversees Industry's delivery. As an insurance policy the Independent Forest Audit (IFA) process, where FFTC carries a role of operational "independence", has been assigned to periodically audit both Industry and MNRF efforts in 'doing it right'. Notwithstanding these changes, the Minister of Natural Resources, as should be, continues to hold accountability for the successful management of Ontario's forest estate.

R. A. Riley
August, 2020

WHO WE ARE & WHAT WE DO

Forestry Futures Trust

The Forestry Futures Trust (FFT) was established under the authority of the *Crown Forest Sustainability Act* (1994), Part V. Section 51 of this Act states that the Minister may appoint a Forestry Futures Trust Committee (FFTC) to provide advice on the following matters:

1. *The funding of silvicultural expenses in Crown forests where forest resources have been killed or damaged by fire or natural causes.*
2. *The funding of silvicultural expenses on land that is subject to a forest resource license, if the licensee becomes insolvent.*
3. *The funding of intensive stand management and pest control in respect of forest resources in Crown forests.*
4. *Such other purposes as may be specified by the Minister.*

(Source: *Crown Forest Sustainability Act, Part V, Section 51(3)*)

Other purposes specified by the Minister for which the Trust fund is currently used include:

- Independent Forest Audit Program
- Forest Tenure Modernization
 - Enhanced Sustainable Forest License - design and development
 - Local Forest Management Corporation – design, development and transition
 - Forest Management Component – FMC – forestry on forests returned to the Crown
- Enhanced Forest Resource Inventory production and delivery
- Forest Genetic Resource Management Program

The Trust fund is managed by RBC Investor Services Trust. Funds are allocated to

successful applicants under the direction of the Forestry Futures Trust Committee Chair, supported by decisions made through consensus by the Forestry Futures Trust Committee. The Committee members are appointed by the Minister for a three-year term, which may be renewed at the discretion of the Minister. The Trust is funded by harvest volume charges on Crown timber.

Forestry Futures Trust Committee CHAIR



Ray Riley, P Eng., R.P.F. (Hon) (member since February 2016). Ray holds degrees in geology from Acadia and Queens and has been a member of the Professional

Engineers Ontario for over 40 years. He comes to the FFTC after 30 years with the Ontario government culminating as Assistant Deputy Minister of Operations for Ontario's Ministry of Natural Resources. Subsequent to his career in government, he was active as a consultant for some 21 years focusing on natural resource management for the Forest Industry, First Nations, Ontario, and Canada.

MEMBERS



Mike Barker, (member since 1999) enjoyed a 32-year career in natural resource management, holding positions such as District Manager within the Ministry of

Natural Resources, and Assistant Deputy Minister for the Ministry of Northern Development and Mines. He now runs his own consulting firm.



Herb Bax, R.P.F. (member since 2012) is a forestry consultant with over 35 years of experience. He is past president of the OPFA and has served on numerous international committees and

boards. Herb's work as an environmental and forest auditor across Canada and the US brings an international perspective to the Committee.



W.D. (Bill) Baker, (member since February 2016) had a 30-plus year career in natural resource management primarily as a senior manager

with the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources. Bill has worked throughout Ontario in a variety of capacities but has spent much of his career in northwestern Ontario and Thunder Bay.



James Harrison, (member since February 2016) holds a Forestry Degree (1975) from Lakehead University. His 39-year career with industry

included positions with Kimberly-Clark of Canada and Greenmantle Forest Inc. James sits as the FFTC representative on the Provincial Forest Inventory Advisory Committee.



Dr. Sandy M Smith, (member since January 2017) is a Professor in Forestry at the University of Toronto, having served as Dean of the Faculty of

Forestry (2010-2012), published 140+ papers, supervised 65+ graduate students. She specializes in forest health and urban forests, specifically natural controls to manage invasive species. She is a Fellow of the Royal Entomological Society (UK), Minjiang Scholar (China), Past President of the Entomological Societies of Canada and Ontario, and currently serves on the Boards of Trees Canada and the Ontario Invasive Plant Council. She has been an Associate Editor of the Can J of Forest Research and participated on national NSERC grant review panels as well as Federal and Provincial invasive species science panels (ALHB, EAB, *Sirex*, Hemlock Woolly Adelgid).

Our Support Team

Assisting the Committee is a small team reporting to the Chair:

- Peter Street, R.P.F., Independent Forest Audit Coordinator
- Shelley Vescio, R.P.F., Silviculture, Genetics and eFRI Program Coordinator
- Anastasia Frisby, R.P.F. Provisional, Office Administrator, Forest Tenure Programs Coordinator

FFT Secretariat – Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry

Since its inception in 1995, the FFTC has enjoyed a productive working relationship with Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF) staff. As the Committee's mandate expanded over the decade, the lines of communication and the number of Ministry contacts correspondingly increased. In this regard, the Secretariat functions are provided by Peter Henry and Rhonda Hancherow of Forest Guides and Silviculture Section, and Cathy Hamor of Forest Tenure and Economics Branch. Key staff are listed below by program area.

- *Independent Forest Audit Program* – Linda Touzin, R.P.F., Nic Baggs, R.P.F.
- *Enhanced Forest Resource Inventory Program* - Michelle Colley, Derek Landry, Ian Sinclair, R.P.F. and Geordie Robere-McGugan, R.P.F.
- *Forest Management Component* – Betty Vankerhof, R.P.F. (retired 2019)
- *Tenure Modernization*- Kevin Coombs, R.P.F. (retired 2019), Tess Sullivan R.P.F. Provisional, and Andy Lemmetty R.P.F.
- *Forest Genetic Resource Management* - Betty Vankerhof, R.P.F. and Ken Elliott, R.P.F.

The MNRF's FFT Secretariat continues to fulfil its role while honouring the principle of committee independence on all matters related to funding allocations for projects. The FFTC thanks the Directors and staff of Crown Forests and Lands Policy Branch; Operations Forest Tenure and Economics Branch; Integration Branch; Science and Research Branch (including eFRI and Growth and Yield); and Business Development Branch, for their continued support.

State of the Trust

The Forestry Futures Trust fund is in a healthy position and has fully recovered from the economic difficulties that previously affected the sector. The fiscal financials, which provide the details, are available through our website, www.forestryfutures.ca once tabled in the Provincial Legislature.



Forestry Futures Trust Committee 2020

Committee Operations Budget 2019/20

Available Funds	
Received from the <i>Forestry Futures Trust Fund</i>	\$518,681.00
2018/19 unspent balance	\$131,568.94
TOTAL Funds Available	\$650,249.94
Expenditures	
Meetings/Travel	\$52,926.7
Committee Honorariums	\$76,600
Professional Fees/Contract Staff	\$128,558.69
Administration and Support	\$82,054.17
Supplies (Communication/Consumables)	\$14,647.90
Equipment / Signage	\$4,096.91
Overhead	\$51,060.72
TOTAL Expenses	\$409,945.09



2019 OPFA AGM Trade Show booth

OUR PROGRAMS

Silviculture Program

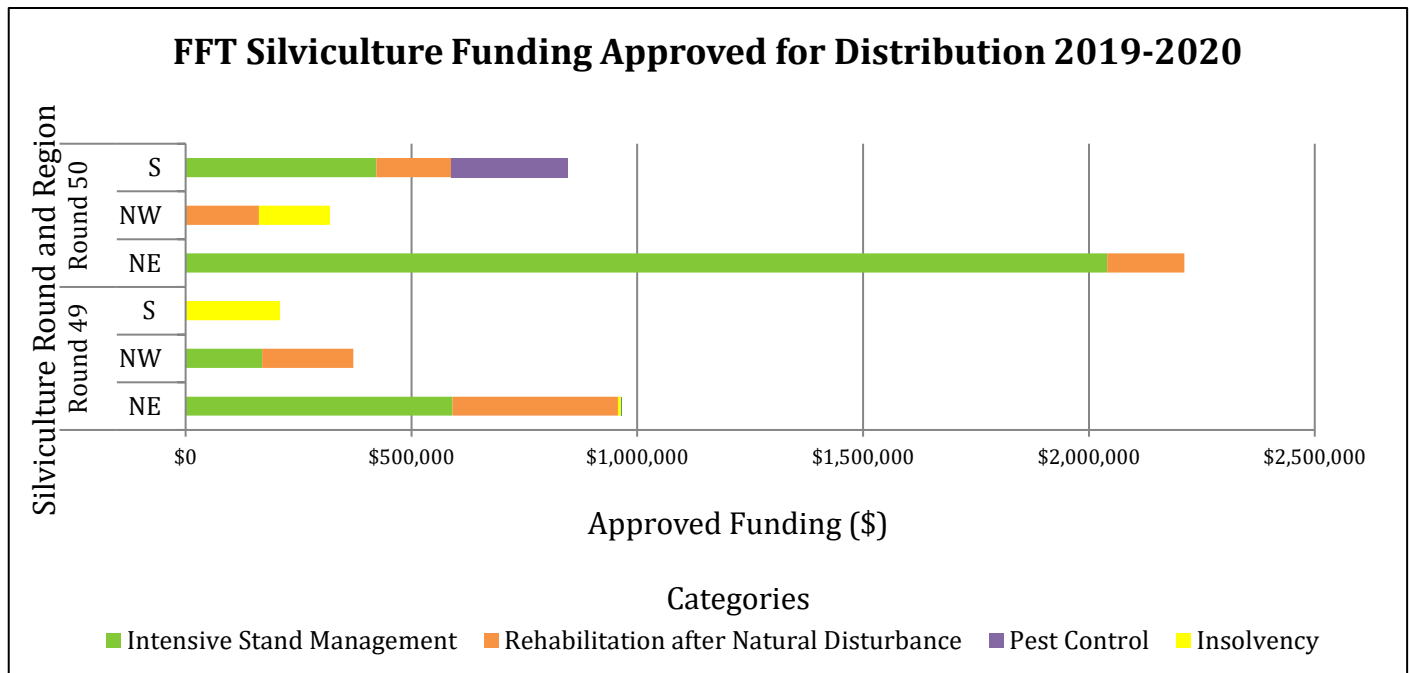
The Silviculture Program funds silviculture needs resulting from forces of natural depletion such as fire, wind, insects, disease, and flooding, as well as remediation of the forest land base due to historic harvesting practices. Funding requests are received in five categories: 1. Intensive Stand Management; 2. Rehabilitation after Natural Disturbances; 3. Pest Control; 4. Insolvency; and 5. Other, as designated by the Minister. Details on each category can be found on the FFTC website.

The Committee extended invitations to apply for project funding for Rounds 49 and 50 of the FFT Silviculture Program. In 2019/20, \$4.9 million were approved in project funding, with \$1.5 M and \$3.4 M allotted to Rounds 49 and 50, respectively. With this Program, funds are distributed as reimbursements only after work has been completed.

The chart below illustrates the amount of funding approved under each round for projects submitted under the four silviculture categories for each of the South, Northwest and Northeast regions in 2019-20. Among regions, 65% of the funding was awarded to the Northeast, 21% to the South, and 14% to the Northwest. Among categories, twelve Intensive Stand Management projects received 65% of approved funds, nine Rehabilitation after Natural Disturbance projects were awarded 22%, two Insolvency projects acquired 8%, and one Pest Control project received 5% of the funding. Two applications were rejected for not meeting eligibility criteria and two are on hold pending receipt of additional information.

FFT Silviculture Field Visits

Link to the 2019 Silviculture Field report and current projects: <http://www.forestryfutures.ca/silvicultural-program>



Forest Genetic Resource Management Program

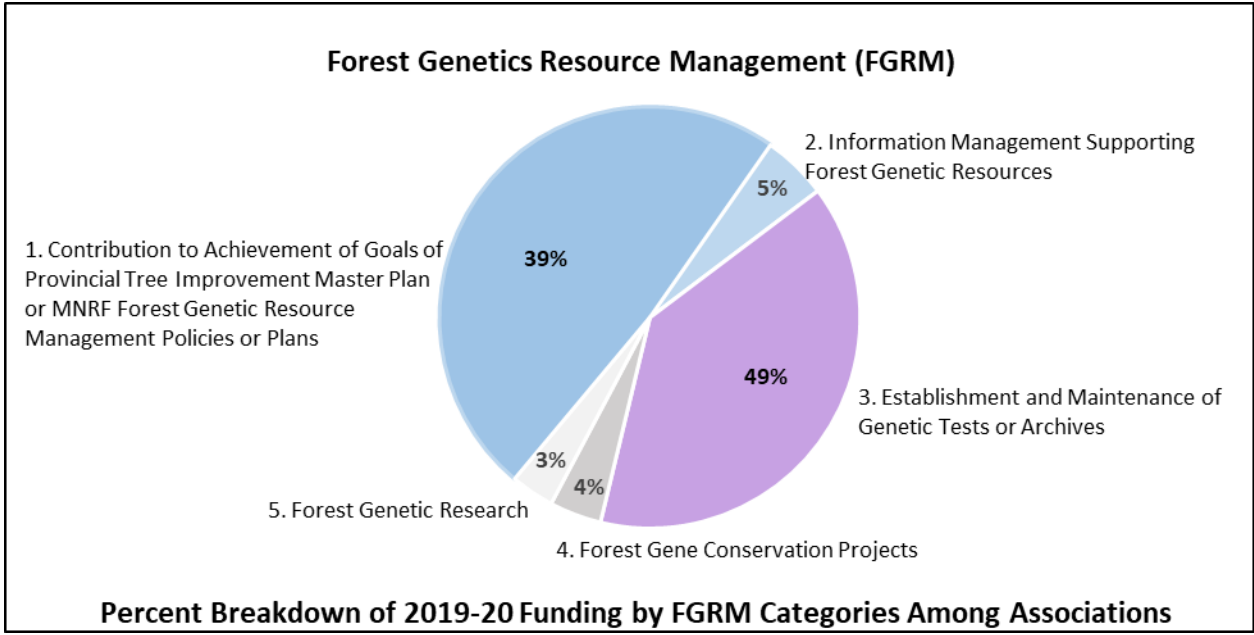
On January 26, 2017, the Minister specified a renewed five-year purpose for the Forestry Futures Trust by funding the Forest Genetic Resource Management (FGRM) Program. Funding of activities within this Program benefit Crown forests.

Annual funding for this purpose is not to exceed \$675,000 per annum, providing the three provincial associations with \$375,000 in core funding and eligibility for \$300,000 in project funding (through competitive project submissions) for five fiscal years ending March 31, 2022. The FGRM program is financed from the Forestry Futures Trust base charge.

Ontario's Forest Genetics Resource Management Program provides funding for activities that support the five categories noted in the diagram above. The three provincial associations directed the majority of funding (49%) toward the Establishment and Maintenance of Genetic Tests or Archives, 39% to activities that Contributed to the Achievement of the Province's Tree Improvement Master Plan Goals or Toward Those of its FGRM Policies or Plans, 5% to

Information Management Supporting Forest Genetics Resources, 4% to Forest Gene Conservation Projects and 3% to Forest Genetic Research.

FGRM Approved Categories	
1	Contribution to achievement of goals of the Provincial Tree Improvement Master Plan or MNRF forest genetic resource management policies or plans
2	Information Management supporting forest genetic resources
3	Establishment and maintenance of genetic tests or archives
4	Forest gene conservation projects
5	Forest genetic research



Independent Forest Audit Program

The Forestry Futures Trust Committee (FFTC) has traditionally implemented the annual Independent Forest Audit (IFA) Program for the MNRF. FFTC responsibilities have included: the allocation of funds to cover the cost of the audits; contract management of and communication with the audit firms and key audit participants; attending audit meetings and field examinations; ensuring the audit program is implemented according to the IFA process and protocol; reviewing all draft reports and ensuring final reports are of the highest quality. The Committee also provides recommendations to MNRF concerning revisions to the audit program and IFA process and protocol, coordinates auditor orientation sessions with MNRF, and makes recommendations to the Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry as required or appropriate

Five (5) Independent Forest Audits (IFAs) were completed in 2019 using the 2019 Independent Forest Audit Process and Protocol (IFAPP). Changes to the 2019 IFAPP over the 2018 IFAPP included:

- applicable phase-in provisions of the 2017 Forest Management Planning Manual (FMPM), the Forest Information Manual (FIM), and the Forest Operations and Silvicultural Manual (FOSM);
- a new opportunity for the presentation of Audit Findings to First Nation and Métis communities;
- clarification regarding the role and timing of presentations to Local Citizen Committees and First Nation and Métis communities;
- clarification and additional direction regarding the preparation of the Trend Analysis report, including content, timing, and process for review and approval;

- International Organization for Standardization 14001 (ISO) registration to satisfy the human resources and document control requirements of Principle 5; and
- other minor corrections and clarifications.

The five (5) 2019 audits included:

- Caribou Forest – managed by Resolute FP Canada Inc., under Sustainable Forest Licence (SFL) # 542481;
- Hearst Forest – managed by Hearst Forest Management Inc. (HFMI), under Sustainable Forest Licence (SFL) #550053. HFMI operates under the terms of a partnership agreement between Lecours Lumber Co. Ltd., Columbia Forest Products and Tembec Industries Inc. (now Rayonier Advanced Materials Canada G.P.);
- Romeo Malette Forest - managed by Rayonier Advanced Materials Canada G.P. (RYAM), under Sustainable Forest License (SFL) #550398;
- Whiskey Jack Forest – which is a Crown Management Unit managed by the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry, Kenora District, and
- White River Forest – managed since January 2018 by Nawiiginokiima Forest Management Corporation (NFMC), under Sustainable Forest License (SFL) # 550399. Prior to the transfer of the license to NFMC the SFL was held by White River Forest Products Ltd. (WRFP).

On all five (5) of the audits, the auditors found that the management was generally in compliance with the legislation, regulations, and policies that were in effect during the term covered by the audit, and the Forests were being managed in compliance with the terms and conditions of their Sustainable Forest Licenses (for the four SFLs). The auditors reported that the management of these forests met the criteria for sustainability as assessed through the Independent Forest Audit Process and Protocol (IFAPP). Two Best

Practices were issued to the Whiskey Jack Forest.

As shown in Table 1 below, the audits identified a number of findings in all five (5) audits. Detailed action plans to address the findings presented in the audit reports are being prepared and will be posted on the Ontario government website alongside the audit reports once the reports are tabled in the Ontario Legislature.



Northshore Forest – 2019 Site Visit

Table 1. Summary of the audit findings and best practices for all five audits with respect to the eight IFA Principles			
IFA Principles	# Findings	Percentage %*	Best Practices
1 Commitment	0	0	
2 Public consultation and Aboriginal involvement	4	13	1
3 Forest Management Planning	1	3	
4 Plan assessment and implementation**	9	30	
5 System support	1	3	
6 Monitoring**	9	30	1
7 Achievement of management objectives and forest sustainability	3	10	
8 Contractual Obligations	3	10	
Total	30	100	2
*rounded to the nearest whole number ** one finding counted twice as it included two Principles			

The five (5) audits were awarded at a total cost of \$448,234.26, including HST.

The final reports of the 2019 Independent Forest Audits have not yet been accepted by the Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry, and as such remain confidential. Therefore, we are unable to report specific findings at this time. The results of the audits are similar to previous years in that they not only identify areas for improvement but also best practices that are taking place across the forest audited landscape. The details of these audits will be publically available on <https://www.ontario.ca/page/independent-forest-audits> once they have been accepted by the Minister and posted on the website.



Hearst Forest- 2019 IFA field portion

Tenure Modernization Programs

Forest Management Component Program

When Sustainable Forest Licenses (SFLs) are returned to the Crown due to bankruptcy or insolvency, MNRF assumes responsibility for all forest management activities on that management unit. Forest Management expenditures incurred by the Crown to do this work are funded from additional revenue paid to the Forestry Futures Trust from the Crown Stumpage system. The additional funds are generated by a management fee charged for each cubic metre of wood harvested on the area. This has been termed the Forest Management Component (FMC).

FMC accounts are open for Pic, Kenogami, Armstrong, Whiskey Jack, Magpie, Pic River, Ogoki, and Sapawe forests.

Enhanced Sustainable Forest License

The Enhanced Sustainable Forest License (eSFL) program was established in late 2011, as an outcome of the Ministry's tenure modernization initiative, with an allocation of the remaining funds (\$1.8 M) from the SFL Conversion program. In 2012, the Committee developed an application process and the first application was submitted in April of 2013.

Active projects in 2019-20:

- ESFL 004-2014: Missinaibi (Martel and Magpie Forest)
- ESFL 007-2018: Boundary Waters (Crossroute and Sapawe Forest)
- ESFL 001-2013 Kenogami Forest

The French-Severn Forest (ESFL 005-2014) was issued October 2019.



*Nipissing Forest –
Site Visits 2019*



*Romeo Malette Forest –
IFA field portion 2019*



*OPFA Field Tour – Continued
Training 2019*

Local Forest Management Corporation Conversion Program

In August 2012, the MNRF added funding of the Local Forest Management Corporation (LFMC) Conversion Program to the Forestry Futures Trust Fund. The purpose is to provide financial support to start-up and the establishment of Ontario LFMCs. The Trust serves as an interim mechanism to capture redirected Crown stumpage charges to fund start-up and establishment costs including required forest management activities on the proposed LFMC land area until such time as the Sustainable Forest Licenses are issued to the LFMC.

The first LFMC, Nawiingnokiima Forest Management Corporation (NFMFC) was established in May 2012. NFMFC has been issued the SFLs for Pic, White River and Pic River forests.

For more information follow the links on the MNRF website: www.ontario.ca/page/forest-tenure-modernization or visit the NFMFC website: www.nfmcforestry.ca



*Lakehead Forest Project
990-2-R48 Site-Visit*



*KTTD 4B-2018 Project
presented at 2019 OPFA
field tour*



*Nipissing Forest – 2019 Site Visit
of yellow birch restoration*



*Lakehead Forest – Tramping on
Project 990-2-R48*

Enhanced Forest Resource Inventory Program

The Enhanced Forest Resources Inventory (eFRI) Program is designed to develop a new Forest Resource Inventory utilizing current technologies within the provincial “Area of the Undertaking” as defined by the Timber Class Environmental Assessment. Funds for this program come from harvest volume charges paid by the Sustainable Forest Licensees for Crown timber. These funds are administered from a separate account within the Forestry Futures Trust.

The FFTC administers the eFRI program funding, in partnership with the MNRF. The eFRI is a MNRF-designed program with work contracted to qualified firms through the government procurement process. The FFTC has the lead on designing and co-delivering the knowledge transfer and tool development (KTTD) component of the eFRI.

The 2019/20 fiscal was the 13th year of the eFRI Program that built on an earlier forest inventory program. The bullets below describe MNRF Program accomplishments for 2019/20.

1. Acquired 46,061 km² of LiDAR and 29,771 km² of optical imagery in support of forest inventory development.
2. Loaded approximately 200 terabytes of LiDAR data in a cloud service in 2019-2020 and initiated cloud computing testing to facilitate the development of future area-based forest inventories.
3. Piloted the design of the Vegetation Sampling Network (VSN) protocol, a new, integrated approach to field data collection that will be used to calibrate LiDAR models and monitor forest resources. Collected data on more than 250 plots in the Romeo-Malette Forest.

Knowledge Transfer and Tool Development (KTTD) Component of eFRI

The objective of the KTTD program is to support the Provincial eFRI program in advancing its mandate by facilitating research that addresses identified needs and transferring that knowledge back to government, industry, academia, and the forestry community.

Round 2 of the KTTD program, which was implemented in 2018, had 17 projects approved with a total value of \$1.7 M. Those projects spanned across the four-theme project areas targeted by the KTTD program, which were: (i) Tools and Products to Enhance the Production of the eFRI, (ii) Tools and

Products for Clients and Stakeholders, LiDAR (single photon) application, and (iii) Integrated Monitoring Framework. Final project reports and associated deliverables for completed projects are posted as received at www.forestryfutures.ca/Programs/Enhanced Forest Resource Inventory and KTTD

It is anticipated that the invitation for proposal submissions for Round 3 will occur in December 2020. Revised project themes and suggested topics are currently being developed for that new round.

