

**Forestry Futures Trust Committee  
Silviculture Round 29 – Job Stimulus  
Summary Report**



**On behalf of: The Forestry Futures Trust Committee**

**Thank you to AbiBow Canada Inc. and  
Greenmantle Forest Inc. for pictures from  
Round 29 projects used in this report.**

**The FFTC also wishes to thank all those who contributed to the development of this report: Mona  
Wiltshire, Anastasia Frisby, Ken Van Every, Sarah Bros and Claire Riddell.**



## Introduction

On November 9, 2009 the Minister of Northern Development, Mines and Forestry (MNDMF) announced a one-year program to provide up to \$6 million in funding to support forest renewal work across Ontario. In addition to renewing Ontario's forests, this funding was intended to provide economic stimulus opportunities for the silviculture industry which included green house operations and site preparation and tree planting contractors.

MNDMF requested that Forestry Futures Trust Committee (FFTC) manage the disbursement of this additional funding. Immediately following the Minister's announcement the Committee released a request for applications for *Silviculture Round 29 – Job Stimulus* to allocate these funds. This was an exceptional round that was in addition to the normal FFT Silviculture program. Round 29 had the following two funding categories:

- *Category 1* which funded additional/incremental costs for projects that increased the silvicultural prescription intensity (from natural or basic treatments to ones that included tree planting)

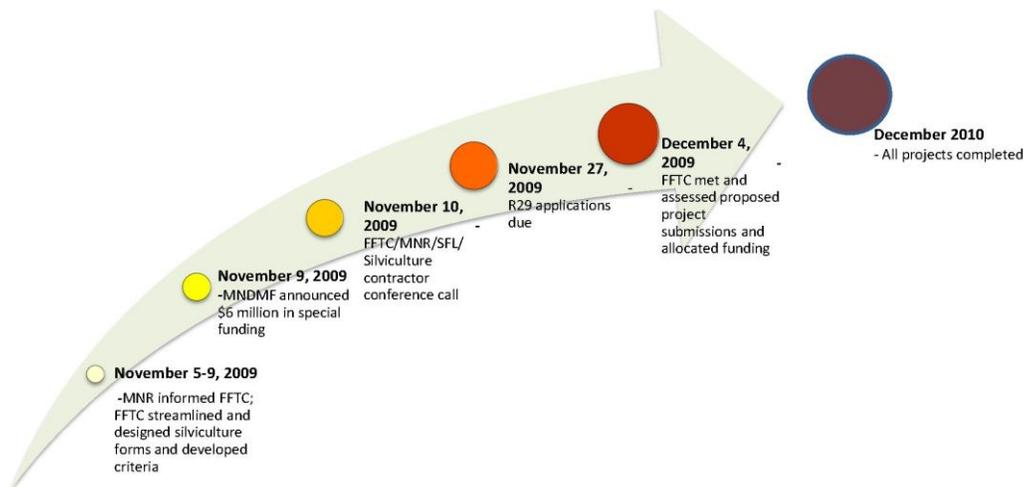
- *Category 2* which provided 100% funding for projects that included seedling production, site preparation, and planting on areas of natural disturbance (fire, wind, insect).

Two additional unique characteristics that differed from the normal silviculture rounds were:

- Funding for 5% of Sustainable Forest Licensee administrative and operational overhead connected with this round was eligible (not to exceed \$5,000 per project).
- FFT application procedures were streamlined to facilitate quick turn-around of applications and to include additional information required for this special round (e.g. employment statistics)

The success of this special round required the timely cooperation of MNR, MNDMF, the Sustainable Forest Licence holders, the silviculture industry and FFTC to plan Round 29 and deliver the projects on the ground. Figure 1 illustrates the very tight timeline required for the successful delivery of this initiative.

Figure 1: Timeline for FFT Silviculture Round 29 – Job Stimulus.



## Results

### Applications

The Forestry Futures Trust Committee received 49 applications for a total funding request of \$15.7 million. The FFTC allocated \$6.2 million to 22 projects. The following table summarizes the regional distribution of funding.



**Project 746-1-R29: Crossroute Intensification  
Project Tree Planter**

Region	Requested \$ (M)	Approved \$ (M)	Actual Expenditures \$ (M)	Requested # applications	Approved # applications
Northeast (NE)	8.2	2.4	2.3	21	8
Northwest (NW)	6.1	2.7	2.5	21	9
Southern (S)	1.4	1.1	1.0	7	5
Totals	15.7	6.2	5.8	49	22

The FFTC allocated \$6.2 million so that the 22 projects could be approved. FFTC experience indicates there are usually efficiencies found during the implementation of the projects, so there was limited risk in over allocating by \$200,000, which could have been covered by the Trust if necessary.

By January 2011 all Round 29 projects had been completed with final reports submitted. Actual expenditures totaled \$5.8 million. Final reports show that efficiencies had been found as anticipated. The unused funds have been returned to the Trust for future funding allocations.

This special round had many positive outcomes as a result of the additional \$6 million invested. Two nurseries (Cook Nurseries and A& R Greenhouses Ltd.) sent letters of appreciation (see Appendix 1) for the opportunities that FFT Silviculture Round 29 afforded them.

In addition to reporting on spending the final reports provide a summary of project achievement. A summary these results for Round 29 are provided on the following pages. As with other economic stimulus programs not all the benefits can be measured or reported. Many other positive effects, directly and indirectly related to the silviculture providers were probably also experienced by communities and other businesses.



### Tree Seedling Production

A total of 12,659,150 seedlings were grown for the FFT Silviculture Round 29 – *Job Stimulus*. A summary by region is provided below.

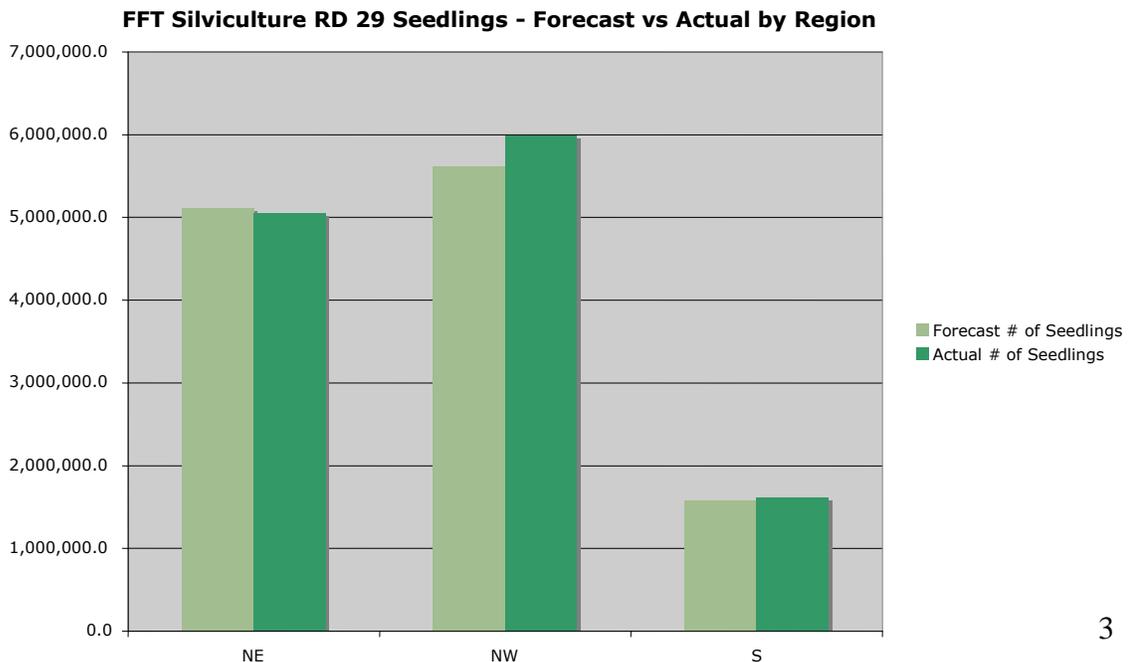
Actual stock production results in both the Northwest and Southern regions were above forecasts by 7% and 2% respectively. Contract costs were slightly lower than forecast for these two regions so more seedlings were grown. The Northwest region actual results were 1% less than forecast which is not a large variance. Across all 3 regions the stock production forecast was exceeded by approximately 400,000 seedlings.

Region	Planned # of Seedlings (M)	Actual # of Seedlings (M)	Planned Seedling Cost (Rounded)	Actual Seedling Cost (Rounded)
NE	5.1	5.1	\$ 679,000	\$ 649,000
NW	5.6	6.0	\$ 885,000	\$ 843,000
S	1.6	1.6	\$ 276,000	\$ 259,000
Totals	12.3	12.7	\$ 1,840,000	\$ 1,751,000



A&R Greenhouse staff lifting seedlings for planting, Dorion, Ontario

While the number of seedlings produced exceeded planned, the actual cost was \$89,000 less than forecast. The project reports indicate there was a great deal of competition between nurseries for growing the seedlings which resulted in competitive pricing and a reduction in contract costs. The Northwest region is more reliant on over-wintered stock, therefore less historical data was available for estimating costs of current crop seedling production which were used in most Round 29 projects.



## Area Planted

A comparison of actual area planted versus planned shows that there was 12% (1,875 hectares) less area planted than forecast. This variance likely results from:

- site conditions on the ground where planting was not possible (e.g. too rocky or too wet)
- the existence of natural regeneration already established in parts of some of the blocks
- other specific site conditions (i.e., newly identified Areas of Concerns)
- the logistical reality of having actual groups of blocks equaling the total planned area.

The area planted was over twice the amount anticipated when this special round was announced. The funding had targeted 6,700 hectares for planting and 14,080 hectares were achieved. This variance can be attributed to planting densities.

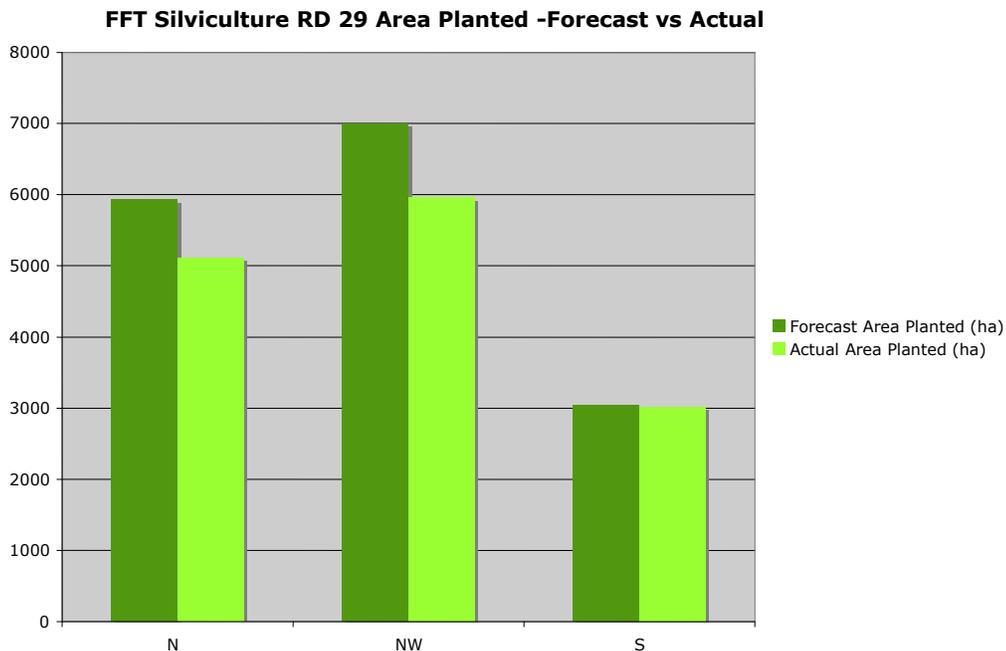


**Project 739-1-R29: Lakehead Forest Wildfire  
Renewal tree cache of current crop trees  
delivered by helicopter drop.**

## Planting Densities (# seedlings/hectare)

Planting densities varied from 855 to 2280 seedlings/ha across all funded projects. This reflects the diversity of treatment from supplementary planting to enhance stocking densities in areas of natural regeneration and variable site condition.

Region	Planned Area Planted (ha)	Actual Area Planted (ha)
NE	5,926	5,104
NW	6,995	5,956
S	3,034	3,020
TOTALS	15,955	14,080





### Employment Created

The number of employment weeks achieved by Round 29 was 85% of the forecasted level. The forecasting of employment weeks was a new requirement for this round and was based on best estimates.

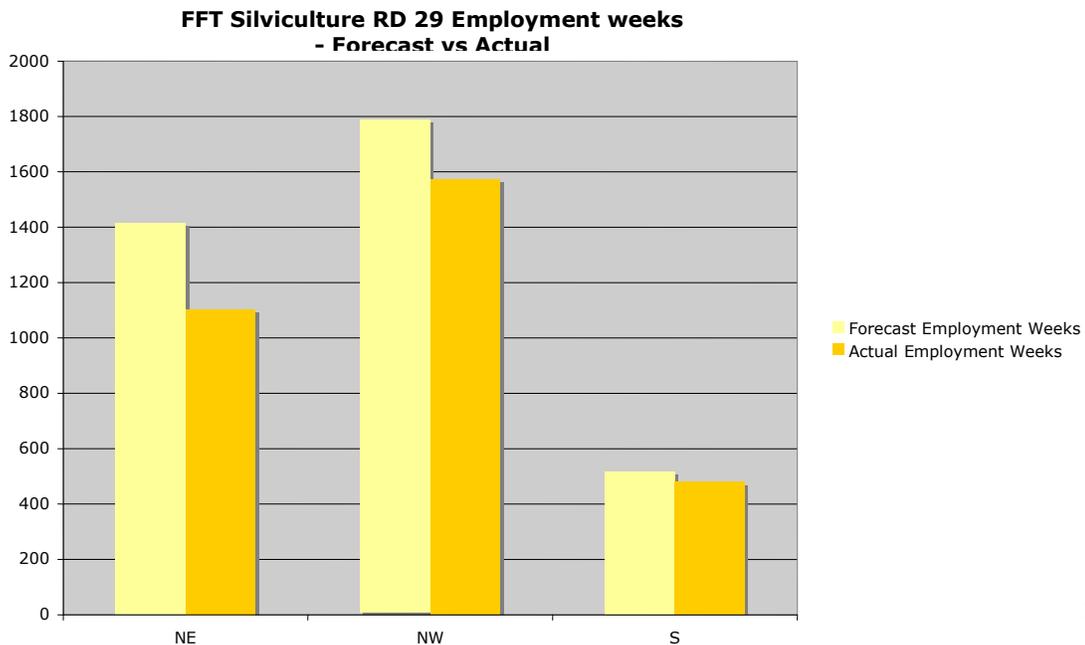
Project reports indicate the funding of this special round helped silviculture contractors weather tough economic times and kept staff employed. Many of the contractors were employed on more than one FFT silviculture project. The data summarized below indicates the number of different contractors that benefited from the 22 approved applications in Round 29.



Project 739-2-R29: Lakehead Forest Wildfire Renewal tree planter campsite

Region	Forecast Employment Weeks	Actual Employment Weeks	Number of Nurseries* (Stock Production)	Number of Site Preparation Contractors*	Number of Tree Plant Contractors*
NE	1,414	1,103	8	6	8
NW	1,789	1,572	8	3	8
S	517	480	5	5	5
<b>Totals</b>	<b>3,720</b>	<b>3,155</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>21</b>

\* indicates the number of service providers



## Lessons Learned and Future Opportunities

In addition to providing economic stimulus and sound forest renewal, *Round 29 – Job Stimulus* resulted in a number of learning opportunities. Some of these lessons learned are summarized below:

- Nurseries gained more experience in dealing with current crop contracts: a) cost estimates associated with current crop production, b) current crop packing. Some nurseries found that tight packing retained moisture and others found that packing current crop in a horizontal position avoided damage to these sensitive seedlings.
- Knowledge of site preparation productivity was enhanced from one project in Northeastern Ontario that involved site preparing and planting on areas of natural disturbance that were not salvage harvested. This unique approach may be useful on similar areas as part of their regular silviculture program.
- Tree planting contractors needed to plan for a spring and fall plant. This in some cases required that they hold on to planters past their usual contract dates. This created some unexpected logistical issues and resulted in additional experience with fall plant issues.
- Forest managers showed their ability to respond to funding opportunities within a short time frame.

If special funding like Round 29 is planned for the future, there are additional opportunities that should be considered. They are:

- Good applications for projects worth about \$10m million did not get funded under this special Round 29. A larger program should be considered.
- Inclusion of stand thinning projects for naturally disturbed areas or harvested areas would provide needed employment while increasing forest productivity.



**Project 739-2-R29: Lakehead Forest, Fire Renewal, helicopter seedling delivery**



In summary, the response to *Round 29-Job Stimulus* was great as was the optimism it generated. There were benefits to northern communities as well as the forest. The Committee thanks the Ministry of Northern Development, Mines and Forestry for allocating the funds to this special program.

The Committee acknowledges the work of the SFL personnel for their timely response with good project proposals and for the supervision of the work on the ground. The tree growers, site preparation contractors and tree planters are recognized for their

ability to respond and deliver quality seedlings, site preparation work and tree planting operations in the field.

Forestry Futures Trust Committee was able to respond in a timely manner to the extra funding. The Committee is of the opinion that this was a successful and meaningful initiative. The Forestry Futures Trust Committee is privileged to be involved in the management of Ontario's Crown forests and welcomes any opportunity to do "What is Good for the Forest".

## FFT: Investing in the Future of our Forests



**Project 751-2-R29: Black Sturgeon Natural Disturbance seedling production at A&R Greenhouse**

## APPENDIX 1

## A&R GREENHOUSES LTD.

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Ontario  
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807 857 2436 or Fax 2927  
argreen@tbaytel.net

July 12, 2010

Forestry Future Trust Committee

Dear Members,

On behalf of the Owners Operators and employees of A&R Greenhouses we would like to forward our thanks and appreciation to all those involved for providing our Company with the opportunity to participate in the stimulus program.

Without any doubt this program has allowed us to not only survive but remain sustainable into the new year. Although the prospect of growing current crop seedlings represented a great number of uncertainties and challenges we felt we could meet the objectives. Our 27yrs of experience coupled with the expertise of representatives from AbitibiBowater Inc., have indeed added to a successful number of seedlings being planted in areas which may not have been tended this year. The benefits of the program will not only be seen in future timber values or ecological and environmental benefits but in the present economic value. The number of employees whom may have not had an opportunity work elsewhere and may have had to collect other forms of assistance would have been evident. The full time staff (including myself), were most certainly examining other avenues and provinces for alterative employment. This program in itself has allowed families rooted in a small community since birth to continue to be optimistic about future viability.

It is our hope that the benefits of this program and its values are recognized so as additional funding and opportunities are provided in the years ahead. At a time when the forest industry is trying to reestablish itself and rebound from the current economic down it is imperative that the

present day leaders continue with programs like this to not only sustain our forests but build them for the future demands.

So once again a sincere thank you for a thoughtful and extremely beneficial program from a small town entity within a bigger picture.

Sincerely,

John Asperjan  
CEO / Owner / Operations Manager  
A&R Greenhouses Ltd.

COOK LAKE NURSERIES LTD.  
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Dryden, ON P8N 3G2  
Ph: 807-937-5381  
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TO: Forestry Futures Trust Fund Job Stimulus Program staff

I just wanted to say "thank you" from me and the employees of Cook Lake Nursery for the extra work and revenue that the Job Stimulus Program has created for us this year.

In this difficult economic climate for the forest industry and all those connected to it, the program has given us a much needed boost.

Hopefully the program was a success and will be carried on into the future.

Thanks again,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Bill Schneider".

Bill Schneider, President  
Cook Lake Nurseries Ltd.