

INTRODUCTION

The forest industry in Canada has evolved from the management of the timber resource to the management of the forest ecosystem. Previously, forest managers developed forest management plans in isolation, focusing on timber. But as the public began requesting the inclusion of other values, consultations with the public and other resource managers evolved simultaneously with the consideration of non-timber values. This has become a cornerstone of sustainable forest management.

Corner Brook Pulp and Paper Limited (CBPPL) has joined in this shift to sustainable forest management by incorporating social, environmental, and economics values in the sustainable development of Newfoundland's forests. The Department of Natural Resources and CBPPL have incorporated public consultations in the forest management planning process since the 1980's, developing a positive relationship among the government, CBPPL, and the community. Public involvement in the identification of values and the development of management plans benefits present as well as future generations.

This Five Year Operating Plan represents the second iteration for Zone 3 incorporating the new legislated planning requirements of the Newfoundland Forest Service. In the past, there were five major planning documents; Provincial Sustainable Forest Management Strategy, District Strategy Document, Five Year Operating Plan, Annual Operating Plan, and Annual Report. This new planning framework has eliminated the District Strategy Document, however, its former contents are now split between the Provincial Sustainable Forest Management Strategy and the Five Year Operating Plan. Sections that are Provincial in scope such as carbon, global warming and criteria and indicators are now included in the Provincial Sustainable Forest Management Strategy while sections that are more descriptive or depict local conditions such as values, forest characterization and ecosystem description are moved to the Five Year Operating Plan. Linkages between strategies from the Provincial Sustainable Forest Management Strategy and on the ground activities in the Five Year Operating Plan will be provided where applicable.

Another major change is the creation of eight planning zones on the Island, which are based loosely on ecoregion location. Districts that share common ecoregion characteristics are combined to form these zones. Districts 05 and 06 are combined to form Planning Zone 3. The requirement for submission to the Newfoundland Forest Service and for environmental assessment is one Five Year Operating Plan for each owner in each zone. The past requirement was one Five Year Operating Plan by each owner in each district. In this zone there will be two separate submissions by the Crown and Corner Brook Pulp and Paper Limited (CBPPL). Throughout this Five Year Plan, references will be made to districts 05 and 06 individually but when combined they will collectively be referred to as Planning Zone 3 or the zone.

This document will try to fully integrate presentation of information and discussion for CBPPL timber limits in the zone, where possible. This will be done by combining statistics and other information from each district and reporting for the zone. However, tables and figures will be constructed such that information for individual districts will be available if a breakout is required. Discussion and information will be presented separately for each district where warranted based on unique and distinct differences in scope and content. The more descriptive sections of this plan will be generic in nature and give information for all ownerships in the zone as well as some broad comparative statistics. In this way the reader will get a better overview of the entire zone in the context of all ownerships and not just CBPPL limits.

Finally, this document will attempt to build on previous documents and on efforts of previous planning teams. Information will be updated, as required or new sections will be added if any new information is available. Sections from previous documents will be included if they are still relevant, even if they were not discussed by the current planning team.

CBPPL wishes to illustrate to the public (the landowners) and to its customers that the forest is being managed on a sustainable basis. To this end, CBPPL maintains certification to CAN/CSA-Z809, Canada's national sustainable forest management (SFM) Standard. CAN/CSA-Z809 gives organizations a system for continually improving their forest management performance and engaging interested parties in a focused participation process. Rigorous and regular independent third-party audits are involved in certification to this Standard.

A major strong point of the CSA Standard is the involvement of the public in the planning of forest management activities. As mentioned before, this is something CBPPL has already incorporated into their planning process. The public identifies forest values of specific importance to environmental, social, and economic concerns and needs. Another benefit of the requirements of this Standard is providing a link between local level sustainable forest management and forest policy on a provincial and national scale. This is accomplished through the use of the Canadian Council of Forest Ministers (CCFM) Criteria and Elements for sustainable forest management, which identifies local forest values across Canada. This Standard identifies 35 required core indicators under these criteria and elements. The Standard also deals with performance, by allowing the public to set targets at the local level, to which the organization will be held accountable. Finally, the CSA Standard requires a system to ensure that both the public participation and performance requirements are satisfied (CSA 2008).

CBPPL Woodlands' Environmental Management System (EMS) is the vehicle that ensures fulfillment of the CSA SFM requirements of public involvement and performance. CBPPL's EMS is a registrant (2001) to the ISO 14001 Standard, a standard that incorporates environmental aspects and continual improvement into all forest operations. EMS applies to all Woodlands operations controlled by the Company including management planning, road construction and maintenance, harvesting operations, transportation of fibre, silviculture, and support services.

Section 1 Description of the Land Base 1.0 Description of Forest Management Districts