

**Goals and Objectives for Crown Lands
in New Brunswick**

Goals & Objectives for Crown Land Management

In March of 2014, Government released a forest strategy titled: 'Putting Our Resources to Work', which set forth several new directions in Crown land management. The strategy targets a globally competitive and resilient New Brunswick forest sector. Major policy elements of that strategy which include:

- **Forest Sector Investment** – the Government will allocate additional fibre to support companies who have committed to make substantial investments in mill modernization and equipment. Crown forests will be managed as a highly productive source of high-quality forest products.
- **A Commitment to a Healthy Forest** – the Government maintains its commitment to a healthy, vibrant forest with trees at various stages of maturity and respects the principles of conservation and biodiversity. This strategy maintains a diverse forest through time that provides old forest, deer habitat, clean water, untouched and protected areas while putting the remainder of our forest to work today and into the future.
- **Results-Based Forestry** – the Government will pursue a more efficient and less costly approach to managing Crown land by adopting a 'results-based framework' with Crown licensees. This manual details such a framework. Licensees will be held accountable to achieve clear, forest-wide objectives and Government will assess their performance by examining the outcomes of Licensee management and harvest and silviculture practices. This framework, which is aligned to the original intent of the 1982 *Crown Lands and Forests Act*, will allow industry to be more efficient in conducting its operations while being more clearly accountable through a set of performance measures. 'Results-based' relies on strict process control, process improvement / performance excellence, and an integration of DNRED into independent certification systems.

Crown lands will be managed for multiple objectives that fit into the three recognized pillars of sustainable forest management (SFM):

- Stewardship of the Environment
- Supporting a Vibrant Forest Sector
- Maintaining Social License to Operate

Themes	Values	Goals	Objectives
Stewardship of the Environment	Terrestrial Biodiversity	<p>The full variety of healthy and resilient native forested ecosystems are present and sustainable across their ecological ranges.</p>	<p>Functional patches of old forest will be retained across each ecoregion in each of 14 identifiable community types. Objective levels in each ecoregion aim to sustain at least 6-8% in old age classes of each forest community's total area (1980's inventory).</p> <p>The full diversity of mature forest ecosystems will be represented in Protected Natural Areas. Natural processes will be permitted to unfold with minimal human influence.</p> <p>Forestry operations encountering site-specific habitats (including rare species, bear dens, raptor nest sites, etc.) maintain their associated function(s).</p>
		<p>The full range of native forest-dwelling vertebrates are present and sustainable across their ecological ranges.</p>	<p>Populations of all 161 native vertebrate species will be maintained. For the 53 old forest dependent species, functional patches of old forest habitat will be maintained to support populations in geographic sub-region where the species is native.</p>
		<p>Populations of consumptively used wildlife are maintained at desired levels.</p>	<p>Habitat structures to support herds through severe winters will be maintained in designated traditional white tail deer wintering areas.</p>
	Water Quality & Aquatic Ecosystems	<p>The integrity of watercourses and wetlands will be maintained so as to preserve the physical, chemical, and biological properties and functions of these systems in their natural state.</p>	<p>All perennial watercourses and wetlands greater than 1 ha will be protected through 30 m buffer zones. Buffer zones will be managed to regulate micro-climate, provide organic matter, maintain aquatic habitat, and act as sediment filters.</p> <p>Forest road construction and maintenance will manage the physical impact to water quality and fish passage by means of effective planning, and well designed and executed crossings</p>

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			Waterways in designated watersheds will be protected by 75m buffer zones that will be managed to minimize physical effects that harvest could have on water quality.
	Soil	Harvest and silviculture operations on Crown land will preserve soil function, processes, and health through minimizing disturbance and contamination.	<p>Forest operations will minimize rutting through careful planning, and effective response when incidents occur.</p> <p>Environmental contamination due to spillage of hazardous materials (fuels, oils, pesticides, etc.) will be minimized. Operations will effectively clean and/or mitigate any contaminations that do occur.</p> <p>The permanent net loss of productive forest area due to heavy harvest debris will be minimized.</p>

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Supporting a Vibrant Forest Sector	Growing the Resource	Crown forests will be used to sustainably supply timber to NB's forest sector. Forest management will plan harvest and silviculture activities such to optimize the potential economic value of wood fiber from Crown lands.	<p>Crown forests will be primarily managed to maximize Sp/bf/jP saw timber harvest in the short-term and grow it in the long-term.</p> <p>Supply of mixed hardwood species from Crown lands will be maintained in the short-term. In the long-term, overall hardwood supply will decline to a sustainable level through a reduction in the inventory of lower value species and products.</p> <p>Where high-quality tolerant hardwoods or white pine are dominant, forestry activity will focus on culturing a sustainable supply of quality saw timber. There should be no net-loss of such area on a License.</p> <p>Harvest and silviculture operations on Crown land will be controlled using site-level prescriptions that consider forest type, environmental features, neighboring land uses, related policy, and the legislative framework in the context of forest management objectives.</p> <p>The overall forest management activity by the Licensee will maintain and improve the long-term financial value of the Crown forest inventory.</p>
	Optimizing the Value Chain	Trees harvested from Crown forests will be used to provide maximum benefit to the people of New Brunswick.	<p>New Brunswick industries will maximize their utilization of the available AAC from Crown lands at all times.</p> <p>100% of trees felled from Crown land will be processed into products which contribute to NB's economy. Economic value to Government will be maximized.</p>

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Maintaining Social License To Operate Access to Crown Forests		Forest road networks will allow traditional non-commercial access to Crown lands	In addition to use for forest management, designated roadways will be maintained in passable condition for the purpose of allowing traditional public access to Crown lands for recreation and non-commercial uses.

		<p>Forests surrounding waterways of traditional high-recreational use will be managed to maintain aesthetic quality, user experience, and integrity</p>	<p>Forest harvest activities will respect Crown Angling Leases, Canadian Heritage Rivers, and other waterways of high-recreational use through special designated buffer zones.</p>
	<p>Transparency</p>	<p>DNR, Stakeholders, and members of the public will have access to important information regarding the management of Crown forests.</p>	<p>A forest management plan will be prepared which demonstrates how current and planned activities achieve Government's economic and environmental objectives. The forest management plan will be no more than 5 years old; 10 years of planned harvest activities will be mapped, and the document will be publicly available.</p> <p>An annual operating plan will be prepared which maps the approximate location of planned harvest, silviculture, and road construction activities. Maps will be publicly available and no older than 1 year.</p> <p>An annual report will be prepared which details the activity on the License over the previous operating season.</p> <p>An online operations activity map will be maintained and will be available to DNR staff.</p> <p>A financial statement will be prepared with information on royalty paid for Crown timber, License management service fees collected, and silviculture expenses (reimbursed or in-kind). Variances between actual and budgeted amounts will be explained.</p>